1. **Resumption of session** (first sitting of the newly elected Parliament)

*(The sitting was suspended at 10.12 for technical reasons and resumed at 10.20.)*

The oldest Member declared resumed the session of the European Parliament which had been adjourned on 7 May 1999 and opened the sitting provided for in Article 10(3) of the Act concerning the election of the representatives of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage and Rule 10(3) of Parliament’s Rules of Procedure.

Mr Crowley protested at the difficulties facing disabled people in entering and moving around Parliament’s new building (the oldest Member took note of this protest and also expressed regrets; he undertook to ensure that technical improvements would be made to the building in time for the September part-session, in the certainty that the President of Parliament to be elected that morning would respect the undertaking).

2. **Oldest Member**

The oldest Member announced that he was acting as President pursuant to Rule 12(1) of the Rules of Procedure; Mr Soares was to have acted as President but had decided not to on account of his candidacy for President of Parliament.

The oldest Member welcomed the Members of the House and made a brief speech.

The following spoke:
- Mr Cappato who drew attention to the provisions of Rule 14(2);

- Mr Watson who asked for an assurance that the provisions of Annex I, Article 1(2) of the Rules concerning declarations of financial interests had been adhered to (the oldest Member replied that they had).

3. **Membership of Parliament**

The oldest Member announced that, as a result of the Council Decision of 9 July 1999 on the membership of the Commission, Mr Santer and Mrs Bonino, Members of Parliament, had resigned as Members of the Commission with effect from 19 July 1999.

4. **Verification of credentials**

The oldest Member announced that all documents concerning the proclamation of the election of Members would be forwarded to the committee responsible for verifying credentials, which had yet to be set up pursuant to Rule 150.

He reminded the House that, pursuant to Rule 7(5), until such time as Members’ credentials had been verified or ruling had been given on any dispute, Members would take their seats in Parliament and on its bodies and enjoy all the rights attaching thereto.

He announced that, in accordance with the Treaty, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker’s mandate as Member of the European Parliament was not compatible with his current office of Prime Minister. The Member State concerned would be informed accordingly.

5. **Formation of political groups**

The oldest Member announced that he had been notified that the following political groups had been set up:

- Group of the European People’s Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats (PPE)
- Group of the Party of European Socialists (PSE)
- Group of the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party (ELDR)
- Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (Verts/ALE)
- Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL)
- Union for a Europe of Nations Group (UEN)
- Group for a Europe of Democracies and Diversities (EDD)

The statements concerning the formation of political groups referred to in Rule 29(4) would be forwarded to the President.

The oldest Member announced that Mr Ortuondo Larrea had informed him that he had joined the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance with effect from that day.
6. **Order of business**

The oldest Member announced that the final draft agenda for the part-session (PE 279.896/PDOJ) had been distributed.

He pointed out that the order of business would be established at the opening of the sitting the following day.

7. **Election of the President**

The next item was the election of the President of the European Parliament.

The oldest Member announced that he had received, in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure, the nominations of Mrs Fontaine, Mrs González Álvarez, Mrs Hautala and Mr Soares.

He announced that, in the meantime, the GUE/NGL Group had informed him it was withdrawing the nomination of Mrs González Álvarez.

Mr Wurtz, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, explained the political considerations which had led to this withdrawal (the oldest Member cut him off).

Pursuant to Rule 136(4), and after drawing attention to the provisions of Rule 14, the oldest Member drew lots to appoint six tellers.

The following tellers were appointed: Baltas, O'Toole, Ortuondo Larrea, Katiforis, Sanders-ten Holte and Sauquillo Pérez del Arco.

The oldest Member explained the voting procedure to the House.

The vote was taken.

(The sitting was suspended at 11.15 for the count and resumed at 12.20.)

The oldest Member announced the following results:

- Members voting: 615
- Blank or void: 60 (including 5 irregular ballot papers bearing the name of Mr Soares)
- Votes cast: 555
- Absolute majority: 278

The results were as follows:

- Mrs Fontaine: 306 votes
- Mr Soares: 200 votes
- Mrs Hautala: 49 votes

Mrs Fontaine had obtained an absolute majority of the votes cast. The oldest Member therefore proclaimed her President of the European Parliament and congratulated her on her election.

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(1) The list of Members voting is annexed to these Minutes.
The President made a brief speech to mark her election.

The following Members spoke following the election: Soares, Hautala, who had been candidates in the election, Poettering, on behalf of the PPE Group, Barón Crespo, on behalf of the PSE Group, Cox, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Wurtz, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, G. Collins, on behalf of the UEN Group, Muscardini, Non-attached Member, and Bonde, on behalf of the EDD Group.

The President thanked the speakers and congratulated the oldest Member for the way in which he had conducted business.

8. **Election of Vice-Presidents** (deadline for submitting nominations)

On a proposal from the President, the deadline for submitting nominations for the election of the Vice-Presidents would be 14.00. The election would be held at 15.00.

(The sitting was suspended at 12.50 and resumed at 15.10)

9. **Formation of political groups**

The President announced that she had received from 29 Members notification of the formation of a new political group entitled "Technical Group of Independent Members" (TDI).

10. **Election of Vice-Presidents**

The President announced that she had received the following nominations for Vice-President: Colom i Naval, Friedrich, Imbeni, Lienemann, Marinho, David W. Martin, Onesta, Pacheco Pereira, Podestà, Provan, Puerta, Gerhard Schmid, Vidal-Quadras Roca and Wiebenga.

As the number of candidates did not exceed the number of seats to be filled the President proposed electing the Vice-Presidents by acclamation and then holding a ballot to determine their order of precedence.

The House agreed to this procedure.

The 14 candidates were elected Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament by acclamation.

Mrs Banotti spoke on the distribution of the ballot slips.

The President established that the six tellers appointed for the election of the President were present and confirmed that they would serve for this new election.

The vote was taken.
The President read out the results of the ballot:

- Members voting: 594 (1)
- Blank or void: 26
- Votes cast: 568

Votes obtained were as follows:

- Mr David W. Martin: 275 votes
- Mr Imbeni: 252 votes
- Mr Gerhard Schmid: 249 votes
- Mr Provan: 246 votes
- Mr Friedrich: 246 votes
- Mrs Lienemann: 215 votes
- Mr Podestà: 213 votes
- Mr Vidal-Quadras Roca: 212 votes
- Mr Colom i Naval: 209 votes
- Mr Pacheco Pereira: 204 votes
- Mr Marinho: 198 votes
- Mr Wiebenga: 136 votes
- Mr Puerta: 133 votes
- Mr Onesta: 117 votes

In accordance with Rule 15(2), the order of precedence of the Vice-Presidents was thus established (Mr Provan taking precedence over Mr Friedrich on account of his age).

The composition of the new Bureau would be notified to the Presidents of the Institutions of the European Union.

11. Election of Quaestors (deadline for submitting nominations)

The President proposed setting the deadline for submitting nominations for the election of the quaestors at 20.00 that evening.

On behalf of the PSE Group, Mr Swoboda asked for the deadline to be extended.

The President decided to set the deadline at 9.00 the following morning.

12. Agenda for next sitting

The President referred Members to the final draft agenda (PE 279.896/PDOJ).

(1) The list of Members voting is annexed to these Minutes.
13. **Closure of sitting**

The President closed the sitting at 18.10.

Julian PRIESTLEY  
Secretary-General

Nicole FONTAINE  
President
Ont signé: