EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

BUREAU

MINUTES

of the ordinary meeting of

11-03-2024

Louise WEISS Building - Room R1.1

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Strasbourg
BUREAU

MINUTES

of the ordinary meeting of Monday, 11 March 2024
from 18.00 to 20.00 hours

Louise WEISS Building - Room R1.1

Strasbourg

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15. Items for information

16. Date of next meeting
Ms Roberta METSOLA*, President of the European Parliament, opened the meeting at 18:04 hours.

Presence list

Vice-Presidents

Mr KARAS*  Ms PICIERNO
Mr SILVA PEREIRA*  Ms REGNER
Ms KOPACZ*  Mr OETJEN
Mr ANGEL*  Mr WIELAND*
Ms BARLEY**  Ms CHARANZOVÁ*
Mr HOJSÍK*  Mr ZĪLE***
Mr PAPADIMOULIS*  Ms HAUTALA*

Excused

Ms Sander*  Ms WISELER-LIMA***
Mr NEGRESCU  Mr KELLER*

Quaestors

Ms Sander*  Mr KOLAJA
Ms WISELER-LIMA***
Mr NEGRESCU
Ms KELLER*

Also Present

Mr CHIOCCHETTI*, Secretary-General
Mr WINKLER*, Deputy Secretary-General, Director-General of DG Presidency (PRES)
Mr RASMUSSEN*, Deputy Secretary-General, Director-General of DG Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS)

* Present, also for the in camera part
** Remote participation but not for the in camera part
*** Remote participation, also for the in camera part
List of officials present at the meeting:

Private Office of the President
Ms ZULETA DE REALES ANSALDO*
Mr TABONE*
Mr GABRIEL
Mr VERNET
Mr TIMONEN
Mr ALONSO DE LEON
Ms SALVELLI**

Private Office of the Secretary-General
Mr WEISS*
Ms VOLPI
Mr CAPOGROSSO
Ms DE ANGELIS
Mr TOMAC*
Mr MARTIN LEON****
Mr HAUk*****

Private Office of the Deputy Secretaries-General
Mr BURU
Mr SCHWARZ**
Mr NODARI

Secretariat
DG Internal Policies of the Union (IPOL) Mr MANGOLD
DG External Policies of the Union (EXPO) Mr DUCCI
DG Communication (COMM) Mr DUCH-GUILLOT
Ms COLARD
DG Parliamentary Democracy Partnerships (PART) Ms LEPOLA
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 and Technological Support (ITEC) Mr MANNELLI, Mr MAMELI***,
Ms BOSCHETTO***,
Ms COBO*****
DG Security and Safety (SAFE) Ms MARTINEZ IGLESIAS**
Legal Service Mr DREXLER*
Director for relations with the political groups Ms MÜLLER
Directorate for Innovation and Central Services Ms ALELIUNAITE***
Conference of President’s Secretariat Ms WOLLNY

* Present, also for the in camera part
** Remote participation, but not for the in camera part
*** Present, but only for Item 5
**** Remote participation, but only for Items 4 and 5
***** Remote participation, but only for Item 5
Political groups

Mr BUSUTTIL** (EPP)
Ms ROIG LINANA (EPP)
Mr HORNAK (S&D)
Mr WIJNSMA (RENEW EUROPE)
Ms McCOURT (ECR)
Mr KONTONIS (THE LEFT)
Mr HOLZFEIND (ID)
Ms RUCYTE (NI)

Vice-Presidents’ and Quaestors’ assistants

Ms STOLBA Mr KARAS
Mr MORI Ms PICIERNO
Mr RIBEIRO DA COSTA Mr SILVA PEREIRA
Ms KLIMEK Ms KOPACZ
Mr GÜR Mr ANGEL
Ms BUCHINGER** Ms REGNER
Ms SCHWEIZER Mr WIELAND
Mr PESCHER Ms BARLEY
Mr HILLMAN Ms CHARANZOVA
Ms KRCOVA Mr HOJSÍK
Mr MACHURA Mr OETJEN
Ms ZAKE-BALTA Mr ŽILE
Mr ALATOPoulos Mr PAPADIMOULIS
Mr RAAPPANA** Ms HAUTALA
Ms HUCK HIEBEL Ms SANDER
Ms KAVALIERAKIS Ms WISELER-LIMA
Ms GENEROSO Ms KELLER
Mr BENCZE** Mr KOLAJA

Bureau Secretariat

Mr MARTINELLI*, Ms KUCHTIKOVA**, Mr COBUCCI, Ms FÜLLENBACH**, Mr SCRIMALI, Ms MAJEWSKA, Ms CHOMICKA**, Ms MURRAY, Ms GRIMA** acted as secretary to the meeting.

* Present, also for the in camera part
** Remote participation
1. Adoption of draft agenda

The Bureau,

- noted the draft agenda and adopted it as shown in these minutes (PE 755.608/BUR).
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the ordinary Bureau meeting of 26 February 2024

   The Bureau,

   - approved the Minutes of the ordinary Bureau meeting of 26 February 2024 (PE 755.552/BUR).
3. Communications by the President

3.1. Excused members and delegations of vote

The Bureau,

- heard the President inform the meeting that:

  - Mr OETJEN, Vice-President, was chairing the plenary until 20.00 hours and had delegated his vote to Ms CHARANZOVÁ, Vice-President,

  - Ms REGNER and Ms PICIERNO, Vice-Presidents, were excused and had delegated their vote to Mr SILVA PEREIRA, Vice-President,

  - Ms BARLEY, Vice-President, was connected remotely but would have to leave the meeting before its end and had therefore delegated her vote to Mr SILVA PEREIRA, Vice-President, during her absence,

  - Mr ŽÎLE, Vice-President, was connected remotely and in case of technical problems with his remote connection, had delegated his vote to Mr WIELAND, Vice-President,

  - Ms WISELER-LIMA, Quaestor, was connected remotely.

3.2. Request to allow the use of Spanish co-official regional languages during Parliament's plenary sessions

The Bureau,

- heard the President:

  - refer to the letter dated 1 March 2024 from Mr José Manuel ALBARES, Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation requesting to allow the use of Spanish co-official regional languages during Parliament's plenary sessions,

  - recall that the Spanish Government had requested the Council to amend regulation 1/1958 to include Catalan, Basque and Galician as official languages of the Union,
• note that the General Affairs Council had discussed the request of the Spanish Government on 19 September 2023 and 24 October 2023, adding that, in the meantime, the Commission had been requested to prepare a technical analysis of the cost implications of this request,

• informed the meeting that as requested by the Bureau, Parliament’s services have also been assessing the impact of the request made by the Spanish government with a view to reverting the matter to the Bureau in due course.
A. DECISIONS/EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

4. European elections institutional communication strategy - State of play - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, with debate,

- took note of the information provided in the note dated 5 March 2024 from the Secretary-General entitled ‘European elections institutional communication strategy - State of play’ (PE 755.623/BUR);

- heard the President introduce the matter at hand by recalling that the European elections would take place in less than 90 days and that the note submitted by the Secretary-General provided an update on Parliament’s institutional communication strategy with initiatives aimed at increasing citizens’ awareness and engagement, and by thanking the Bureau Working Group on Information and Communication Policy for its work;

- heard Mr KARAS, First Vice-President and Chair of the Bureau Working Group on Information and Communication Policy, thank the members of the Working Group for their cooperation and the competent services for their support, and point out, inter alia, that:

  - the note submitted by the Secretary-General provided an overview of the institutional campaign and its state of play against the cornerstones decided by the Bureau,

  - the last and most decisive phase of the strategy would start on 26 April 2024, when the end of the last part-session of the current term would be marked by a high-profile media event, and would aim at raising awareness amongst voters and favour a high turnout,

  - in particular, polls which had been carried out so far, seemed to indicate that the turnout might possibly be higher than in 2019, as it emerged that 60% of Europeans were interested in the European elections and 70% of them believed that the European Union had an impact on their daily lives,
• it would be crucial to underline the importance of the European elections for an authentic European democracy and to inform citizens about the achievements of the European Parliament,

• it would also be essential to repeat the efforts of 2019, when the political groups cooperated with the initiatives aiming at disseminating information ahead of the elections,

• an important role would be played by interinstitutional cooperation and collaboration with the relevant media and local networks, and by candidates using the information tools made available by Parliament,

• the ‘go-to-vote’ phase of the communication strategy would be more intense, yet always characterised by an institutional approach, and more focus would be given to the Spitzenkanditaten in the context of a specific media event,

• the political groups would have a role to play in promoting the values and benefits of liberal democracy in Europe;

- heard Ms BARLEY, Vice-President and First Vice-Chair of the Bureau Working Group on Information and Communication Policy, thank Mr KARAS, First Vice-President and Chair of the Bureau Working Group on Information and Communication Policy, along with the other members of the Working Group and the competent services, and point out, in particular, that:

  • the institutional campaign, including its ‘go-to-vote’ phase, was to be welcomed for its aim to improve the possible turnout and reinforce Parliament’s role as the only democratically elected EU institution,

  • the elections’ website had been improved, notably as regards its ‘how-to-vote’ section which would provide very useful information in plain, accessible language,

  • special focus should be given to young people, especially since in a few countries 16-year-old citizens would be allowed to vote for the first time, and to the social networks they use in order to make Parliament and its activities closer to them,
- cooperation for a good turnout would be essential in order to have a strong Parliament being able to face the challenges of the present time;

- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr HOJSÍK, Ms CHARANZOVÁ, Mr PAPADIMOULIS, Ms HAUTALA, Vice-Presidents, and Ms KELLER and Ms SANDER, Quaestors, who, inter alia:
  - thanked the Chair, the Vice-Chairs and the members of the Bureau Working Group on Information and Communication Policy for their work,
  - thanked the President for her efforts to mobilise citizens, especially young people, during her official visits as part of the ‘get out the vote’ campaign she is heading in Members States,
  - suggested that EU Member States with a particularly low turnout should deserve specific attention and initiatives with a view to promoting voters’ participation,
  - welcomed the use of simple language throughout the campaign for its aptitude to convey an effective message and mobilise voters, and flagged up campaigns launched by other institutions that had not chosen the same approach,
  - stressed the need for tailor-made initiatives reflecting the specificities of each Member State and agreed that a one-size-fits-all approach would be ineffective,
  - called for actual enforcement of the Digital Services Act because of the impact it would have on the way social platforms deal with elections,
  - suggested to enhance Parliament’s presence on social media to take advantage of the new communication channels and make its voice better heard,
  - considered that disinformation during the electoral campaign would be a real challenge for democracy,
suggested that the campaign’s top priority should be reaching out to young people, as the most pro-European part of society, and to women, amongst other categories,

enquired as to which specific initiatives had been planned for the election night in Strasbourg and Luxembourg and how the ‘one-month-ahead’ event in April would look like concretely,

recalled that political groups would also have to play an important role during the campaign to mobilise voters, especially as regards to topics on which they should take a position;

- heard Mr KARAS, First Vice-President, in reply to the questions, explain that:
  - Parliament’s initiatives would always remain institutional and neutral, so as to complement the natural role of political parties, and aim, at the same time, at raising awareness among the largest possible number of Europeans,
  - the call to vote for the European elections would be a call for European citizens to position themselves on the side of European democracy,
  - programmes for specific Member States, including specific regions, had been envisaged,
  - programmes for visitor groups should also be regarded as an excellent opportunity to open up Parliament and bringing it closer to citizens, as a kind of permanent institutional campaign;

- heard the Secretary-General, in reply to the questions, explain that:
  - a debate with the Spitzenkandidaten would take place on 23 May in Brussels in cooperation with DG COMM, European political parties and the European Broadcasting Union,
  - an election night would take place on 9 June in the Chamber in Brussels in the presence of around 1000 journalists reporting on the European elections, with estimates, provisional results and final results being gathered live,
in Strasbourg, an event similar to the one that took place in 2019 would also be organised with the participation of all relevant stakeholders,

- a specific brand of the campaign targeting Member States with low turnout, focusing on advertising on TV and radio channels and reaching out to peripheral areas would also be implemented;

- heard the President conclude that the specificities of individual Member States should always be taken into account, together with the potential of social media, especially vis-à-vis of young voters, and that the election night on 9 June would be an excellent opportunity to enhance Parliament’s visibility;

- took note of the state-of-play of Parliament’s institutional communication strategy for the 2024 European elections.
5. **Artificial Intelligence - A governance framework - Note from the Secretary-General**

   The Bureau, with debate,

   - took note of the information provided in the note dated 5 March 2024 from the Secretary-General entitled ‘Artificial Intelligence - A governance framework’ (PE 755.624/BUR);

   - heard the President introduce the matter at hand by recalling that on 22 February 2024, the ICT Working Group held a debate on the governance framework for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and underline the importance of having a clear governance framework for developing an AI strategy;

   - heard Mr ANGEL, Vice-President and Chair of the Bureau Working Group on ICT Innovation Strategy explain, *inter alia*, that:

     - the exploration of possibilities offered by AI was part of the ICT Strategic Orientations since the beginning of the current Legislative Term with the aim to gain understanding and expertise on automation, analytics and the way algorithms work in AI,

     - the emergence of conversational systems based on generative Artificial Intelligence and the pervasiveness of AI into solutions that Parliament acquired from the market, had already brought AI into Parliament’s daily activities,

     - the expected entry into force of the AI act required a level of readiness for the Institution that must ensure compliance and build trust in such technologies,

     - a robust governance framework was required to ensure clarity on the scope of AI in Parliament, define key roles in administrations and reporting mechanisms, establish priority actions and the use cases on which to invest, define a validation process that provides the necessary assurance and ensures that AI remains under human control,

     - AI should be at the service of Members and the Administration, limiting its scope to empowering Members in fulfilling their mandates and supporting
the Administration in increasing the quality and diversity of the services they provide,

- a dedicated governance body, including IT services, core Legislative services and other supporting services, would ensure identifying the use cases that correspond to actual needs,

- by defining a Roadmap that includes key capabilities to be established, initiatives and timelines, Parliament would maintain AI-related activities to be transparent and subject to regular reviews by political authorities,

- the risk and compliance checks aligned the governance framework with the AI act and included four main assessments in order for the initiatives to be validated,

- non-compliance with the assessment process would lead to the suspension of the AI project,

- Parliament must exercise caution and ensure that every expenditure serves a clear purpose and delivers maximum value to citizens,

- facilitating efficient collaboration amongst institutions was crucial to avoid redundant investments in similar projects by optimising the use of resources;

- held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms CHARANZOVÁ, Mr WIELAND and Mr PAPADIMOULIS, Vice-Presidents, who, *inter alia*:

  - welcomed the governance framework which would facilitate the application of AI to Parliament in a sustainable, transparent and harmonised way, multiplying the positive effects in support of Members and staff,

  - enquired about the integration of AI generative software in Microsoft products, some of which were currently being used by Parliament,

  - underlined the importance of a coordinated approach based on inter-DG cooperation, exchange of information and best practices, to have uniformity in the use of AI,
• proposed to strengthen the cooperation with national Parliaments for sharing experiences, best practices and building a culture of AI,

• emphasised that, taking into account the importance and sensitivity of issues concerning Artificial Intelligence, it would be appropriate that decisions on the matter to be taken by the appropriate bodies,

- heard Mr ANGEL, Vice-President and Chair of the Bureau Working Group on ICT Innovation Strategy, in reply to questions, explain that:

  • the governance framework was based on an inter-DG approach that could take into consideration the needs of the different Directorates-General of the European Parliament in terms of use of AI applications,

  • in order to have a sustainable and transparent governance for the use of AI at Parliament, the Bureau and relevant political bodies of the institution as appropriate would be involved and kept regularly informed at every step of the process;

- heard the Secretary-General, in reply to questions, add that:

  • Microsoft included an AI-related application supplied to Parliament without additional cost; the functionality had, however, been deactivated pending an evaluation,

  • initiatives on how to strengthen cooperation and share best practices and synergies on the use of AI would be on the agenda of future meetings with national Parliaments at administrative level;

- approved the governance framework for AI in Parliament, as outlined in the note from the Secretary-General.
6. **Staff matters**

6.1. **Selection procedure for a Director post in the Directorate-General for Infrastructure and Logistics - Directorate for Sustainable Buildings and Facilities Brussels: decision on shortlist of candidates**

The Bureau, meeting *in camera*,

- **took note** of the note from the Secretary-General, dated 6 March 2024, concerning the results of Vacancy Notice AD/01/2024, Transfer Notice PE/AD/01/2024 and Recruitment Notice PE/302/S - post of Director in the Directorate-General for Infrastructure and Logistics - Directorate for Sustainable Buildings and Facilities Brussels (PE 755.554/BUR/CONF/INLO and annexes);

- **heard** the Secretary-General:
  
  - introduce the matter at hand, recalling the steps of the selection procedure in accordance with the decisions taken by the Bureau for the appointment of senior officials,
  
  - refer to the applications received and to the proposals of the Advisory Committee to the Bureau regarding the candidates to be invited for interview as detailed in the above-mentioned note;

- **heard** Ms HAUTALA and Ms CHARANZOVÁ, Vice-Presidents and Ms KELLER, Quaestor, further enquire about the applications received, gender balance and admission criteria for the selection procedure;

- **heard** the Secretary-General reply to the questions;

- **approved** unanimously the recommendations from the Advisory Committee concerning the applicants to be invited for interview, as detailed in the above-mentioned note from the Secretary-General.
6.2. Selection procedure for a Director post in the Directorate-General for Innovation and Technological Support - Directorate for Cybersecurity: decision on shortlist of candidates

The Bureau, meeting in camera,

- took note of the note from the Secretary-General, dated 6 March 2024, concerning the results of Vacancy Notice AD/02/2024, Transfer Notice PE/AD/02/2024 and Recruitment Notice PE/303/S - post of Director in the Directorate-General for Innovation and Technological Support - Directorate for Cybersecurity (PE 755.555/BUR/CONF/ITEC and annexes);

- heard the Secretary-General:
  • introduce the matter at hand, recalling the steps of the selection procedure in accordance with the decisions taken by the Bureau for the appointment of senior officials,
  • refer to the applications received and to the proposals of the Advisory Committee to the Bureau regarding the candidates to be invited for interview as detailed in the above-mentioned note;

- heard Mr ANGEL, Vice-President, enquire about a candidate not retained by the Advisory Committee;

- heard the Secretary-General reply to the question;

- approved unanimously the recommendations from the Advisory Committee concerning the applicants to be invited for interview, as detailed in the above-mentioned note from the Secretary-General.
6.3. **Complaint pursuant to Article 90(2) of the Staff Regulations**

The Bureau, meeting *in camera*,

- took note of a Note from the Secretary-General dated 6 March 2024 concerning an individual complaint submitted pursuant to Article 90(2) of the Staff Regulations (PE 755.358/BUR/CONF and annexes);

- heard the President introduce the matter at hand by recalling that a complaint had been lodged by a staff member in accordance with Article 90(2) of the Staff Regulations against a series of decisions concerning the end of his activities as a civil servant having reached retirement age;

- heard the Secretary-General explain that, in light of the assessment of the competent services, it appeared that the contested decisions had been adopted under circumstances which were well known to the complainant;

- heard the Secretary-General recommend, therefore, that the afore-mentioned complaint be rejected as unfounded;

- heard the President conclude that the Bureau agreed with the rejection of the complaint as unfounded.
B. DECISIONS WITHOUT DEBATE

7. Report of the Secretary-General to the Bureau on the preliminary draft estimates of the European Parliament for the financial year 2025 - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the information provided in the note dated 6 March 2024 from the Secretary-General, entitled ‘Report of the Secretary-General to the Bureau on the preliminary draft estimates of the European Parliament for the financial year 2025’ (PE 755.553/BUR/REV and annexes);

- adopted the preliminary draft estimates for 2025 and instruct the President to forward them to the Committee on Budgets;

- authorised the two competent Vice-Presidents to open a conciliation procedure with the Committee on Budgets, if necessary, in preparation of the adoption of the draft estimates by the two Bodies.
8. **Rules on the transparency obligations of intergroups and unofficial groupings - Note from the Secretary-General**

The Bureau, with debate,

- **heard** Ms WISELER-LIMA, Quaestor responsible for relations with intergroups and unofficial groupings, request that the item be postponed in order to further assess the proposal before its final adoption by the Bureau;

- **heard** the President adhere to this request;

- **decided** to postpone the item to a forthcoming meeting of the Bureau.
9. **Archives of the European Parliament - Annual Report for 2023 - Note from the Secretary-General**

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the information provided in the note dated 6 March 2024 from the Secretary-General entitled ‘Archives of the European Parliament - Annual Report for 2023’ (PE 755.626/BUR and annex);

- took note of the twentieth Annual Report of the Archives of the European Parliament annexed to the note from the Secretary-General;

- authorised the distribution and notification of the Annual Report to the other EU institutions and its publication on Parliament’s website.
10. **THE HAGUE – Outcome of the negotiations for a standalone Europa Experience** -

**Note from the Secretary-General**

The Bureau, without debate,

- **took note** of the information provided in the note dated 6 March 2024 from the Secretary-General entitled ‘THE HAGUE – Outcome of the negotiations for a standalone Europa Experience’ (PE 755.627/BUR and financial statement);

- **approved** the signature of the lease contract for real estate spaces to install a Europa Experience facility in the Grand Marché building, located at Grote Marktstraat 31, in The Hague, as per the conditions outlined in the note from the Secretary-General.
11. **BRATISLAVA – Outcome of the negotiated procedure for acquiring a building to accommodate a House of Europe featuring a Europa Experience facility - Note from the Secretary-General**

The Bureau, without debate,

- **took note** of the information provided in the note dated 6 March 2024 from the Secretary-General entitled ‘BRATISLAVA – Outcome of the negotiated procedure for acquiring a building to accommodate a House of Europe featuring a Europa Experience facility’ (PE 755.628/BUR and financial statement);

- **approved** the signature of the purchase contract for the building located at Hurbanovo námestie 6, called Baťa House, in Bratislava, as per the conditions outlined in the note from the Secretary-General;

- **invited** the Secretary-General to conclude an Administrative Agreement with the European Commission;

- **asked** the Secretary-General to transmit the file to the Committee on Budgets in accordance with Article 266(3) of the Financial Regulation before the purchase contract is signed.
12. MUNICH – Outcome of the negotiations for a standalone Europa Experience - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the information provided in the note dated 6 March 2024 from the Secretary-General entitled ‘MUNICH – Outcome of the negotiations for a standalone Europa Experience’ (PE 755.629/BUR and financial statement);

- approved the signature of the lease contract for real estate spaces to install a Europa Experience facility in the Town Hall building of Munich, at Marienplatz 8, as per the conditions outlined in the note from the Secretary-General;

- asked the Secretary-General to transmit the file to the Committee on Budgets in accordance with Article 266(3) of the Financial Regulation before the lease agreement is signed.
13. Request to support the illumination of a European Parliament building in Brussels in red lights to mark the International Day of Tuberculosis (TB) on 24 March 2024 - Letter from Ms DITIU, Executive Director, Stop TB Partnership

The Bureau, without debate,

- **took note** of the letter dated 29 February 2024 from Ms DITIU, Executive Director, Stop TB Partnership, addressed to the President, requesting to support the illumination of a European Parliament building in Brussels in red lights to mark the International Day of Tuberculosis on 24 March 2024 (PE 755.630/BUR and financial statement);

- **took note** that the initiative seeks to increase awareness about the problems faced by the oldest and deadliest global infection disease and to support the effort to increase awareness of this airborne disease;

- **took note** that every year on 24 March, the Stop TB Partnership and its partners mark the International Day of Tuberculosis with aligned efforts, campaigns and landmark monuments and institutions being lit up in red - a colour that represents the Tuberculosis disease around the globe;

- **recalled** its decision of 9 May 2016, in which the Bureau agreed that “the lighting-up of Parliament on specific dates with specific colours should remain an exceptional awareness-raising measure reserved for causes directly related to Parliament’s political activities for which a wide impact is sought”;

- **recalled** that a number of illumination initiatives linked to diseases have been declined on the basis of the aforementioned decision;

- **took note** of the Financial Statement, in which the cost of the event is estimated at EUR 8 000, to be borne by Parliament;

- **recalled** its decision of 3 October 2022 on measures to lower Parliament’s energy consumption, by which the Bureau agreed that requests to illuminate Parliament’s buildings in different colours on specific occasions should not be authorised until further notice;

- on the basis of the elements mentioned above, **declined** the request for lighting a European Parliament building in Brussels in red lights to mark the International
Day of Tuberculosis on 24 March 2024 and invite the relevant services to implement, where appropriate, alternative awareness-raising activities to mark Parliament’s support of the initiative.
14. **Urgent matters and any other business**

14.1. **Unified approach to chairing of plenary sessions by Vice-Presidents**

The Bureau,

- heard Mr WIELAND, Vice-President, refer to the late commencement of the afternoon votes of the sitting on Wednesday of the February II part-session in Strasbourg due to a long debate which preceded these votes, reiterate the need to apply a unified approach to chairing plenary sessions by all chairing Vice-Presidents in view of ensuring compliance with the allocated speaking time to avoid substantial schedule overruns in particular before voting sessions;

- heard the President reply that the Plenary services would further look into the matter.

14.2. **Post of Head Mediator**

The Bureau, *in camera*,

- heard Ms KELLER, Quaestor, express her surprise that the post of Head Mediator, the vacancy for which was published in mid-February 2024, was not published as a senior management post to be decided by the Bureau, recalling the importance that this post is filled by a well-trained person with a solid level of knowledge and experience; further underline the importance that the Mediator be in place at the beginning of the new Parliamentary term;

- heard the Secretary-General explain that the post at hand was a Head of Unit and not a Director post, noting however that this would not prevent Directors to take part in the selection procedure.
14.3. Senior management posts

The Bureau, in camera,

- heard Mr ANGEL, Vice-President, enquire about senior management posts which are expected to become vacant in the coming months and timetable for the relevant selection procedures;

- heard the President note that the posts in question would be launched when the posts become vacant and that they would be addressed by the Bureau in due course.

14.4. Alleged breach of the voting procedure in relation to a Member’s immunity

The Bureau, in camera,

- heard Mr WIELAND, Vice-President, report that he had been informed that at a recent meeting of the Committee on Legal Affairs, a vote on a Member’s immunity allegedly took place without the item being on the agenda, thus preventing the Member concerned from being heard prior to the vote, and that a complaint would likely be lodged with the Chair of the Committee in question;

- heard the President reply that she will look into the matter.
15. **Items for information**

There were none.

***
16. **Date of next meeting**

   The Bureau,

   - decided to hold its next ordinary meeting on **Monday, 22 April 2024**.

   *        *
   *        *
   *        *

   The meeting closed at 19:34 hours.

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   *        *
   *        *