

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

DRAFT MINUTES

of the ordinary meeting of Thursday

12 September 2013

Louise Weiss Building, Room R1.1

Strasbourg

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS**MINUTES**

of the ordinary meeting of

Thursday, 12 September 2013

from 10:00 to 12:00 hours

Louise Weiss Building, Room R1.1

Strasbourg

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CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

MINUTES

of the meeting of Thursday 12 September 2013

from 10:00 to 12:00 hours

Strasbourg

The meeting opened at 10.06 hours with Mr Martin SCHULZ,

President of the European Parliament, in the chair

Present

Mr SCHULZ, President

Political Group Chairs

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Mr DAUL | (EPP) |
| Mr SWOBODA | (S&D) |
| Mr VERHOFSTADT | (ALDE) |
| Mr COHN-BENDIT (Co-Chair) | (Greens/EFA) |
| Mr CALLANAN | (ECR) |
| Mr HADJIGEORGIOU (Acting) | (GUE/NGL) |
| Mr SPERONI (Co-Chair) | (EFD) |

Non attached Member

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mr SOSA WAGNER ¹ | (Non-attached Member) |
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Also Present

Mr WELLE, Secretary-General

¹ Present pursuant to Rule 24 (2) of the Rules of Regulations of Procedure

Invited:

Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

Also Invited (item 5)

Mr MOREIRA, Chair of the Committee on International Trade

The Council¹

represented by Mr MILTON
 Ms MRAZEKOVA

The Commission¹

represented by Mr BARANY
 Mr CLEMENS

The Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy¹

represented by Mr LEVINE

Office of the President

Mr WINKLER
Mr KAISER
Ms MARTINEZ IGLESIAS
Ms STRASSER
Mr STUTZMANN
Ms WOLLNY
Mr FREEDMAN
Mr JÜTTEN

Office of the Secretary-General

Mr MANGOLD
Mr SORENSEN
Ms FERNANDEZ PERLES
Ms FREDSGAARD

Secretariat

DG Presidency (PRES)

Ms F. RATTI/Mr DUNSTAN/Mr LANE /Mr KNUDSEN/Mr SANCHEZ/
Mr ALEIXO/Ms JIMENEZ LOZANO/Mr SCOTT¹

¹ Present for items 1-3 of the Agenda

DG Internal Policies (IPOL)

Ms VANDENBOSCH/Mr CHIOCCHETTI /Mr HAUCK

DG External Policies (EXPO)

Mr AGUIRIANO/Mr PENALVER/Mr RODAS²

DG Communication (COMM)

Ms LAHOUSSE/Mr DUCH GUILLOT

DG Interpretation and Conferences (INTE)

Ms COSMIDOU

DG Innovation, Technical Support (ITEC)

Mr VILELLA

Legal Service

Mr PENNERA/Mr PASSOS

Directorate for relations with political groups

Mr SCHWETZ

Secretariat of the Bureau

Mr TZIORKAS

Political groups

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Mr KAMP/Mr RYNGAERT/Ms SCRIBAN/Ms LASKAVÁ | (EPP) |
| Ms COLOMBO/Mr BURU/Ms BAPTISTA/Mr VERHEYDEN | (S&D) |
| Mr BEELS/Ms COLLERA-GARZÓN /Mr RASMUSSEN/Mr MCLAUGHLIN | (ALDE) |
| Ms TSETSI/Mr DENKINGER/Mr LINAZASORO | (Greens/EFA) |
| Mr BARRETT/Mr BOYD | (ECR) |
| Ms D'ALIMONTE/Ms LEPOLA | (GUE/NGL) |
| Mr BORDEZ/Mr VAUGIER/ Mr CAMPOMENOSI | (EFD) |
| Mr BUGALHO | (NI) |

Mr HILLER, Mr ISAACS, Mr MENEGHINI, Mr PEGAZZANO and Ms SCHADE acted as secretaries to the meeting.

¹ Present for items 1-3 of the Agenda

² Present for item 5 of the Agenda

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The Conference of Presidents

- noted and adopted the draft agenda (PE 516.053/CPG).

2. Approval of the Draft Minutes of the meeting of 5 September 2013

- noted the Draft Minutes of the meeting of 5 September 2013, held in Brussels (PE 515.988/CPG and annex), and postponed adoption of them to a subsequent meeting, pending receipt of comments in writing from the political groups.

3. Adoption of the final draft agenda for the October I part-session (7 to 10 October 2013 in Strasbourg)

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
 - a letter dated 11 September 2013 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, submitting a recommendation concerning the agenda of the October part-session (Monday 7 to Thursday 10 October 2013) in Strasbourg (PE 516.122/CPG and annexes);
 - a letter dated 11 September 2013 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, on co-decision files currently under negotiation (PE 516.123/CPG and annexes);
- held an exchange of views with Mr SWOBODA, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, Mr COHN-BENDIT, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, and Mr SOSA WAGNER, Non-attached Member, during which there was agreement to add, as first item on Wednesday morning, a key debate entitled "EU and Member State measures to tackle the flow of refugees as a result of the conflict in Syria", with resolution;
- adopted the draft agenda for the October I part-session.

4. Communications by the President

4.1 Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF)

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President report back from the latest meeting of the MFF Contact Group, and noted the following elements:
 - the intention was to adopt the MFF Regulation during the October II part-session, but that this was contingent on the conditions Parliament had set out in its resolution of 3 July 2013 having been met, in particular on the front-loading of certain programmes;
 - concern had been raised that there might be a discrepancy between what had been agreed at the highest political level and the position of the Council in the negotiations on the legislative files;
 - the second tranche of funding as proposed by the Commission under Draft Amending Budget 2 needed to be in place, and Parliament would be looking to ensure that the Council honoured its commitment;
 - in view of the above, it was at this stage by no means certain that the dossiers currently scheduled for the October II part-session could be voted at that time;
- heard the President note that he would only sign the 2014 Budget if the conditions outlined above were met;
- expressed its broad agreement for this approach.

4.2 Inter-Institutional Agreement (IIA) with the ECBThe Conference of Presidents

- heard the President note that following intensive negotiations with Mr DRAGHI, President of the ECB, the text of the draft IIA (PE 516.129/CPG) foreseen by the Regulation of the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM) has been agreed, which would allow for increased democratic control over the supervisory activities of the ECB;
- heard the President propose that, in accordance with Rule 127, the draft IIA be forwarded to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs to complete its examination in time for it to be put to the plenary for adoption during the October I part-session;
- heard Mr SWOBODA, Chair of the S&D Group, in this context suggest that consideration be given to inviting Mr DRAGHI to a future meeting of the Conference of Presidents to discuss the implementation of the IIA and related matters;
- endorsed these proposals.

4.3 Cox-Kwasniewski Mission to UkraineThe Conference of Presidents

- heard the President inform the meeting that there would be an update of the Cox-Kwasniewski mission to Ukraine at the meeting of the Conference of Presidents on 3 October 2013, which would report on the latest contacts with Mr AZAROV, Ukrainian Prime Minister, and Mr YANUKOVICH, Ukrainian President, and that Mr COX and

Mr KWASNIEWSKI could be invited to a subsequent meeting, on which occasion a decision on the future of their mission could be taken.

4.4 Date of the Conference of Presidents during the October II part-session

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President confirm that, owing to the meeting of the European Council that week, the meeting of the Conference of Presidents in Strasbourg during the October II part-session would now take place on Wednesday 23 October 2013, from 15.30 to 17.30.

4.5 Visit of Aung San Suu Kyi

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President announce that Aung San Suu Kyi was expected to be in Strasbourg on Tuesday 22 October 2013 to collect the Sakharov Prize she was awarded in 1990, and that it would be proper to devote a longer period of time to this occasion.

4.6 Hearing of the Committee on Budgetary Control

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President report that he had received a letter from Mr BARROSO, President of the European Commission (PE 516.137/CPG and annex), in response to a request from the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) for the Secretary-General of the Commission to appear at a hearing, in which Mr BARROSO restated his wish for the Commission to cooperate with the Parliament, but that proper procedures must be followed;

- heard the President confirm that while there was no doubt that the Commission was accountable to Parliament, there were points of procedure that needed to be clarified, and that he would return to this issue at a subsequent meeting;
- heard Mr DAUL, Chair of the EPP Group, recall that at its meeting of 5 September 2013, the Conference of Presidents agreed that a decision should be taken on the request from CONT for authorisation of an own initiative report;
- agreed to return to both these points at a subsequent meeting.

A. DECISIONS/EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

5. Negotiations on Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement - state of play

The Conference of Presidents,

- took note of the following documents:
 - Joint Statement of the 74th Interparliamentary Meeting - Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue held on 31 May and 1 June 2013 in Dublin, Ireland (PE 512.374/CPG);
 - Extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Conference of Presidents on 13 June 2013;
 - Extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Conference of Presidents on 4 July 2013.
- heard Mr MOREIRA, Chair of the Committee on International Trade (INTA) report on progress in the negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) Agreement, highlighting the following:
 - TTIP was not a normal trade and partnership agreement, but one with a much broader scope, greater impact and deeper reach, with regulatory effects across a whole range of issues;
 - the cultural, political, economic context in which the negotiations were taking place meant that it was essential to strive to achieve consistent, unified positions on the European side;

- INTA had created its own monitoring group for the US, with all political groups represented on an equal basis, which had been meeting since before the Council had finalised the negotiating mandate;
 - the Commission had agreed to meet the monitoring group both before and after each round of negotiations, and hitherto this had given the Parliament greater involvement than previously in trade negotiations;
 - it was essential that the Commission draw the lessons from the failed ACTA process, and act in a transparent manner, involving civil society, and noted the positive development that the Commission had published all its position papers for the first round of negotiations;
 - the Commission had established a permanent expert group to monitor what was being proposed;
 - the first round of negotiations had taken place in Washington from 8 to 12 July 2013, the second round would take place in Brussels in October 2013, and the third round, during which offers were first likely to be made, would take place in Washington in December 2013; between the rounds, there would be written exchanges and video conferences;
 - although good progress was possible at the beginning, it was likely that the most difficult issues would be raised towards the end of negotiations;
- held an exchange of views with Mr SWOBODA, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, Mr COHN-BENDIT, Co-Chair of the

Greens/EFA Group, Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, during which Mr MOREIRA was thanked for his report, agreement was expressed that TTIP had such a wide scope that many parts of the Parliament needed to be involved, and great emphasis was laid on the need to carry out the whole negotiation process in as transparent a manner as possible;

- heard the President propose the establishment of a co-ordination group, similar to the MFF contact group; this co-ordination group would be chaired by the President, with membership comprising the Chair of INTA, the co-ordinators of the political groups from INTA, the Chairs of those standing committees which were associated on this dossier and the Chair of the standing delegation for relations with the US/Co-Chair of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue;
- endorsed the President's proposal.

B. DECISIONS WITHOUT DEBATE *

6. Contestation by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the competence of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs regarding two legislative reports on "money laundering and terrorist financing" and on "information accompanying transfers of funds" *

The Conference of Presidents, without debate:

- took note of the letter dated 4 September 2013 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs (PE 512.474/CPG), in which he submitted a contestation of competence by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) to the following two legislative reports of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE):

"Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing" (COM(2013)0045 - 2013/0025(COD)), and "Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on information accompanying transfers of funds" (COM(2013)0044- 2013/0024(COD));
- noted and approved the recommendations of the Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs that the LIBE and ECON Committees be associated under Rule 51 to the above-mentioned reports.

7. Request for association under Rule 51 by the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection to a legislative report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs entitled “Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the comparability of fees related to payment accounts, payment account switching and access to payment accounts with basic features” *

The Conference of Presidents, without debate:

- took note of the letter dated 4 September 2013 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs (PE 516.083/CPG), in which he submits a request for association under Rule 51 by the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) to a legislative report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) entitled “Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the comparability of fees related to payment accounts, payment account switching and access to payment accounts with basic features” (COM(2013)0266 - 2013/0139 (COD));
- noted and approved the recommendations of the Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs that the IMCO Committee’s request for association under Rule 51 be dismissed, and that the IMCO Committee be associated under Rule 50 to the above-mentioned legislative report of the ECON Committee with the division of competences as set out in the annex to his letter.

Election Observation Missions

8. Request from the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group to send an Election Observation Delegation to observe the presidential elections in Georgia on 27 October 2013 *

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- took note of the request from Mr BROK and Ms JOLY, Co-Chairs of the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (PE 516.068/CPG), to send a delegation to observe the forthcoming Presidential Election in Georgia on 27 October 2013 and a possible second round on 10 November 2013;
- recalled that these elections were included in the list of priority countries for European Parliament election observation delegations for the second half of 2013, as approved by the Conference of Presidents on 5 September 2013;
- noted that the relevant criteria for the sending of an election observation mission, including the deployment of a standard Election Observation Mission by the OSCE/ODIHR, have been fulfilled;
- noted that the Members of the EP delegation will be present in Georgia from 25 to 28 October 2013 and will therefore not be able to attend the votes in plenary on 24 October 2013;
- approved the sending of a delegation to observe the elections in question, to be composed of seven Members appointed by the political groups in accordance with the rolling d'Hondt

system, which should also apply to the non-attached Members, and on the understanding that a limited language regime of interpretation into only one language applied, and invited the President to excuse the concerned Members from the votes in plenary in the afternoon of 24 October 2013, in line with Article 31(3) of the Implementing measures for the Statute of Members of the European Parliament.

8.a Request to send an Election Observation Mission to observe the Presidential Election in Azerbaijan on 9 October 2013 *

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 10 September 2013 from Mr BARRETT, on behalf of the political groups (PE 516.113/CPG), requesting authorisation to send a delegation to observe the forthcoming Presidential Election in Azerbaijan on 9 October 2013;
- recalled that, at its meeting of 5 September 2013, the Conference of Presidents had approved the list of priority countries for European Parliament election observation delegations for the second half of 2013, which included Azerbaijan;
- noted that, contrary to Article 8 of the Implementing Provisions Governing Election Observation Missions (IPGE), no request had been received from the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group in this instance;
- noted that the Presidential Election in Azerbaijan had been fixed for 9 October 2013, coinciding with a European Parliament's plenary session, meaning that the delegation would have to be present in Azerbaijan from 7 to 10 October 2013 and therefore the Participating Members would be unable to attend plenary sittings in Strasbourg that week;
- recalled that Article 9 of the IPGE stipulated that "Election observation delegations may not be authorised where the dates for such delegations coincide with those of European Parliament part-sessions"; noted that all other relevant criteria for the sending of an election observation mission, including the deployment of a European Union Election Observation Mission, had however been fulfilled;

- nevertheless approved, on exceptional basis and without creating a precedent, the sending of a delegation to observe the elections in question, to be composed of seven Members appointed by the political groups in accordance with the rolling d'Hondt system, which should also apply to the non-attached Members, and on the understanding that a limited language regime of interpretation into only one language applied, and invited the President to excuse the Member's absence from plenary during this period.

Other delegations

9. Request from the Steering Group of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO to co-organise the next Parliamentary Conference on the WTO in Bali, Indonesia, on 2 and 5 December 2013 and to enlarge Parliament's delegation to this event *

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 18 June 2013 co-signed by Mr MOREIRA and Mr ZALBA BIDEGAIN, Co-Chairs of the Steering Group of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (PE 512.425/CPG), requesting authorisation:
 - to co-organise a Parliamentary conference on the WTO, to be held in conjunction with the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference on 2 and 5 December 2013 in Bali, Indonesia;
 - to provide, as co-organiser of the Conference, together with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), interpretation for the event into the three working languages of the conference, namely English, French and Spanish;
 - to include the six EP Members of the Steering Committee for the WTO Parliamentary Conferences in Parliament's delegation to that event out of quota;
- recalled that the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO was the 'de facto' parliamentary dimension of the WTO and its Parliamentary Conferences were organised jointly by the IPU and the European Parliament once a year, alongside the WTO Ministerial Conferences;
- recalled the decision by the Conference of Presidents of 18 November 2004 that the final "composition of the Steering Committee would be two Members from the EPP-ED Group,

two Members from the PES Group and one Member from the ALDE Group, with one place rotating amongst the other groups which wished to participate in the Steering Committee";

- recalled that, at its meeting on 20 May 2013, on the basis of a request from the Committee on International Trade (INTA), the Bureau had authorised, on an exceptional basis and in view of the political significance of both events, the Parliamentary Conference and the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference, the sending of a delegation of up to seven Members to be drawn from the Committee's annual quota and on the understanding that interpretation facilities should be provided into one language only, pursuant to Article 6(2) of the applicable Rules;
- noted that the dates of the meeting of the Parliamentary Conference coincided with a day reserved for committee activities and with a day reserved for committees and political group work; further noted that the dates of the 9th Ministerial Conference on the WTO coincided with two days reserved for political group work and that participation in both of these events would mean absence from Brussels and/or the Member's constituency for a whole week;
- confirmed that the European Parliament was willing to continue to play an active role in organising the parliamentary dimension of the WTO and therefore endorsed the request to co-organise the Parliamentary Conference as requested;
- authorised, on an exceptional basis, the sending of an "ad hoc" delegation of ten Members, the composition to be determined by the political groups, to be drawn primarily from Members of the INTA committee, and to include the EP Members of the WTO Steering Committee in the delegation if at all possible, this authorisation being granted on the understanding that this replaced the INTA delegation which had already been authorised.

10. Urgent matters and any other business

10.1. Request from the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection to draw up an own-initiative report under Rule 48 *

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- recalled that the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) submitted a request for an own-initiative report entitled "Single Market governance within the European Semester 2014";
- further recalled that, at its meeting of 5 September 2013, the Conference of Presidents declined to authorise this request as IMCO's quota for initiative reports had been exhausted;
- noted of a letter dated 10 September 2013 from Mr HARBOUR, Chair of the IMCO Committee, on a request to draw up an own-initiative report under Rule 48 entitled "Governance of the Single Market" (PE 516.120/CPG);
- nevertheless, authorised this own-initiative report out of quota, on an exceptional basis.

10.2 Numerical composition of inter-parliamentary delegations following the accession of Croatia *

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- took note of a letter dated 10 September 2013 from Mr BARRETT on behalf of the political groups, submitting an amended proposal draft decision of the European Parliament on the numerical composition of inter-parliamentary delegations following the accession of Croatia (PE 516.112/CPG);

- recalled that at its meeting of 4 July 2013, the Conference of Presidents had endorsed a draft proposal submitted by the political groups concerning the numerical composition of inter-parliamentary delegations, following the accession of Croatia;
- noted that the political groups had subsequently submitted an amendment to the original proposal on this subject, endorsed this amendment and submitted the proposal as amended to plenary for final approval.

10.3 Unruly behaviour in plenary

The Conference of Presidents,

- heard Mr SPERONI, Co-Chair of the EFD Group, assert that unruly behaviour during the contribution of the other Co-Chair of the EFD Group in the debate of the State of the Union had not been dealt with by the Chair, and asked for an assurance that any future occurrence would be prevented;
- heard Mr CALLANAN, Chair of the ECR, note that there were often boisterous interventions in debates in plenary, and that it was incumbent on all Members to conduct themselves with decorum;
- heard the President respond by agreeing that Members had a right to be treated with due respect in plenary, and note that a balance needed to be struck between encouraging a lively debate and maintaining order in the chamber.

10.4 Availability of interpretation

The Conference of Presidents,

- heard Mr SPERONI, Co-Chair of the EFD Group, report that no interpretation into Italian had been available at a meeting he had attended, which in his view was a breach of Rule 147(3);
- heard the President undertake to look into the matter.

10.5 Practical issue on a visit within the EU outside the normal places of work

The Conference of Presidents

- heard Mr SPERONI, Co-Chair of the EFD Group, report a problem with the administrative arrangements during a recent visit within the EU outside the normal place of work;
- heard the President ask for full information on this and undertake to look into the matter.

11. Items for information

11.1 Internal correspondence

The Conference of Presidents,

- noted the following documents:

- a letter dated 4 September 2013 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, requesting authorisation to hold a meeting with the College of Commissioners on Wednesday, 2 October 2013 (PE 516.084/CPG).
- a letter dated 11 September 2013 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, on Delegated and Implementing acts - Screening of current files (PE 516.124/CPG).

11.2 Interinstitutional correspondence

There was none.

11.3 External correspondence

There was none.

12. Date and place of next meetings

The Conference of Presidents will hold its next ordinary meeting on 3 October 2013 from 11:00 to 13:00 hours in room 06B1, in Paul-Henri Spaak Building, in Brussels.

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The meeting closed at 11.05 hours