



Der Generalsekretär

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NOTE TO MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU

Subject: Extension of the WiFi coverage in Parliament buildings in Brussels and Strasbourg

SUMMARY

The Bureau decided on 17 June 2009 [PE 426.231/BUR] to extend WiFi coverage in the European Parliament. The Medium Term ICT Strategy adopted by the Bureau on 24.03.2010 also foresees a wider WiFi coverage in the European Parliament. Based on these two decisions DG ITEC has conducted a study to assess the requirements for extending the WiFi coverage in the Parliament.

Based on the recommendations made in the context of this study, the Bureau is invited to:

- **endorse the proposal to expand the WiFi coverage in parliamentary buildings;**
- **agree to start by covering the committee meeting rooms, Members' offices and public spaces both in Brussels and Strasbourg;**
- **agree to foresee the coverage of the rest of Parliament's buildings once the first expanding WiFi coverage will be fully operational;**
- **endorse the proposal to consider two different types of WiFi users: on one hand Members, parliamentary assistants and EP's staff and on the other hand the media representatives, permanent visitors, staff from other institutions and citizens given to the fact that their access will be provided depending on the duration of security passes;**
- **decide to allocate to this prior project for Members an amount of EUR 7.878.000.**

1. Background

WiFi is a technology that can wirelessly connect multiple computing devices (computers, lap tops, tablet PCs, smart phones, etc.) within a computer network using access points. The European Parliament already provides WiFi access points within the Institution¹, mainly committee meeting rooms and some public areas.

The Bureau considers the extension of WiFi coverage a priority and based on the Bureau's decision of 17 June 2009 invited the administration to examine the possibility of providing WiFi more widely in Parliament's premises including the offices of Members and assistants. The Medium Term ICT Strategy adopted by the Bureau on 24.03.2010 also foresees the extension of the WiFi coverage. DG ITEC launched a study to examine how extend the WiFi coverage in the main buildings of the European Parliament. The scope of the study was limited to Brussels and Strasbourg and intended to assess the feasibility of extending the WiFi network currently available in parliamentary buildings.

2. Extension of the WiFi coverage

The extension of the WiFi coverage is foreseen in the PHS and ASP building in Brussels and in the LOW and WIC building in Strasbourg. For the following areas in these buildings WiFi coverage is foreseen:

- i. the Committee meeting rooms
- ii. the offices of the Members and their Assistants
- iii. the public spaces in the Parliament's buildings
- iv. the Member's restaurant

3. Access to the WiFi network

Two different user groups are foreseen to have access to the WiFi network of the European Parliament:

- i. Members, parliamentary assistants and EP's staff

From a laptop, smart phone, tablet PC, Members, parliamentary assistants and EP's staff can access the WiFi network of the Parliament to use the internet, e-mail and personal calendar (via webmail or mobile office) and the EP intranet. Through the EP intranet the web applications of the Parliament, the Political Groups, the intranet sites of the committees and the plenary will be accessible. The number of intranet web applications will be steadily increased. These applications can also be accessed from outside the Parliament.

As access to the WiFi network is done through the network of the EP, the EP has to respect the national laws in place in Belgium and France.

¹ Annex 1: List of access points in European Parliament premises.

- ii. Media representatives, permanent visitors, staff from other institutions and citizens

These persons can have internet access, but require registration procedure valid for all public spaces where WiFi coverage is provided. The access will allow visitors surfing exclusively on internet but not to internal application (such as EP intranet). The period of validity of this type of WiFi access will depend on the duration of the security pass. In such a way, permanent visitors will not have to renew often their registration procedure contrarily to daily visitors.

4. Legislation, access and security

By offering a WiFi facility to external persons, the European parliament is considered as acting as a provider. Therefore the Parliament has to respect the directives in place in Belgium and France, in particular directive 2006/24/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15/03/2006 in relation to sur la conservation de données générales ou traitées dans le cadre de la fourniture de service de communications électroniques accessibles au public ou de réseaux de communications, et modifiant la directive 2002/58/CE².

The following provisions to accesses the EP's WiFi network are foreseen:

- i. Members, parliamentary assistants and EP's staff

For each device (laptop, smart phone, tablet PC etc) a certificate for authentication will be issued. With this certificate the user can then access the WiFi network. The certificate for authentication will only need to be installed once on the device. Once this has been completed there is instant access to the WiFi network without having to use passwords.

- ii. Media representatives, permanent visitors, staff from other institutions and citizens

Access to the WiFi network can be provided by means of a temporary and nominative "log-in" and "password" when they are accredited to enter the Parliament. The validity of this log-in and password is equal to the duration of their visit in the EP.

5. Technology

The WiFi network will use the latest technology available to ensure fast and secure access to the network. The antennas will be the most visible part of the WiFi network, the network behind the WiFi antennas, access control systems and network servers will not be visible.

² publié au Journal Officiel du 13.4.2006, série L105

6. Financial aspects

The study performed by DG ITEC concerned all buildings in Brussels and Strasbourg including the parking spaces. However, for the parking spaces it is proposed only to equip the area for the EP's drivers.

It is proposed to

- install the base technology supporting the WiFi networks in Brussels and Strasbourg at EUR 1.000.000 per site, EUR 2.000.000 in total.
- Install the latest WiFi technology with the following priorities:
 - i. Committee meeting rooms which are not yet equipped with WiFi (Brussels: EUR 690.000, Strasbourg: EUR 504.000)
 - ii. the offices of the Members and their Assistants (Brussels: EUR 1.457.000, Strasbourg: EUR 1.837.000)
 - iii. the public spaces in the Parliament's buildings (Brussels: EUR 600.000, Strasbourg : EUR 689.000)
 - iv. the Member's restaurant (Brussels: EUR 42.000, Strasbourg : EUR 59.000)

The total amount for the WiFi installation as described above will be EUR 7.878.000. Based on the priorities above the costs for operation, support and maintenance of the WiFi network are estimated at 4% of the investment for operation and support and 12% of the investment for maintenance. To realise this project the recruitment of a temporary AD agent for a duration of three years is necessary to coordinate the development, the implementation and operation of the WiFi network.

Financing for this project is foreseen through the Bureau reserve of EUR 5.000.000 and by using unused budgetary resources. The complete financial statement for this project is annexed to the present note.

Installing WiFi in other buildings such as the ATR, REM in Brussels and the SDM, PFL could be foreseen, however, the priority is with the PHS and ASP buildings in Brussels and in the LOW and WIC buildings in Strasbourg.

7. Conclusions

Based on the elements exposed above, the Bureau is invited to:

- endorse the proposal to expand the WiFi coverage in parliamentary buildings;
- agree to start by covering meetings rooms, Members' offices and public spaces both in Brussels and Strasbourg;
- agree to foresee the coverage of the rest of parliamentary buildings once the first expanding WiFi coverage will be fully operational;

- endorse the proposal to consider two different types of WiFi users: on one hand Members, parliamentary assistants and EP's staff and on the other hand the media representatives, permanent visitors, staff from other institutions and citizens given to the fact that their access will be provided depending on the duration of security passes;
- decide to allocate to this prior project for Members an amount of EUR 7.878.000 in order to launch the first phase of this project within this year i.e. expansion of the WiFi coverage to Members offices, meeting rooms and public spaces in Brussels and Strasbourg.



Klaus WELLE

Annexes:

Annex 1: List of acces points in the EP premises

Annex 2: Fiche financière