EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

BUREAU

MINUTES

of the ordinary meeting of

03-10-2022

Louise WEISS Building - Room R1.1

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Strasbourg
BUREAU
MINUTES
of the ordinary meeting of Monday, 3 October 2022
from 18:30 to 20:30 hours
Louise WEISS Building - Room R1.1
Strasbourg

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Ms Roberta METSOLA, President of the European Parliament, opened the meeting at 18:30 hours.

Present

Vice-Presidents
- Mr KARAS
- Ms PICIERNO
- Mr SILVA PEREIRA
- Ms KOPACZ
- Ms KAILI
- Ms REGNER
- Mr WIELAND
- Ms BARLEY
- Ms CHARANZOVÁ
- Mr ŠIMEČKA
- Ms BEER
- Mr ZÍLE
- Mr PAPADIMOULIS
- Ms HAUTALA

Quaestors
- Ms SANDER
- Mr HANSEN
- Ms BEŇOVÁ
- Ms KELLER

Excused
- Mr KOLAJA

Also Present
- Mr WELLE, Secretary-General
- Mr WINKLER, Deputy Secretary-General
List of officials present at the meeting:

Invitee for item 4
Mr CLERGEAUD, Internal Auditor

Private Office of the President
Mr CHIOCCCHETTI
Ms ZULETA DE REALES ANSALDO
Mr WEISS
Mr TABONE
Mr LAAS
Mr VERNET
Ms SALVELLI*

Private Office of the Secretary-General
Ms ALTENBERG
Mr MANNELLI*
Mr CAPOGROSSO
Ms DE ANGELIS*
Ms FURNIERE***

Private Office of the Deputy Secretary-General
Mr BURU
Mr SCHWARZ*

Secretariat
Legal Service
Mr DREXLER
DG Internal Policies (IPOL)
Mr RIBERA D’ALCALA
DG External Policies (EXPO)
Ms DOUAUD
DG Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS)
Mr BASSOT
DG Communication (COMM)
Mr DUCH-GUILLOT / Ms COLARD
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 GRZYBOWSKA
DG Finance (FINS)
Mr KLETHI
DG Innovation, Technical Support (ITEC)
Mr PETRUCCI
DG Security and Safety (SAFE)
Ms MARTINEZ IGLESIAS
Director for relations with the political groups
Ms MÜLLER
Conference of President’s Secretariat
Ms WOLLNY
Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)
Ms SCHADE** / Mr RANDIC****

* Remote participation
** Only present for Item 5
*** Only present for Item 6
**** Remote participation but only for Item 5
Political group secretariats

Ms ROIG LINANA (EPP)
Mr HORNAK (S&D)
Ms BOVEINGTON-FAURAN (RENEW EUROPE)
Ms RAGO (ID)
Mr MATANO (ECR)
Mr KONTONIS (THE LEFT)
Ms RUCYTE (NI)

Vice-Presidents' and Quaestors' assistants

Ms STOLBA Mr KARAS
Mr MORI Ms PICIERNO
Mr RIBEIRO DA COSTA Mr SILVA PEREIRA
Ms MAJEWSKA Ms KOPACZ
Mr KATSIKOGIANNIS Ms KAILI
Ms BUCHINGER Ms REGNER
Ms REUTER Mr WIELAND
Ms STEINHÖFEL Ms BARLEY
Mr HILLMAN* Ms CHARANZOVÁ
Ms KRCOVA Mr ŠIMEČKA
Ms BIRTSCH* Ms BEER
Ms ZAKE-BALTA Mr ZÍLE
Mr ALATOPoulos Mr PAPADIMOULIS
Mr RAAPPANA Ms HAUTALA
Ms HUCK HIEBEL Ms SANDER
Mr VAN DEN BOSSCHE Mr HANSEN
Mr VLADAR Ms BEŇOVÁ
Ms BOURGOIN* Ms KELLER
Mr BENCZE Mr KOLAJA

Mr MARTINELLI, Mr ADLER, Mr TYMOWSKI, Ms GIPPERT, Ms KUCHTIKOVA, Mr COBUCCI, Mr WISSWAESSER, Ms MURRAY and Ms GRIMA acted as secretary to the meeting.

* Remote participation
1. **Adoption of draft agenda**

   The Bureau,

   - took note of the draft agenda and adopted it as shown in these minutes (PE 735.138/BUR).
2. **Adoption of the Minutes of the ordinary Bureau meeting of 12 September 2022**

   The Bureau,

   - **approved** the Minutes of the ordinary Bureau meeting of 12 September 2022 (PE 735.049/BUR).
3. Communications by the President

3.1. Excused members and delegation of votes

The Bureau,

- heard the President inform the meeting that:
  
  - Ms KOPACZ, Vice-President, would be chairing the plenary and had delegated her vote to Mr WIELAND, Vice-President,
  
  - Ms CHARANZOVÁ, Vice-President would be chairing the plenary and had delegated her vote to Ms BEER, Vice-President.

3.2. Tragic accident occurred at the ADENAUER building

The Bureau,

- heard the President inform the meeting that following a tragic accident at the ADENAUER West Wing construction site last Friday, an employee of an external construction company lost his life, expressing her sincerest condolences to the family and colleagues of the employee; note that all Parliament's staff working in Luxembourg were immediately informed of this accident, as well as all Luxembourgish Members and the Vice-Presidents responsible for the building policy; report that DG INLO was in contact with the responsible national authorities, providing all the necessary information and co-operation, as well as with the construction company, noting that according to the current state of information, Parliament had acted in full compliance with all the procedures in relation to labour safety and security and adding that DG PERS had arranged psychological support to the colleagues of DG INLO who had been affected by this tragic accident.
3.3. Appointment of three members of the Board of Directors of the Members' Voluntary Pension Fund

The Bureau,

- heard the President inform the meeting that following her consultation on the appointment of three Members to the Board of Directors of the Pension Fund Association and on the basis of the expression of interest she had received, she decided to nominate Mr Othmar KARAS, First Vice-President, Mr Roberts ZILE, Vice-President and Mr Janusz LEWANDOWSKI, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Budgets, as members of the Board of Directors of the Members' Voluntary Pension Fund;

- heard Mr KARAS, First-Vice President, recall that the Voluntary Pension Fund was set up by Parliament and that former Members had already acquired rights or future entitlements in that Fund which should be honoured, noting that Parliament would have to assume and take over its obligations in case of its insolvency, and that a proposal to that effect should be elaborated.
A. DECISIONS/EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

4. The Internal Auditor’s Annual Report for 2021 - in the presence of Mr CLERGEAUD, Internal Auditor

The Bureau, with debate,

- took note of the “Internal Auditor’s Annual Report for 2021” submitted to the Bureau on 13 July 2022 by Mr CLERGEAUD, Internal Auditor (PE 735.141/BUR and annex);

- heard the President introduce the matter by recalling that in accordance with the applicable Rules the Internal Auditor submitted an Annual Report indicating the number and type of internal audits carried out, the recommendations made and the action taken on those recommendations;

- heard the Internal Auditor present his Report, and more specifically:
  
  - recall the obligations set out in the Financial Regulation, the mission of the Internal Audit Service (IAS), as well as the principle of the Internal Auditor’s independence, and methodology of cooperation with the audited entities and ensuring appropriate follow-up to agreed actions,
  
  - refer to the changes in the human resources of the IAS, in addition to him taking over the function of the Internal Auditor on 1 March 2021, with 5 out of 10 auditor posts being vacant at some point during the year, and the position of the IT auditor still being subject to a recruitment procedure (which resulted in postponement of one audit report, whereas work was ongoing with regard to the follow-up of IT-related actions from previous audit reports),
  
  - indicate that the first quarter of the year was focused on completing past assignments and led to the adoption of audit reports in the field of data protection, identity and access management, visitors’ groups and the financing of European political parties and European political foundations,
  
  - recall that the audit report on the local parliamentary assistance was finalised in 2021, with the outcome presented to the Bureau at the moment
of discussing the Annual Report for 2020 on 13 September 2021, and indicate the specific actions agreed with DG FINS,

- indicate that the two follow-up reports covered 99 actions from 22 previous audit exercises (in which no critical risks were identified), that 40% of them were closed by the IAS due to low residual risk, 7 actions were closed on the basis of the management’s acceptance of risk, and that 52 actions remained open for further assessment,

- underline that for three actions identified with critical risk, in the areas of data protection, Visitors’ Groups, and identity and access management, a monitoring of ongoing developments was made even though their due dates were not set for 2021, and the risk was subsequently lowered, as will be reflected in the future follow-up reports,

- report on a consulting assignment on establishing the foundations for data governance, made on request of DG ITEC, and not covered by the follow-up process, and the recommendations made by IAS,

- recall that consultation was done, as planned, with the newly established Authority on the audit on financing European political parties and foundations to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding regarding audit activities involving the Authority, which was eventually signed in January 2022,

- inform that draft reports on staff missions, the procurement process in DG INLO, and the overall assessment of the Parliament’s risk-management framework, were adopted in June and July 2022 and were subject to last consultations,

- indicate that as in previous years, the IAS also conducted audit activities in the Institution of the European Ombudsman,

- refer to the IAS’ own Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme, and an external assessment which resulted in November 2021 in establishing that the Parliament’s IAS maintains the highest level of conformity with the applicable auditing standards,
confirm the independence of the Internal Auditor, and thank the staff of the  
IAS for their work and commitment,

thank the Chair and Members of the Audit Panel for their continuous  
support and advice, and the services of the Secretary-General, as well as  
other Parliament’s entities, for their constructive cooperation;

- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr ZīLE,  
Mr SILVA PEREIRA, Mr ŠIMEČKA, Ms BARLEY, Vice-Presidents, and  
Ms KELLER, Quaestor, who:

  - thanked the Internal Auditor for his presentation, and appreciate the work  
of the IAS, especially in view of the positive outcome of its external  
assessment,

  - acknowledged the improvement of the situation in areas where higher risks  
were identified, and the progress with the follow-up to recommendations  
made in specific audit report,

  - indicated the positive results of the audit report for the Parliament’s  
administration, and its cooperation with the IAS,

  - made specific comments with regard to the staff turnover, the difficulties in  
recruiting IT auditors, as well as cybersecurity,

  - underlined the importance of ensuring correct data protection, especially in  
view of the upcoming European elections,

  - enquired about the differences between Member States in allocating  
Members’ appropriations for local assistants,

  - asked about the Internal Auditor’s possibilities to suggest modifications to  
the Parliament’s internal rules, and the responsibility for their  
implementation or acceptance of risk;

- heard the Internal Auditor respond to individual questions and comments,  
especially with regard to the recruitment procedures, the identification of risk  
and responsibility for implementation of agreed actions, as well as timing of the  
subsequent follow-up reports;
- invited the President to forward the Report to the Committee on Budgetary Control.
5. **Follow-up on measures to lower the European Parliament’s energy consumption -**

**Note from the Secretary-General**

The Bureau, with debate,

- took note of the information provided in the note dated 23 September 2022 from the Secretary-General, entitled ‘Follow-up on measures to lower the European Parliament’s energy consumption’ (PE 735.142/BUR);

- heard the President introduce the matter at hand, stating that the energy situation in the EU and the increase of energy prices to unprecedented levels required the implementation of energy saving measures in addition to the short- and medium-term measures aimed at lowering Parliaments’ energy consumption which were already endorsed by the Bureau on 2 May 2022; adding that numerous Members had approached her on already implemented and possible future measures;

- heard the Secretary-General refer to his note, adding that:

  - Parliament had managed to reduce the mostly fossil-fuel based energy consumption for heating by 26% as well as its electricity consumption by over 25% between 2012 and 2021, while carbon emissions were reduced by 45% in 2021 (compared to the baseline year 2006),

  - the recent massive increase in energy costs rendered additional short-term measures unavoidable,

  - setting heating and cooling temperature in office areas to no more than 19 °C for heating and no less than 25 °C for cooling, respectively, would result in a further reduction of Parliament’s energy consumption by approximately 7%,

  - turning off the heating system and letting the building drift until a minimal temperature as of Thursday evening to Monday morning and over the upcoming holiday periods of All Saints and Christmas/New Year’s would result in significant estimated savings of over EUR 2.5 million in total;

- heard Mr WIELAND, Vice-President with primary responsibility for Buildings, who, *inter alia:*
• underlined that Parliament had already taken numerous actions to reduce energy consumption and had increased its share of renewable energy more than other EU institutions in Brussels, thereby leading by example,

• highlighted that further savings depended on the thermostat settings in all relevant areas of the house,

• stressed in addition that further savings with regard to lighting depended on the proper functioning of the motion sensors and the possibility for “on demand” lighting for corridors in the evening hours should be examined and implemented on a trial basis,

• underlined also that the Bureau decision of April 2019 to charge for the use of electric vehicle power supply stations should be implemented as soon as possible;

- heard Ms HAUTALA, Vice-President with responsibility for Parliament’s Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), who, inter alia:

  • thanked the Secretary-General for his ambitious and rigorous approach in order to achieve further energy savings and highlighted the achievements in the Parliament’s energy performance already made,

  • supported the proposal to further reduce the heating temperature in offices as proposed, thereby following the example of measures taken in many Member States and in other EU institutions, while noting that an adequate temperature should nevertheless be guaranteed in the Parliament’s buildings on Friday as a regular working day;

- held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms BEER, Ms KAILI, Ms BARLEY, Ms REGNER, Mr PAPADIMOULIS, Mr WIELAND and Ms HAUTALA, Vice-Presidents and Mr HANSEN, Ms SANDER and Ms KELLER, Quaestors, who, inter alia:

  • thanked DG INLO, the EMAS and Sustainability Unit and all other services involved for their work,

  • agreed with the proposed measures and pointed out that adequate heating and cooling should be provided during regular working hours on Fridays
and that adjustments might need to be considered for specific individual cases,

- inquired about the control of the heating and air conditioning systems as well as problems with the functioning of the thermostats,
- elaborated about the potential for further energy savings through improving the automatic lighting in Parliament’s premises and exchanged views on the functioning of motion sensors,
- inquired about the energy consumption of Parliament’s IT equipment and data centres,
- discussed about making the use of the charging stations for electric vehicles provided in the three sites of Parliament payable,
- called for the use of innovative techniques to better determine the hours of peak consumption and schedule the use of non-time critical energy intensive equipment and appliances to non-peak demand periods,
- discussed the potential for energy savings from smart elevators with destination control and automatized windows opening and closing as well as possible savings by further reducing the number of trunks sent to Strasbourg for plenary sessions,
- noted the need to improve working conditions in the TREVES I building, in particular related to cooling and heating of the offices spaces,
- suggested launching an additional awareness raising campaign to inform Members and staff about the proposed energy saving measures;

- heard the President recall the high number of requests to illuminate the Parliament’s buildings in different colours at specific occasions and the related high energy costs; and suggest therefore to no longer authorise any requests for the extraordinary illumination of the Parliament’s premises until further notice;

- heard the Secretary-General reply that structural technical decisions were the most important, as such decisions to build new modern buildings or renovate existing ones to modern standards offered the greatest potential for energy
savings; add that the long-term effects of increased teleworking needed to be evaluated and could lead, *inter alia*, to a reduction of the Parliament’s building stock; add that by the end of 2022 about 800 m² solar panels would be installed on Parliament’s buildings in Brussels; underline that energy efficiency should become an important criterion for procurement procedures related to the purchase or use of IT equipment; recall that the energy consumption of Parliament’s data centres would be improved by the upcoming move from the data centre in Belgium to the new data centre in Luxembourg;

- **endorsed** the additional short-term measures as outlined in the note from the Secretary-General as well as the President’s proposal to no longer authorise any requests for the extraordinary illumination of the Parliament’s premises until further notice and **mandated** the responsible services to assess and implement those measures as soon as possible.
6. Solidarity measures in support of the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada - Update and outlook
   - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, with debate,

- took note of the information provided in the note dated 27 September 2022 from the Secretary-General, entitled ‘Solidarity measures in support of the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada - Update and outlook’ (PE 735.143/BUR);

- heard the President explain that the note from the Secretary-General provided an update on solidarity measures and an outlook following his recent mission to Ukraine, recalling that such measures had been discussed by the Bureau on several occasions since Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine and that Parliament’s partnership with the Verkhovna Rada dated back many years;

- heard the Secretary-General:
  - recall that the President had been the first representative of a European Institution to go on mission to Ukraine, at the beginning of the invasion, and that the European Parliament had been the first parliament to be addressed by Mr ZELENSKY, President of Ukraine, which demonstrated the European Parliament's support to Ukraine from the very early stages of the invasion,
  - explain that 25 pallets of IT equipment and two armoured cars had been supplied by Parliament, and that further equipment, expertise and services would be delivered in the near future,
  - explain, further, that the preparations for Ukraine’s accession to the European Union constituted a new area of focus for the cooperation, since Parliament could provide assistance, inter alia, for the drafting of legal texts and the adoption of correct terminology, noting that Parliament’s committees would be in dialogue with the European Union subcommittee created by the Verkhovna Rada and that Parliament staff with experience from previous enlargements would contribute to the process;

- held a debate with the participation of Mr KARAS, Ms BEER, Mr ŽÎLE, Ms REGNER, Mr WIELAND, Ms HAUTALA, Mr ŠIMEĈKA, Mr PAPADIMOULIS, Vice-Presidents, who:
• stressed the importance of coordination of solidarity measures between the parliaments of the European Union within COSAC, the participation of European parties and their foundations in democracy building, the need for training and exchanges on a committee-to-committee basis, noting that only a limited share of Members had previous parliamentary experience,

• recalled that Parliament’s Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee should also be closely associated to the coordination efforts,

• enquired about the prospect of Ukrainian observers in the European Parliament, following the practice from previous enlargements,

• in the context of IT cooperation, requested an update about the state of play of Parliament participation in the e-Parliament initiative of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

• recalled the need to focus on questions of particular relevance to women in Ukraine in general, as well as the question of gender mainstreaming as part of the cooperation, at a later stage, with the Verkhovna Rada, recalling, in this context, the network of female parliament Speakers and the network of female government ministers in Europe,

• stressed the importance of involving Ukrainian civil society organisations as well as trade unions in the democracy building process and social dialogue, inter alia, to ensure the respect of labour law and fair standards,

• observed that questions pertaining to, inter alia, gender mainstreaming and civil society organisations were also relevant to other countries that would potentially accede to the European Union,

• raised the question of participation in the forthcoming G-20 summit meeting, since Russia would also participate,

• suggested that Parliament should put further pressure on the European Commission to implement financial assistance and other measures;

- heard the Secretary-General explain that he had met with the Director of the German Federal Parliament and agreed that the question of coordination should
be raised in the framework of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation;

- **heard** the President express her agreement with the remarks pertaining to the G-20 summit and inform the members of the Bureau that the meeting of female parliament Speakers would take place on 12 October 2022 in Brussels, noting that she would enquire about gender-mainstreaming in the Ukrainian Parliament;

- **endorsed** the solidarity measures in support of the Verkhovna Rada, as outlined in the note from the Secretary-General, including with reference to the accession process of Ukraine to the EU.
B. DECISIONS WITHOUT DEBATE

7. Request to reinforce the Board of Trustees and the Academic Committee of the House of European History by appointing further members to these bodies, and proposal to modify the Internal Rules of Procedure of both bodies - Letter from Mr PÖTTERING, Chairman of the House of European History Board of Trustees

The Bureau, with debate,

- took note of the letter dated 30 July 2022 from Mr PÖTTERING, former President, Chairman of the House of European History Board of Trustees, requesting to reinforce the Board of Trustees and the Academic Committee of the House of European History by appointing further members to these bodies, and proposing to modify the Internal Rules of Procedure of both bodies (PE 735.059/BUR and annexes);

- recalled its decision of 12 December 2018, by which the mandates of the Board of Trustees and the Academic Committee were renewed for a period of five years and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board were re-appointed;

- recalled its decision of 17 June 2019 to approve the appointment of Mr RATHKOLB as Chair and Mr KERSKI as Vice-Chair of the Academic Committee;

- took note of the information provided in the letter that an enlargement of the Board of Trustees with experienced and active Members was deemed necessary in order to expand the House of European History’s outreach and visitor offer in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic;

- took note that Mr PÔTTERING suggested to appoint, as new Members of the Board of Trustees:

  - Mr SILVA PEREIRA, Vice-President with joint responsibility for the House of European History,

  - Mr ŠIMEČKA, Vice-President with joint responsibility for the House of European History,
Mr WELLE, Secretary-General, upon his retirement from that function on 1 January 2023;

- took note that Mr PÖTTERING further suggested to appoint Mr Steven Van HECKE, professor of political science and associate professor of comparative and EU politics at the University of Leuven, Belgium, as new Member of the Academic Committee;

- heard Ms HAUTALA, Vice-President, while expressing support for the proposed candidates, state her reservations regarding the gender balance among members of the Board of Trustees, which would henceforth be composed of only three women and 16 men;

- heard the President recall the institutional roles of the proposed appointees who happened to be men and explain that while there was, indeed, currently not parity in the Board of Trustees and that this situation should be rectified in the long term, it should nonetheless be recalled that the Academic Committee, following the appointment of Mr Van HECKE, would be composed of 11 women and 11 men;

- took note of the modifications proposed to the Rules of Procedure of the Board of Trustees and of the Academic Committee, respectively, of the House of European History, in which it was also suggested, inter alia, to increase the maximum number of members of the two bodies and to specify the participation of the Minister-President of the Capital Region of Brussels among the members ex-officio of the Board of Trustees;

- appointed, as new Members of the Board of Trustees of the House of European History:
  - Mr SILVA PEREIRA, Vice-President with joint responsibility for the House of European History,
  - Mr ŠIMEČKA, Vice-President with joint responsibility for the House of European History,
  - Mr WELLE, Secretary-General, upon his retirement from that function on 1 January 2023;
- approved the appointment of Mr Steven Van HECKE, professor of political science and associate professor of comparative and EU politics and the University of Leuven, Belgium, as new Member of the Academic Committee of the House of European History;

8. Zagreb – Local market Prospection – Assessment of real estate space for the establishment of a House of Europe featuring a Europa Experience - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the information provided in the note dated 16 September 2022 from the Secretary-General, entitled ‘Zagreb – Local market Prospection – Assessment of real estate space for the establishment of a House of Europe featuring a Europa Experience’ (PE 735.144/BUR and annex);

- confirmed that the needs of the institution are best met by installing a House of Europe featuring a Europa Experience in the building located at Bakačevo 3;

- charged the Authorising Officer by delegation to launch the applicable procedure to conclude a building contract.
The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the information provided in the note dated 16 September 2022 from the Secretary-General, entitled ‘Stockholm – Local market prospection – Assessment of real estate space for the establishment of offices for the House of Europe’ (PE 735.145/BUR);

- confirmed that the needs of the institution are best met by installing offices and a conference facility as part of a new House of Europe in the building on Vasagatan 7;

- charged the Authorising Officer by delegation to launch the applicable procedure to conclude a building contract.
10. Paris – Outcome of the negotiations for a House of Europe - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, with debate,

- took note of the information provided in the note dated 23 September 2022 from the Secretary-General, entitled 'Paris – Outcome of the negotiations for a House of Europe' (PE 735.146/BUR and financial statement);

- heard Mr WIELAND, Chair of the Working Group on Buildings, Transport and a Green Parliament, support the proposal, point out that the second sentence in the summary of the note is not correct, that instead the Bureau held a vote which resulted in a tie and ended with an adjournment of the decision to rent or purchase premises and that he had proposed to change the relevant minutes as they did not reflect the exact course of the meeting;

- approved the signature of a lease contract as per the conditions outlined in the note from the Secretary-General to rent office space for the prospective European Parliament Liaison Office in Paris, located at rue de la Victoire 52;

- asked the Secretary-General to transmit the dossier to the Committee on Budgets in accordance with Article 266(3) of the Financial Regulation.
Committee missions within the EU, Candidate countries and the EEA countries

11. Request from the Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of the Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA) for authorisation to send a mission to Greece and Cyprus from 1 to 4 November 2022 - Letter from Mr LENAERS, Chair of the committee of inquiry concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 14 September 2022 by Mr LENAERS, Chair of the Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of the Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA), requesting authorisation to send a mission to Athens, Greece, and to Nicosia, Cyprus, for nine Members plus the PEGA Chair and the PEGA Rapporteur, to gather information and facts in relation to the use of Predator spyware, from 1 to 4 November 2022 (four days including travel time) (PE 735.117/CPG, annex and financial statement);

- recalled that pursuant to Article 7 of the applicable Rules, in principle, the duration of missions may not exceed three days, including journey times, whereas in exceptional cases, if it is necessary to undertake a long journey or links to the destination are poor, a mission may be granted up to two days’ additional journey time;

- noted that in line with the applicable Rules, the above mission is planned during days set aside for external parliamentary activities (from Tuesday to Friday of week 44);

- noted that interpretation has been requested into five languages and will be provided according to availability and in line with the Code of Conduct on Multilingualism;

- took note that the cost of the mission is estimated at EUR 76 693;

- noted that the Conference of Presidents at its meeting of 29 September 2022, recommended to the Bureau to authorise the mission, on an exceptional basis, provided that resources are available;

- granted the request in accordance with the recommendation by the Conference of Presidents.
Public Hearings

12. Request from the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) for authorisation of a joint public hearing entitled ‘Depathologisation of transgender and non-binary persons’ on 27 October 2022 - Co-signed letter from Mr CANFIN and Mr LÓPEZ AGUILAR, Chairs of the respective committees concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 13 September 2022 co-signed by Mr CANFIN, Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) and Mr LÓPEZ AGUILAR, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), requesting authorisation to organise a joint public hearing entitled ‘Depathologisation of transgender and non-binary persons’ on 27 October 2022 (PE 735.147/BUR, annex and financial statement);

- took note of the letter dated 7 July 2022 from Mr LANGE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, providing competence clearance for this hearing (PE 735.147/BUR/COMPL);

- took note that the requested hearing is not included in the programme of committees’ public hearings for the second semester of 2022, authorised by the Bureau at its meeting of 6 June 2022, and consequently requires a specific individual authorisation by the Bureau under Article 3(3) of the applicable Rules;

- took note that the requested hearing is scheduled to take place on 27 October 2022 at a time set aside for the requesting committees and that the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses of up to four invited guests will take place within the respective ENVI and LIBE quotas for 2022;

- granted the authorisation requested on the understanding that the ENVI and the LIBE Committees will remain within their 2022 annual quotas of paid guests, as beyond this ceiling guests cannot be reimbursed;

- invited the ENVI and the LIBE Committees, pursuant to Article 5 of the applicable Rules, to notify the President, prior to the hearing, of the final programme, the exact timing, as well as the names and capacities of the invited
experts and, if applicable, whether the latter comply with the registration requirements of the Transparency Register, as required by Article 7 of the applicable Rules.
13. **Request from the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) for authorisation to change the title of a public hearing already approved by the Bureau in the Programme of Hearings for the 2nd half of 2022 originally entitled ‘Impact of the international crisis on EU agri-food markets and food security and its agricultural production capacity’ to the revised title of ‘Ukraine war crisis: impact on EU agriculture and food security’, taking place on 25 October 2022 - Letter from Mr LINS, Chair of the committee concerned**

*The Bureau, without debate,*

- **took note** of the letter dated 14 July 2022 from Mr LINS, Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), requesting authorisation to change the title of a public hearing already approved by the Bureau in the Programme of Hearings for the 2nd half of 2022 originally entitled ‘Impact of the international crisis on EU agri-food markets and food security and its agricultural production capacity’ to the revised title of ‘Ukraine war crisis: impact on EU agriculture and food security’, taking place on 25 October 2022 (PE 735.148/BUR and annex);

- **took note** of the letter dated 15 September 2022 from Mr LANGE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, providing competence clearance for this hearing (PE 735.148/BUR/COMPL);

- **took note** that the requested hearing is included in the programme of committees’ public hearings for the second semester of 2022, authorised by the Bureau at its meeting of 6 June 2022, with a significant different title and consequently requires a specific individual authorisation by the Bureau under Article 3(3) of the applicable Rules;

- **took note** that the requested hearing is scheduled to take place on 25 October 2022, and that the programme of committees’ public hearings for the second semester of 2022 states that the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses of up to four invited guests will take place within the AGRI quota for 2022;
- granted the authorisation requested on the understanding that the AGRI Committee will remain within its 2022 annual quota of paid guests, as beyond this ceiling guests cannot be reimbursed;

- invited the AGRI Committee, pursuant to Article 5 of the applicable Rules, to notify the President, prior to the hearing, of the final programme, the exact timing, as well as the names and capacities of the invited experts and, if applicable, whether the latter comply with the registration requirements of the Transparency Register, as required by Article 7 of the applicable Rules.
14. **Request from the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) for authorisation of a public hearing entitled ‘Sexual violence and rape as abuses of power’ on 13 October 2022 - Letter from Mr BIEDROŃ, Chair of the committee concerned**

The Bureau, without debate,

- **took note** of the letter dated 1 August 2022 from Mr BIEDROŃ, Chair of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM), requesting authorisation to organise a public hearing entitled ‘Sexual violence and rape as abuses of power on 13 October 2022 (PE 735.149/BUR, annex and financial statement);

- **took note** of the letter dated 15 September 2022 from Mr LANGE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, providing competence clearance for this hearing (PE 735.149/BUR/COMPL);

- **took note** that the requested hearing is not included in the programme of committees’ public hearings for the second semester of 2022, authorised by the Bureau at its meeting of 6 June 2022, and consequently requires a specific individual authorisation by the Bureau under Article 3(3) of the applicable Rules;

- **took note** that the requested hearing is scheduled to take place on 13 October 2022 at a time set aside for the FEMM Committee and that the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses of up to two invited guests will take place within the respective FEMM quota for 2022;

- **granted** the authorisation requested on the understanding that the FEMM Committee will remain within its 2022 annual quota of paid guests, as beyond this ceiling guests cannot be reimbursed;

- **invited** the FEMM Committee, pursuant to Article 5 of the applicable Rules, to notify the President, prior to the hearing, of the final programme, the exact timing, as well as the names and capacities of the invited experts and, if applicable, whether the latter 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 to investigate the use of the Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA) for authorisation of a public hearing entitled ‘The impact of Spyware on Fundamental Rights’, on 20 October 2022 - Letter from Mr LENAERS, Chair of the committee of inquiry concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 13 September 2022 from Mr LENAERS, Chair of the Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of the Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA), requesting authorisation to organise a public hearing entitled ‘The impact of Spyware on Fundamental Rights’, on 20 October 2022 (PE 735.150/BUR, annex and financial statement);

- took note that the requested hearing is not included in the programme of committees’ public hearings for the second semester of 2022, authorised by the Bureau at its meeting of 6 June 2022, and consequently requires a specific individual authorisation by the Bureau under Article 3(3) of the applicable Rules;

- took note that the requested hearing is scheduled to take place on 20 October 2022 at a time set aside for the requesting committee and that the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses of up to two invited guests will take place within the PEGA quota for 2022;

- granted the authorisation requested subject to a competence clearance from the Conference of Committee Chairs, and on the understanding that the PEGA Committee of Inquiry will remain within their 2022 annual quotas of paid guests, as beyond this ceiling guests cannot be reimbursed;

- invited the PEGA committee of Inquiry, pursuant to Article 5 of the applicable Rules, to notify the President, prior to the hearing, of the final programme, the exact timing, as well as the names and capacities of the invited experts and, if applicable, whether the latter comply with the registration requirements of the Transparency Register, as required by Article 7 of the applicable Rules.
16. **Request from the Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of the Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA) for authorisation of a public hearing entitled ‘Country-hearing: Germany’, on 14 November 2022 - Letter from Mr LENAERS, Chair of the committee of inquiry concerned**

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 13 September 2022 from Mr LENAERS, Chair of the Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of the Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA), requesting authorisation to organise a public hearing entitled ‘Country-hearing: Germany’, on 14 November 2022 (PE 735.151/BUR, annex and financial statement);

- took note that the requested hearing is not included in the programme of committees’ public hearings for the second semester of 2022, authorised by the Bureau at its meeting of 6 June 2022, and consequently requires a specific individual authorisation by the Bureau under Article 3(3) of the applicable Rules;

- took note that the requested hearing is scheduled to take place on 14 November 2022 at a time set aside for the requesting committee and that the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses of up to two invited guests will take place within the PEGA quota for 2022;

- granted the authorisation requested subject to a competence clearance from the Conference of Committee Chairs, and on the understanding that the PEGA Committee of Inquiry will remain within their 2022 annual quotas of paid guests, as beyond this ceiling guests cannot be reimbursed;

- invited the PEGA committee of Inquiry, pursuant to Article 5 of the applicable Rules, to notify the President, prior to the hearing, of the final programme, the exact timing, as well as the names and capacities of the invited experts and, if applicable, whether the latter 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 to investigate the use of the Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA) for authorisation of a public hearing entitled ‘The impact of Spyware on Democracy and Electoral processes’ on 26 October 2022

- Letter from Mr LENAERS, Chair of the committee of inquiry concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 13 September 2022 from Mr LENAERS, Chair of the Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of the Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA), requesting authorisation to organise a public hearing entitled ‘The impact of Spyware on Democracy and Electoral processes’ on 26 October 2022 (PE 735.152/BUR, annex and financial statement);

- took note that the requested hearing is not included in the programme of committees’ public hearings for the second semester of 2022, authorised by the Bureau at its meeting of 6 June 2022, and consequently requires a specific individual authorisation by the Bureau under Article 3(3) of the applicable Rules;

- took note that the requested hearing is scheduled to take place on 26 October 2022 at a time set aside for the requesting committee and that the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses of up to two invited guests will take place within the PEGA quota for 2022;

- granted the authorisation requested subject to a competence clearance from the Conference of Committee Chairs, and on the understanding that the PEGA Committee of Inquiry will remain within their 2022 annual quotas of paid guests, as beyond this ceiling guests cannot be reimbursed;

- invited the PEGA committee of Inquiry, pursuant to Article 5 of the applicable Rules, to notify the President, prior to the hearing, of the final programme, the exact timing, as well as the names and capacities of the invited experts and, if applicable, whether the latter comply with the registration requirements of the Transparency Register, as required by Article 7 of the applicable Rules.
18. Request from the Special Committee on ‘COVID-19 pandemic: lessons learned and recommendations for the future’ (COVI) for authorisation of a public hearing ‘with Ministers from the Global South, and Director-Generals of the WHO and WTO, focusing on WHO pandemic treaty, the performance of COVAX, the inclusion of non-WHO-members, trade barriers and the WTO TRIPS waiver’ taking place over 3 panels on 13, 26 and 27 October 2022 - Letter from Ms VAN BREMPT, Chair of the special committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter dated 14 June 2022 from Ms VAN BREMPT, Chair of the Special Committee on ‘COVID-19 pandemic: lessons learned and recommendations for the future’ (COVI), requesting authorisation to organise a public hearing ‘with Ministers from the Global South, and Director-Generals of the WHO and WTO, focusing on WHO pandemic treaty, the performance of COVAX, the inclusion of non-WHO-members, trade barriers and the WTO TRIPS waiver’ taking place over 3 panels on 13, 26 and 27 October 2022 (PE 735.153/BUR, annexes and financial statement);

- took note of the letter dated 8 June 2022 from Mr LANGE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, providing competence clearance for this hearing (PE 735.153/BUR/COMPL);

- took note that the requested hearing is scheduled to take place over 3 panels on 13, 26 and 27 October 2022 at a time set aside for the requesting committee and that the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses of invited guests will take place within the COVI quota for 2022;

- granted the authorisation requested on the understanding that the COVI Special Committee will remain within its 2022 annual quotas of paid guests, as beyond this ceiling guests cannot be reimbursed;

- invited the COVI Special Committee, pursuant to Article 5 of the applicable Rules, to notify the President, prior to the hearing, of the final programme, the exact timing, as well as the names and capacities of the invited experts and, if applicable, whether the latter comply with the registration requirements of the Transparency Register, as required by Article 7 of the applicable Rules.
19. **Urgent matters and any other business**

19.1. **Request from the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) for authorisation of a public hearing entitled ‘Uber files, lobbying and workers' rights’ on 25 October 2022 - Letter from Mr PÎSLARU, Chair of the committee concerned**

The Bureau, without debate,

- **took note** of the letter dated 15 September 2022 from Mr PÎSLARU, Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL), requesting authorisation to organise a public hearing entitled ‘Uber files, lobbying and workers' rights’ on 25 October 2022 (PE 735.159/BUR, annex and financial statement);

- **took note** of the letter dated 26 September 2022 from Mr PÎSLARU, Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) informing the President about organisational changes that require a faster authorization from the Bureau than originally envisaged (PE 735.159/BUR/COMPL);

- **took note** that the requested hearing is not included in the programme of committees’ public hearings for the second semester of 2022, authorised by the Bureau at its meeting of 6 June 2022, and consequently requires a specific individual authorisation by the Bureau under Article 3(3) of the applicable Rules;

- **took note** that the requested hearing is scheduled to take place on 25 October 2022 at a time set aside for the EMPL Committee and that the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses of up to four invited guests will take place within the respective EMPL quota for 2022;

- **granted** the authorisation requested, subject to a competence clearance from the Conference of Committee Chairs and on the understanding that the EMPL Committee will remain within its 2022 annual quota of paid guests, as beyond this ceiling guests cannot be reimbursed;

- **invited** the EMPL Committee, pursuant to Article 5 of the applicable Rules, to notify the President, prior to the hearing, of the final programme, the exact timing, as well as the names and capacities of the invited experts and, if applicable, whether the latter comply with the registration requirements of the Transparency Register, as required by Article 7 of the applicable Rules.
19.2. **Complaint against the Chair of the Committee on Petitions**

The Bureau.

- heard Ms BARLEY, Vice-President, refer to the letter co-signed by the S&D, the Greens and the Left Coordinators of the Committee on Petitions (PETI), addressed to the President and the members of the Bureau, in which they complained against the Chair of the PETI Committee for a breach of the Rules of Procedure, which according to them occurred during the PETI Committee meeting in September 2022 and asked about the follow-up;

- heard the President confirm that she had received the aforementioned letter on 29 September 2022, and that the PETI Chair had provided her with the answers to the allegations made, which she would forward to the members of the Bureau for information, noting that she would look into the matter and discuss the issue at stake with the PETI Chair and the Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs.

19.3. **Third Edition of the Gender Equality Week**

The Bureau.

- heard Ms REGNER, Vice-President responsible for the Gender Equality Week, inform the meeting about the ongoing preparations for the third European Gender Equality Week which would be organised during the last week of October 2022, involving all parliamentary committees and delegations as well as external partners, such as the European Institute for Gender Equality, or other European institutions, bodies and agencies which showed their interest in joining the initiative, noting that this Week gave a great opportunity to address the issues of the advancement of gender equality and women's rights as well as to highlight the leading role of the European Parliament in this area;

- heard the President, thank Ms REGNER for the information provided and her commitment to this important initiative, recalling that it was the first time that a Vice-President had been entrusted with this portfolio; express her support for it
and convey best wishes for its successful organisation, thanking all services
involved in its preparation.

19.4. **State of play of the strike actions by the interpreters**

**The Bureau,**

- **heard** Ms REGNER, Vice-President, enquire about the state of play of the
  situation concerning the strike actions by the interpreters;

- **heard** the President recall that Parliament’s interpreters went on strike on 28
  June 2022, deciding not to interpret any remote interventions, regardless of the
  sound quality and that only interventions from the meeting room were still
  interpreted; note that regrettably, the social dialogue between interpreters and
  the administration had so far not been making progress, which resulted in the
  prolongation of the strike until Wednesday 12 October 2022; she therefore
  agreed to the request of the interpreters to have a new format for negotiations
  with the direct involvement of her Cabinet, noting that Mr KNUDSEN,
  Director-General of DG PERS and Ms WALTER-DROP, Director-General of DG
  LINC would convey a new meeting on Tuesday, 4 October 2022 at 16:30 with
  all parties involved, whereby her Head of Cabinet was entrusted with the task
  of mediating during the social dialogue meetings, reaffirming her commitment
  to find a productive solution as soon as possible, in the interest of a smooth
  running of Parliament, and suggest to report back to the Bureau on the outcome.
20. **Items for information**

The Bureau,

- took note of the following documents:

  - Interinstitutional mail
  - External mail
  - Internal mail

  - Draft Budget 2023 Amending Letter (AL 1/2023) - Technical update - Draft Amending Budget 5/2022 - Note from the Secretary-General (PE 735.154/BUR and annexes)

  - Annual report on contracts and concessions awarded by the European Parliament in 2021 - Note from the Secretary-General (PE 735.155/BUR)

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21. **Date of next meeting**

The Bureau,

- decided to hold its next ordinary meeting on **Monday, 17 October 2022**.

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The meeting closed at 20:34 hours.

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