

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



## THE QUAESTORS

### MINUTES

of the ordinary meeting held on Tuesday, 10 March 2015 at 15:00  
Room S 3.4 of the LOW Building  
Strasbourg

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ANNEX: Record of attendance

Mr LIBERADZKI, Chair-in-Office, opened the meeting at 15:05 on Tuesday, 10 March 2015.

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1. Adoption of draft agenda

The Quaestors

- noted the draft agenda (PE543.888/Quaest.) and adopted it as shown in these Minutes.

2. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of 10 February 2015

The Quaestors

- noted and approved the Minutes of the meeting of 10 February 2015 in Strasbourg (PE543.875/Quaest.).

3. Announcements by the Chair-in-Office

3.1. Proposal for a revision of the terms of reference of the Quaestors

The Quaestors

- heard Mr LIBERADZKI, Chair-in-Office, recall that at their last meeting on 10 February 2015, the Quaestors had been invited to study carefully the current Quaestors' guidelines and to elaborate proposals for modifications for submission to the secretariat or the office of Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestor, by 10 March;
- heard Mr LIBERADZKI, Chair-in-Office, add that the work is ongoing, under the guidance of Ms MORIN-CHARTIER who will elaborate a first draft set of proposals to be discussed by the Quaestors at the next meeting in view of respecting the deadlines agreed upon.

3.2. Visit to the House of European History

The Quaestors

- heard Mr LIBERADZKI, Chair-in-Office, recall that the Quaestors had agreed, at the last meeting, to visit the site of the House of European History (HoEH) in Brussels on 24 March 2015 and that a guided tour by Ms VOVK VAN GAAL, Head of Unit for the House of European History (DG COMM), and Mr LACROIX, Head of Unit for the construction works (DG INLO), has now been arranged for 17.30 and scheduled to last approximately 45 minutes;

- heard the Chair-in-Office propose that also the six Vice-Presidents with related portfolios, i.e. Mr TAJANI and Mr PASCU, Vice-Presidents responsible for the House of European History, Mr WIELAND and Mr SASSOLI, Vice-Presidents responsible for Buildings, Ms McGUINNESS and Ms GUILLAUME, Vice-Presidents responsible for Communication, be invited to the visit and agreed with this proposal;
- heard the Chair-in-Office further inform that Mr POETTERING, Chair of the Board of Trustees and former EP President, and Mr MARTINEZ, Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees and former EP Vice-President, might also be present.

### 3.3. Lunch with the Ombudswoman

The Quaestors,

- heard Mr LIBERADZKI, Chair-in-Office, announce that the lunch meeting with Ms O'REILLY, Ombudswoman, with a view to discussing matters of common interest, had been confirmed for Tuesday, 14 April 2015, in a private Members' salon.

## A. DECISIONS/EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

### 4. Rules governing cultural events and exhibitions on EP premises

The Quaestors

- took note of the draft revised 'Rules governing cultural events and exhibitions on Parliament's premises', including the revised 'List of areas for cultural events or exhibitions' (annexes I, II and III to the Rules on the use of Parliament's premises by outside bodies - PE 543.882 REV/QUAEST);
- heard Mr LIBERADZKI, Chair-in-Office, underline that Parliament is an Institution that wants to be open to citizens and legitimate interest groups; recall however that due to increasing concerns about an excessive proliferation of social events and cocktails held on Parliament's premises, as corroborated by recent statistics, the Quaestors were invited by the President to consider adequate measures aimed at reducing the number of such events, in order to preserve the dignity and public image of the Institution and to respond to increased security and safety concerns;
- heard Mr LIBERADZKI, Chair-in-Office, further recall that, following the exchange of views at their meeting of 25 November 2014, the Quaestors had instructed the responsible services to submit a suitable proposal for action and that for this purpose, an administrative working group coordinated by Ms RATTI, Deputy Secretary-General and Acting Director-General of DG SAFE, had met over the past months to carry out a thorough review of the rules in force, the result of which was presented to Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestor;

- heard Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestor, detail the key elements of the draft revised rules, focusing in particular on the following aspects:
  - Reduction of available areas for events/exhibitions, particularly in sensitive areas such as the 3rd floor of the SPINELLI building and clear indication for each exhibition area of its maximum capacity and the type of catering services allowed;
  - Enhancement of Members' responsibility vis-à-vis the Parliament for all aspects regarding the sponsored exhibition/event, in particular the payment of invoices and the registration and distribution of access cards to attend an event/exhibition;
  - Ensure that the number of invitations for the inauguration of an event/exhibition is commensurate with the capacity of the allocated space;
  - Receptions or catering services are to be provided exclusively within designated catering areas;
  - Members retain the possibility to organise more than two events/exhibitions per legislative term, however any such derogation will have to be adopted by the College of Quaestors;
- heard Ms BEARDER, Quaestor responsible for cultural events and exhibitions, complain about a lack of consultation with her, as the Quaestor responsible, ahead of the presentation of the new draft rules; remark that in her view a specific section covering cocktails and similar events should be included in this draft and emphasise that the new provisions would apply only when the alert state for Parliament's premises is at WHITE level;
- heard Ms BEARDER, Quaestor responsible for cultural events and exhibitions, further stress that events and exhibitions constitute a very informative part of parliamentary life, and while it appears appropriate to reduce excesses related to events organised by external subjects, Members should still be allowed to host events and exhibitions, which provide an important link with civil society and their home constituencies; voice therefore her concern at the deletion of many suitable areas from the list and the excessive reduction of catering services in the remaining areas, which would in practice hinder or even threaten the organisation of such events; request, therefore, that a number of areas be reinserted into the list in Annex 2 and that Members be allowed to hold at these spaces cocktails and limited catering services linked to the opening of an event of exhibition;
- heard Mr. KARSKI, Quaestor, express his concerns on the large number of areas in which catering is to be banned and ask for the motivation behind such a drastic reduction; voice his concerns on the rule allowing one Quaestor to revoke the authorisation granted for a cultural event or exhibition and suggest a more collegial approach in this matter, in order to avoid the risk of biased actions to be taken; propose to add an article stating that cultural events and exhibition respect religious beliefs and not be provocative in this context;

- held an extensive exchange of views, with the participation of all Quaestors, on some key elements of the proposal, such as:
  - Difficulties in striking a balance between keeping Parliament an "open" institution without compromising on security;
  - Members' rights and responsibilities in promoting an event/exhibition;
  - Definition and maximal numbers of "external visitors" allowed to participate in events/exhibitions sponsored by individual Members;
  - Cancellation of events interfering with the conduct of Parliament's business or contradictory to the values on which the Union is founded;
  - Practical problems related to the proposed catering arrangements;
- heard Mr O'NEILL, Head of the Accreditation Unit, DG SAFE, reply to a number of technical questions raised by Members, stressing at the same time that the proposed rules would undoubtedly lead to a reduction of exhibitions, social events or cocktails held on Parliament's premises, particularly in the more sensitive areas, but would also contribute to readjust the focus more on the political subject of the hosted event/exhibition, and less on the accompanying social interlude; receptions and cocktails would still be possible, but would be relegated to less visible areas;
- heard Mr CLARK, Director in DG COMM, and Ms LINNUS, Director in DG INLO, reply to questions raised by Members, indicating *inter alia* that an additional area (Infopoint) ideally suited for receptions would soon be available for Members and that the rules on catering would need to be in line with Parliament's new restaurant strategy;
- heard Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestor, take note of the remarks and suggestions brought forward by the Quaestors and underline that the present draft was only the first step towards elaborating a new set of rules to be adopted by the College of Quaestors and by the Bureau in final instance; confirm that the remarks and suggestions made by the Quaestors today would be taken into account in a revised draft;
- heard Mr LIBERADZKI, Chair-in-Office, summarize the debate and invite Ms MORIN-CHARTIER and Ms BEARDER, Quaestors, to closely consult on the elaboration of a revised draft of the new rules on events and exhibitions on Parliament's premises, and to forward it to the Quaestors;
- agreed to discuss the revised draft at a future meeting.

**B. PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION WITHOUT DEBATE**

5. Draft notice: Opening of the central register during the 'open days'

The Quaestors, without debate,

- took note of a draft Notice (04/2015) to Members by the Quaestors on the opening of the central register during the 'open days' (PE543.891/Quaest.);
- approved the draft Notice in question;
- instructed the Secretariat to communicate it to Members.

6. Donation of a work of art

The Quaestors, without debate

- took note of two notes from the Secretariat dated 23 February and 3 March 2015 on the Written procedure concerning the proposal for donation to the European Parliament of a portrait of Paul Henri Spaak by the Swedish artist Fabian Edelstam, proposed by Ms Cecilia MALMSTRÖM, Member of the European Commission (PE543.887/Quaest./Note and Decision);
- took note of a note dated 19 February 2015 from Ms LAHOUSSE-JUAREZ, Director-General of DG COMM, for the attention of Ms BEARDER, Quaestor - Chair of the Artistic Committee (PE543.887/Quaest./NT DG COMM);
- took note of a picture of the work of art offered in donation;
- approved the request to accept the donation of the portrait of Paul-Henri SPAAK;
- agreed to forward their recommendation to the President for final approval.

7. *In camera – Miscellaneous matters and requests/letters from individual Members*

8. Urgent matters and any other business

8.1. Installation of an office door - request from Mr GAHLER, Member

The Quaestors,

- heard Mr KARSKI, Quaestor responsible for Members' office equipment, inform that he was contacted by email by Mr. GAHLER, Member, who complained that his request for the installation of a communicating door between his assistants' offices, already approved by the Quaestors on 25 November 2014, had still not been met by the responsible services; Mr KARSKI, Quaestor requested that the work should be completed as soon as possible if there are no technical hindrances such as pipes, wires or other technical obstacles in the wall;
- heard Mr PESESSE, Director in DG INLO, report that the requested door had not been installed so far because Mr GAHLER's assistants insisted for its installation in a position not compatible with the technical standards and requirements foreseen for such an installation;
- held an exchange of views on the subject matter, with the participation of Mr KARSKI, Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestors, and the Chair-in-Office;
- heard Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestor, offer to visit the office of Mr GAHLER personally in order to evaluate the situation;
- heard Mr LIBERADZKI, Chair-in-Office, wrap up the debate and invite Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestor, and Mr PESESSE, Director in DG INLO, to arrange for a visit to Mr GAHLER's office and assess the situation for a suitable place of the requested door.

8.2. Removal of an office wall - request from Mr REIMON, Member

The Quaestors,

- heard Mr KARSKI, Quaestor responsible for Members' office equipment, inform that he was contacted by email by Mr REIMON, Member, requesting that a partition wall between his assistants' offices be removed and, in addition, complaining about a level of discomfort (temperature, low humidity) he felt in his offices;
- heard Mr PESESSE, Director in DG INLO, recall that in similar cases the Members concerned were invited to choose other options, rather than removing a wall, such as swapping offices with Members of their political group or to look for vacant matching office modules; inform, with reference to the second issue and quoting from a technical report, that a maintenance team already visited the offices concerned and adjusted the heating and air conditioning systems so as to provide normal levels of comfort;
- heard Mr KARSKI, Quaestor responsible, reiterate Mr REIMON's very recent claim that no such maintenance inspection has taken place so far;



- heard Mr LIBERADZKI, Chair-in-Office, invite Mr PESESSE, Director in DG INLO, to kindly investigate on this issue and to provide the Quaestors with a feedback at the next meeting.

8.3. Request for a photographic exhibition

The Quaestors,

- heard Ms BEARDER, Quaestor responsible for events and exhibitions, inform that she had received a request from a Member, for a photographic exhibition on Parliament's premises in Brussels, on the subject of abortion, by an organisation named "Choose Life"; remark that, whilst she was not objecting to the subject matter as such, the pictures to be displayed may be easily described as shocking and provocative in nature and might cause offence and disturbances at the exhibition area; propose therefore that, in line with the relevant Rules, and in particular with Art. 2, paragraph 3 thereof, the College of Quaestors decline authorisation for this exhibition to take place;
- heard Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Ms BEARDER and Mr KOVATCHEV, Quaestors, and Mr LIBERADZKI, Chair-in-Office, agree that the subject matter was not an issue, but the proposed images were quite shocking and provocative;
- heard Mr KARSKI, Quaestor, express his support for the exhibition in question and propose to authorise it, stressing that the pictures were showing only true and real images;
- heard Mr LIBERADZKI, Chair-in-Office, stress that he was not supportive of the form chosen by this organisation to address the very controversial issue of abortion; take note of the other Quaestors' reluctance to accept Mr KARSKI's proposal;
- decided, by majority, with Mr KARSKI, Quaestor, voting in favour of the exhibition, to withhold authorisation for the aforementioned exhibition, in line with the proposal of the Quaestor responsible, and pursuant to Art. 2, paragraph 3 of the relevant rules.

9. Items for information

There were none.

10. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Quaestors will be held on 28 April 2015 from 15.00 to 17.00 in Strasbourg.

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The meeting closed at 17:45

Bogusław LIBERADZKI  
Chair-in-Office

**RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**

Strasbourg, 10 March 2015

<u>Members</u>	Mr LIBERADZKI Ms MORIN-CHARTIER Ms BEARDER Mr KOVATCHEV Mr KARSKI
<u>Cabinet of the Secretary-General</u>	Mr MANGOLD Mr BARTOSZEWICZ- MALICKI
<u>Cabinet of the President</u>	Mr DREUTE
<u>Group of the EPP</u>	Mr EVISON
<u>Group of the S&amp;D</u>	Mr HORNAK
<u>Group of the ECR</u>	Mr MIOZGA
<u>Group of the ALDE</u>	Mr KRINGS
<u>DG COMM</u>	Mr CLARK Mr GUTMANN
<u>DG INLO</u>	Ms LINNUS Mr PESESSE Mr SCHROEDER
<u>DG INTE</u>	Mr GHEYSEN
<u>DG SAFE</u>	Mr O'NEILL
<u>DG FINS</u>	Mr KLETHI Mr MANNELLI Mr HANSEN
<u>Legal Service</u>	Ms SEYR Mr ALONSO
<u>Secretariat</u>	Mr TZIORKAS Mr ADLER Mr CORLETT Mr QUARANTA
<u>Assistants</u>	Ms VIGNERON Ms MIKSA

Quaestors' personal secretariat

Mr VOGT (Mr LIBERADZKI)  
Mr RICHARD (Ms MORIN-CHARTIER)  
Ms KONTAR (Ms BEARDER)  
Ms STANEVA (Mr KOVATCHEV)  
Mr SKOCZEK (Mr KARSKI)