

European Parliament



CONFERENCE of PRESIDENTS

Draft MINUTES

of the ordinary meeting of Thursday

5 July 2018

Louise Weiss Building, Room R1.1

Strasbourg

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS**MINUTES**

of the ordinary meeting of

Thursday, 5 July 2018

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 5 July 2018

from 10:00 to 12:00 hours

Strasbourg

The meeting opened at 10.08 hours with Mr Antonio TAJANI,

President of the European Parliament, in the chair

Present

Mr TAJANI, President

Political Group Chairs

Mr	WEBER ¹	(EPP)
Mr	BULLMANN ²	(S&D)
Mr	KAMALL (Co-Chair)	(ECR)
Mr	VERHOFSTADT	(ALDE)
Ms	KELLER (Co-Chair)	(Greens/EFA)
Mr	DE JONG (Acting)	(GUE/NGL)
Mr	O'FLYNN (Acting)	(EFDD)
Mr	BAY (Co-Chair)	(ENF)
Ms	DODDS ³	(NI)

Also Present

Mr WELLE, Secretary-General
Mr WINKLER, Deputy Secretary-General

¹ Replaced by Mr Marinescu as of 10:57

² Replaced by Mr Weidenholzer as of 10:38

³ Present pursuant to Rule 26 (2) of the Rules of Regulations of Procedure

Invited:

Ms WIKSTRÖM, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The Council⁴

represented by Mr KERLEROUX

The Commission⁴represented by Mr PINE
Ms FALCINELLIOffice of the PresidentMr CANGA FANO
Mr CHIOCCHETTI
Mr CORAZZA
Mr WEISS
Ms GLATIGNYOffice of the Secretary-GeneralMr MANGOLD
Ms FERNANDEZ PERLES
Ms POPTCHEVA
Mr DE FINANCEOffice of the Deputy Secretary-General

Mr JAVELLE

SecretariatDG Presidency (PRES) Mr LANE/Ms ROBSON/Ms GANDOLFO/Ms SAILIS⁴/
Ms TONBERG⁴

DG Internal Policies (IPOL) Mr RIBERA/Ms DE VICENTE/Mr HUBER

DG External Policies (EXPO) Mr DUCCI

DG Communication (COMM) Mr DUCH GUILLOT

DG Personnel (PERS) Mr KNUDSEN

DG European Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS) Mr TEASDALE

DG Infrastructures and Logistics Mr MACHMER

⁴ Present for items 1-3

DG Translation (TRAD)

Mr MAVRIČ

DG Interpretation and Conferences (INTE)

Ms WALTER-DROP

DG Innovation and Technological Support (ITEC)

Mr PARIDANS

Legal Service (SJ)

Mr DREXLER/Ms MARTINEZ IGLESIAS

Directorate for relations with political groups

Mr SCHWETZ

Secretariat of the Bureau

Mr TZIORKAS

Political groups

Mr KAMP/Ms SCRIBAN/Ms LASKAVÁ	(EPP)
Ms GLIUBIZZI/Ms MÜLLER/ /Mr GUERRA/Ms PANZETTI	(S&D)
Mr BOYD	(ECR)
Mr BEELS/Ms COLERA-GARZÓN/Mr RASMUSSEN/Mr McLAUGHLIN	(ALDE)
Ms TSETSI/Mr BROUWER/Mr LINAZASORO	(Greens/EFA)
Ms LEPOLA/Ms ASLETT-RYDBJERG/Mr OROZCO DOPICO	(GUE/NGL)
Ms LALOUX/ Mr TEUSCHER	(EFDD)
Mr CLAEYS/Mr CURRI	(ENF)
Mr BORDEZ	(NI)

Ms WOLLNY, Mr VAUGIER, Ms BERTULESSI, Mr ROHLJE and Ms SCHADE acted as secretaries to the meeting.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The Conference of Presidents

- noted and adopted the draft agenda in the form shown in these minutes (PE 622.986/CPG).

2. Approval of the draft Minutes of the meeting of 27 June 2018

The Conference of Presidents

- noted and approved the draft minutes of the ordinary meeting of 27 June 2018 held in Brussels (PE 622.940/CPG).

3. Adoption of the draft agenda for the September 2018 part-session (from 10 to 13 September 2018) – Scheduling of key debates in plenary

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
 - a letter dated 3 July 2018 from Ms WIKSTRÖM, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, submitting a recommendation regarding the draft agenda of the September 2018 part-session in Strasbourg (from 10 to 13 September 2018) (PE 624.963/CPG and annexes);
- noted and adopted the draft agenda for the September 2018 part-session in Strasbourg without modification.

4. Communications by the President

4.1 European Council meeting on 28 and 29 June 2018

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President report that, in his speech to the European Council, he had underlined the need to adopt the asylum package including a reform of the Dublin regulation, based on Parliament's position, and the need to make progress on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) post-2020;
- heard the President note that his speech had been followed by supportive interventions of several Heads of State or Government, and note that the application of the qualified majority voting procedure for the files pending in Council, in accordance with the Treaties, was a possibility that should not be neglected;
- heard the President further report that he had stressed Parliament's support for additional own resources, inter alia, with a view to setting up an investment plan for Africa within the MFF post-2020;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr WEBER, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, Ms KELLER, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, and Mr BAY, Co-Chair of the ENF Group;
- heard the President report that he had underlined Parliament's position on the Dublin reform in his bilateral meetings with Heads of State or Government.

4.2 Parliament's internal coordination for the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework post-2020

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President report on a meeting of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) Contact Group on the previous day; and heard him propose that, in view of the decision to be taken on the attribution of competences with regard to the sectoral spending programmes of the MFF post-2020, the committees be invited not to adopt their draft legislative reports before Parliament had adopted its interim report, to be tabled by the Committee on Budgets

and foreseen to be voted in plenary in November 2018, and that, in any case, these reports would not be tabled to plenary before then;

- heard him note that, until further guidance had been issued, committees should leave the figures blank in their draft legislative reports for the various programmes and heard him propose to return to the matter at a subsequent meeting;
- endorsed the President's approach.

4.3 Incident during the opening of the sitting on 3 July 2018

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President report that the start of the plenary session on 3 July 2018 had been delayed due to Members entering a technical booth and shutting down the audio system;
- heard the President note that causing such a disruption of Parliament's work was intolerable and that, following a first report from the relevant services, all the Members involved would be heard individually by the President, in line with Parliament's regulatory framework;
- heard the President report that the Members involved had claimed to have acted out of solidarity with interpreters; and heard him emphasize that such a behaviour causing a serious disruption of the sitting could not be justified and would be met with the appropriate penalty, which the President would announce in September 2018;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr WEBER, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr O'FLYNN, acting Chair of the EFDD Group, and Mr BAY, Co-Chair of the ENF Group;
- endorsed the President's approach.

4.4 Dialogue with interpreters

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President recall that the social dialogue with interpreters was ongoing at all levels, and that an extraordinary Bureau meeting had been held on the previous day with representatives of the interpreters, while the structured dialogue between the Secretary-General and the Staff Committee continued, in coordination with Mr PASCU, Vice-President responsible for multilingualism;

- heard the President request both parties to do their utmost in a constructive spirit, so that a solution was found before summer recess;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr WEBER, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr BULLMANN, Chair of the S&D Group, Ms KELLER, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, Mr O'FLYNN, acting Chair of the EFDD Group, and Mr BAY, Co-Chair of the ENF Group, welcoming the continuation of the social dialogue with a view to achieving a constructive solution;
- endorsed the President's approach.

5. Attribution of competences with regard to the sectoral spending programmes related to the Multiannual Financial Framework post-2020

The Conference of Presidents

- took note of a letter dated 3 July 2018 from Ms WIKSTRÖM, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, submitting recommendations on the attribution of competences with regard to contested attributions of legislative reports related to the sectoral spending programmes of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) post-2020 as well as a list of agreements reached among committees on the application of Rules 54 and 55 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure (PE 624.953/CPG and annexes);
- heard Ms WIKSTRÖM recall the procedure followed by the CCC, which had organised four extraordinary meetings with a view to solving the conflicts of competences which had arisen following the presentation by the Commission of its 48 legislative proposals relating to the sectoral spending programmes of the MFF which had merged previous programmes;
- heard Ms WIKSTRÖM stress that the attribution of competences had been dealt with as a package, and recommend to adopt the 37 agreements reached between committees as listed in Annex A of her letter, and her recommendations on the 11 remaining sectoral spending programmes, as set out in Annex B of her letter;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr MARINESCU, acting Chair of the EPP Group, Mr WEIDENHOLZER, acting Chair of the S&D Group, Mr KAMALL, Co-Chair of the ECR Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, Ms KELLER, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, Mr DE JONG, acting Chair of the GUE/NGL Group, Mr O'FLYNN, acting Chair of the EFDD Group, Mr BAY, Co-Chair of the ENF Group, and Ms WIKSTRÖM, Chair of the CCC, focussed, inter alia, on programme 7 - Regulation on the protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States, and programme 23 - CAP Strategic Plans Regulation, as well as on Parliament's role and prerogatives;
- endorsed the agreements reached between committees and the recommendations from the Chair of the CCC as set out in Annex A and Annex B of her letter.

6. Committee hearings on the Facebook/Cambridge Analytica case - exchange of viewsThe Conference of Presidents

- took note of the following documents:
 - a transcript of the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of Presidents with Mr ZUCKERBERG, Chief Executive Officer of Facebook, on 22 May 2018 (PE 622.846/CPG);
 - an e-mail of 23 May 2018 from Mr REINISCH, Vice-President of Facebook, submitting a first set of written answers following the meeting with Mr ZUCKERBERG, Chief Executive Officer of Facebook, and a second set of written answers received on 1 June 2018 (PE 622.873/CPG and annex);
 - the draft agendas of the committee hearings on the Facebook/Cambridge Analytica case (PE 624.937/CPG);
- heard the President introduce the item by recalling that on 4 June, 25 June and 2 July 2018, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), with the association of the AFCO, JURI and ITRE Committees, had held public hearings as a follow-up to the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of Presidents with Mr ZUCKERBERG;
- heard him note that Mr MORAES, Chair of the LIBE Committee, had been invited to report on the committee hearings but that he was unable to attend the meeting;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr MARINESCU, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr BULLMANN, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr WEIDENHOLZER, acting Chair of the S&D Group, Mr KAMALL, Co-Chair of the ECR Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, Ms KELLER, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, Mr DE JONG, acting Chair of the GUE/NGL Group, Mr O'FLYNN, acting Chair of the EFDD Group, and Mr BAY, Co-Chair of the ENF Group, focussed, inter alia, on:
 - the follow-up of the meeting with Mr ZUCKERBERG and of the committee hearings;
 - the desirability of tabling a motion for a resolution in October 2018 with Group Chairs being involved at an early stage in the preparation of the draft resolution;

- the impact of the General Data Protection Regulation;
 - the competition policy aspects of the business model of large internet companies;
 - the integrity of referenda and electoral campaigns, including concerns about the risk of disinformation, spread of fake and manipulated news ahead of the European Elections in 2019 and the need to launch an initiative in consultation with the other EU institutions and Member States with a view to ensuring the integrity of the European Elections and the protection from external manipulative entities;
- heard the President conclude by proposing that Mr MORAES be invited to submit a draft resolution, which should be circulated to the Group Chairs and to the LIBE coordinators at the same time so as to enable the former to provide input at an early stage, and that Mr MORAES be invited to a subsequent meeting with a view to continuing the discussion on the matter;
- endorsed the President's proposal.

7. Agreement between the Committees on Legal Affairs and on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection on the application of Rule 54 regarding two legislative reports on representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers and on fairness and transparency for business users of online intermediation services

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 21 June 2018 from Ms WIKSTRÖM, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, submitting an agreement reached between the Committees on Legal Affairs (JURI) and on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) on the application of Rule 54 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure regarding (622.995/CPG) :
 - the JURI legislative report entitled "Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers, and repealing Directive 2009/22/EC" (COM(2018)184 - 2018/0089(COD)), whereby the IMCO Committed would be associated with shared competence over the entire legislative proposal;
 - the IMCO legislative report entitled "Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on promoting fairness and transparency for business users of online intermediation services" (COM(2018)238 - 2018/0112(COD)), whereby the JURI Committed would be associated with shared competence over the entire legislative proposal;
- noted and endorsed the agreement reached between the JURI and IMCO Committees on the application of Rule 54 as set out above.

8. Request from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs to send a delegation to the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in Vienna, Austria, on 25 and 26 September 2018

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 11 June 2018 from Mr MORAES, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), requesting authorisation to postpone the three Member mission to the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), in Vienna, Austria, from 17 and 18 July 2018 to 25 and 26 September 2018 instead (plus travel time), in order to allow Members to attend the FRA Forum on Fundamental Rights (PE 622.959/CPG and financial statement);
- recalled that, at its meeting on 28 May 2018, the Bureau had authorised the request from LIBE for a three Members visit, out of quota, to the FRA, in Vienna, Austria, on 17 and 18 July 2018 (two days, travel included), which had been proposed as an agency visit only; at that meeting, the Bureau had recalled that it had taken the view that committee missions to Member States holding or taking over the rotating EU Council Presidency might be justified, if those missions had been undertaken in relation to major high-level conferences in those Member States;
- recalled that, under the rules in force, every two years, each committee should be authorised to send, during the weeks set aside for external parliamentary activities and for no more than three days, a three Member mission to agencies for which it was principally responsible pursuant to the Rules of Procedure and that such missions should not be included in the calculations of the committee's quota;
- recalled its decision of 15 March 2018 that, with a view to the workload of committees for the remainder of the parliamentary term, resources be allocated as a matter of priority to Parliament's legislative work and that, in principle, requests for authorisation which would adversely affect the availability of interpretation teams for committees should not be granted;
- noted that the dates of the mission proposed coincided with half a day set aside for parliamentary committee activities (Monday), two days for political group activities (Tuesday and Wednesday) and half a day set aside for parliamentary committee and political group activities (Thursday);
- noted that interpretation into three languages had been requested;

- recommended the authorisation of the request on an exceptional basis, provided that resources were available, and that the mission would not exceed three days, including travel time, and forwarded its recommendation to the Bureau for final decision.

9. Joint request from the Committees on Development and on Agriculture and Rural Development to send an ad hoc delegation to participate in the Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition, in Madrid, Spain, on 29 and 30 October 2018

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 19 June 2018, co-signed by Ms McAVAN, Chair of the Committee on Development (DEVE), and Mr SIEKIERSKI, Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), requesting authorisation for a six Member ad hoc delegation, consisting of two Members from each committee and the two Committee Chairs, to attend the UN Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition in Madrid, Spain, on 29 and 30 October 2018 (plus travel time) (PE 622.992/CPG, annex and financial statement);
- recalled that under the applicable Rules, parliamentary committees might submit duly justified requests to the Conference of Presidents to send an ad hoc delegation to international conferences;
- recalled its decision of 15 March 2018 that, with a view to the workload of committees for the remainder of the parliamentary term, resources be allocated as a matter of priority to Parliament's legislative work and that, in principle, requests for authorisation which would adversely affect the availability of interpretation teams for committees should not be granted;
- noted that the dates of the conference coincided with two days set aside for external parliamentary activities (Monday and Tuesday) and that the overall duration of the ad hoc delegation would not exceed three days, including travel time;
- noted that no interpretation had been requested;
- authorised the request.

10. Request from the Committee on International Trade to send an ad hoc delegation to Western Sahara, on 4 and 5 September 2018

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 21 June 2018 from Mr LANGE, Chair of the Committee on International Trade (INTA), requesting authorisation to send a five Member ad hoc delegation to Western Sahara, on 4 and 5 September 2018 (four days, including travel time) (PE 622.999/CPG and financial statement);
- recalled that, under Article 21 (1) of the applicable Rules, the Conference of Presidents might, in response to an unforeseen event of major political significance and on a duly motivated proposal from a political group, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Development or the Committee on International Trade, authorise the sending of an ad hoc delegation, specifying the objectives, the remit and the period for which it was to be constituted;
- recalled that, in line with the applicable Rules, committees should plan their missions during weeks set aside for external parliamentary activities within the framework of a six-month programme, and that additional requests could only be exceptional and in response to recent unexpected and unpredictable events and circumstances;
- recalled that, at its meeting on 15 March 2018, the Conference of Presidents had decided that, for the remainder of the parliamentary term, resources be allocated as a matter of priority to Parliament's legislative work, and that, in principle, requests for authorisation which would adversely affect the availability of interpretation teams for committees should not be granted for the remainder of the parliamentary term;
- noted that interpretation into three languages was requested;
- further noted that the dates of the mission, requested to take place during week 36, coincided with half a day without parliamentary activity (Monday morning), half a day set aside for parliamentary committee activities (Monday afternoon), two days set aside for political group activities (Tuesday and Wednesday), and one day set aside for committee and political group activities (Thursday);

- heard Ms KELLER, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, recall the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions;
- in view of the above, authorised the sending of a five Member ad hoc delegation to Western Sahara, from 2 to 5 September 2018, including travel time, on an exceptional basis, with interpretation as requested, provided that resources were available.

11. Request from the Committee on Constitutional Affairs to send an ad hoc delegation to Washington D.C., United States of America, from 25 to 28 September 2018

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 21 June 2018 from Ms HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO), requesting authorisation to send a one Member ad hoc delegation to Washington D.C., United State of America, from 25 to 28 September 2018 (four days, including travel time), to prepare the Committee's implementation report on the implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning enhanced cooperation (PE 624.917/CPG, annexes and financial statement);
- noted that no interpretation had been requested;
- recalled that, in principle, ad hoc delegations should take place during weeks set aside for external parliamentary activity;
- noted that the dates proposed coincided with two days set aside for political group activities (Tuesday and Wednesday in week 39), one day set aside for political group and parliamentary committee activities (Thursday in week 39) and one day without parliamentary activity (Friday in week 39);
- therefore, withheld the authorisation of the request and invited the Committee to submit a new request in line with Parliament's calendar of activities.

12. Request from the Delegation to the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) to extend the 15th EU-Montenegro SAPC meeting in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 16 and 17 July 2018

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 20 June 2018 from Mr MARTIN, Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC), requesting authorisation to extend the 15th EU-Montenegro SAPC meeting in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 16 and 17 July 2018 (three and a half days, including travel time) (PE 624.900/CPG, annex and financial statement);
- recalled that, at its meeting on 31 May 2018, it had authorised the 15th EU-Montenegro SAPC meeting, in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 16 and 17 July 2018 (two days, including travel time), inviting the delegation to coordinate its programme to the greatest possible extent with the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, which had been authorised by the Bureau on 28 May 2018 to send a mission to Montenegro on 16 and 17 July 2018 (three days, travel included);
- recalled that, in line with the applicable Rules, the dates of the mission coincided with two and a half days set aside for external parliamentary activities (Monday to Wednesday morning of week 29) and with one day without parliamentary activities (the Sunday preceding that week), without exceeding five days including travel time;
- authorised the request.

13. Request from the Delegation for relations with Belarus to send a delegation to Minsk, Belarus, from 16 to 18 September 2018

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 21 June 2018 from Mr ZDROJEWSKI, Chair of the Delegation for relations with Belarus, requesting authorisation to send a three Member delegation, including the Chair, to Minsk, Belarus, from 16 to 18 September 2018 (travel included) (PE 622.998/CPG and financial statement);
- recalled that the Delegation had travelled to Minsk, Belarus, on 18 and 19 July 2017;
- further recalled that, in its resolution of 19 April 2018 on the situation in Belarus, Parliament had expressed its support for the EU's critical engagement with Belarus, as long as it was conditioned on the undertaking of concrete steps towards democratisation and on the Belarusian authorities' complete respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights;
- noted that the dates of the mission coincided with one day without parliamentary activity (Sunday in week 37) and two days set aside for external parliamentary activities (Monday and Tuesday in week 38);
- authorised the mission as requested.

14. Request from the Delegation to the EU-Kosovo and the EU-Bosnia and Herzegovina Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committees (SAPC) to extend the 5th EU-Kosovo SAPC meeting in Pristina, Kosovo, on 17 and 18 September 2018

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 21 June 2018 from Mr PICULA, Chair of the Delegation for relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo, requesting authorisation to extend the 5th EU-Kosovo Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) meeting in Pristina, Kosovo, on 17 and 18 September 2018 (three and a half days, including travel time) (PE 624.914/CPG and financial statement);
- recalled that, at its meeting on 31 May 2018, it had authorised, the 5th EU-Kosovo SAPC meeting, in Pristina, Kosovo, on 17 and 18 September 2018 (two days, including travel time);
- recalled that, in line with the applicable Rules, the dates of the mission coincided with three days set aside for external parliamentary activities (Monday to Wednesday of week 38), and with half a day without parliamentary activities (Sunday afternoon preceding that week), without exceeding five days including travel time;
- authorised the request.

15. Request from the Delegation to the EU-Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to extend the 15th EU-FYROM JPC meeting in Skopje, FYROM, on 19 and 20 September 2018

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 21 June 2018 from Mr PETERLE, Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), requesting authorisation to extend the 15th EU-FYROM JPC meeting in Skopje, FYROM, on 19 and 20 September 2018 (three days, including travel time) (PE 624.907/CPG and financial statement);
- recalled that, at its meeting on 31 May 2018, it had authorised the 15th EU-FYROM JPC meeting in Skopje, FYROM, on 19 and 20 September 2018 (two days, including travel time);
- recalled that, in line with the applicable Rules, the dates of the mission coincided with three days set aside for external parliamentary activities (Tuesday afternoon to Friday morning of week 38), without exceeding five days including travel time;
- authorised the request.

16. Request from the Delegation to the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) to extend the 9th EU-Serbia SAPC meeting in Belgrade, Serbia, on 29 and 30 October 2018

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 21 June 2018 from Mr KUKAN, Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC), requesting authorisation to extend the 9th EU-Serbia SAPC meeting in Belgrade, Serbia, on 29 and 30 October 2018 (three days, including travel time) (PE 624.913/CPG and financial statement);
- recalled that, at its meeting on 31 May 2018, it had authorised the 9th EU-Serbia SAPC meeting in Belgrade, Serbia, on 29 and 30 October 2018 (two days, including travel time);
- recalled that, in line with the applicable Rules, the dates of the mission coincided with two and a half days set aside for external parliamentary activities (Monday to Wednesday morning of week 44), and half a day without parliamentary activity (Sunday preceding that week), without exceeding five days including travel time;
- authorised the request.

17. Priorities for Parliament's election observation delegations for the second half of 2018

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 21 June 2018, co-signed by Mr McALLISTER and Ms McAVAN, Co-Chairs of the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group, on the list of priority countries for European Parliament election observation missions for the second half of 2018 (PE 623.002/CPG, annex and financial statements);
- recalled that, pursuant to the relevant Rules, the programme should include the indicative number of five countries for every six-month period or ten countries per year, with the possibility of an additional two countries per year in exceptional cases;
- approved the list submitted as far as those delegations were scheduled to take place by the end of December 2018, and on the condition that the maximum number of 10 to 12 delegations per year, as foreseen in the applicable Rules, would not be exceeded;
- recalled that specific individual requests for authorisation must be submitted in each case, as soon as the relevant criteria and conditions had been met, such as official invitations, security guarantees and greater certainty as to the dates of the elections.

18. Request from the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group for authorisation for one Member to participate in a Conference entitled 'Bridging the gap between youth policy, youth participation and parliamentarians in the Western Balkans', in Skopje, FYROM, on 20 and 21 September 2018

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 21 June 2018 from Mr McALLISTER and Ms McAVAN, Co-Chairs of the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG), requesting authorisation for the DEG lead Member for the Young Political Leaders programme, Mr CASTALDO, to participate in a high-level conference entitled 'Bridging the gap between youth policy, youth participation and parliamentarians in the Western Balkans', in Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on 20 and 21 September 2018 (plus travel time) (PE 622.994/CPG and financial statement);
- recalled its decision of 3 March 2016 to endorse the concept of the annual Young Political Leaders programme, in principle, on the understanding that Members' travel in the framework of the programme required individual authorisation by the Conference of Presidents, based on a detailed request in line with the applicable Rules;
- recalled that, as a general rule, all requests to travel should be specific, duly justified and submitted in good time;
- recalled its decision of 15 March 2018 that, with a view to the workload of committees for the remainder of the parliamentary term, resources be allocated as a matter of priority to Parliament's legislative work and that, in principle, requests for authorisation which would adversely affect the availability of interpretation teams for committees should not be granted;
- further recalled that, at that meeting, it had decided that, except for election observation missions, for the remainder of the parliamentary term, external DEG activities might only take place during weeks set aside for external parliamentary activities and internal DEG activities might not be undertaken during committee weeks;
- noted that the dates of the conference coincided with two days set aside for external parliamentary activities (Thursday and Friday);

- noted that the overall duration of the mission would not exceed four days, including travel time;
- noted that no interpretation had been requested;
- authorised the request.

19. Request to send a delegation to the Inter-parliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU (Article 13 of the Fiscal Compact), to be held in Vienna, Austria, from 17 to 18 September 2017

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 15 June 2018 from Mr GUALTIERI, Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, requesting authorisation for the sending of a delegation to the Inter-parliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance (SECG) in the EU, under Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union (the Fiscal Compact), to be held in Vienna, Austria, from 17 to 18 September 2018 (PE 622.974/CPG, annexes and financial statement);
- noted that, in line with Rule 4.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-parliamentary Conference on SECG, the Conference should be composed of delegations from the relevant committees of the national parliaments of EU Members States and from the European Parliament, and that the composition and size of delegations should be determined by each parliament;
- recalled its decision of 4 July 2013 that Parliament's delegation to meetings of the Inter-parliamentary Conference on SECG outside its own premises should be composed of 16 Members, preferably to be drawn from the ECON, EMPL and BUDG Committees and in accordance with the rolling d'Hondt system, taking due account of the non-attached Members, and that the delegation should be chaired by either one Vice-President with responsibility for relations with national parliaments or the Chair of the ECON Committee;
- recalled its decisions of 8 September 2016 and 28 September 2017 to authorise the sending of a delegation of 16 Members composed as follows: five Members from the EPP Group, five Members from the S&D Group, one Member each from the ECR Group, the ALDE Group, the GUE/NGL Group, the Greens/EFA Group, the EFDD Group, and one non-attached Member, and that the delegation be co-chaired by a Vice-President with responsibility for relations with national parliaments and by the Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs;
- noted that the date of the SECG Inter-parliamentary Conference coincided with two days set aside for external parliamentary activities (Monday and Tuesday of week 38);

- authorised the sending of a delegation of 16 Members, in line with previous practice, composed as follows: five Members from the EPP Group, five Members from the S&D Group, one Member each from the ECR Group, the ALDE Group, the GUE/NGL Group, the Greens/EFA Group, and the EFDD Group, and decided that the delegation be co-chaired by a Vice-President with responsibility for relations with national parliaments and by the Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

20. Request from the EPP Group for authorisation to hold a meeting of a delegation of the Group in Genval, Belgium, on 26 September 2018

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 25 June 2018 from Mr KANDOLF, Director for internal organisation of the EPP Group, requesting authorisation to hold a meeting of a delegation of the EPP Group in Genval, Belgium, on 26 September 2018 (PE 624.930/CPG and financial statement);
- noted that the meeting proposed coincided with half a day set aside for political group activities (Wednesday afternoon in week 39);
- recalled that, under the relevant Rules, political groups might meet twice a year, in a town or city other than the three places of work situated with the European territory of the European Union and that the bureau of each group or a delegation from the group, consisting of a minimum of six members and a maximum of one third of the members of the group, might meet five times a year in a town or city other than the three places of work situated within the territory of the European Union;
- noted that the EPP Group had already exhausted the above-mentioned quota for meetings in a town or city other than the three places of work situated within the territory of the European Union;
- noted that interpretation into six languages had been requested;
- nevertheless authorised the request, by way of exception, provided that resources were available.

21. Urgent matters and any other business21.1 Request from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs to extend the deadline for adoption of the legislative own-initiative report on humanitarian visasThe Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 3 July 2018 from Mr MORAES, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), requesting a derogation with a view to extending the deadline for adoption of the legislative own-initiative report on humanitarian visas (2017/2270(INL)) (PE 624.954/CPG);
- recalled that, at its meeting on 15 March 2018, the Conference of Presidents, with a view to the workload of committees for the remainder of the parliamentary term, had stressed that resources must be allocated as a matter of priority to Parliament's legislative work, in order to allow parliamentary committees to proceed with pending files and to ensure that Parliament could deliver on its commitments, and that it consequently had decided that:
 - requests for own-initiative reports must be submitted to the Conference of Committee Chairs at the latest by 17 April 2018 and to the Conference of Presidents at the latest by 1 May 2018;
 - the maximum deadline of six months for the adoption of an own-initiative report in committee be reinstated for the remainder of the parliamentary term, with an extension only possible on the basis of a duly justified request, noting that, consequently, all own-initiative reports authorised previously should be adopted within six months as from 1 April 2018 and all future own-initiative reports should be adopted within six months as from the date of authorisation;
 - all procedures where the committee had not adopted its own-initiative report within six months would be deemed to have lapsed;
- recalled that, at its meeting on 31 May 2018, the Conference of Presidents had considered Committees' requests for authorisation to draw up own-initiative reports with a view to the remainder of the parliamentary term, in line with its decision of 15 March 2018, and decided to withhold authorisation for requests for own-initiative reports for which Committees did not have available quota, with a view to determining if the relevant quota would be available by no later than 1 July 2018, recalling that those requests needed to be resubmitted to the Conference of Presidents for authorisation;

- noted that the adoption of the above-mentioned report in the LIBE Committee, initially foreseen for 27 September 2018, would be rescheduled to 10 October 2018;
- noted the justification of the LIBE Chair that the legislative own-initiative report on humanitarian visas would be of strategic importance within the context of migration;
- in view of the above, authorised the request by way of exception, without setting a precedent.

21.2 Request from the Committee on Regional Development to appoint two co-rapporteurs for the legislative report on the Common Provisions Regulation 2021-2027

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 14 June 2018 from Ms MIHAYLOVA, Chair of the Committee on Regional Development, submitting a request for authorisation to appoint two co-rapporteurs on the legislative report on the Common Provisions on European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund Plus, Cohesion Fund, and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and financial rules for those and for Asylum and Migration Fund, Internal Security Fund and Border Management and Visa Instrument (CPR) 2021–2027 (COM(2018)0375 - 2018/0196(COD)) (PE 624.922/CPG);
- noted that the legislative proposal on the CPR 2021-2027 was part of the sectoral proposals for spending programmes related to the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) post-2020 and that it had been referred to the REGI Committee;
- noted that, at its meeting on 5 July 2018, the Conference of Presidents, on the basis of recommendations submitted by the Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs (CCC), had endorsed a package of attributions of committee competences related to the MFF sectoral proposals for spending programmes, whereby, with regard to the legislative proposal on the CPR 2021-2027, the REGI Committee would be the leading committee on the file, while the ECON Committee would contribute with an opinion under Rule 53 of Parliament’s Rules of Procedure (RoP) with additional provisions of cooperation (the so-called “Rule 53+”);
- further noted that eight committees would provide an opinion under Rule 53 to the legislative report on the CPR 2021-2027;
- recalled that the Rules of Procedure made no provision for the appointment of co-rapporteurs, and that the Conference of Presidents, on previous occasions, had, therefore, only authorised the appointment of co-rapporteurs for a very limited number of highly important reports, generally of a budgetary or institutional nature;
- in view of the above, authorised the request, by way of exception, without setting a precedent.

21.3 Request from the Committee on Transport and Tourism to appoint two co-rapporteurs for the legislative report on the Connecting Europe Facility 2021-2027

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 14 June 2018 from Ms DELLI, Chair of the Committee on Transport and Tourism, submitting a request for authorisation to appoint two co-rapporteurs on the legislative report on the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) 2021-2027 (COM(2018)0438) - 2018/0228(COD));
- noted that the legislative proposal on the CEF 2021-2027 was part of the sectoral proposals for spending programmes related to the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) post-2020 and that it had been referred to the TRAN Committee;
- noted that, at its meeting on 5 July 2018, the Conference of Presidents, on the basis of recommendations submitted by the Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs (CCC), had endorsed a package of attributions of committee competences related to the MFF sectoral proposals for spending programmes, whereby, with regard to the legislative report on CEF 2021-2027, the TRAN and ITRE Committees would be jointly responsible for the legislative file under Rule 55 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure (RoP), while the AFET(SEDE) Committee would contribute with an opinion under Rule 53 with additional provisions of cooperation (the so-called "Rule 53+");
- further noted that four committees would provide an opinion under Rule 53 to the legislative report on the CEF 2021-2027;
- recalled that the Rules of Procedure made no provision for the appointment of co-rapporteurs, and that the Conference of Presidents, on previous occasions, had, therefore, only authorised the appointment of co-rapporteurs for a very limited number of highly important reports, generally of a budgetary or institutional nature;
- stressed that, as a general principle, where committees were jointly responsible under Rule 55 of Parliament's RoP for a legislative file related to the MFF spending programmes, with a view to facilitating a smooth and timely handling of the legislative procedure, not more than two co-rapporteurs should be appointed per legislative file;

- noted that, where committees were jointly responsible for a legislative file related to the MFF spending programmes, any request for co-rapporteurship should be coordinated between the committees involved;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr MARINESCU, acting Chair of the EPP Group, Mr WEIDENHOLZER, acting Chair of the S&D Group, and Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group;
- in view of the above, authorised the request, by way of exception, without setting a precedent.

21.4 General Expenditure Allowance for MembersThe Conference of Presidents

- heard Mr DE JONG, acting Chair of the GUE/NGL Group, express his concerns about the Bureau decision of Monday 2 July 2018 on the revision of the General Expenditure Allowance;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr KAMALL, Co-Chair of the ECR Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, Ms KELLER, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group;
- heard the President conclude by noting that the decision had been adopted by the Bureau, which was the parliamentary body responsible for the matter, and that he would report back to the Bureau with the proposal that the relevant Bureau working group remain in place with a view to examining the matter further;
- endorsed the President's approach.

22. Items for information

22.1 Internal correspondence

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:

- a letter dated 27 June 2018 from Mr KARIM, Chair-in-Office of the Advisory Committee on the Conduct of Members, on the scope of Article 1 of the Code of Conduct for Members with respect to financial interests and conflicts of interest regarding the unofficial groupings and/or individual Members activities (PE 624.943/CPG);
- a letter dated 3 July 2018 from Ms WIKSTRÖM, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, submitting a "Summary Report" on the Structured dialogue, between parliamentary committees and the Commissioners (PE 624.964/CPG and annex).

22.2 Inter-institutional correspondence

There was none

22.3 External correspondence

There was none.

23. Date and place of the next meeting

The Conference of Presidents

- noted that its next ordinary meeting would be held on Thursday, 6 September 2018 from 11:00 to 13:00 in room 06 B1 in the Paul-Henri Spaak Building, Brussels.

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The meeting closed at 11.37 hours.