

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



BUREAU

MINUTES

of the meeting of

10-09-2018

Louise WEISS Building - Room R1.1.

Strasbourg

BUREAU

MINUTES

of the meeting of Monday 10 September 2018
from 18:30 to 20:30 hours

Louise WEISS Building - Room R1.1.

Strasbourg

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
1. Adoption of draft agenda.....	8
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of 2 July 2018.....	9
3. Communications by the President	10
3.1. Members' Voluntary Pension Fund	10
3.2. General Expenditure Allowance (GEA)	10
3.3. Agreement with the interpreters	11
3.4. Bureau members excused from attending the meeting	11
4. Towards an Open Digital Library in the European Parliament - Note from the Secretary-General	12
5. Citizens' consultations: an EP approach targeting young people - Note from the Secretary-General	15
6. Request from a Member for an 'institutionalisation' of the annual Peace Light ceremony held during the December Strasbourg plenary session - Email from Mr RÜBIG, Member	17
7. Request to organise a training session for the members of the Advisory Committee dealing with harassment complaints concerning Members of the European Parliament - Letter from Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestor and Chair of the Advisory Committee	20
8. Rules governing the posting of notices - Letter from Ms BEARDER, Chair-in-office of the Quaestors and Note from the Secretary-General	21
9. Resolution on transparency, accountability and integrity in the EU institutions - Note from the Secretary-General	22
10. Transmission of the Conclusions of the meeting of the Board of the Konrad ADENAUER Building on 27 June 2018 - Note from the Secretary-General.....	24
11. Termination of the 2016 grant awarded to the political foundation at European level "Institute for Direct Democracy in Europe" (IDDE) - Closure of procedure - Rejection of the 2016 final report - Decision on final grant - Note from the Secretary-General	25
12. Termination of the 2017 grant awarded to the political foundation at European level "Institute for Direct Democracy in Europe" (IDDE) - Closure of procedure -	

	Rejection of the 2017 final report - Decision on final grant - Note from the Secretary-General	26
13.	2017 final reports of political parties and foundations at European level - Note from the Secretary-General	27
14.	Request from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) for authorisation to send a mission to the Fundamental Rights Agency in Vienna, Austria, from 25 to 26 September 2018 - Letter from Mr MORAES, Chair of the Committee concerned.....	29
15.	Request from the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) for authorisation of a fact-finding mission of the rapporteur to the Fundamental Rights Agency in Vienna, Austria, on 20 September 2018 - Letter from Ms HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee concerned.....	31
16.	Request from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) for authorisation to send a mission to Warsaw, Poland, from 19 to 21 September 2018 - Letter from Mr MORAES, Chair of the Committee concerned	32
17.	Request from the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) for authorisation to send a mission to The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany (Euregio Maas-Rhine), from 29 to 31 October 2018 - Letter from Ms GRÄSSLE, Chair of the Committee concerned.....	34
18.	Request from the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) for authorisation to send a mission to Slovakia, from 17 to 19 December 2018 - Letter from Ms GRÄSSLE, Chair of the Committee concerned.....	35
19.	Request from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) for authorisation to organise a public hearing on 'the implementation of the Facilitation Directive and humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants' on 27 September 2018 - Letter from Mr MORAES, Chair of the Committee concerned.....	36
20.	Request from the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) for authorisation to organise a public hearing on the 'Institutional structure and governance of existing forms of enhanced cooperation' on 24 September 2018 - Letter from Ms HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee concerned.....	37
21.	Request from the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) for authorisation to organise a public hearing on 'representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers' on 10-11 October 2018 - Letter from Mr SVOBODA, Chair of the Committee concerned.....	38
22.	Request from the Committee of the Regions (CoR) to use the Chamber for the Committee's 3 plenary sessions in 2019 (6-7 February, 10-11 April, 26-27 June 2019) - Letter from Mr LAMBERTZ, President of the Committee of the Regions	39
23.	Request from the École nationale d'administration (ENA) to use the Chamber for another edition of the Start@Europe event, in collaboration with the ESCP, on 25 and 26 October 2018 - Letter from Mr GÉRARD, Director of the École nationale d'administration.....	41
24.	Request from the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) to use the Chamber for a plenary session of the Committee on 17-18 October 2018 - Letter from Mr JAHIER, President of the Economic and Social Committee	44
25.	Urgent matters and any other business	45

25.1. Tweet by a Member on the EU-Japan Trade Agreement 45
26. Items for information 46
27. Date and place of next meeting 48

BUREAU

MINUTES

of the meeting of Monday, 10 September 2018

Strasbourg

Mr Antonio TAJANI, President of the European Parliament, opened the meeting at 18.41 hours.

Present

Antonio TAJANI, President

Vice-Presidents

Mr LIBERADZKI
Mr SASSOLI
Mr WIELAND
Ms GUILLAUME
Mr KRASNODEBSKI
Mr VALCÁRCEL SISO
Ms GEBHARDT
Mr TELIČKA
Ms JÁRÓKA
Mr PAȘCU
Mr PAPADIMOULIS
Ms HAUTALA
Mr CASTALDO

Excused

Ms McGUINNESS

Quaestors

Mr KOVATCHEV
Mr MAŇKA
Ms BEARDER
Mr KARSKI

Excused

Ms MORIN-CHARTIER

Also Present

Mr WELLE, Secretary-General
Mr WINKLER, Deputy Secretary-General and Director-General DG PRES

List of officials present at the meeting:

Private Office of the President

Mr CANGA FANO
Mr CHIOCCHETTI
Mr CAPOGROSSO
Mr GAT

Private Office of the Secretary-General

Mr MANGOLD
Mr SORENSEN
Ms ALTENBERG
Mr MARTINELLI
Mr SCHONARD

Private Office of the Deputy Secretary-General

Mr JAVELLE

Secretariat

DG Internal Policies (IPOL)	Mr SPEISER
DG External Policies (EXPO)	Mr DUCCI / Mr HELLOT
DG Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS)	Mr TEASDALE
DG Information (COMM)	Mr DUCH-GUILLOT /
	Ms VAN DEN BROEKE
DG Personnel (PERS)	Mr KNUDSEN
DG Infrastructure and Logistics (INLO)	Ms LINNUS
DG Translation (TRAD)	Mr MAVRIC
DG Logistics and Interpretation for Conferences (LINC)	Ms WALTER-DROP
DG Finance (FINS)	Mr KLETHI
DG Innovation, Technical Support (ITEC)	Mr PETRUCCI
DG Security and Safety (SAFE)	Mr CAROZZA
Legal Service	Mr DREXLER, Jurisconsult
Director for the Relations with the Political Groups	Mr SCHWETZ
Conference of President's Secretariat	Ms WOLLNY

Political group secretariats

Ms	ROIG LINANA	(EPP)
Mr	HORNAK	(S&D)
Mr	WOODARD	(ECR)
Ms	BOVEINGTON-FAURAN	(ALDE)
Ms	CAUSSIEU	(ALDE)
Ms	PANTAZIDOU	(GUE/NGL)
Mr	BROUWER	(GREENS/EFA)
Mr	PITTARELLO	(EFDD)
Mr	CARLOT	(NI)

Vice-Presidents' and Quaestors' assistants

Ms	O'BRIEN	Ms	McGUINNESS
Mr	VOGT	Mr	LIBERADZKI
Mr	COBUCCI	Mr	SASSOLI
Ms	KRONTAL	Mr	WIELAND
Ms	BARREIRA	Ms	GUILLAUME
Ms	DYMOWSKA	Mr	KRASNODEBSKI
Mr	RODRIGUEZ GUILLEN	Mr	VALCÁRCEL SISO
Ms	PAPENBERG	Ms	GEBHARDT
Mr	KLEEMANN	Mr	TELIČKA
Ms	SZARAZ	Ms	JÁRÓKA
Mr	VINTILA	Mr	PAȘCU
Mr	ALATOPOULOS	Mr	PAPADIMOULIS
Mr	RAAPPANA	Ms	HAUTALA
Mr	VALLUCCI	Mr	CASTALDO
Mr	RICHARD	Ms	MORIN-CHARTIER
Mr	IVANOV	Mr	KOVATCHEV
Ms	KUCHTIKOVA	Mr	MAŇKA
Mr	O'DONNELL	Ms	BEARDER
Mr	SKOCZEK	Mr	KARSKI

Mr TZIORKAS, Mr ADLER, Ms STASINOPOULOU, Ms KOSTIDOU, Ms MURRAY and Ms MARCOCCIO acted as secretary to the meeting.

1. Adoption of draft agenda

The Bureau,

- heard the President announce that the following item had been withdrawn from the agenda at the request of the organisers:

24. Request from the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) to use the Chamber for a plenary session of the Committee on 17-18 October 2018 - Letter from Mr JAHIER, President of the Economic and Social Committee

- heard Ms GUILLAUME ask that item 9 be taken with debate and accepted that proposal;
- heard Mr KRASNODEBSKI and Mr CASTALDO, Vice-Presidents, request that item 13 on the 2017 final reports of political parties and foundations at European level be postponed until all final reports were available;
- heard the President explain that the Bureau had the necessary information about 19 beneficiaries of 2017 and that there was, hence, no reason to postpone the decision about them;
- decided, by a majority vote, to keep item 13 on the agenda;
- noted the draft agenda and adopted it as shown in these minutes (PE 624.975/BUR).

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of 2 July 2018

The Bureau,

- approved the Minutes of the ordinary Bureau meeting of 2 July 2018 held in Strasbourg (PE 620.180/BUR).

3. Communications by the President

3.1. Members' Voluntary Pension Fund

The Bureau.

- heard the President inform the meeting that he had received three letters from Lord Balfe, Director of the Members' Voluntary Pension Fund: one containing information regarding the fund's recent investments; another, further to the note from the Secretary-General and the March Bureau discussion, containing a legal analysis of the proposed changes to the conditions and requirements for the pension entitlements resulting from the fund; finally, a third letter requesting the nomination of three Members to the Board of the fund;
- heard the President state that the Bureau had taken note of the above-mentioned information and suggest to respond to the request for nominations to the Board of the fund at a forthcoming meeting.

3.2. General Expenditure Allowance (GEA)

The Bureau.

- heard the President report to the meeting that at the Conference of Presidents meeting of 5 July some political groups chairs had requested the extension of the work of the Bureau ad hoc working group on the General Expenditures Allowance (GEA); add that he had reminded the Conference of Presidents that the Bureau, which was responsible for this issue, had reached a decision based on the conclusions of the ad hoc working group;
- heard Ms HAUTALA, Vice-President, refer to the minutes of the Bureau meeting of 2 July and express her support for the call from the Conference of Presidents to prolong the work of the ad hoc working group on that matter;
- heard Mr WIELAND, Vice-President, note that the Bureau, composed of Members directly elected by the Plenary, was the responsible body for that matter, and that the Conference of Presidents had not taken a decision on this but some political groups chairs had simply expressed a wish; refer to the Bureau decision of 2 July, taken after exhaustive discussions on and examination of the matter;

- heard Mr TELIČKA, Vice-President, suggest that, independently from the call of the Conference of Presidents, the Bureau could perhaps re-discuss the matter at a forthcoming meeting in order to wrap-up the whole debate since no discussion had been held prior to the Bureau vote on 2 July, with the understanding that a decision had already been taken.

3.3. Agreement with the interpreters

The Bureau,

- heard the President inform the meeting that following long and intense negotiations an agreement on the working conditions of the interpreters at the European Parliament had been reached shortly before the summer break; thank in this regard Mr PAȘCU, Vice-President responsible, the Secretary-General, representatives of the interpreters and the staff committee, DG LINC and members of his cabinet involved in the negotiations, for the agreement reached;
- heard Mr WIELAND and Mr CASTALDO, Vice-Presidents, welcome the agreement reached and congratulate all those involved.

3.4. Bureau members excused from attending the meeting

The Bureau,

- heard the President inform the meeting that Ms McGUINNESS, Vice-President, and Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestor, were excused from attending today's meeting due to other engagements.

A. DECISIONS/EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

4. Towards an Open Digital Library in the European Parliament - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, with debate,

- took note of the note dated 17 July 2018 from the Secretary-General, entitled "*Towards an Open Digital Library in the European Parliament*" (PE 625.030/BUR);
- heard the President introduce the matter at hand, noting that the Bureau had adopted a strategy to digitalise its Library, which had become more open, integrated with other libraries, and research-oriented in the various services it provides to clients;
- heard Mr VALCÁRCEL SISO, Vice-President with primary responsibility for the Members' Research Service and Library, provide an overview of the progress achieved and :
 - cite various elements of the project, namely diversifying and widening resources available, which would become accessible at all times and on all devices; add that the Open Digital Library project respected budgetary restrictions and had led to an increased availability of eBooks, newspapers, and magazines;
 - provide an overview of the next steps, *inter alia*, a more personalised service for users; increased availability of external catalogues and materials and online training; open access of services to the broader public;
- heard Mr PAȘCU, Vice-President with secondary responsibility for the Members' Research Service and Library, thank the services for their work and express full support for this initiative, which respects budgetary restrictions; welcome the considerable progress made and underline that the new technologies available will considerably improve access to information, both internally and externally;

- heard Ms GEBHARDT, Vice-President with primary responsibility for Informatics and telecommunications, welcome the good cooperation between the respective services and innovative use of new technologies, in particular the “PressReader” app which enables rapid access to the resources available;
- held an exchange of views on the subject matter with the participation of Mr CASTALDO, Ms JÁRÓKA, Mr WIELAND Vice-Presidents, and Ms BEARDER, Quaestor, who:
 - thanked the services involved, expressing strong support for the ongoing digitalisation of information systems and related technological developments, such as the aforementioned apps, which will facilitate Members’ work in the run-up to the 2019 European elections;
 - stressed that the digitalisation of the library will enable knowledge-sharing across the globe for a wide array of users, including the most disadvantaged strata of society;
 - recalled the importance of including Parliament’s art collection in the process of digitalisation in order to make it more accessible to citizens;
 - highlighted the need to provide resources in a user-friendly format, easily accessible to the average user;
 - welcomed DG ITEC’s 360° digital tour of the library;
 - enquired about figures regarding the use of the apps and queried possible copyright issues in the context of such knowledge-sharing initiatives;
 - enquired about the possibility of making resources available to external users such as the research community;
 - requested that the services address possible massive lobbying pressure by campaigns that could arise further through digitalisation, as occurred with recent copyright legislation;
 - stated that Members ought to be informed about the originators of email campaigns, and the background to them, so that they were in a position to categorise emails;

- heard Ms GEBHARDT, Vice-President, explain that DG ITEC was developing improved email filters to manage the problem of heavy flow of emails on certain controversial topics;
- heard the Secretary-General respond that:
 - the project under discussion aimed at bringing the research community closer to the Parliament and providing more services to them;
 - further to awareness-raising measures 82 Members had downloaded the PressReader app at short notice, and that the feedback received had been largely positive;
 - making external databases available required the calculation of fees according to the number of users; specifically, a user package is determined for a certain number of users, thus establishing related limits for the availability of the data;
- took note of the progress in the development of the new products and services within the EP Library as part of the 'Open Digital Library' strategy endorsed by the Bureau;
- welcomed the installation of new digital tools that have already greatly increased the range and volume of e-books, e-journals and other sources available to users, as well as the introduction of an improved 'user interface' and search capability on the intranet, easier access to EP library services off-site, deepening of support for researchers within and outside the Parliament, and greater cooperation with other EU institutional libraries and major research libraries in the member states;
- instructed the Secretary-General to move forward with the next steps of the project in a budgetary neutral way.

5. Citizens' consultations: an EP approach targeting young people - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, with debate,

- took note of a note dated 16 July 2018 from the Secretary-General entitled '*Citizens' consultations: an EP approach targeting young people*' (PE 625.031/BUR);
- heard the President introduce the item noting that the European Parliament due to its very nature and its numerous initiatives to be in direct contact with the citizens could make an important contribution to citizens' consultations in the context of the debate on the future of Europe; to do that in a short timeframe and in an cost-effective way several of EP's existing projects aimed at young citizens could be brought together under a common consultation framework;
- heard Mr VALCÁRCEL SISO, Vice-President with primary responsibility for communication, explain that this initiative, which had been endorsed by the Bureau Working Group on Information and Communication at its meeting of 27 June 2018, could further strengthen the debate on the future of the European Union, where the participation of young citizens was vital, making specific reference to the successful experience with the EYE and the Ambassadors School programme as well as to the proposed event 'Youth Parliament' on 19-20 November in Brussels with the participation of approximately 750 young people;
- heard Ms GUILLAUME, Vice-President with secondary responsibility for communication, welcome the project and recall that the Parliament had through its various projects already a solid basis to launch and build this event on;
- heard Ms GEBHARDT, Vice-President, call for an overview of all Parliament's youth-related events, initiatives and programmes, such as EYE, the LUX Prize and the Ambassadors School programme, to increase the potential for synergy effects between them;
- heard Mr KRASNODEBSKI, Vice-President, welcome the initiative while expressing some concern at the fact that the event was linked to only two French universities, excluding many other very good European universities, and

therefore calling for a better geographical, cultural, political and ideological balance;

- heard the Secretary-General, in reply to questions and remarks from Members, explain that:
 - he had taken good note of Ms GEBHARDT's suggestion, which he considered as useful;
 - the event organised by the 'École nationale d'administration' (ENA) and the 'École supérieure de commerce de Paris (ESCP) Europe' was a recurrent one and had already taken place in the Parliament in the past, so it could easily be linked to the proposal under discussion; the latter originated again from France, but as it had been brought forward at a rather late stage Parliament was obliged to work with already existing means, without creating any new costs; nevertheless, it was important to consider how to achieve the balance called for by Mr KRASNODĘBSKI, noting that this had been achieved in the EYE events, which should therefore serve as a basis for the selection of participants to this event;
- endorsed the proposed approach and the organisation of a "Youth Parliament" in November 2018.

B. DECISIONS WITHOUT DEBATE6. Request from a Member for an ‘institutionalisation’ of the annual Peace Light ceremony held during the December Strasbourg plenary session - Email from Mr RÜBIG, Member

The Bureau, with debate,

- took note of an email from Mr RÜBIG, Member, to the President dated 20 March 2018 entitled “*institutionalisation’ of the annual Peace Light ceremony held during the December Strasbourg plenary session*” requesting a formal decision by the Bureau to continue the annual Peace Light ceremony, held during every December plenary session in Strasbourg (PE 622.904/BUR and financial statement);
- took note of a letter dated 5 June 2018 from Mr RIES, Mayor of Strasbourg (PE 622.904/BUR/ ANN), in support of Mr RÜBIG’s request;
- took note that this event has taken place in Parliament every year for the last twenty-one years with the official support and cooperation from the Council of Europe and the City of Strasbourg;
- took note that while the European Parliament has participated in the organisation of this event on an informal basis in the past, there is now a need for a decision by the Bureau to ensure that the event can continue also in the future;
- took note of the fact that a group of approximately 80 students from across the EU Member States participates in the event, which consists of the following elements:
 - the group brings the ‘Light of Peace’ from Bethlehem, to Strasbourg;
 - on the Monday of Parliament’s part-session in December, in the afternoon before the session starts, the group gathers for a short ceremony in the Visitors’ area, at level -1 in the WEISS building, to light candles by the flame from Bethlehem;

- the President traditionally opens the ceremony by making a short address and lighting the first candle;
- following the ceremony, the participants are transported by boat to the centre of Strasbourg, where the mayor hosts a reception;
- the group is invited to visit the premises of the Council of Europe;
- took note that a favourable security opinion has been received;
- took note that the annual cost is estimated at EUR 20 080, to cover the participation of 80 students as well as other necessary logistical support and interpretation for the event, to be borne by Parliament;
- took note that the item has been carried over from the Bureau meetings of 11 June 2018 and 2 July 2018;
- heard Ms GEBHARDT, Vice-President, express strong reservations at granting the request, since doing so could set a precedent and potentially lead to several other Members requesting the ‘institutionalisation’ of various, recurrent events organised by them, recalling that the organiser of the event, Mr RÜBIG, Member, was not seeking re-election in 2019, and questioning why Parliament should take over the costs for the invitation of 80 youngsters from a specific region in Austria;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of:
 - Mr WIELAND and Mr KRASNODEŹBSKI, Vice-Presidents, who:
 - while questioning the term ‘institutionalisation’, expressed support for the event, which had become a tradition in the Parliament after having been held for the last 21 years;
 - noted that the event was not likely to continue after its latest organiser, Mr RÜBIG, leaves the Parliament, unless the Bureau accepted to let the Parliament organise the event;
 - recalled that while the European Union and many of its Member States were secular, Christmas was largely celebrated throughout Europe by all citizens;

- Mr LIBERADZKI and Ms HAUTALA, Vice-Presidents, and Ms BEARDER, Quaestor, who:
 - expressed for various reasons concern at the proposal and agreement with the reservations raised by Ms GEBHARDT;
 - noted that the event has religious connotations and that Parliament is a secular institution and should, as such, not be its organiser;
 - expressed the view that the sponsorship of the event could be taken over by another interested Member after the elections, and thus continue to be organised spontaneously according to its current concept;
- heard Mr VALCÁRCEL SISO, Vice-President, recall that the recommendation to the Bureau was to refer the matter to the Working Group on Information and Communication for further consideration, noting that he supported this proposal;
- heard Ms GEBHARDT and Ms GUILLAUME, Vice-Presidents, express the view that there was no need to refer the matter to the Working Group, if the Bureau would take a negative decision now;
- heard Ms GUILLAUME point out that referring the matter to the Working Group on Information and Communication would itself constitute institutionalisation to some extent and caution against that possibility;
- heard the President express his agreement with Mr VALCÁRCEL SISO, noting that thorough consideration by the Working Group would save time for the Bureau; suggest, therefore, that the matter be referred to the Bureau Working Group on Information and Communication, inviting it to make a recommendation to the Bureau in due course;
- agreed to the President's suggestion.

7. Request to organise a training session for the members of the Advisory Committee dealing with harassment complaints concerning Members of the European Parliament - Letter from Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestor and Chair of the Advisory Committee

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 18 July 2018 from Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestor and Chair of the Advisory Committee dealing with harassment complaints concerning Members, requesting authorisation to organise a training session for members of that committee (PE 625.032/BUR, annex and financial statement);
- took note that the Advisory Committee has selected a panel of external independent experts with expertise in various areas, including lawyers and psychologists, to carry out an audit of its work and that the training session will allow them to present their findings and pass on their recommendations to the Committee;
- took note that the training session is scheduled to take place outside the premises of the European Parliament, during a whole afternoon, to enable the participants to give it their full attention without being interrupted by other parliamentary business;
- granted the authorisation requested on the understanding that costs shall be limited to the necessary.

8. Rules governing the posting of notices - Letter from Ms BEARDER, Chair-in-office of the Quaestors and Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the note dated 30 August 2018 from the Secretary-General, entitled '*Rules governing the posting of notices*' (PE 625.033/BUR) and annexes;
- took note of a letter dated 28 August 2018 from Ms BEARDER, Quaestor, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 625.033/BUR/ANN.1)
- approved the revised Rules;
- asked the Secretary-General to adopt the implementing rules.

9. Resolution on transparency, accountability and integrity in the EU institutions - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, with debate,

- took note of the note dated 19 July 2018 from the Secretary-General entitled '*Resolution on transparency, accountability and integrity in the EU institutions*' (PE 625.034/BUR and annex);
- took note of the note dated 19 July 2018 from the Secretary-General entitled "Resolution on transparency, accountability and integrity in the EU institutions";
- recalled that on 14 September 2017, Parliament adopted a resolution on transparency, accountability and integrity in the EU institutions;
- took note that the note from the Secretary-General sets out administrative measures and initiatives related to the elements contained in the resolution, in particular pointing out the issue of the link between interest representatives' co-hosting events and registration of those representatives in the transparency register;
- heard Ms GUILLAUME, Vice-President responsible for the Transparency Register, inform the meeting that the working group set up by the Conference of Presidents on the transparency register was currently involved in difficult and complex interinstitutional negotiations and therefore this was not the right moment for the submission of this note to the Bureau; moreover, some of the points included in the note were clearly lagging behind the plenary resolution on this matter, such as in particular point II 5 on the voluntary publication of meetings with interest representatives;
- heard Ms HAUTALA, Vice-President, note that while the measures relating to points I 2 and II 3 of the note were positive, the proposal relating to the voluntary legislative footprint (point II 5) should be carried differently, further informing the meeting that also Mr CASTALDO, Vice-President, was in agreement with this view;
- heard Mr WIELAND, Vice-President, express a certain surprise at the above mentioned remarks as the proposal relating to point II 5 of the note was going to the right direction, based on the voluntary publication of meetings, without

putting Members under any pressure or obligation to do so, considering that something like this would interfere with the principle of the free mandate of Members; in addition, that required an amendment to the Rules of Procedure; further noting that, with regard to point III 10, the Bureau had to take a decision on a specific proposal. There should not be, as a result of the note, any automatic application that would infringe Members' rights;

- heard the Secretary-General, report that the aim of the note was to outline the whole range of measures already implemented and others to be deployed; explain that point II 5 was not presented in the form of the GIEGOLD report adopted by the Plenary, but was the outcome of discussions in the Committee on Budgetary Control; nevertheless the Bureau could decide to go further or in a different direction, and the same applies also for point III 10 of the note; conclude that from the debate it became clear that these two points included in the note required further clarifications and guidance in a forthcoming Bureau meeting;
- heard Ms GUILLAUME, Vice-President responsible, agree with the suggestion;
- heard the President conclude the debate by noting that the Bureau would return to the issue after further clarifications in a forthcoming meeting.

10. Transmission of the Conclusions of the meeting of the Board of the Konrad ADENAUER Building on 27 June 2018 - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the note dated 20 July 2018 from the Secretary-General, entitled '*Transmission of the Conclusions of the meeting of the Board of the Konrad ADENAUER Building on 27 June 2018*' (PE 625.035/BUR and annexes);
- took note of the note dated 20 July 2018 from the Secretary-General entitled "Transmission of the Conclusions of the meeting of the Board of the Konrad ADENAUER Building on 27 June 2018";
- took note of the conclusions of the Board of the Konrad ADENAUER Building;
- invited the President to transmit the conclusions for information to the Committee on Budgets.

11. Termination of the 2016 grant awarded to the political foundation at European level “Institute for Direct Democracy in Europe” (IDDE) - Closure of procedure - Rejection of the 2016 final report - Decision on final grant - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the note dated 13 July 2018 from the Secretary-General entitled ‘*Termination of the 2016 grant awarded to the political foundation at European level “Institute for Direct Democracy in Europe” (IDDE) - Closure of procedure - Rejection of the 2016 final report - Decision on final grant*’ (PE 625.036/BUR and annexes);
- took note of the audit report issued with an adverse opinion by the external auditor;
- took note of the analysis and remarks of the authorising officer by delegation, establishing that eligible expenditure could not be substantiated by the final report as specified in the note from the Secretary-General;
- as a consequence, rejected the final report and the financial statements of IDDE;
- confirmed, in accordance with Article II.9.4 of the Grant Award Decision FINS-2016-29, that the European Parliament shall not reimburse any expenditure incurred by the beneficiary in the financial year 2016;
- instructed the authorising officer by delegation to recover the pre-financing unduly paid, amounting to EUR 668 620.80.

12. Termination of the 2017 grant awarded to the political foundation at European level “Institute for Direct Democracy in Europe” (IDDE) - Closure of procedure - Rejection of the 2017 final report - Decision on final grant - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the note dated 13 July 2018 from the Secretary-General entitled *‘Termination of the 2017 grant awarded to the political foundation at European level “Institute for Direct Democracy in Europe” (IDDE) - Closure of procedure - Rejection of the 2017 final report - Decision on final grant’* (PE 625.037/BUR and annexes);
- rejected the final report taking into account the declaration of IDDE that no activities have been performed in 2017;
- confirmed in accordance with Article II.9.4 of the Grant Award Decision FINS-2017-28 that the European Parliament shall not reimburse any expenditure incurred by the beneficiary in the financial year 2017;
- noted that the recovery of any pre-financing unduly paid will not be needed since no pre-financing was paid for the 2017 grant.

13. 2017 final reports of political parties and foundations at European level - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, with debate,

- took note of the note dated 30 August 2018 from the Secretary-General entitled '*2017 final reports of political parties and foundations at European level*' (PE 625.038/BUR and annexes);
- heard Mr KRASNODEBSKI, Vice-President, reiterate his suggestion that the item be dealt with by the Bureau at a later stage, when all final reports were available; enquire why it was necessary to take a decision at present, since only 19 final reports were ready and another 5 reports still pending; enquire, further, about the methods used when auditing political parties and their foundations, and the frequency of such audits, noting that while transparency was important, non-discrimination between beneficiaries was equally important; request more information of the applicable deadlines and the potential problems with the 5 outstanding reports;
- heard Mr TELIČKA and Mr WIELAND, Vice-Presidents, express the view that the decision should not be delayed, noting that it was necessary to deal with the 19 reports independently, since each report would be evaluated based on its own merit, without making any links between the individual reports, and that the principle of non-discrimination should also benefit those beneficiaries who had abided by the deadline and whose reports had not given rise to further examination;
- heard the Secretary-General explain that the matter could not be postponed, since according to the applicable rules, the Bureau had three months from the completion of the reports to decide whether to approve or to reject them; therefore, the 19 beneficiaries who had submitted their reports within the deadline and where no further examination was necessary, had a justified claim to a decision by the Bureau at the present meeting; the 5 outstanding reports were incomplete and/or required further examination; regarding the specificities of such examination, the relevant information could be provided in writing to any interested Bureau Member by the responsible services;

- heard Mr KRASNODĘBSKI, Vice-President, express the view that if such a deadline applied, the final reports needed to be submitted to the Bureau Members at an earlier moment in order to allow them to study them, and if necessary, also an extraordinary Bureau meeting could be held;
- approved, by majority, with the opposing vote of Mr KRASNODĘBSKI, Vice-President, the final reports and the financial statements of 19 beneficiaries, taking into account the adjustments proposed;
- determined the amount of the final grants as indicated in Annex 1 to the note from the Secretary-General and instruct the authorising officer by delegation to pay or recover the relevant amounts;
- took note of the waiver presented by one party and approve that the grant is fixed at zero euro for those two beneficiaries who did not submit a final report and neither cooperated with the European Parliament, nor with the external auditor;
- instructed the authorising officer by delegation to inform the political parties and political foundations at European level of these decisions.

Committee missions within the EU, Candidate countries and the EEA countries

14. Request from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) for authorisation to send a mission to the Fundamental Rights Agency in Vienna, Austria, from 25 to 26 September 2018 - Letter from Mr MORAES, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 11 June 2018 from Mr MORAES, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), requesting authorisation to postpone the three Member mission to the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), in Vienna, Austria, from 17-18 July 2018 to 25-26 September 2018 instead (plus one day travel time), in order to allow Members to attend the FRA Forum on Fundamental Rights (PE 622.959/CPG and financial statement);
- recalled that, at its meeting on 28 May 2018, the Bureau had authorised the request from LIBE for a three Member mission to the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), in Vienna, Austria, on 17-18 July 2018 (two days, travel included), which had been proposed as an agency visit under the specific quota for agency visits (Article 2(4) of the applicable rules);
- noted that at the same meeting, the Bureau recalled that it had taken the view that committee missions to Member States holding or taking over the rotating EU Council Presidency might be justified, if those missions were undertaken in relation to major high-level conferences in those Member States;
- noted that, under Article 2(4) of the relevant rules, every two years, each committee shall be authorised to send, during the weeks set aside for external parliamentary activities and for no more than three days, a three Member mission to agencies for which it is principally responsible pursuant to the Rules of Procedure and that such missions shall not be included in the calculations of the committee's quota;
- recalled the decision of the Conference of Presidents at its meeting on 15 March 2018 in view of the workload of committees for the remainder of the parliamentary term, that resources should be allocated as a matter of priority to Parliament's legislative work and that, in principle, requests for authorisation

which would adversely affect the availability of interpretation teams for committees shall not be granted;

- noted that the dates of the mission proposed coincided with half a day set aside for parliamentary committee activities (Monday), two days for political group activities (Tuesday and Wednesday) and half a day set aside for parliamentary committee and political group activities (Thursday);
- noted that interpretation into three languages has been requested;
- noted that the Conference of Presidents at its meeting on 5 July 2018 recommended to authorise the request, on an exceptional basis, provided resources were available, and that the mission did not exceed three days, including travel time;
- granted the request in accordance with the recommendation by the Conference of Presidents.

15. Request from the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) for authorisation of a fact-finding mission of the rapporteur to the Fundamental Rights Agency in Vienna, Austria, on 20 September 2018 - Letter from Ms HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 3 July 2018 from Ms HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, requesting authorisation for a fact-finding mission of Mr SCHÖPFLIN, Member and rapporteur for the report 'Implementation and legal provisions and the Joint statement ensuring the parliamentary scrutiny over decentralised agencies', to the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), in Vienna, Austria, as envisaged in the action plan for the aforementioned Implementation report on 20 September 2018 (two days, travel included) (PE 625.039/BUR and financial statement);
- recalled that at its meeting on 31 May 2018 the Conference of Presidents authorised the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) to draft an implementation report on "Implementing of the legal provisions and the Joint Statement ensuring the parliamentary scrutiny over decentralised agencies";
- noted that on 20 June 2018 the AFCO coordinators endorsed the action plan for the above mentioned implementation report, including a visit of Mr SCHÖPFLIN, rapporteur, to the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) in Vienna;
- noted that pursuant to Article 8(3) of the applicable rules committees may decide to set aside part of their quota in order to be able to add one or more missions during the year, to be authorised by the Bureau, provided that the annual quota of the Committee is complied with;
- noted that the proposed date of the mission coincided with one day set aside for external parliamentary activities in week 38 ("turquoise week");
- granted the request for a fact finding mission of the rapporteur to the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), in Vienna, Austria, on 20 September 2018 (two days, travel included), under the annual quota of the AFCO Committee for missions within the EU.

16. Request from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) for authorisation to send a mission to Warsaw, Poland, from 19 to 21 September 2018 - Letter from Mr MORAES, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, with debate,

- took note of a letter dated 26 July 2018 from Mr MORAES, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), requesting authorisation to send a mission of up to eight Members, including the Chair travelling out of quota, to Warsaw, Poland, from 19 to 21 September 2018 (PE 624.957/CPG);
- took note that by letter dated 2 July 2018 Mr MORAES had originally requested that this mission take place on 17-19 September 2018, but due to later developments in Poland (second hearing of the Polish authorities on the Rule of Law in Poland on 18 September) it is now requested to re-schedule the mission to 19-21 September 2018 (PE 624.999/CPG and financial statement);
- took note that the mission takes place in the framework of the LIBE report on the reasoned proposal from the Commission for a Council decision under Article 7(1) TEU as regards the situation in Poland and Mr MORAES had been nominated standing LIBE rapporteur for the consent procedure on the situation in Poland, in accordance with Rule 99 of the Rules of Procedure;
- took note that the mission would consist of a maximum of eight Members, including Mr MORAES travelling out of quota in his capacity as Chair, pursuant to Article 2(3) of the applicable rules;
- took note that the dates proposed for the mission (19 to 21 September 2018) coincided with three days set aside for external parliamentary activities in week 38 (turquoise week);
- heard Mr KRASNODEŃSKI, Vice-President, and Mr KARSKI, Quaestor, express their reservations about the necessity of sending another LIBE mission to Poland and further inform the meeting that a Polish Member of the ECR group had been excluded from the mission in question by the LIBE Committee coordinators who had decided that no Polish Member could take the place attributed within the quota to the ECR group on that mission, noting that this constituted an outright discriminatory decision on the basis of nationality that

infringed the Members' rights, the rules in force and the principle of equal treatment regardless of nationality;

- heard Mr KARSKI, Quaestor, stress that regardless of whether the decision had a legal basis or not, there was actual discrimination on grounds of nationality, which in the case of the LIBE Committee has a special meaning, because it is an EP body that should ensure the enforcement of the fundamental rights rather than breaking them;
- heard the President note that the Bureau was only being asked to authorise the sending of the LIBE mission to Poland and not its specific composition, which was the prerogative of the LIBE Committee, further noting that the Conference of Presidents on 6 September 2018 had issued a positive recommendation to the Bureau for this mission;
- held an exchange of views of the subject matter with the participation of Ms HAUTALA, Mr WIELAND, Mr KRASNODEBSKI, Vice-Presidents, Mr KARSKI, Quaestor, and the President, who intervened on the various aspects of that matter;
- took note that pursuant to Article 4 of the applicable rules, Members elected in the Member State to which the mission is travelling may accompany the mission, provided that they receive prior authorisation from the Committee concerned, and that in this instance the coordinators of the LIBE Committee had decided that no accompanying Member should join this mission;
- heard Mr KRASNODEBSKI note that the excluded Polish Member of the ECR group was supposed to travel to Poland within the quota attributed to the ECR group (1 place) and not as a Member accompanying the mission;
- noted that the Conference of Presidents at its meeting on 6 September 2018, recommended to the Bureau to authorise the request, subject to the availability of quota for LIBE and on the understanding that the mission shall not exceed three days, including travel time;
- authorised the mission, following a majority vote, in accordance with the recommendation from the Conference of Presidents.

17. Request from the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) for authorisation to send a mission to The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany (Euregio Maas-Rhine), from 29 to 31 October 2018 - Letter from Ms GRÄSSLE, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 29 June 2018 from Ms GRÄSSLE, Chair of the Committee on the Budgetary Control (CONT), requesting authorisation for a six Member CONT mission, plus the Chair travelling out of quota, to the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany (Euregio Maas-Rhine), from 29 to 31 October 2018 (three days, including travel time) (PE 624.950/CPG and financial statement);
- noted that the aim of the mission would be the evaluation of cross-border cooperation in the context of the Euregio Maas-Rhine, which is one of the oldest initiative of this sort in Europe;
- noted that the dates for the mission coincided with three days during a week set aside for external parliamentary activities (from Monday to Wednesday in week 44 - turquoise week);
- noted that the Conference of Presidents at its meeting on 6 September 2018 recommended to authorise the request;
- granted the request in accordance with the recommendation from the Conference of Presidents.

18. Request from the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) for authorisation to send a mission to Slovakia, from 17 to 19 December 2018 - Letter from Ms GRÄSSLE, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 29 June 2018 from Ms GRÄSSLE, Chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT), requesting authorisation for a six Member CONT mission, plus the Chair travelling out of quota, to Bratislava, Slovakia, from 17 to 19 December 2018 (three days, including travel time) (PE 624.951/CPG and financial statement);
- noted that the objective of the CONT mission to Bratislava, Slovakia, would be to look into the administrative and political practices in the area of the common agricultural policy and the management of structural funds in Slovakia;
- recalled that, following the murder of Slovak journalist Ján Kuciak, the Conference of Presidents at its meeting on 7 March 2018, authorised the sending of an eight Member ad hoc delegation to Slovakia, to be composed of one Member from each political group and preferably drawn from the LIBE and CONT committees, from 7 to 9 March 2018, for a fact-finding mission;
- recalled that, on 19 July 2018, the Conference of Presidents authorised by written procedure the sending of an eight Member ad hoc delegation to Malta and Slovakia, from 17 to 19 September 2018, to take stock of the developments regarding the situation of the rule of law, the fight against corruption and the safety of journalists in Malta and Slovakia;
- noted that the dates for the CONT mission to Bratislava, Slovakia, coincided with three days set aside for external parliamentary activities from Monday to Wednesday in week 51 (turquoise week);
- noted that the Conference of Presidents at its meeting on 6 September 2018 recommended to the Bureau to authorise the CONT mission, on the understanding that CONT liaises with LIBE concerning the outcome of the September ad hoc delegation to Slovakia when preparing its mission;
- authorised the request in accordance with the recommendation from the Conference of Presidents.

Public Hearings

19. Request from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) for authorisation to organise a public hearing on ‘the implementation of the Facilitation Directive and humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants’ on 27 September 2018 - Letter from Mr MORAES, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 8 June 2018 from Mr MORAES, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), requesting authorisation to organise a public hearing on ‘the implementation of the Facilitation Directive and humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants’ on 27 September 2018 (PE 625.042/BUR);
- took note of the letter dated 3 July 2018 from Ms WIKSTRÖM, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, providing a competence clearance for this hearing (PE 625.042/BUR/ANN);
- took note that, as the requested hearing is not included in the programme of committees’ public hearings for the second half of 2018, approved by the Bureau on 28 May 2018, 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 LIBE Committee and that reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses of a maximum of two invited experts would be charged to the LIBE’s quota for 2018;
- granted the authorisation requested, on the understanding that the LIBE Committee will remain within its 2018 quota of sixteen paid guests, as, beyond this ceiling, guests cannot be reimbursed;
- invited the LIBE Committee, pursuant to Article 5 of the applicable Rules, to notify the President, prior to the hearing, of the final programme as well as the names and capacities of any invited experts 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.

20. Request from the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) for authorisation to organise a public hearing on the 'Institutional structure and governance of existing forms of enhanced cooperation' on 24 September 2018 - Letter from Ms HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 23 July 2018 from Ms HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) requesting authorisation to organise a public hearing on the 'Institutional structure and governance of existing forms of enhanced cooperation' on 24 September 2018 (PE 625.043/BUR);
- took note that, as the requested hearing is not included in the programme of committees' public hearings for the second half of 2018, approved by the Bureau on 28 May 2018, 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 AFCO Committee and that the invited experts do not require reimbursement of their costs;
- granted the authorisation requested, subject to a competence clearance from the Conference of Committee Chairs, and on the understanding that if any experts require reimbursement of expenses, the AFCO Committee will remain within its 2018 quota of sixteen paid guests, as, beyond this ceiling, guests cannot be reimbursed;
- invited the AFCO Committee, pursuant to Article 5 of the applicable Rules, to notify the President, prior to the hearing, of the final programme as well as the names and capacities of any invited experts 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.

21. Request from the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) for authorisation to organise a public hearing on 'representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers' on 10-11 October 2018 - Letter from Mr SVOBODA, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 28 August 2018 from Mr SVOBODA, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) requesting authorisation to organise a public hearing on 'representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers' on 10-11 October 2018 (PE 625.044/BUR);
- took note that, as the requested hearing is not included in the programme of committees' public hearings for the second half of 2018, approved by the Bureau on 28 May 2018, 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 JURI Committee and that reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses of a maximum of two invited experts would be charged to the JURI's quota for 2018;
- granted the authorisation requested, subject to a competence clearance from the Conference of Committee Chairs, and on the understanding that the JURI Committee will remain within its 2018 quota of sixteen paid guests, as, beyond this ceiling, guests cannot be reimbursed;
- invited the JURI Committee, pursuant to Article 5 of the applicable Rules, to notify the President, prior to the hearing, of the final programme as well as the names and capacities of any invited experts 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 Hemicycle

22. Request from the Committee of the Regions (CoR) to use the Chamber for the Committee's 3 plenary sessions in 2019 (6-7 February, 10-11 April, 26-27 June 2019)
- Letter from Mr LAMBERTZ, President of the Committee of the Regions

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter from Mr LAMBERTZ, President of the European Committee of the Regions), requesting authorisation to reserve the Chamber for the plenary sessions of the Committee of the Regions in 2019 (PE 625.045/BUR) on the following dates:
 - o 6 and 7 February 2019;
 - o 10 and 11 April 2019;
 - o 26 and 27 June 2019.
- took note of the fact that Committee will adopt its positions on the EU's future Multiannual Financial Framework during the February plenary session, hold a major debate on the European elections involving eminent guests during the April session, while a major event linked to the start of the Finnish Presidency is currently being prepared for the June plenary session;
- recalled that the applicable rules provide, on an entirely exceptional basis and subject to a decision of the Bureau, for the possibility for other EU institutions to make use of Parliament's Chamber twice a year for major events;
- recalled the cooperation agreement between the European Parliament and the Advisory committees, approved by the Bureau on 9 December 2013;
- recalled that this agreement foresees, inter alia, that, as of the parliamentary term which started on 1 July 2014, Parliament commits to make appropriate meeting space available to the two Advisory committees over and above the current slots provided, by extending its offer;
- took note of the fact that:

- 6 and 7 February 2019 coincide with the Wednesday and Thursday of a week set aside for meetings of Parliament's committees and political groups,
 - 10 and 11 April 2019 coincide with the Wednesday and Thursday of a week set aside for meetings of Parliament's committees and political groups,
 - 26 and 27 June 2019 coincide with the Wednesday and Thursday of a week set aside for meetings of Parliaments political groups following the European Elections;
- took note that the Committee of the Regions has requested to use the Chamber for plenary sessions in 2019 on three occasions, whereas the applicable rules foresee that the Chamber may be made available no more than twice each year to the other institutions of the European Union;
- took note that a major, one-off event linked to the Finnish Council Presidency would be organised during the Committee's plenary session of 26 and 27 June 2019, which could be considered as justification of the Chamber being requested for a third event within the same year;
- recalled that, pursuant to the Bureau decision of 17 November 2008, "plenary sessions of the European Economic and Social Committee and of the Committee of the Regions should be held during the less busy weeks in Brussels, i.e. preferably during the Strasbourg part-sessions or weeks of external parliamentary activities, so as not to interfere with parliamentary work, which takes priority";
- in the light of the above considerations, the applicable rules, the aforementioned cooperation agreement and the fact that a major, one-off event will be held in conjunction with the Finnish Council Presidency, authorised, on an entirely exceptional basis and without setting a precedent, the use by the Committee of the Regions of the Parliament Chamber in Brussels on the suggested dates, it being understood that all related costs shall be borne by the Committee of the Regions according to the usual practice.

23. Request from the École nationale d'administration (ENA) to use the Chamber for another edition of the Start@Europe event, in collaboration with the ESCP, on 25 and 26 October 2018 - Letter from Mr GÉRARD, Director of the École nationale d'administration

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter from Mr Patrick GERARD, Director of the École nationale d'administration (National School of Administration), requesting authorisation to use the Chamber in Brussels and several other rooms for another edition of the Start@Europe event, in collaboration with the ESCP, on 25 and 26 October 2018 (PE 625.046/BUR).
- took note of the fact that several "Start@Europe" seminars, organised alternately by the ESCP and the ENA, have taken place on Parliament's premises in the last decade;
- took note that the seminar will gather approximately 850 students of more than 40 nationalities, and that it will build on the results of the last EYE event, organised by the Parliament in Strasbourg on 1 and 2 June 2018;
- recalled the provisions of the Rules governing the use of Parliament premises by outside bodies, adopted by the Bureau on 14 March 2000, last amended on 5 February 2018, in particular Article 2 thereof, whereby the Chamber, on an entirely exceptional basis and subject to prior authorisation from the Bureau, may be made available once every parliamentary term to public bodies for events in which Parliament is closely involved;
- recalled that such a request must be supported in writing by at least two, relevant parliamentary committees, noting that so far no such opinions have been received from Parliamentary committees;
- took note of the fact that the ENA has used the Chamber in Strasbourg once in the current term, on 19-21 January 2015, and that the ESCP has used the Chamber in Brussels twice, on 8 and 9 February 2016 and on 30 and 31 October 2017;
- recalled the cooperation agreement between the European Parliament and the ENA signed 8 July 2015, which establishes a close and privileged relationship

between the two institutions, and in particular Article 4.1 thereof, which stipulates that, subject to the availability of rooms, Parliament may host certain events organised by the ENA;

- recalled that the Start@Europe Conference is considered to be an important element in Parliament's project of a citizens' consultation, taking place during one day in Brussels, and bringing together between 600 and 800 students aged between 16 and 26, to discuss and propose ideas for the future of Europe, following earlier preparations based on the 2018 EYE report in the preparation of a Youth Parliament end of November.
- took note of the fact that DG SAFE has issued a favourable security opinion;
- took note that the Chamber in Brussels is not available on 25 October 2018, on which date it has been reserved for a conference organised by the European Union Data Protection Officer, as authorised by the Bureau's decision of 11 September 2017;
- took note that the Chamber is available on 26 October 2018, which coincides with the Friday of a week set aside for Parliament's part-session in Strasbourg;
- took note of the fact that the organisers have been informed of the situation concerning the availability of rooms in the EP on these dates;
- in the light of the above considerations and in view of the cooperation agreement with the ENA and the strategic importance to Parliament's citizen's conference later in 2018, approved the afore-mentioned request, entirely by way of exception and without setting a precedent, on condition that:
 - o the event is either held on different dates, on which the Chamber is available, or in different rooms in the Parliament, to be identified and agreed to in collaboration between the organisers and Parliament's services;
 - o favourable opinions are received from at least two parliamentary committees;
 - o the final number of participants is sufficiently large to justify the use of the Chamber;
 - o the costs arising from this event, estimated at EUR 80 775, shall be fully borne by the organisers in line with the rules in force;

- the event must have no commercial purpose and any kind of sponsorship is prohibited;
- the organisers provide Parliament with the final programme and the list of participants at their earliest convenience.

24. Request from the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) to use the Chamber for a plenary session of the Committee on 17-18 October 2018 - Letter from Mr JAHIER, President of the Economic and Social Committee

The Bureau,

- noted that at the request of the organisers, this request had been withdrawn.

25. Urgent matters and any other business

25.1. Tweet by a Member on the EU-Japan Trade Agreement

The Bureau, with debate,

- heard the President refer to an intervention in Plenary by Mr OMARJEE, Member, who complained about an alleged attempt by Parliament's press service to ask him to withdraw or rectify a tweet he had issued on the undemocratic nature of the EU-Japan Trade Agreement, which, in his opinion, violated his freedom of expression and free mandate as a Member;
- heard the President explain that the related tweet issued by Parliament's press service did not mention the Member by name, but it stated that the EU-Japan Trade agreement was negotiated by the Commission, and that Parliament and Member States were required to subsequently ratify it;
- heard the Secretary-General confirm that the aim of the tweet issued by Parliament's press service was simply to clarify the democratic procedure for the conclusion of such agreements and thus could not be considered to impinge on the Member's freedom of expression.

26. Items for information

The Bureau,

- noted the following documents:

Interinstitutional mail

External mail

Internal mail

- Decision of the Secretary-General on the Provisions applicable to staff interpreters and conference Interpreting Agents at the European Parliament - Note from the Secretary-General (PE 625.048/BUR and Annex)
- Bureau Decision: Appeal of a Member under Article 72(3) of the Implementing Measures for the Statute of Members (IMMS) - Request for Assistance by a disabled Member pursuant to Article 30 (IMMS) (PE 624.909/BUR/Decision) – This document is distributed under Confidential envelope to the Members of the Bureau
- Report on the use of expertise budgets in 2017 - Letter from Ms WIKSTRÖM, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs (PE 625.049/BUR and Annex)
- Annual Activity Reports for 2017 - Note from the Secretary-General (PE 625.050/BUR) - Members can consult the Reports at the Bureau Secretariat
- Report on compliance with payment time limits in 2017 - Note from the Secretary-General (PE 625.051/BUR) - Members can consult the Report at the Bureau Secretariat
- Annual report on the contracts and concessions awarded by the European Parliament in 2017 - Note from the Secretary-General (PE 625.052/BUR) - Members can consult the Report at the Bureau Secretariat

- Hearing on “Inclusive education of children with special needs and disabilities” taking place on 25 September 2018 in the European Parliament
- Letter from Mr PAPANIMOU, Chair of the High-Level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity (PE 625.053/BUR)

- Decision taken on a confirmatory application, pursuant to Article 8(1) of the Regulation (EC) 1049/2001 in accordance with Article 15(2) of the Bureau Decision of 28 November 2001 - Application for public access to a European Parliament document: Lists of affiliated members (national and regional parliaments) of several European parties for the financial years 2011, 2012 and 2013 - Letter from Ms JÁRÓKA, Vice-President responsible for supervising the handling of applications for access to documents (PE 625.054/BUR)

* * *

27. Date and place of next meeting

The Bureau,

- decided to hold its next ordinary meeting on **Monday, 1 October 2018** from **18:30 to 20:30**, in **Room R1.1** in the **Louise WEISS Building** in **Strasbourg**.

*

* *

The meeting closed at 20.23 hours.

* * *