

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

MINUTES

of the ordinary meeting of Thursday

11 June 2015

Louise WEISS Building, Room R1.1

Strasbourg

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

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of the ordinary meeting of

Thursday, 11 June 2015

from 10:00 to 12:00 hours

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CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

MINUTES

of the meeting of Thursday 11 June 2015

from 10:00 to 12:00

Strasbourg

The meeting opened at 10.09 with Mr Martin SCHULZ,

President of the European Parliament, in the chair

Present

Mr SCHULZ, President

Political Group Chairs

Mr	WEBER	(EPP)
Mr	PITTELLA	(S&D)
Mr	KAMALL	(ECR)
Mr	VERHOFSTADT	(ALDE)
Ms	ZIMMER	(GUE/NGL)
Ms	HARMS (Co-Chair)	(Greens/EFA)
Mr	LUNDGREN (acting Chair)	(EFDD)
Ms	DODDS ¹	(NI)

Also Present

Mr WELLE, Secretary-General
Ms RATTI, Deputy Secretary-General

¹ Present pursuant to Rule 26 (2) of the Rules of Regulations of Procedure

Invited:

Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

Invited for item 5 of the draft agenda

Ms HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs
Mr SVOBODA, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs

Invited for item 6b. of the draft agenda

Mr PANZERI, Chair of the Conference of Delegation Chairs

The Council¹

represented by Mr KERLEROUX
 Ms JAANSALU

The Commission¹

represented by Mr MITEK
 Mr PINE

The Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy¹

represented by Mr LEVINE

Office of the President

Mr WINKLER
Mr MACHMER
Mr MASUR
Ms WOLLNY
Mr DIRRIG
Ms PELZ
Ms NOYON
Mr KOEKKOEK

Office of the Secretary-General

Mr MANGOLD
Mr SORENSEN
Ms FREDSGAARD
Ms FERNANDEZ PERLES

Office of the Deputy Secretary-General

Mr LANE
Mr ALEIXO²

¹ Present for items 1-3

² Present for items 1-5

Mr NATSCHERADETZ²

Secretariat

DG Presidency (PRES)

Mr KNUDSEN/Ms ROBSON/Mr MARINAI¹

DG Internal Policies (IPOL)

Mr RIBERA d'ALCALA/Ms VANDENBOSCH/Mr CHIOCCHETTI
Mr PACHECO²/Mr BRAY²

DG External Policies (EXPO)

Mr AGUIRIANO/Mr BENDINI³/Mr CRAMPES³

DG European Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS)

Mr TEASDALE

DG Communication (COMM)

Ms LAHOUSSE/Mr DUCH GUILLOT

DG Personnel (PERS)

Mr KAISER

DG Infrastructures and Logistics

Ms LINNUS

DG Translation (TRAD)

Mr MAVRIČ

DG Interpretation and Conferences (INTE)

Ms WALTER-DROP

DG Finance (FINS)

Mr KLETHI

DG Innovation and Technical Support (ITEC)

Mr VILELLA

Legal Service (SJ)

Mr DREXLER/Mr PASSOS

Directorate for relations with political groups

Mr SCHWETZ

Secretariat of the Bureau

Mr TZIORKAS

¹ Present for items 1-3

² Present for item 5

³ Present for item 6b

Political groups

Mr KAMP/Mr RYNGAERT/Ms SCRIBAN/Ms LASKAVÁ	(EPP)
Mr MORENO SANCHEZ/Mr BURU/Ms PEREIRA/Ms GLIUBIZZI	(S&D)
Mr BARRETT/Mr BOYD	(ECR)
Mr BEELS/Ms COLERA-GARZÓN/Mr RASMUSSEN/McLAUGHLIN	(ALDE)
Ms D'ALIMONTE/Ms LEPOLA	(GUE/NGL)
Ms TSETSI/Mr DENKINGER/Mr LINAZASORO	(Greens/EFA)
Mr VAUGIER/Ms ALBERTINI	(EFDD)
Mr BORDEZ	(NI)

Mr HILLER, Mr ROHLJE, Mr ISAACS, Ms SCHADE and Mr MENEGHINI acted as secretaries to the meeting.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The Conference of Presidents

- noted and adopted the draft agenda in the form shown in these Minutes (PE 559.536/CPG).

2. Approval of the draft minutes of the meeting of 4 June 2015

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the draft minutes of the meeting of 4 June 2015, held in Brussels (PE 553.313/CPG and annex).

3. Adoption of the final draft agenda for the June II part-session (24 June 2015) and the draft agenda for the July part-session (from 6 to 9 July 2015) – Scheduling of key debates in plenary

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
 - a letter dated 10 June 2015 from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, submitting a recommendation regarding the draft agenda for the June II part-session (24 June 2015), and the draft agenda for the July part-session (from 6 to 9 July 2015) in Strasbourg (PE 559.582/CPG and annexes);
 - a letter dated 10 June 2015 from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, on co-decision files currently under negotiation (PE 559.583/CPG and annexes);
 - a letter dated 10 June 2015 from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, on the screening of current files in view of the June II and July I part-session (PE 559.592/CPG);
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr WEBER, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr PITTELLA, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, Ms HARMS, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, and Mr LUNDGREN, acting Chair of the EFDD Group, and adopted the draft agenda of the June II part-session with the following modification:

June II part-session

Wednesday, 24 June 2015

- decided that the session should start at 14:00;
- heard the President report that he had been invited as a guest speaker to the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the signing of Spain's accession treaty, in Madrid, Spain, on 24 June 2015, and that he, therefore, would not be able to return in time to open the part-session;

July part-session

- adopted the draft agenda for the July part-session (from 6 to 9 July 2015) without modification.

4. Communications by the President

4.1 Saudi Arabian blogger Raïf Badawi

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President report that the highest court in Saudi Arabia and the King of Saudi Arabia had rejected the appeal against the sentence of Mr BADAWI, which was equivalent to a death sentence;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr WEBER, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr PITTELLA, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr KAMALL, Chair of the ECR Group, Ms ZIMMER, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group, Ms HARMS, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, and Mr LUNDGREN, acting Chair of the EFDD Group;
- agreed that an adequate reaction by Parliament should be ensured.

4.2 Situation in Romania

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President propose, following the request made during the opening of Parliament's part-session on 8 June 2015, that the situation in Romania be referred to the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs;
- agreed with the President's proposal.

4.3 Situation in Greece

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President report, that since he had last informed the Conference of Presidents of his discussions with Mr TSIPRAS, Prime Minister of Greece, about the possibility for Mr TSIPRAS to speak in plenary or at a meeting of the Conference of Presidents, they had discussed the matter further and had agreed, in view of the on-going negotiations and the volatility of the situation, that such a possibility should be considered again at a later stage;

- further heard the President clarify the context of a remark he had made in a talk show on German television;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr WEBER, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr PITTELLA, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr KAMALL, Chair of the ECR Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, Ms ZIMMER, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group, Ms HARMS, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, and Mr LUNDGREN, acting Chair of the EFDD Group.

4.4 Postponement of the vote and debate on TTIP

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President report that, after consulting a number group chairs and Mr LANGE, Chair of the Committee on International Trade (INTA) and rapporteur, he had decided to postpone the vote on the TTIP resolution, in accordance with Rule 175 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, to give more time to the INTA Committee to further reflect on the outstanding issues in order to ensure that Parliament could contribute to the TTIP negotiations with a clear and unequivocal position;
- further heard him note that, following requests by group chairs, he had decided, in accordance with Rule 152 of the Rules of Procedure, to put the question to the plenary whether to postpone the debate on TTIP in order to move it closer to the vote;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr WEBER, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr PITTELLA, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr KAMALL, Chair of the ECR Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, Ms ZIMMER, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group, Ms HARMS, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, and Mr LUNDGREN, acting Chair of the EFDD Group;
- agreed to consider the future scheduling of the debate and vote in plenary on the TTIP resolution in the framework of future part-session agenda discussions.

4.5 Visit to the UK

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President report that he had been invited by the Government of the United Kingdom, in his capacity as President of the European Parliament, for an official visit to London, United Kingdom, including an invitation for an audience with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

5. Revision of the Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Law-making - Proposal from the Commission for an Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Regulation - Continuation of debate

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
 - a proposal from the European Commission for an Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Regulation (COM(2015) 216/2 and annexes);
 - a communication from the European Commission, entitled 'Better regulation for better results - An EU agenda' (COM(2015) 215/3);
 - a letter dated 24 April 2015 from the President to Mr TIMMERMANS, First Vice-President of the European Commission, on the exchange of views on the revision of the Inter-institutional Agreement on Better law-making, held at the Conference of Presidents' meeting of 23 April 2015 (PE 553.239/CPG);
 - a note dated 2 June 2015 from the President, entitled 'Commission proposal for an Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Regulation - Technical appraisal and political evaluation' (PE 559.559/CPG);
 - a note dated 9 June 2015 from the President, entitled 'Commission proposal for an Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Regulation - Possible Conference of Presidents position' (PE 559.588/CPG);
 - a note dated 9 June 2015 from the President, entitled 'Possible issues for an alternative Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Regulation' (PE 559.589/CPG);
 - Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Law-Making, published in the Official Journal on 31 December 2003 (OJ 2003/C 321/01);
 - Framework agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission (OJ L304, 20.11.2010, p. 47);
- heard the President introduce the item by recalling previous discussions of this matter by the Conference of Presidents, and by referring to his note dated 9 June 2015 (PE 559.588/CPG), which he had revised in the light of the exchange of views at the Conference of President's meeting of 4 June 2015;

- heard the President announce his intention to propose to Mr JUNCKER, President of the European Commission, Ms STRAUJUMA, Prime Minister of Latvia, for the current Presidency of the Council, and Mr BETTEL, Prime Minister of Luxembourg, for the incoming Presidency of the Council, that negotiations on the Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Regulation should be formally opened, on the margins of the June 2015 European Council;
- further heard the President propose that the framework for the negotiation mandate be his note of 9 June 2015 (PE 559.588/CPG), as endorsed by the Conference of Presidents, and that the Conference of Presidents could further clarify Parliament's mandate in the course of the negotiations, drawing on the expertise of the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Committee on Constitutional Affairs;
- further heard the President propose that Mr VERHOFSTADT be charged with conducting the negotiations;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr WEBER, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr PITTELLA, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr KAMALL, Chair of the ECR Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, Ms ZIMMER, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group, Ms HARMS, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, Mr LUNDGREN, acting Chair of the EFDD Group, Ms HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, and Mr SVOBODA, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs;
- heard the President conclude that:
 - the remarks of today's exchange of views would be duly noted, and specific points of the mandate could be considered in detail and further clarified by the Conference of Presidents in the course of the negotiations;
 - he would propose to the Presidents of the Commission and the Council to open negotiations formally, on the margins of the June 2015 European Council;
 - Mr VERHOFSTADT, representing Parliament's President, would be charged with conducting the negotiations, with the President's note of 9 June 2015 (PE 559.588/CPG), as endorsed by the Conference of Presidents, as framework

mandate, working in close cooperation with the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Committee on Constitutional Affairs;

- Mr VERHOFSTADT would jointly prepare each round of negotiations with Parliament's President, and report regularly to the Conference of Presidents on the negotiations, with Mr SVOBODA and Ms HÜBNER present for those agenda items;
- unanimously endorsed the approach outlined by the President.

6. Preparation of the meeting of the European Council of 25 and 26 June 2015

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
 - the annotated draft agenda of 11 May 2015 from the General Secretariat of the Council for the European Council of 25 and 26 June 2015 (PE 559.557/CPG);
 - the European Council draft guidelines of 10 June 2015 for the conclusions of its meeting of 25 and 26 June 2015 (PE 559.590/CPG);

- heard the President note that he would address the European Council on 25 June 2015, and that his speech would cover migration, security and defence policy, the fight against terrorism, the European semester and Economic Governance, along the lines of the relevant resolutions of Parliament;

- endorsed the President's approach.

7. Presentation of amendments to the Implementing provisions governing the work of delegations by Mr PANZERI, Chair of the Conference of Delegations Chairs

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
 - a letter dated 14 January 2015 of Mr PANZERI, Chair of the Conference of Delegation Chairs (CDC), proposing, on behalf of the CDC, a number of amendments to the Implementing provisions governing the work of delegations and missions outside the European Union, together with the estimated financial implications thereof (PE 547.986/CPG, annexes and assessment of the financial implications of the amendments proposed);
 - Implementing provisions governing the work of delegations and missions outside the European Union as adopted by the Conference of Presidents on 10 April 2014;
- heard Mr PANZERI, Chair of the Conference of Delegations Chairs, note that the work of delegations deserved strong and committed support, in view of the importance of Parliament's external relations;
- further heard him present proposals for amendments to the Implementing provisions governing the work of delegations and missions outside the European Union in order to facilitate the delegations' work by:
 - increasing the duration of delegation missions from 3 to 5 days, excluding travel time;
 - permitting delegation meetings on Thursday mornings and Monday afternoons;
 - increasing the delegations' quota, e.g. by excluding the bureaus from the travel quota;
 - clarifying the mandate of the External Mission Coordination Group or abolishing it;

- heard the President thank Mr PANZERI for his presentation, and propose to return to the matter at a subsequent meeting;
- agreed with the President's proposal.

8. Request to extend the term of office of the Special Committee on Tax rulings and Other Measures Similar in Nature of Effect

The Conference of Presidents, without debate:

- took note of the following documents:
 - a letter dated 28 May 2015 from Mr LAMASSOURE, Chair of the Special Committee on Tax Rulings and Other Measures Similar in Nature of Effect, requesting that the term of office of that committee be extended until 30 November 2015 (PE 559.553/CPG);
 - European Parliament decision of 12 February 2015 on setting up a special committee on tax rulings and other measures similar in nature or effect, its powers, numerical strength and term of office (2015/2566(RSO));
- noted the European Parliament decision of 12 February 2015 on setting up a special committee on tax rulings and other measures similar in nature or effect, its powers, numerical strength and term of office (2015/2566(RSO));
- approved the request and forwarded it to the plenary for decision.

9. Proposal for the timetable for the award procedure for the Sakharov Prize 2015

The Conference of Presidents, without debate:

- took note of a letter dated 3 June 2015 from Ms McAVAN, Chair of the Committee on Development (DEVE), Mr BROK, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET), and Ms VALENCIANO, Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI), on the above-mentioned subject (PE 559.555/CPG and annex);
- took note of the Statute of the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, Decision of the Conference of Presidents of 15 May 2003¹ (PE 422.585/BUR);
- took note the proposal for the timetable for the Sakharov Prize 2015, as submitted by the Chairs of DEVE, AFET and DROI, and adopted the timetable as follows:

July 2015: Note to Members from the Secretary-General;

10 September 2015: Deadline for nominations (by 12.00);

28 September 2015: Presentation of nominees in a joint meeting of DEVE/AFET/DROI in Brussels (open to all Members);

15 October 2015: Vote on three finalists in a joint meeting of the Committee on Development and the Committee on Foreign Affairs;

29 October 2015: Decision of the Conference of Presidents on the final Laureate(s);

14 December 2015: Joint DEVE/AFET/DROI meeting with 2015 Laureate(s) at 19.30 in Strasbourg;

16 December 2015: Prize award ceremony in plenary at 12.00 in Strasbourg.

¹ Modified by the Conference of Presidents at its meeting of 14 June 2006

10. Request from the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee to modify its rules of Procedure

The Conference of Presidents, without debate:

- took note of the letter dated 7 May 2015, from Ms JIMENEZ-BECERRIL, Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), requesting modification of the Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the JPC(PE 553.307/CPG, financial statement and annexes);
- noted that Article 8 of Parliament's Implementing provisions governing the work of the delegations stated that "each standing inter-parliamentary delegation may hold one inter-parliamentary meeting per year, unless otherwise stipulated in international agreements";
- noted that the RoP of the EU-Mexico JPC currently stated that meetings are to be held "at least once a year", which would allow for the possibility of an additional meeting;
- noted that the proposed modification to the RoP would contradict Parliament's Implementing provisions governing the work of delegations by establishing the rule of organising two joint meetings per year;
- noted that the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly, where the Mexican Congress was represented in view of the EU-Mexico JPC, also offered an opportunity for a regular exchange;
- in the light of the above, rejected the modification of the JPC's EU-Mexico RoP, and forwarded its recommendation to the Bureau for a final decision.

11. Request from the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee to modify its Rules of Procedure

The Conference of Presidents, without debate:

- took note of the letter dated 8 May 2015, from Ms KREHL, Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), requesting modification of the Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the JPC (PE 553.306/CPG and financial statement);
- noted that Article 8 of Parliament's Implementing provisions governing the work of delegations stated that "each standing inter-parliamentary delegation may hold one inter-parliamentary meeting per year, unless otherwise stipulated in international agreements";
- noted that the RoP of the EU-Chile JPC currently stated that meetings are to be held "at least once a year", which would allow for the possibility of an additional meeting;
- noted that the proposed modification to the RoP would contradict Parliament's Implementing provisions governing the work of delegations by establishing the rule of organising two joint meetings per year;
- noted that the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly, where the Chilean Congress was represented in view of the EU-Chile JPC, also offered an opportunity for a regular exchange;
- in the light of the above, rejected the modification of the RoP of the EU-Chile JPC, and forwarded its recommendation to the Bureau for a final decision.

12. Request from the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group for authorisation for one Member to travel to Tanzania from 29 June to 1 July 2015

The Conference of Presidents, without debate:

- took note of the letter dated 27 May 2015 from Mr BROK and Ms McAVAN, Co-Chairs of the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG), submitting a request for authorisation to send Mr MARTIN, in his capacity as lead Member guiding Parliament's democracy support activities for Tanzania as a priority country, to Tanzania, from 29 June to 1 July 2015 (PE 559.534/CPG and financial statement);
- took note of the letter dated 3 June 2015 from Mr BROK and Ms McAVAN, Co-Chairs of the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group, submitting final details on the selection of priority countries and the Lead Members for these countries regarding the implementation of the Comprehensive Democracy and Support Approach (PE 559.566/CPG);
- noted that all requests to travel to priority countries should be submitted by the DEG to the Conference of Presidents for prior authorisation;
- noted that the dates proposed coincided with two days set aside for political groups activities (Tuesday and Wednesday);
- nevertheless authorised the request.

13. Request from the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group for authorisation for one Member to travel to Moldova from 2 to 3 July 2015

The Conference of Presidents, without debate:

- took note of the letter dated 27 May 2015 from Mr BROK and Ms McAVAN, Co-Chairs of the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG), submitting a request for authorisation to send Mr AUŠTREVICĪUS, in his capacity as lead Member guiding Parliament's democracy support activities for Moldova as a priority country, to Moldova, from 2 to 3 July 2015 (PE 559.535/CPG and financial statement);
- took note of the letter dated 3 June 2015 from Mr BROK and Ms McAVAN, Co-Chairs of the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group, submitting final details on the selection of priority countries and the Lead Members for these countries regarding the implementation of the Comprehensive Democracy and Support Approach (PE 559.566/CPG);
- noted that all requests to travel to priority countries should be submitted by the DEG to the Conference of Presidents for prior authorisation;
- noted that the dates proposed coincided with one day set aside for political groups and parliamentary committee activities (Thursday) and one day without parliamentary activities (Friday);
- nevertheless authorised the request.

14. Request for authorisation to send a delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy to be held in Luxembourg from 5 to 6 September 2015

The Conference of Presidents, without debate:

- took note of the letter dated 2 June 2015 from Mr BROK, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET), requesting authorisation to send a 16 Member delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy, to be held in Luxembourg, from 5 to 6 September 2015 (PE 559.549/CPG, draft programme and financial statement);
- noted that the proposed dates for the Inter-Parliamentary Conference coincided with two days without parliamentary activity (Saturday and Sunday);
- authorised the sending of a 16 Member delegation to the CFSP/CSDP Inter-Parliamentary Conference, to be led by the Chair of the AFET Committee, its Members, including the Chair, to be appointed by the political groups in accordance with the d'Hondt system, which should also apply to the non-attached Members, and be preferably drawn from the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Subcommittee on Security and Defence.

15. Request for authorisation to send 5 Members to the ceremony of signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Parliament and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in Kiev Ukraine, on 3 July 2015

The Conference of Presidents, without debate:

- took note of the letter dated 4 June 2015 co-signed by Mr BROK and Ms McAVAN, Co-Chairs of the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG), and by Mr PLENKOVIC, Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee (PAC), requesting authorisation to send 5 Members to the ceremony of signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Parliament and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in Kiev, Ukraine, on 3 July 2015 (PE 559.565/CPG, and financial statement);
- noted that the 5 Members proposed were:
 - Mr BROK and Ms McAVAN, in their capacity as DEG Co-Chairs;
 - Mr PLENKOVIC, in his capacity as Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine PAC;
 - Mr SZANYI and Ms KALLAS, in their capacity as Vice-Chairs of the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine PAC;
- noted that the date of the ceremony of signature coincided with a day without parliamentary activity (Friday);
- authorised the sending of an ad-hoc delegation composed of the above-mentioned 5 Members.

16. Request from the ALDE Group for authorisation to hold a meeting of the Bureau of the Group in Istria, Croatia, from 28 to 29 September 2015

The Conference of Presidents, without debate:

- took note of the letters dated 20 May and 3 June 2015 from Mr BEELS, Secretary-General of the ALDE Group requesting authorisation to hold a Bureau Group meeting in Istria, Croatia (PE 553.330/CPG and PE 559.578/CPG, and financial statement);
- noted that the dates originally proposed had been amended and that the meeting should now take place from 23 to 25 September 2015;
- noted that the meeting coincided with one day reserved for parliamentary committee activities (Wednesday) and two days reserved for external parliamentary activities (Thursday and Friday);
- authorised the request, by way of exception.

17. Request from the EPP Group for authorisation to hold a meeting of its Bureau in Prague, Czech Republic, from 10 to 12 December 2015

The Conference of Presidents, without debate:

- took note of the letter dated 2 June 2015 from Mr BIESMANS, Deputy Secretary-General of the EPP Group, requesting authorisation to hold a Bureau Group meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, from 10 to 12 December 2015 (PE 559.552/CPG and financial statement);
- noted that the meeting coincided with one day reserved for political groups and parliamentary committee activities (Thursday) and two days without parliamentary activities (Friday and Saturday);
- authorised the request, by way of exception.

18. Urgent matters and any other business

18.1 Proceedings in plenary

The Conference of Presidents

- heard Ms HARMS, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, note, with reference to the procedural motion to suspend the debate in the Chamber the previous afternoon, that proper proceedings and the effective functioning of the plenary needed be ensured;
- heard the President note that he would raise the matter at a subsequent Bureau meeting.

18.2 IT security

The Conference of Presidents

- heard Ms HARMS, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, ask, with reference to the hacker attack on the IT systems of the German Bundestag, whether the security of Parliament's IT systems was sufficiently guaranteed;
- heard the President note that he would ask the services to address the particular issue in their ongoing work to improve continuously the security of Parliament's network.

18.3 Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe

The Conference of Presidents

- heard Mr WEBER, Chair of the EPP Group, refer to the Commission Communication "A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe", and suggest that Parliament address it as a matter of urgency by means of resolutions by the political groups.

19. Items for information

19.1 Internal correspondence

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
 - a letter from Mr ARTHUIS, Chair of the Committee on Budgets, and Ms FOTYGA, Chair of the Sub-committee on Security and Defence, with reports on the ad hoc delegation to Ukraine, which took place on 18 and 20 March 2015 (PE 559.532/CPG);
 - a letter from Ms HAUTALA, Co-chair of Euronest, on the Euronest Rules of Procedure (PE 559.533/CPG and annexes);
 - a letter dated 8 May 2015 from Mr BROK, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, on the visibility of rapporteurs for progress reports on candidate countries (PE 559.580/CPG).

19.2 Inter-institutional correspondence

There was none.

19.3 External correspondence

There was none.

20. Date and place of next meetings

The Conference of Presidents

- noted that the next ordinary meeting would be held on Thursday, 2 July 2015 from 11:00 to 13:00 hours in room 06B 01 in the Paul Henri SPAAK Building, Brussels

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The meeting closed at 11.58