EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

B U R E A U

MINUTES

of the meeting of

12-09-2016

Louise Weiss Building - Room R1.1.

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Strasbourg
BUREAU
MINUTES
of the meeting of Monday, 12 September 2016
from 18:30 to 20:30 hours
Louise Weiss Building - Room R1.1.

Strasbourg

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BUREAU

MINUTES

of the meeting of Monday, 12 September 2016

Strasbourg

Mr Martin SCHULZ, President of the European Parliament, opened the meeting at 18.34 hours.

Present

Mr Martin SCHULZ, President*

Vice-Presidents
Mr TAJANI*
Ms McGUINNESS*
Mr WIELAND*
Ms VÁLEAN*
Ms GUILLAUME*
Mr PAȘCU*
Mr SASSOLI*
Ms JÄÄTTEENMÄKI*
Ms LUNACERĆ*
Mr PAPADIMOULIS*
Mr CZARNECKI*

Excused
Mr LAMBSDORFF
Mr VALCÁRCEL SISO
Ms GÁLL-PELCZ

Quaestors
Ms MORIN-CHARTIER*
Mr LIBERADZKI*
Ms BEARDER*
Mr KOVATCHEV*
Mr KARSKI*

Excused

Also Present

Mr WELLE, Secretary-General*

* present for Items 7 in camera
List of officials present at the meeting:

Private Office of the President

Mr KNUDSEN*
Ms WOLLNY
Mr DIRRIG
Ms BOVEINGTON-FAURAN
Mr DREUTE
Mr FASSINA
Ms NOYON

Private Office of the Secretary-General

Mr MANGOLD*
Ms LUEDDECKE
Mr SCHULMEISTER
Mr MORENO DIAZ

Private Office of the Deputy Secretary-General

Mr LANE

Secretariat

DG Presidency (PRES) Mr WINKLER
DG Internal Policies (IPOL) Ms DE VICENTE
DG External Policies (EXPO) Mr HELLOT
DG Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS) Mr TEASDALE/ Mr DUNNE**
DG Information (COMM) Ms LAHOUSSE/ Mr DUCH-GUILLOT/ Mr CLARK***
DG Personnel (PERS) Mr KAISER*
DG Infrastructure and Logistics (INLO) Mr QUINTELA
DG Translation (TRAD) Mr MAVRIC
DG Interpretation and Conferences (INTE) Ms WALTER-DROP
DG Finance (FINS) Mr KLETHI/ Mr REIJNDERS ****/ Mr BETZ****
DG Innovation, Technical Support (ITEC) Mr VILELLA
DG Security and Safety (SAFE) Ms RATTI
Legal Service Mr DREXLER, Jurisconsult*
Director for the Relations with Political Groups Mr SCHWETZ

* present for Item 7 in camera
** present only for Item 5
*** present only for Item 4
**** present only for Item 8
Conference of President's Secretariat  Mr ISAACS

Political group secretariats

Mr EVISON  (EPP)
Mr HORNAK  (S&D)
Mr BESZLEJ  (ECR)
Ms GLATIGNY  (ALDE)
Ms PANTAZIDOU  (GUE/NGL)
Mr DENKINGER  (Greens/EFA)
Mr PITTARELLO  (EFDD)
Mr CAMPOMENOSI  (ENF)
Mr GLASER  (Non-attached Members)

Vice-Presidents' and Quaestors' assistants

Ms SALVELLI  Mr TAJANI's assistant
Ms O'HEA  Ms McGUINNESS's assistant
Ms KRONTAL  Mr WIELAND's assistant
Ms DIAZ BLANCO  Mr VALCARCÉL's assistant
Mr LOVAS  Ms GÁLL-PELCZ's assistant
Ms CUEVAS HERMAN  Ms VĂLEAN's assistant
Ms BARREIRA  Ms GUILLAUME's assistant
Mr VINITLA  Mr PAŞCU's assistant
Mr COBucci  Mr SASSOLI's assistant
Ms LEINONEN  Ms JÄÄTTEENMÄKI's assistant
Mr KLEEMANN  Mr LAMBSDORFF's assistant
Ms ROSENBERG  Ms LUNACEK's assistant
Mr ALATOPoulos  Mr PAPADIMOULIS's assistant
Ms SOBKIEWICZ  Mr CZARNECKI's assistant
Mr RICHARD  Ms MORIN-CHARTIER's assistant
Mr VOGT  Mr LIBERADZKI's assistant
Ms KONTÁR  Ms BEARDER's assistant
Ms STANEVA  Mr KOVATCHEV's assistant
Mr SKOCZEK  Mr KARSKI's assistant

Mr TZIORKAS*, Mr ADLER, Ms MORGADO and Mr CALINOGLOU acted as secretary to the meeting.

* present for Item 7 in camera

PE 586.429/BUR/rev  6/43
1. **Adoption of draft agenda**

The Bureau,

- noted the draft agenda and adopted it as shown in these minutes (PE 586.427/BUR).
2. **Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of 4 July 2016**

The Bureau,

- approved the Minutes of the Bureau meeting of 4 July 2016 held in Strasbourg (PE 583.300/BUR).
3. Communications by the President

3.1. Birthday of Mr LIBERADZKI, Quaestor

The Bureau,

- heard the President congratulate Mr LIBERADZKI, Quaestor, on the occasion of his birthday on 12 September.

3.2. Nominations for the Board of Directors of the MEP Pension Fund a.s.b.l

The Bureau,

- heard the President inform Members that he had been requested by the voluntary Members’ Pension Fund to nominate three Directors for the Board of Directors of the Fund and propose to the Bureau to nominate Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Mr LIBERADZKI and Ms BEARDER, Quaestors, since matters pertaining to the Fund were usually dealt with by the Quaestors;

- heard Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestor, recall that the Quaestors had previously acted in agreement as Directors, noting that they intended to continue this practice as the matters dealt with by the Board were often delicate and difficult;

- heard Mr CZARNECKI, Vice-President, express his agreement with the President’s proposal;

- agreed to the President’s proposal.
A. **DECISIONS/EXCHANGE OF VIEWS**

4. **Progress and opening of the House of European History - Note from the Secretary-General**

The Bureau, with debate,

- **noted** a note dated 6 September 2016 from the Secretary-General concerning the progress and opening of the House of European History (PE 586.512/BUR);

- **heard** Ms McGUINNESS, Vice-President with primary responsibility for Information and Communication inform Members that the matter had been the subject of a thorough exchange of views, on 6 September 2016, by the Bureau’s Working Group on Information and Communication, in which the problems in relation to keeping the timetable for the opening of the House of European History had been discussed, noting that the Working Group had considered two possible new opening dates, i.e. 25 March (anniversary of the Rome Treaty) and 9 May (Europe Day) without expressing a preference for a particular date; explain that while the Working Group hoped to see progress towards the opening of the House to the public as soon as possible, there was also understanding of the practical and technical difficulties which had led to the postponement;

- **heard** Ms GUILLAUME, Vice-President with secondary responsibility for Information and Communication, Mr TAJANI and Mr PAȘCU, Vice-Presidents with responsibility for the House of European History, and Ms LUNACEK, Vice-President, express their agreement with the views expressed by Ms McGUINNESS;

- **heard** Ms VĂLEAN, Vice-President, express the view that it was important to avoid selecting an opening coinciding with other important events in Parliament;

- **heard** Ms JÄÄTTEENMÄKI, Vice-President, inquire about the budgetary
impact of the delay of the opening and the supplementary security measures which had been decided after the original budget of the House had been adopted, the extent to which the security measures were different from other museums and the reason for that, why the delay had not been announced during the Bureau’s visit to the House, and how the Parliament had used the experience of the experts who had been consulted in the project phase in the light of the fact that artefacts were only given on loan to the House;

- heard the Secretary-General explain that the budget as adopted by the Committee on Budgets had not been exceeded, that the ambitious qualitative requirements had not been lowered, whereas a certain delay had been accepted; inform, further, that in terms of security, the Bureau had decided a number of measures at the beginning of 2016, in the light of the altered security situation, noting that visitors would now be subject to physical control at the entrance, comparable to the control operated at Parliament’s other entrances; recall that the concept, the design and the contents of the museum had been the responsibility of a group of experts, which counted historians and museum specialists, noting that while the Bureau had been consulted, it had not exercised any control over the content; inform Members that the delays in the delivery of artefacts was due to contractual issues and the change of windows which had caused a delay in the museum’s ability to demonstrate compliance, over a three-month period, with the strict requirements on rooms, in terms of lighting and climate conditions, which lending collections had established; stress that the postponement in the opening of the House would not entail budgetary implications;

- heard the President stress that, when deciding on an opening date, it was necessary to ensure that the installation of the House would be fully completed before that date; express the view that 9 May 2017 would be preferable to 25 March 2017, since attention on the latter date would be directed towards various events commemorating the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome, particularly in Italy; recall that this project was unique in having been initiated by the European Parliament, noting that the fact that decisions regarding
the design and contents of the museum had been delegated to experts, from different backgrounds and of different persuasions, was a deliberate choice in order to avoid political management of the project.
5. **General Progress Report on the European Parliament Library - Note from the Secretary-General**

The Bureau, with debate,

- noted a note dated 28 July 2016 from the Secretary-General concerning the “Progress report on the work of the European Parliament Library, 2014-15” (PE 586.504/BUR and annex);

- noted the recent developments in the Library, including increased use of library services within the Parliament since the creation of DG EPRS in November 2013;

- heard the Secretary-General explain that the issue at stake was how to develop the Library more dynamically in the future; note that DG EPRS comprised three directorates (Members’ Research Service; Library; Impact Assessment and Added Value) and that although several staff previously working in the Library had been moved to the Members’ Research Service in order to offer direct services to the Members, the output of the Library had actually risen since the creation of DG EPRS and the related restructuring; stress that the four main challenges ahead of the Library were: more digitalisation; a more open library, mainly to researchers; a library integrated with the other institutions and national parliamentary libraries; and a more research-oriented library;

- heard the Secretary-General explain that today’s Bureau debate was only the first step; should the Bureau endorse the proposed concept laid down in his note a more detailed proposal would be presented to the Bureau in the coming months;

- held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms VĂLEAN, Ms JÄÄTTEENMÄKI, Mr WIELAND, Vice-Presidents, and Ms BEARDER, Quaestor, who congratulated the Secretary-General and the responsible staff in DG EPRS for the good work done, highlighting that the Library provided very
good services to Members and had managed to adapt successfully to the digitalisation era; further noting that more networking with other libraries for added synergies would be beneficial, that opening the library to researchers was a good idea, whereas opening to the general public might raise security problems, that a section with books of current and former Members could be created and that the collaboration with national parliaments’ libraries could be strengthened, namely through regular meetings of the different research departments;

- heard the President support this idea of closer cooperation between the EP’s library and libraries in national Parliaments;

- instructed the Secretary-General to propose a strategy to the Bureau, in due course, for the continued development of the Library as a parliamentary resource, with a view to it being more digital, open, integrated and research-oriented in the services it provides to Members and staff.
6. **Introduction of the possibility of occasional teleworking in the Secretariat-General of the European Parliament - Note from the Secretary-General**

The Bureau, with debate,

- noted a note dated 6 September 2016 from the Secretary-General on the introduction of the possibility of occasional teleworking in the Secretariat-General of the European Parliament (PE 583.245/BUR and annex);

- heard the Secretary-General explain that currently Parliament’s General Secretariat had no common rules on teleworking and that some Directorates-General had established informal practices, which differed from each other, while the other European institutions had developed integrated teleworking schemes already; note that such rules would be useful to ensure a better work-life balance and to allow for a response in case of disruptions such as terrorist attacks; stress that as teleworking would constitute a new area it was important to collect some practical experience, which could be evaluated in one year time;

- held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms JÄÄTTEENMÄKI, Ms VĂLEAN, Mr PAPADIMOULIS, Ms LUNACEK, Vice-Presidents, and Ms BEARDER, Quaestor, stressing _inter alia_ that the proposed system should be flexible and not very bureaucratic, in particular as regards the notice period for staff to request teleworking, that the IT system should be reliable, easy to function and safe to allow for a secure access from outside the network, that the rules should be tested during a trial period before being fully implemented and that it would be useful to extend these rules to cover political groups’ staff and Members’ assistants, both accredited and local;

- heard the Secretary-General recall that the current proposal concerned staff from the Secretariat-General only as the administration did not intend to impose any specific working arrangements on Members and political groups, but it was available to provide technical support to political groups and Members, should
they wish to proceed with teleworking rules as well; stress that teleworking was work from home and was not intended to reply to extraordinary occasions such as special family circumstances or sickness, for which specific arrangements already existed; note that it was already foreseen that the proposed rules would be assessed one year after their entry into force, to take into consideration the experience gained;

- agreed to the introduction of an occasional teleworking scheme for the Secretariat-General of the European Parliament, in accordance with the note from the Secretary-General and the rules annexed thereto;

- requested the Secretary-General to implement the proposed occasional teleworking scheme.
7. **Staff matters**

The Bureau, meeting *in camera*,

- **took note** of a note from the Secretary-General, dated 9 September 2016 concerning the results of Vacancy Notice AD/160634, and transfer Notice PE/AD/160634 – post of Director General in the Directorate-General for Security and Safety (PE 586.523/BUR and annexes);

- **took note** of a note from the Secretary-General, dated 9 September 2016 concerning the results of Vacancy Notice AD/160656, and transfer Notice PE/AD/160656 – post of Director General in the Directorate-General Translation (PE 586.528/BUR and annexes);

- **took note** of a note from the Secretary-General, dated 9 September 2016 concerning the results of Vacancy Notice AD/160652, and transfer Notice PE/AD/160652 – post of Director in the Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union - Directorate for Budgetary Affairs (PE 586.524/BUR and annexes);

- **took note** of a note from the Secretary-General, dated 9 September 2016 concerning the results of Vacancy Notice AD/160654, and transfer Notice PE/AD/160654 – post of Director in the Directorate-General for Infrastructure and Logistics - Directorate for Building Projects (PE 586.525/BUR and annexes);

- **took note** of a note from the Secretary-General, dated 9 September 2016 concerning the results of Vacancy Notice AD/160655, and transfer Notice PE/AD/160655 – post of Director in the Directorate-General for Personnel - Directorate for Human Resources Development (PE 586.526/BUR and annexes);
took note of a note from the Secretary-General, dated 9 September 2016 concerning the results of Vacancy Notice AD/160653, Transfer Notice PE/AD/160653 and Recruitment Notice PE/196/S – post of Director in the Directorate-General Translation - Directorate for Support and Technological Services for Translation (PE 586.527/BUR and annexes);

heard the Secretary-General explain that further to the Bureau decision of 7 July 2016 the above mentioned posts of senior management in Parliament's administration had been advertised, in accordance with the applicable rules, and several applications had been received, which had been examined by the Advisory Committees set up for each of these vacancies;

heard the Secretary-General refer to the applications received for each vacancy and to the unanimous proposals of the Advisory Committees to the Bureau regarding the candidates to be invited to interviews as indicated in detail in the above mentioned notes;

heard Mr PAPADIMOULIS, Vice-President, note that he fully respected the proposals of the Advisory Committees, but preferred to abstain, as he did not have a personal opinion about most of the proposed candidates; however, with regard to Vacancy Notice AD/160653, Transfer Notice PE/AD/160653 and Recruitment Notice PE/196/S, he happened to know personally one of the applicants, Mr CC (EN version of the Note 586.527/BUR), who although eligible, it was proposed not to be invited for interview; as he fully appreciated the merits of this particular applicant he requested that he is also invited to an interview;

heard the Secretary-General express his agreement with the request from Mr PAPADIMOULIS, Vice-President, noting that this was one of the reasons why these proposals were brought to the attention of the Bureau;
- heard Mr PAPADIMOULIS, Vice-President, further stress that appointments to posts of higher management of the House should take account of the need for gender and regional balance, as indicated in the staff regulations;

- heard Ms LUNACEK, Vice-President, express her satisfaction that this time there were several women among the applicants;

- heard Mr CZARNECKI, Vice-President, and Mr KARSKI, Quaestor, agree on the need for more regional balance, particularly as regards candidates from the new Member States who would be underrepresented;

- heard the President refer to the need for merit of the persons to be appointed while noting that regional balance was respected and nationals from the new Member States were already occupying several posts of higher management in the House; a view, which was strongly supported by Mr WIELAND, Vice-President;

- endorsed unanimously the recommendations from the Advisory Committees concerning the applicants to be invited to interviews, as detailed in the above mentioned notes from the Secretary-General, with the addition of the applicant requested by Mr PAPADIMOULIS, Vice-President, for the Vacancy Notice AD/160653, Transfer Notice PE/AD/160653 and Recruitment Notice PE/196/S.
B. DECISIONS WITHOUT DEBATE

8. Closure of accounts of the European political parties and foundations for 2015 - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, with debate,

- took note of the note dated 5 September 2016 from the Secretary-General;

- heard Ms BEARDER, Quaestor, inquire about the recovery of funds from the party MELD and the foundation FELD, as decided by the Bureau on 9 May 2016;

- heard Ms LUNACEK, Vice-President, inquire about a solution to the problem of Members of the European Parliament from the same national party being members of different European political parties;

- heard the Secretary-General, explain, in response to the question from Ms BEARDER, Quaestor, that 60% of the reclaimed funds had been recovered, paid for by the Danish People’s Party, but that the part which regarded a termination fee for an employee had not been recovered since the Parliament’s claim had been challenged; inform, further, that, inter alia, the question raised by Ms LUNACEK, Vice-President, could be addressed following a letter from the President to the President of the Commission, in a legislative proposal that would hopefully be brought forward in the near future;

- approved the final reports and the financial statements of the beneficiaries included in the note from the Secretary-General, taking into account the adjustments proposed;

- determined the amount of the final grants as indicated in annex 1 to this note and required the authorising officer by delegation to pay or recover the relevant
amounts;

- instructed the Secretary-General to inform the parties and foundations of these decisions.
9. **Request from the Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector (EMIS) for modification of the Rules governing the treatment of confidential information by the European Parliament and in particular the access rights of Members’ accredited parliamentary assistants to other confidential information (OCI)** - Letter from Ms VAN BREMPT, Chair of the Committee concerned - Letter from Mr LANGEN, Chair of the Committee of Inquiry into Money Laundering, Tax Avoidance and Tax Evasion (PANA)

The Bureau, with debate,

- **took note** of the letter dated 1 July 2016 from Ms VAN BREMPT, Chair of the Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector (EMIS), requesting modification of the Rules governing the treatment of confidential information by the European Parliament and in particular the access rights of Members’ accredited parliamentary assistants (APAs) to “other confidential information” (OCI) (PE 586.426 /BUR);

- **took note** of the letter dated 18 July 2016 from Mr LANGEN, Chair of the Committee of Inquiry into Money Laundering, Tax Avoidance and Tax Evasion (PANA), supporting the request from Ms VAN BREMPT (PE 586.464/BUR);

- **took note** that Ms VAN BREMPT and Mr LANGEN consider that the fact that APAs are not allowed access to “other confidential information”, provided for in Parliament’s internal rules (Bureau decision on 15 April 2013, in force since 1 April 2014), severely limits the capacity of the two temporary committees to maximise the confidential information obtained from consulting the documents made available to them by both the Commission and Member States;

- **recalled** that Parliament’s internal rules governing the treatment of confidential information were adopted as an implementing measure of two interinstitutional agreements, one with the Commission (Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission, signed on 20
October 2010, in particular Annex 2), and one with the Council (Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament and the Council concerning the forwarding to and handling by the European Parliament of classified information held by the Council on matters other than those in the area of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, signed on 12 March 2014);

- noted that while the interinstitutional agreement with the Council only dealt with the handling of classified information, the interinstitutional agreement with the Commission covered both classified and non-classified information, i.e. including “other confidential information” (OCI);

- noted that, as regards non-classified information, including “other confidential information” (OCI), the interinstitutional agreement with the Commission provided for specific arrangements for access to and handling of such information in its paragraph 3, which dealt with “confidential information” of both classified and non-classified nature, limiting inter alia such access to, under strict conditions, Parliament officials and staff of political groups;

- heard Ms JÄÄTTEENMÄKI and Mr PAPADIMOULIS, Vice-Presidents, support the request from the Chairs of the two Committees of Inquiry, noting that Members rely on their APAs to consult the confidential documents made available to them by the other institutions and the Member States, particularly when these are very long, and that a distinction in terms of access between political groups’ staff and APAs is not justified;

- heard Mr LUNACEK, Vice-President, note that in the past there had been some issues with the leakage by Members of confidential information, and enquire whether a compromise solution could be found;

- heard the President note that the consequence of extending access to confidential documents to APAs would be that the other institutions and Member States would be less willing to allow Members to have access to confidential
information; stress that in any case the interinstitutional agreement with the Commission currently in force did contain restrictions on the access of APAs to confidential information and that any change to that would require the conclusion of a new interinstitutional agreement;

- heard Mr WIELAND, Vice-President, agree with the remarks made by the President, noting that there are certain tasks that a Member should not delegate to his or her APAs and that access to confidential information entrusted to Members is a personal task for the Members; should a Member not feel capable of fulfilling this task it should be better for him or her to abstain from becoming member of a Committee of Inquiry;

- noted that Parliament’s internal rules on access to “other confidential information” stem from interinstitutional agreements concluded with the Commission and the Council, endorsed by Parliament, and that the Bureau cannot unilaterally enlarge the circle of persons entitled to access to any type of confidential information, including OCI, beyond what is provided for in the interinstitutional agreements;

- consequently declined authorisation of the two requests and decided to inform the two Committee Chairs accordingly.
10. **Brussels - Montoyer 75 Building: Exercise of purchase option - Note from the Secretary-General**

The Bureau, without debate,

- noted the note dated 5 September 2016 from the Secretary-General entitled “Brussels - Montoyer 75 Buildings: Exercise of purchase option” (PE 586.506/BUR and annexes);

- noted the payment of the last instalment for the Montoyer 75 Building in 2015;

- decided to exercise the option to purchase at a cost of EUR 1;

- instructed the Secretary-General to inform the company VIVIUM LIFE by registered letter and to sign the notarial deed for the purchase of the residual rights.
11. Request from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs to nominate a LIBE Member in the STOA Panel - Letter from Mr MORAES, Chair of the Committee concerned - Letter from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The Bureau, without debate,

- noted a letter dated 16 June 2016 from Mr MORAES, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties. Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), requesting the appointment of two LIBE members to the STOA Panel (PE 583.340/BUR);

- noted a letter dated 22 July 2016 from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs (CCC), to the President, suggesting that LIBE be allowed to appoint one of its members to the STOA Panel and forwarding a draft amendment to Article 3(3) of the STOA Rules (PE 583.340/BUR/COMPL. and annexes);

- recalled its decision of 18 May 2015 approving the CCC’s proposal to allow committees requesting to be represented in the STOA Panel to appoint one member each;

- consented to the appointment of one member of the LIBE Committee to the STOA Panel;

- approved the draft amendment to Article 3(3) of the STOA Rules;

- invited the Committee to notify the Bureau of the above-mentioned appointment.
12. **Request from the Fondatioun Kriibskrank Kanner for participation of the European Parliament in the global movement aiming at raising awareness for childhood cancer ‘GO GOLD’, during the month of September 2016 - Letter from Ms DIERICK, project coordinator and Ms GOERES, head of the Fondatioun Kriibskrank Kanner**

The Bureau, with debate,

- **took note** of the letter dated 4 August 2016, from Ms DIERICK, project coordinator and Ms GOERES, head of the Fondatioun Kriibskrank Kanner, requesting the participation of the European Parliament in the global movement aiming at raising awareness for childhood cancer ‘GO GOLD’, during the month of September 2016 (PE 586.469/BUR and a financial statement);

- **took note** that the organisers request that the buildings of Parliament in Luxembourg be illuminated with gold-coloured light, a now international initiative which originated in the United States, to mark that September is the awareness-raising month for children suffering from cancer;

- **noted** that similar illuminating events have been organised in the past, inter alia in 2013, the illumination of Parliament’s buildings in Luxembourg with blue light at the request of the “Fondation Autisme Luxembourg” and in 2015, the illumination of the WEISS building in Strasbourg with orange light, on the occasion of “Orange the World”, a United Nations initiative to combat gender-based violence;

- **recalled** nevertheless that the Bureau, at its meeting of 9 May 2016 declined to authorise a similar initiative to illuminate Parliament buildings in violet to mark a campaign against “Crohn’s disease”, noting inter alia, that “the lighting-up of Parliament on specific dates with specific colours should remain an exceptional awareness-raising measure reserved for causes directly related to Parliament’s political activities for which a wide impact is sought”;


- noted that the cost of Parliament’s participation in the “GO GOLD” event in Luxembourg is estimated at EUR 8,500;

- heard Ms McGuinness, Vice-President, express the view that there should be clear criteria for the authorisation of activities of this kind, as requests for illumination events were likely to increase, and that only the non-compliance with those criteria should be used as a reason not to grant requests, noting that time constraints should usually not be used as a reason to decline authorisation;

- heard the President agree that it was necessary to adopt clear criteria for the authorisation of such requests;

- declined Parliament’s participation in the “GO GOLD” event, since the initiative did not have any direct relation to Parliament’s political activities.
Committee missions within the EU, the candidate countries and the EEA countries

13. Request from the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy to send a fact-finding mission to Spain and Portugal from 2 to 4 November 2016 - Letter from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- noted a letter dated 19 July 2016 from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), requesting authorisation to send a fact-finding mission of a maximum of eight official Members (including the rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs of the implementation report on Horizon 2020), to Seville, Cordoba and Madrid (Spain), and to Lisbon (Portugal), from 2 to 4 November 2016 (including journey times) (PE 586.465/BUR, annex and financial statement);

- noted that the mission had not been included in the draft programme of committee missions outside Parliament’s three places of work, within the European Union, the candidate and the EEA countries, for the second half of 2016, which was approved by the Bureau on 9 May 2016;

- noted that the dates proposed coincide with three days set aside for external parliamentary activities and that the visit is calculated against the Committee’s remaining quota for 2016;

- noted the recommendation issued by the Conference of Presidents on 8 September 2016;

- endorsed the mission as requested, on the understanding that active interpretation shall be limited to a maximum of five languages from the Committee profile, in accordance with Article 5 of the Code of Conduct on Multilingualism.
Public Hearings

14. Request from the Committee on Transport and Tourism for authorisation of a public hearing on the ‘Transport noise: Harmful to people! How to avoid?’ on 11 October 2016 in Brussels - Letter from Mr CRAMER, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 5 July 2016 from Mr CRAMER, Chair of the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN), requesting authorisation to hold a public hearing on 'Transport noise: Harmful to people! How to avoid?', on 11 October 2016 in Brussels (PE 586.425/BUR and financial statement);

- took note that the requested hearing is not included in the programme of committees’ public hearings for the second half of 2016, approved by the Bureau on 11 April 2016, and therefore requires a specific individual authorisation under Article 3(3) of the applicable Rules;

- took note that the requested hearing is expected to take place on a date and time set aside for meetings of the TRAN Committee and that the reimbursement of any travel and subsistence expenses for invited guests will take place within the TRAN Committee's 2016 quota of sixteen paid guests;

- took note that the requested hearing will be organised in close cooperation with the ENVI Committee;

- granted the authorisation requested, subject to a competence clearance by the Conference of Committee Chairs, and on the understanding that the TRAN Committee will remain within its 2016 quota of sixteen paid guests;

- invited the TRAN Committee, pursuant to Article 5 of the applicable Rules, to notify the President, prior to the hearing, of the final programme and, if
applicable, whether the invited guests comply with the registration requirements
of the Transparency Register, as required by Article 7 of the applicable Rules.
15. Request from the Committee of Inquiry into Money Laundering, Tax Avoidance and Tax Evasion (PANA) for authorisation of a public hearing on the ‘Panama Papers’ on 27 September 2016 in Brussels - Letter from Mr LANGEN, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- **took note** of the letter dated 28 July 2016 from Mr LANGEN, Chair of the Committee of Inquiry into Money Laundering, Tax Avoidance and Tax Evasion (PANA), requesting authorisation to organise a hearing on the 'Panama Papers' on 27 September 2016 in Brussels (PE 586.468/BUR, annex and financial statement);

- **took note** that, since the PANA Committee was only set up on 8 June 2016, the requested hearing is not included in the programme of committees’ public hearings for the second half of 2016, approved by the Bureau on 11 April 2016, and therefore requires a specific individual authorisation under Article 3(3) of the applicable Rules;

- **took note** of Rule 198(7) of the Rules of Procedure whereby the travel and accommodation expenses of members and officials of Union institutions and bodies who appear before a committee of inquiry will be borne by those institutions and bodies, whereas travel and accommodation expenses of other persons who appear before a committee of inquiry shall be reimbursed by the European Parliament in accordance with the rules governing hearings of experts;

- **recalled** that each committee may hear a maximum of sixteen guests each year whose expenses will be covered and **noted**, therefore, that the PANA Committee, as a Committee of Inquiry with a 12-month term of office, may hear sixteen guests whose expenses will be covered from the start of its work until the end of this 12-month term of office;
- took note that the requested hearing is expected to take place on a date and time set aside for meetings of the PANA Committee and that the reimbursement of any travel and subsistence expenses for invited guests will take place within the PANA Committee's 12-month quota;

- granted the authorisation requested, on the understanding that the PANA Committee will remain within its quota of sixteen paid guests for its 12-month term of office;

- invited the PANA Committee, pursuant to Article 5 of the applicable Rules, to notify the President, prior to the hearing, of the final programme and the names and capacities of any invited experts.
16. **Request from the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs for authorisation of a public hearing on ‘Accessibility Act’ on 26 September 2016 in Brussels - Letter from Mr HÄNDEL, Chair of the Committee concerned**

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 26 August 2016 from Mr HÄNDEL, Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL), requesting authorisation to organise a public hearing on ‘Accessibility Act’ on 26 September 2016 in Brussels (PE 586.484/BUR and financial statement);

- took note that the requested hearing is not included in the programme of committees’ public hearings for the second half of 2016, approved by the Bureau on 11 April 2016 and therefore requires a specific individual authorisation under Article 3(3) of the applicable Rules;

- took note that the requested hearing is expected to take place on a date and time set aside for meetings of the EMPL Committee and that the reimbursement of any travel and subsistence expenses for invited guests will take place within the EMPL Committee’s 2016 quota;

- granted the authorisation requested, subject to a competence clearance by the Conference of Committee Chairs, and on the understanding that the EMPL Committee will remain within its 2016 quota of sixteen paid guests;

- invited the EMPL committee to prepare the hearing in close cooperation with the IMCO committee which has the lead competence on this legislative file;

- invited the EMPL Committee, pursuant to Article 5 of the applicable Rules, to notify the President, prior to the hearing, of the final programme and, if applicable, whether the invited guests comply with the registration requirements of the Transparency Register, as required by Article 7 of the applicable Rules.
17. **Request from the Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector (EMIS) for authorisation of public hearings on 10, 11, 17 and 20 October 2016 - Letter from Ms VAN BREMPT, Chair of the Committee concerned**

The Bureau, without debate,

- **noted** the letter dated 26 August 2016 from Ms VAN BREMPT, Chair of the Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector (EMIS), requesting authorisation to hold public hearings on 10, 11, 17 and 20 October 2016 (PE 586.485/BUR);

- **took note** that, since the EMIS Committee started its work only on 2 March 2016 and its working plan was established later, the requested hearings could not have been included in the programme of committees’ public hearings for the second half of 2016, approved by the Bureau on 11 April 2016, and therefore require a specific individual authorisation under Article 3(3) of the applicable Rules;

- **took note** of Rule 198(7) of the Rules of Procedure whereby the travel and accommodation expenses of members and officials of Union institutions and bodies who appear before a committee of inquiry will be borne by those institutions and bodies, whereas travel and accommodation expenses of other persons who appear before a committee of inquiry shall be reimbursed by the European Parliament in accordance with the rules governing hearings of experts;

- **recalled** that each committee may hear a maximum of sixteen guests each year whose expenses will be covered and **noted**, therefore, that the EMIS Committee, as a Committee of Inquiry with a 12-month term of office, may hear sixteen guests whose expenses will be covered from the start of its work until the end of this 12-month term of office;

- **took note** that the requested hearings are expected to take place on a date and time set aside for meetings of the EMIS Committee and that no experts will
require the reimbursement of expenses;

- granted the authorisation requested, on the understanding that the EMIS Committee will remain within its 12-month quota;

- invited the EMIS Committee, pursuant to Article 5 of the applicable Rules, to notify the President, prior to the hearings, of the final programme and the names and capacities of any invited experts.
18. **Request from the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy for authorisation of a public hearing on ‘A Space Strategy for the EU’ on 29 November 2016 in Brussels - Letters from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Committee concerned**

The **Bureau**, without debate,

- **took note** of the letter dated 12 July 2016 from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), requesting authorisation to hold a public hearing on ‘A Space Strategy for the EU’ on 29 November 2016 in Brussels (PE 586.454/BUR and financial statement);

- **took note** of the letter dated 5 September 2016 from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Committee concerned requesting to hold this public hearing on 10 November 2016 instead of 29 November 2016 (PE 586.454/BUR/COMPL.);

- **took note** that the requested hearing is intended to replace the ITRE hearing on Copernicus and Galileo services and applications, approved by the Bureau on 23 November 2015 as part of the programme of committees’ public hearings for the first half of 2016, and that, due to the change of title and of subject-matter, it requires a specific individual authorisation under Article 3(3) of the applicable Rules;

- **took note** that the requested hearing is expected to take place on a date and time set aside for meetings of the ITRE Committee and that the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses for any invited guests will take place within the ITRE Committee's 2016 annual quota;

- **granted** the authorisation requested, subject to a competence clearance from the Conference of Committee Chairs and on the understanding that the ITRE Committee will remain within its 2016 quota of sixteen paid guests;

- **invited** the ITRE Committee, pursuant to Article 5 of the applicable Rules, to
notify the President, prior to the hearing, of the final programme and, if applicable, whether the invited guests comply with the registration requirements of the Transparency Register, as required by Article 7 of the applicable Rules.
Requests for authorisation to use the Esplanade Solidarność 1980

19. Request from the Greens/EFA Group to use the Esplanade Solidarność 1980 for a public meeting and lunch event for local authority representatives, as part of the Citizens’ CETA Summit on 20 October 2016 - Letter from Ms HARMS and Mr LAMBERTS, Co-Chairs of the Greens/EFA Group

The Bureau, with debate,

- took note of an e-mail dated 9 September 2016, from Mr WIELAND, Vice-President, to the President (PE 583.302/BUR/COMPL. and annex);

- took note of the letter dated 4 July 2016, co-signed by Ms HARMS and Mr LAMBERTS, Co-chairs of the Greens/EFA Group, requesting authorisation to use the Esplanade Solidarność 1980 for a public meeting and lunch event for local authority representatives, as part of the citizens’ CETA summit (PE 583.302/BUR);

- recalled the rules governing the use of the Esplanade Solidarność 1980, adopted by the Bureau at its meeting of 17 April 2012;

- noted that the request for authorisation had been submitted within the applicable deadline, contained the necessary information and emanated from a political group; it therefore complied with the criteria laid down in Article 2(b) of the rules;

- took note that following recent terrorist attacks both in Belgium and France increased security measures apply with regard to the holding of public events on public spaces such as the Esplanade;

- took note that Mr WIELAND, Vice-President responsible for relations with the Belgian authorities, had submitted to the Bureau a favourable recommendation,
subject to a number of strict conditions concerning the preparation and implementation of the event.

- **heard** Mr WIELAND, Vice-President responsible, stress that the request had been examined very carefully and had been subject to a thorough analysis by DG SAFE, since it was conceivable that some participants might try to turn the event into a demonstration, and that the organisers should therefore be reminded of necessary security measures to be taken, noting that it was equally necessary to monitor the organisation of events to take place on the Esplanade in the near future; express the view and that an in-depth reflection on the management of public events on or near Parliament’s premises was overdue;

- **heard** the President agree with the suggestions from Mr WIELAND, Vice-President, noting that the altered security situation would have repercussions on the granting of authorisation to organise large events, not least because Parliament, unlike other national parliaments, did not have a security perimeter around its buildings;

- **heard** Ms LUNACEK, Vice-President, express her full agreement with the suggestions by Mr WIELAND, Vice-President;

- **took note of and followed** the recommendation of Mr WIELAND, Vice-President responsible, to grant in principle the requested authorisation, subject to a number of strict conditions as regards the preparation and implementation of the event, including the option of closing the Esplanade if a demonstration forms or if there are more participants than authorised;

- **invited** the organisers to establish at the earliest opportunity contact with Parliament’s responsible services in order to ensure that the necessary precautionary measures are met and the event is implemented smoothly.
20. Urgent matters and other business

20.1. Appeal of a Member against sanctions imposed pursuant to Rule 166 of the Rules of Procedure

The Bureau,

- heard Mr KARSKI, Quaestor, express some concerns, in terms of the Rules of Procedure and the necessary quorum, about the written procedure used by the Bureau for the adoption of its decision upholding sanctions against a Member, imposed by the President;

- heard the President explain that a decision by written procedure by the Bureau was deemed necessary, because, according to Rule 167 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bureau had to take a decision within four weeks of the appeal lodged by the Member concerned and the option to call an extraordinary meeting of the Bureau in August only for this matter, was not deemed appropriate; note that the recourse to written procedure does not need to be explicitly provided for in the Rules of Procedure, as it is implicit, and reflects a long established Bureau practice; that a written procedure did not require the usual quorum of a meeting and in the electronic message launching the written procedure the Vice-Presidents were informed that if they agreed with the proposed decision, they did not have to reply;

- heard the President conclude that the correct procedure was used to adopt the Bureau decision on the sanctions against the Member.
21. **Items for information**

The Bureau,

- noted the following documents:

  Interinstitutional mail

  External mail

  Internal mail

- a letter dated 20 July 2016 from Ms GÁLL-PELCZ, Vice-President, concerning confirmatory application for access to EP documents (PE 586.466/BUR and annexes);

- a letter dated 26 July 2016 from Ms GUILLAUME, Vice-President, concerning the implementation of the Inter-Institutional Agreement on the Transparency Register (PE 586.467/BUR and annexes);

- a note dated 2 August 2016 from Mr TZIORKAS, Head of the Bureau and Quaestors Secretariat, and Decision of the Bureau dated 1 August 2016 concerning the outcome of a Written Procedure relating to an appeal of a Member against sanctions imposed pursuant to rule 166 of the Rules of Procedure, forwarded to the members of the Bureau under confidential and separate cover (PE 586.460/BUR and PE 586.453/BUR/Decision/DEF.).
22. Date and place of next meeting

The Bureau,

- **decided** to hold its next ordinary meeting on **3 October 2016**, from **18:30 to 20:30**, in **Room R1.1 in the Louise WEISS Building in Strasbourg**.

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The meeting closed at 19.57 hours.

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