

202008 11.06.2013

DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
- THE CHAIR -

Mr Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament

Dear President,

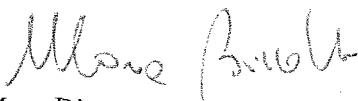
At its meeting of 31 January 2013, the Conference of Presidents approved and adopted the March-December 2013 programme of activities for delegations. In this programme, the 19th Interparliamentary meeting (IPM) EP/New Zealand was indicated as taking place in Brussels either in March (week 17) or in November (week 45).

The March IPM dates proved not to be possible for the New Zealand Parliament. A delegation of New Zealand MPs will participate at the Inter Parliamentary Union conference in Geneva from 7-9 October 2013, and due to the current climate of budgetary austerity, the New Zealand Speaker has enquired as to whether it would be possible for the IPM meeting in Brussels to take place immediately prior to this IPU meeting in Geneva, in order to be cost-effective and to make savings on the travel budget. As a result, I have been asked by my counterpart in the New Zealand Parliament as to whether it would be possible to organise the 19th IPM during week 40, i.e. 30 September-4 October. As this week is shown on the calendar as a mixed "*committee-group*" week, the only day where a meeting room with interpretation would be available for an IPM meeting is Thursday 3 October morning. Therefore, bearing in mind the above considerations, I would be grateful if the Conference of Presidents would agree to the request for a date change and authorise the 19th IPM meeting to take place on the morning of Thursday 3 October 2013.

Both the members of my delegation and the members of the New Zealand Friendship group with the European Parliament attach great importance to keeping up the momentum and continuity of the excellent relations that have built up over the years, and both sides look forward to meeting each other again and to a series of fruitful discussions on issues of mutual interest.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,


Mara Bizzotto