

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



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## CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

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### MINUTES

of the extraordinary meeting and ordinary meeting of Thursday

**17 December 2009**

Louise Weiss Building - Room R1,1

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**STRASBOURG**

## CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

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of the extraordinary and ordinary meetings of

Thursday, 17 December 2009  
from 09:00 to 10:15 hours and 10:15 to 11:30 hours

Louise Weiss Building - Room R1,1  
Strasbourg

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CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

MINUTES

of the meetings of Thursday, 17 December 2009

from 09.00 to 10.00 and 10.15 to 11:30 hours

Strasbourg

The meetings opened at 09.03 hours, with Mr Jerzy BUZEK,  
President of the European Parliament, in the chair.

Present

Mr Jerzy BUZEK, President

Political group Chairs

Mr DAUL	(EPP)
Mr SCHULZ	(S&D)
Mr VERHOFSTADT	(ALDE)
Mr COHN-BENDIT(Co-Chair)	(Greens/EFA)
Mr KIRKHOPE (acting)	(ECR)
Mr BISKY	(GUE/NGL)
Mr SPERONI (Co-Chair)	(EFD)

Also Present

Mr WELLE, Secretary-General

Invited

Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The Council<sup>1</sup>

represented by Mr ARPIO  
Mr MILTON

The Commission<sup>2</sup>

represented by Mr ANASTOPOULOS  
Mr MITEK  
Mr CORDINA

The Economic and Social Committee

represented by Mr OLIVEIRA

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Office of the President

Mr POPOWSKI  
Mr TEASDALE  
Mr O'BEARA  
Mr ALPERMANN  
Mr STUTZMANN  
Mr POMÉS RUIZ  
Ms WORUM  
Mr GOLANSKI  
Mr EVISON  
Ms PARADOWSKA

Office of the Secretary-General

Mr DREXLER  
Mr MANGOLD  
Ms BLAU  
Ms FREDSGAARD  
Mr SUBELACK

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<sup>1</sup> Present at point 1, 2 and 3 (first part)

Secretariat

DG Presidency (PRES)	Mr HARLEY/Ms STENSBALLE/Ms VERGER/Ms DUDINSKA/Mr KNUDSEN/Mr CAHEN/Mr SANCHEZ RODRIGUEZ/Mr SCOTT/Ms JIMENEZ LOZANO/Mr URBIETA/M BROGGI/Mr GALATIOTO/Ms TANESE
DG Internal Policies (IPOL)	Mr RIBERA D'ALCALÀ/ Ms VANDENBOSCH
DG External Policies (EXPO)	Mr NICKEL/Mr AGUIRIANO/Mr HUBER/ Mr STOKELJ/Ms ECKER/Mr BERTON
DG Information	Ms F RATTI/Mr DUCH GUILLOT/Mr HAKALA/ Mr LANE/Ms VANDENBROEKE
DG Finance (FINS)	Mr VANHAEREN
Legal Service	Mr PENNERA/Mr SCHOO

Mrs O. RATTI, Director for relations with the secretariats of the political groups.

Political groups

Mr KAMP/ Ms SCRIBAN/Mr RYNGAERT/ /Mr RIPOLL	(EPP)
Ms COLOMBO/ Mr VALLI/Ms BAPTISTA/Mr WINKLER	(S&D)
Mr BEELS/Mr DEBEUF	(ALDE)
Ms TSETSI/Mr DENKINGER/Mr LINAZASORO	(Greens/EFA)
Mr BARRETT/Mr ISSACS	(ECR)
Ms D'ALIMONTE/Ms LEPOLA	(GUE/NGL)
Mr BORDEZ/Mr VAUGIER/Ms LAIKAUF	(EFD)
Mr BUGALHO	(NI)

Ms LINNUS, Ms SHEIL, Ms VIILUP, Mr SCHROEDER and Ms CASALPRIM acted as secretary to the meeting.

## MINUTES

of the extraordinary meeting of Thursday, 17 December 2009

from 09.00 to 10.15

### 1. Adoption of draft agenda

#### The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President recall that at its meeting of 26 November 2009 the Conference of Presidents held a debate on the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty and decided to return to the issue at a special meeting in order to consider further ongoing preparatory work;
  
- noted the draft agenda of the extraordinary meeting (PE 432.341/CPG) and adopted it in the form shown in these Minutes.

2. Implementation of the Lisbon Treaty - Note from the Secretary-General

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
  - a note from the Secretary-General dated 11 December 2009 on the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty (PE 432.355/CPG);
  - a letter dated 16 December 2009 from Mr KAMP, on behalf of the coordinators of the political groups on the nominations for the steering group for relations with national parliaments (PE 432.396/CPG);
  - a letter dated 11 December 2009 from Mr CASINI on the Implementation of the External Action Service and the competence of the AFCO Committee (PE 432.323/CPG);
  - a letter dated 8 December from Mr BARROSO, President of the European Commission, on the implications of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on legislative procedures (PE 432.365/CPG);
  - a letter dated 3 December 2009 from Mr ALBERTINI, Chair of the AFCO Committee, on the role of the High Representative/Vice-President for EU External Affairs (PE 432.366/CPG);
  - a letter dated 10 December 2009 from Mr MAGISTRIS, chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control, requesting that COCOBU be represented on Parliament's steering group on the EEAS (PE 432.373/CPG);
  - a letter dated 1 December 2009 from Mr BARROSO, President of the European Commission, and Ms WALLSTROM, Vice-President of the European Commission, on the implications of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty for national parliaments (PE 432.376/CPG and annex);

- a Communication from the European Commission - COM(2009)673 (PE 432.375/CPG);
- a letter of 25 November 2009 from Mr ALBERTINI, concerning the creation of a steering group to negotiate the organisation and functioning of the EEAS (PE 432.277);
- a note of 23 November 2009 from the Secretary-General, on the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon (PE 432.242/CPG and annexes);
- a letter from Mr LEHNE, on issues related to Articles 290 and 291 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union (PE 432.403/CPG);
- a Communication from Mr BARROSO on the implementation of Article 290 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union (PE 432.375/CPG);
- annex 1: a note of 15 April 2008 from Mr PÖTTERING on the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty: reflections in eight points for the talks with the Council and Commission (PE 402.472/CPG);
- annex 2:
  - European Parliament resolution of 7 May 2009 on the impact of the Treaty of Lisbon on the development of the institutional balance of the European Union (2008/2073(INI) - DEHAENE Report;
  - European Parliament resolution of 7 May 2009 on Parliament's new role and responsibilities in implementing the Treaty of Lisbon (2008/2063(INI) - LEINEN Report;
  - European Parliament resolution of 7 May 2009 on the development of the relations between the European Parliament and national parliaments under the Treaty of Lisbon (2008/2120(INI) - BROK Report;

- European Parliament resolution of 7 May 2009 on the financial aspects of the Lisbon Treaty (2008/2054(INI) - GUY-QUINT Report;
  - European Parliament resolution of 7 May 2009 requesting the Commission to submit a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the implementation of the citizens' initiative (2008/2169(INI) - KAUFMANN Report;
  - annex 3: a letter of 16 November 2009 from Ms MALMSTRÖM, Presidency of the EU, on the implications of the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon by 1/12/2009 et and the nominations for the Presidency of the council and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs (PE 432.205/CPG);
  - annex 4: the European Parliament resolution of 22 October 2009 on the institutional aspects of setting up the European External Action Service (Brok report);
  - annex 5: the European Council conclusions of the meeting on 29/30 October 2009,
  - annex 6: Lisbon Treaty provisions on delegated and implementing acts;
  - annex 7: letter from President BUZEK to Mr LAMASSOURE on the EU budget for 2010 (PE 432.206/CPG);
  - a letter of 20 February 2008 from President PÖTTERING to the political group chairs on the allocation of tasks in the EP ahead of the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty - Letter to Mr JANSKA, Council Presidency, on the implications of the Lisbon Treaty (PE 402.472/CPG),
  - extract of the Minutes of the Conference of Presidents of 17 April 2008.
- heard the President, who introduced the item and, in particular, outlined the main aspects of the Secretary-General's note of 11 December 2009 on the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon;

- held an extensive exchange of views on the issues raised, with the participation of Mr DAUL, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr SCHULZ, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, Mr COHN-BENDIT, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, Mr KIRKHOPE, Acting Chair of the ECR Group, Mr BISKY, Chair of the GUE Group, Mr SPERONI, Co-Chair of the EFD Group, and Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of the Committee Chairs;
- endorsed the overall approach, the priorities identified and the proposals for action set out in the note in question, and decided, specifically, as far as the following major issues are concerned, to:

***European External Action Service (EEAS)***

- invite, as a matter of urgency, the Conference of Committee Chairs to resolve any possible conflict of competences between concerned committees and to urgently forward a recommendation to the Conference of Presidents for a final decision;
- invite the rapporteurs of the responsible committees for the three different legislative files and the amending budget to form a steering group for the deliberations with the VP/HR and the Council of Ministers on this negotiation package, under the guidance of the President; the steering group should keep the Conference of Presidents regularly informed about the proceedings and seek its guidance;
- invite the political group Coordination to consider setting up a contact-group, in order to accompany these negotiations;
- invite the Secretary-General to ensure appropriate administrative support for these negotiations.

***Transfer from Nice Treaty to Lisbon Treaty of pending legislation***

- invite the parliamentary committees to screen the proposed changes, verify if the proposed modification of the legal basis is appropriate, and decide whether they intend to re-confirm their opinions, which were voted under the consultation

procedure for those files where the procedure changes into co-decision or consent procedure, or whether they insist on re-submission of new proposals to the Parliament;

- invite the Conference of Committee Chairs to prepare a comprehensive overview of the committee's positions, for further decisions by the Conference of Presidents and the plenary early next year.

***Transfer of the Comitology system to the new Treaty: Delegated and implementing acts***

- invite the Conference of Committee Chairs to evaluate the proposed non-binding standard wording for insertion of delegated acts in the light of the first experiences in urgent ongoing legislative procedures and, if need be, recommend changes, at the latest by the end of the upcoming Spanish Presidency;
- invite the Commission to come forward swiftly with a proposal for a regulation on implementing acts, and welcome, with a view to an interim solution, the text of the joint declaration annexed to the letter of the Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs of 16 December 2009 foreseeing a quick solution still under the Spanish Presidency of the Council of Ministers;
- invite the Commission to screen the '*acquis communautaire*', in order to submit proposals to Parliament and Council of Ministers for alignment of the *acquis* with the new comitology system;
- invite the JURI Committee to deal with any further implementing measures concerning the transformation of the comitology system into the new system of delegated and implementing acts.

***New cooperation between national parliaments and the European Parliament***

- invite the President to conduct exploratory talks with the speakers of the national parliaments for the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Conference of

Presidents on 18 September 2008 and plenary on 7 May 2009, in particular in the framework of the conferences of the speakers (first meeting on 12 December 2009 and second meeting on 14 May 2010, both organised by the Swedish Riksdag), with a view, in accordance with Article 12 (f) TEU and protocol 1, Article 9, to establishing a renewed system of inter-parliamentary cooperation until May 2010 and to report regularly back to the Conference of Presidents on the proceedings;

- decide to set up a steering group that should reflect, in close cooperation with the President, during the above-mentioned period, on any further measures for the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty concerning national parliaments, for consideration and adoption by the Conference of Presidents. The steering group shall be composed of the Vice-Presidents responsible for relations with the national parliaments, the Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, and one representative per political group, as follows:

EPP - Paulo RANGEL  
S&D - Ramon JAUREGUI  
ALDE - Andrew DUFF  
Greens/EFA - Sandrine BELIER  
ECR - Sir Robert ATKINS  
GUE/NGL - Marie-Christine VERGIAT  
EFD - Morten MESSERSCHMIDT

The steering group should be coordinated by the highest ranking Vice-President;

- decide that, after the setting up of the system for interparliamentary cooperation by May 2010, the steering group would continue in the format foreseen by the Conference of Presidents' decision of 18 September 2008, to promote the internal coordination of EP activities in this field, and to propose a regular programme of activities to the Conference of Presidents.

*Implications for budgetary procedures*

- invite the BUDG Committee to submit, after consideration in the Conference of Committee Chairs, to the Conference of Presidents its reflections on the implications of the new annual budgetary procedure and necessary organisational decisions at internal and interinstitutional level, concerning notably the new calendar and the best possible internal and interinstitutional preparation for the final stages of the annual cycle;
- invite the Commission to foresee a specific chapter for the budget of the new Institution, the 'European Council', when submitting the first draft for the 2011 budget (budget for the new EEAS, see point 1); further invite the Commission to furnish specific proposals for 2010 in this regard;
- invite the Commission to submit shortly an assessment of the functioning of the Financial Perspectives, which should prepare for the conducting, in parallel with the mid-term budgetary review and the mid-term review of the multiannual programmes, of a review in order to ensure the budgetary means for the possible implementation of new policies under the Lisbon Treaty and the adjustments of existing policies;

*Programming**For annual/short term programming:*

- take note of the priorities contained in the decisions of the Conference of Presidents of April 2008 and September 2008, and in the relevant resolutions from March and May 2009;
- invite the President to engage in exploratory talks with the other institutions on how to implement the new Treaty obligation towards programming and the above-mentioned priorities, with a possible distinction between an annual “initiative programming” (revision of the current annual Legislative and Work Programme), where the Commission bears the main responsibility for

implementation, and an "18-month results programming" (revision of the current Trio Presidency-EP programme), which the co-legislator aims to implement;

- invite the negotiating team on the revision of the bilateral Framework Agreement between the European Parliament and the Commission to address each of the above-mentioned priorities, where appropriate, in the bilateral negotiations with the Commission;

*For multi-annual programming:*

- invite the new Commission, after approval by the Parliament, to conduct a review of all pending proposals at the beginning of the new Commission's mandate, in order to politically confirm or withdraw them, on the basis of requests of the Parliament, and combine this review with its proposal for 'strategic political orientations' for the five-year term, with the aim of establishing an understanding between the three institutions.

***New relationship between the Parliament and the Council of Ministers***

- invite the President to hold exploratory talks with the Presidents of the Council of Ministers and of the European Council and report back, with a view to identifying a future strategy and relevant measures to be taken;
- instruct the Secretary-General to ensure equal treatment and reciprocity for all administrative arrangements in this regard, including access to premises.

## MINUTES

of the ordinary meeting of Thursday, 17 December 2009

from 10.15 to 11.30 hours

1. Adoption of draft agenda

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the draft agenda (PE 432.341/CPG) and adopted it in the form shown in these Minutes.

2. Approval of Minutes of meeting of 10 December 2009

The Conference of Presidents

- noted and approved the Minutes of the meeting of 10 December 2009 in Brussels (PE 432.282/CPG).

3. Adoption of the final draft agenda for the January I part-session (18 - 21 January 2010) and the preliminary draft agenda for the extraordinary part-session of 26 January 2010 - scheduling of priority debates in plenary

The Conference of Presidents

- took note of a letter dated 16 december 2009 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, on the proposals of the Conference of Committee Chairs on the order of business for the January part-session (18-21 January 2009) (PE 432.394/CPG and annex);
- considered the final draft agenda for the January I 2010 part-session (from Monday 18 to Thursday 21 January 2010), in the light of notes drafted by DG Presidency setting out the various options, distributed after the preparatory meeting of 16 December 2009 with the Secretaries-General of the political groups;
- took note of and adopted the proposals contained in those notes, with the following modifications:

Tuesday 19 and Wednesday 20 January 2010

- decided, by a majority, and following an exchange of views with the participation of Mr DAUL, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr SCHULZ, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, Mr COHN-BENDIT, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, Mr KIRKHOPE, Acting Chair of the ECR Group, Mr BISKY, Chair of the GUE Group, and Mr SPERONI, Co-Chair of the EFD Group:
  - to schedule debates, at times to be specified at the subsequent meeting of the Conference of Presidents, on the situation in Bulgaria with regard to the use of minority languages on public television, and on democratic freedoms in Turkey;
  - that the debate on Yemen would be wound up by a vote on a motion for

resolution.

#### 4. Communications of the President

##### 4.1 Meeting with the President of the European Council, Mr VAN ROMPUY

- heard the President inform the meeting that, on 11 December 2009, he had met Mr VAN ROMPUY, President of the European Council, and that they had:
  - discussed Mr VAN ROMPUY's participation at part-sessions and in meetings of the European Parliament, and in particular those of the Conference of Presidents, and the standing invitation of the President of Parliament to European Council meetings (formal and informal); discussed the Parliament's standpoint for full reciprocity between institutions when it comes to arrangements for attending meetings and access to premises;
  - agreed that Mr VAN ROMPUY should participate in the meeting of the Conference of Presidents on 4 February 2010;
  - agreed they would meet again in mid-January 2010.

##### 4.2 SWIFT Agreement between the EU and the US

- heard the President inform the meeting that the above-mentioned item had been referred to the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and that it will be considered by the committee at its upcoming meeting on 11 January 2010;
- heard Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, propose that the Parliament should aim to vote on the interim agreement before it enters into force on 1 February 2010, and that the President should write to the Council Presidency to state that Parliament would be ready to give its consent to the agreement in January, on the basis that the long-term agreement would take into account the concerns raised in Parliament's resolutions on the subject, and on the condition that Parliament be granted full access to the same documents as the Council in this process;

- heard Mr COHN-BENDIT, Co-Chair of the Green Group, underline the importance of taking advantage of the opportunity to vote on the interim agreement in January, before it enters into force in February 2010;
- endorsed the above-mentioned approach.

#### 4.3 Public hearing on "Global Warming and Food Policy: Less Meat equals Less Heat" on 3 December 2010

- heard the President inform the meeting that, on 3 December 2010, a hearing on the above-mentioned subject had been organised at the premises of Parliament by the Bureau, on the initiative of Vice-President McMILLAN-SCOTT;
- heard Mr SCHULZ, Chair of the S&D Group, and Mr DAUL, Chair of the EPP Group, enquire about the decision taken by the Quaestors to serve a 50% vegetarian menu on the day in question in the cafeterias of Parliament; heard the President, in response, note that the meeting with Sir Paul Mc Cartney had been a once-off event with the aim of raising awareness of the issues concerned.

#### 4.4 EuroLat Plenary Session on 13-15 May 2010

- heard the President, who recalled that the Conference of Presidents had, at its last meeting, rejected the request to hold the plenary session of the EuroLat Parliamentary Assembly, scheduled for 13-15 May 2010, in Seville, Spain; the President informed the meeting that the Bureau had considered this item at its meeting on 14 December 2009 (PE 432.356/CPG and Annex) and had recommended that the meeting in question be authorised to take place in Seville, considering its significance in the framework of the upcoming Spanish Presidency, but that this should only be on an exceptional basis;

- heard Mr SCHULZ, Chair of the S&D Group, underline that, according to the relevant rules in force, meetings within the European Union should only take place in the three working places of Parliament, and that while this request could be endorsed exceptionally and only in light of the Spanish Presidency, no precedent whatsoever should be created for any future such meetings;
- endorsed, accordingly, the request, on an exceptional basis, and without creating a precedent.

#### 4.5 Meeting of the Conference of EU Speakers in Stockholm on 11 and 12 December 2009

- heard the President:
  - inform the meeting that he had attended the meeting of the Conference of EU Speakers in Stockholm on 11 and 12 December 2009, at which discussions had focused on cooperation between national parliaments, and in particular COSAC meetings, and the meetings on specific themes organised in the European Parliament and, in the light of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the need to make best possible use of existing structures for inter-parliamentary cooperation;
  - note that the two main conclusions of the meeting were that:
    - neither new institutions nor new procedures should be created;
    - meetings of speakers of national parliaments should become a part of the Community method.

5. Programme of the Hearings of the Commissioners-Designate -Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
  - a letter from Mr LEHNE dated 10 December 2009 on the abovementioned subject (PE 432.359/CPG);
  - a letter from the President to Mr BARROSO, President of the European Commission, dated 3 December 2009, on the procedure for the Hearings of the Commissioners (PE 432.329/CPG);
  - a letter from Mr BARROSO, President of the European Commission, dated 1 December 2009, including the list of Commissioners-designate for the period 2009-2014 (PE 432.326/CPG and annex)
  - Extracts from the decisions of the Conference of Presidents of 26 November 2009;
  - Annex XVII of Rules of Procedure
  
- held an extensive exchange of views, with the participation of Mr DAUL, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr SCHULZ, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, Mr COHN-BENDIT, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, Mr KIRKHOPE, Acting Chair of the ECR Group, Mr BISKY, Chair of the GUE Group, Mr SPERONI, Co-Chair of the EFD Group, and Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of the Committee Chairmen, on the proposed calendar and revised allocation of responsibilities between committees for the Hearings of the Commissioners-designate;

- endorsed, in this regard, the proposals transmitted by the Secretary-General after consultation of the Secretaries-General of Political groups with the following modifications:
  - responsibility for the organisation of the hearing of Commissioner-designate REDING would be shared between the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) and the Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities (FEMM), with no further associated or participating committees, and with the timing allocated as follows:
    - 1 hour 15 minutes LIBE
    - 1 hour 15 minutes JURI
    - 30 minutes FEMM
  - responsibility for the organisation of the hearing of Commissioner-designate BARNIER would be shared between the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), and with the timing allocated as follows:
    - 1 hour 30 minutes IMCO
    - 1 hour 30 minutes ECON
- noted that for the organisation of the hearing of Commissioner-designate LEWANDOWSKI, Committee on Regional Development would be added as a participating committee;
- reaffirmed its previous decisions taken on 22 October and 26 November 2009 with regard to the organisational aspects of the Hearings of Commissioners-designate, in particular that the Hearings be evaluated by the Conference of Presidents, on the basis of confidential evaluation letters communicated by the committee chairs, and agreed that no meetings shall be held in parallel to the planned plenary on 26 January 2010.

6. Strategy for the EP-Commission Framework Agreement 2009-2014 - introduction by Mr LEHNE, Chair of the EP working party

This item was deferred until the following meeting of the Conference of Presidents.

7. Request to authorise the IMCO Committee to organise exchanges of views with the national parliaments on 27 April 2010 on the Services Directive and on 26 October 2010 on Professional Qualifications

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted a letter of 2 December 2009 from Mr HARBOUR, requesting permission to organise two exchanges of views with national parliaments on the Services Directive and on Professional Qualifications Directive, during normal committee meetings on 27 April 2010 and 26 October 2010 respectively (PE 432.316/CPG and annexes);
- authorised the two events in question.

8. Proposal to designate two independent experts and two substitutes to the Management Board of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) - Letter from Mr LOPEZ AGUILAR, Chair of the LIBE Committee

This item was deferred until the following meeting of the Conference of Presidents.

9. Report on the constituent meeting and draft calendar of meetings and visits for 2010 of the High-level Contact Group for relations with the Turkish-Cypriot Community in the Northern part of the Island (CYTR) - financial statement -Letter from Mr ROUCEK, vice-President and Coordinator of the High-Level Contact Group.

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- took note of the above-mentioned letter dated 2 December 2009 (PE 432.321/CPG);
- took note of the report of the constituent meeting of the High-level Contact Group and the draft calendar of meetings and visits for 2010, as presented by Mr ROUČEK, Coordinator and Vice-President of Parliament;
- took note that at its constituent meeting the group had unanimously designated Ms GROSSETĚTE, Member, as Deputy Coordinator and that the other Members of the group are Mr WATSON (ALDE), Ms KELLER (Greens/EFA), Ms YANNAKOUDAKIS (ECR), Mr MEYER (GUE/NGL), Mr SALAVRAKOS (EFD) and Ms WERTHMANN (Non-attached);
- approved, in principle, the calendar of meetings and visits for 2010 as proposed, in line with relevant rules in force, while inviting the Contact Group to furnish further information to the Conference of Presidents with regard to the programmes for these visits.

10. Urgent matters and any other business

10.1 18 additional MEPs post Lisbon - Treaty change

The Conference of Presidents

- took note of the request from Mr COHN-BENDIT, Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, to reach a consensus on the issue of 18 additional Members, who should be joining Parliament following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2010 and relevant changes in primary law;
- heard Mr SCHULZ, Chair of the S&D Group, who was of the opinion that this issue should be postponed until the Committee on Constitutional Affairs had appointed a rapporteur on this matter;
- heard the President inform the meeting that he had officially requested that the European Council deal with the matter of 18 additional Members of Parliament urgently, but that he had not yet received an answer;
- decided to defer this issue to a forthcoming meeting.

10.2 Review of procedure for Question Hour with the Commission President

The Conference of Presidents

- took note of a request from Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, that the Conference of Presidents should evaluate the experience to date with Question Hour with the Commission President; and, if necessary, consider revising the procedure in various ways;
- decided to defer this issue to a forthcoming meeting.

10.3 EP delegation to Ramallah, Jerusalem and Gaza

The Conference of Presidents

- heard Mr BISKY, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group, note that, on 9 December 2010, the EP Delegation for Relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council had, at short notice, been denied access to Gaza during a delegation visit to Ramallah, Jerusalem and Gaza, despite prior permission having been granted by the Israeli authorities; Mr BISKY recalled that he had raised this matter at the previous meeting and requested the President to seek clarification on the circumstances concerned;
  
- heard the President inform the meeting that he had already written to Mr NETANYAHU, Prime Minister of Israel, on this matter, and that this letter was included in the file for the meeting; heard the President further state that he would keep the political groups informed of the outcome.

11. Items for information

11.1 Interinstitutional correspondence

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
  - letters dated 10 December 2009 on appointments to the European Chemical agency (PE 432.386/CPG)

11.2 External mail

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:

11.3 Internal mail

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
  - a letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, dated 16 December 2009 on requests from parliamentary committees to draw up own initiative reports (PE 432.392/CPG and annex);
  - a letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, dated 16 December 2009 on the list of requests under Rule 50 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure concerning the procedure with associated committees (PE 432.391/CPG and annex);
  - a letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, dated 16 December 2009, on the updated list of files for co-decision (PE 432.397/CPG and annex);
  - a note of 10 December 2009 from DG EXPO on the implementation of the

programme of missions by the parliamentary committees outside the three places of work in the second half of 2009 (PE 432.358/CPG);

- a letter of 8 December 2009 from Mr DAUL on the indicative list of intergroups currently being constituted - indicative list subject to the proviso that each intergroup must forward as soon as possible (to the Members' Activities Service) proof that it meets all the conditions laid down in Article 4 of the ad hoc rules (Compendium 3.4) (PE 432.338/CPG);
- a letter of 2 December 2009 from Ms MAZZONI on the hearings to be held ahead of the appointment of the European Ombudsman in January 2010 (PE 432.322/CPG);
- draft decision of 11 December 2009 according to written procedure to grant exceptional authorisation to political groups to hold meetings in Strasbourg to meet the Sakharov prize nominees on 16 December 2009 (PE 432.372/CPG).

12. Date and place of next meeting

The Conference of Presidents

- decided that the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of Presidents would be held from 11.00 to 13.00 hours on Thursday 14 January 2010 in room 6B 01 of the Paul-Henri Spaak Building in Brussels.

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The meeting closed at 11.25 hours.

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