EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

MINUTES

of the ordinary meeting of Thursday

27 October 2016

Louise WEISS, Room R1.1

Strasbourg
CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

MINUTES

of the ordinary meeting of

Thursday, 27 October 2016

from 10:00 to 12:00 hours

Louise WEISS, Room R1.1

Strasbourg

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CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

MINUTES

of the meeting of Thursday 27 October 2016
from 10:00 to 12:00 hours

Strasbourg

The meeting opened at 10.10 hours 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 BORRELLI (Co-Chair) (EFDD)
Ms LE PEN (Co-Chair) (ENF)
Ms DODDS1 (NI)

Also Present
Mr WELLE, Secretary-General

1 Present pursuant to Rule 26 (2) of the Rules of Regulations of Procedure
Ms RATTI, Deputy Secretary-General

Invited: Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The Council¹
represented by Mr CASTELLAN
Ms VAN LAMSWEERDE

The Commission¹
represented by Mr MITEK
Mr LE GAL

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

Office of the President
Mr KNUDSEN
Ms BLAU
Mr FASSINA
Mr MASUR
Ms CHIKHI
Mr SCHRANZ

Office of the Secretary-General
Mr MANGOLD
Mr SORENSEN
Ms KOSTIDOU

Office of the Deputy Secretary-General
Ms TARDIOLI-SCHIAVO¹
Ms VLASTARA¹

Secretariat

DG Presidency (PRES)
Mr WINKLER/Ms ROBSON/Ms GANDOLFO/Ms SAILIS¹

DG Internal Policies (IPOL)
Mr RIBERA d’ALCALA/Mr CHIOCCHETTI

DG External Policies (EXPO)
Mr AGUIRIANO

¹ Present for items 1-3
DG European Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS)
   Mr TEASDALE

DG Communication (COMM)
   Ms LAHOUSSE/Mr DUCH GUILLOT

DG Infrastructures and Logistics
   Ms LINNUS

DG Translation (TRAD)
   Mr MAVRIČ

DG Interpretation and Conferences (INTE)
   Mr JIMENEZ MARIN

DG Finance (FINS)
   Mr KLETHI

DG Innovation and Technical Support (ITEC)
   Mr VILELLA

Legal Service (SJ)
   Mr DREXLER/Ms MARTINEZ IGLESIAS

Directorate for relations with political groups
   Mr SCHWETZ

Secretariat of the Bureau
   Mr TZIORKAS

Political groups

Mr KAMP/Mr RYNGAERT/Ms SCRIBAN/Ms LASKAVÁ (EPP)
Mr MORENO SANCHEZ/Mr BURU/Ms PEREIRA/Mr CARDELLA (S&D)
Mr BARRETT/Mr BOYD (ECR)
Mr BEELS/Ms COLERA-GARZÓN/Mr RASMUSSEN/Mr McLAUGHLIN (ALDE)
Ms D’ALIMONTE/Ms LEPOLA (GUE/NGL)
Ms TSETSI/Mr DENKINGER/Mr LINAZASORO (Greens/EFA)
Mr VAUGIER/Ms ALBERTINI/Mr CALAZZO (EFDD)
Mr DE DANNE/Mr CAMPOMENOSI (ENF)
Mr BORDEZ (NI)
Mr ISAACS, Mr ROHLJE, Ms BERTULESSI and Ms SCHADE 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 590.347/CPG).
2. **Approval of the draft Minutes of the meetings of 20 October 2016**

The Conference of Presidents

- noted and approved the draft Minutes of the ordinary meeting of 20 October 2016, held in Brussels (PE 590.308/CPG and annex).
3. **Adoption of the draft agenda for the November I part-session (from 21 to 24 November 2016) - Scheduling of key debates in plenary**

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
  
  - a letter dated 25 October 2016 from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, submitting a recommendation regarding the agenda of the November I part-session (from 21 to 24 November 2016) (PE 590.391/CPG and annexes);
  
  - a letter dated 26 October 2016 from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, on co-decision files currently under negotiation (PE 590.392/CPG and annexes);

- noted and adopted the draft agenda for the November I 2016 part-session without modification.
4. Communications by the President

4.1 Transparency register

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President recall that, on 28 September 2016, the European Commission had proposed an Inter-institutional Agreement establishing a mandatory transparency register covering Parliament, Council and Commission;

- heard the President propose that Ms GUILLAUME, Vice-President responsible for the Transparency register, and Ms HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, be nominated as Parliament’s lead negotiators;

- heard the President propose also that each political group nominate one Member to a contact group chaired by the lead negotiators;

- further heard the President propose that the lead negotiators draft a negotiation mandate for endorsement by the contact group and subsequent adoption by the Conference of Presidents so that negotiations with the other institutions be opened as soon as possible, and that the lead negotiators, in the course of the negotiations, consult and report back to the contact group, and to the Conference of Presidents as appropriate;

- heard Ms ZIMMER, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group;

- agreed with the President’s proposals.

4.2 Joint declaration

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President propose that he circulate a draft EP mandate for the joint declaration on the Commission Work Programme 2017 to the Group Chairs, with a view to considering and adopting it for the forthcoming trilateral negotiations at the subsequent meeting;

- endorsed the President’s approach.
4.3 UK withdrawal from the EU - meeting with Mr BARNIER

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President propose that Mr BARNIER, chief negotiator for the preparation and conduct of the negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50 TEU, be invited for an exchange of views at an extraordinary meeting of the Conference of Presidents on 30 November 2016, from 15.30 to 17.00 hours;

- heard him note that he would prepare the meeting jointly with Mr VERHOFSTADT, coordinator for the negotiations on the UK withdrawal from the EU;

- heard Ms ZIMMER, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group;

- endorsed the President’s proposal.

4.4 EU – Canada summit

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President report that he had meetings with Ms FREELAND, Minister of International Trade of Canada, and with Mr MAGNETTE, Minister-President of Wallonia, to discuss the state of play of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the European Union, with a view to holding the EU - Canada summit;

- heard Ms ZIMMER, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group, Ms HARMS, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, and Ms LE PEN, Co-Chair of the ENF Group;

- heard the President conclude by noting that he was confident that Belgium would soon be ready to sign the agreement and that the EU - Canada summit could be held subsequently.

4.5 Staff matters

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President inform Members of the departure of Ms RATTI, Deputy Secretary-General, on 31 October 2016, noting that this was therefore her last Conference of
Presidents meeting; thank Ms RATTI for her 37 years of service as an outstandingly competent and loyal official who had achieved remarkable results in carrying out her duties for the European Parliament in her many different functions since she joined the European Parliament as a political advisor to Altiero SPINELLI, one of the most devoted and visionary promoters of European integration; further heard him thank her for her tireless dedication to Parliament’s work;

- heard Mr PITTELLA, Chair of the S&D Group, thank Ms RATTI for her work and guidance;

- heard Ms RATTI, Deputy Secretary-General, express her deep gratitude for having had the opportunity to serve the institution and advance the European ideal;

- further heard the President thank Mr ISAACS, acting Head of the Secretariat of the Conference of Presidents, for his excellent work in managing the secretariat, and congratulate him on his new position.
5. Award of the 2016 Sakharov Prize – Decision on laureate

The Conference of Presidents,

- took note of the following documents:
  
  - a letter dated 20 October 2016 from Mr BROK, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and Ms McAVAN, Chair of the Committee on Development, on the above-mentioned subject including the biographies of the three candidates (in alphabetical order) who received the highest number of votes (PE 590.366/CPG and annexes);
  
  - the statute of the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought - decision of the Conference of Presidents of 15 May 2003, amended on 14 June 2006 (PE 422.585/BUR and annex);

- heard the President introduce the item by recalling that the three Sakharov nominees who had received the largest number of votes at the joint AFET/DEVE committee meeting, which had prepared the shortlist for the prize (in alphabetical order), were Can DÜNDAR and the defenders of freedom of thought and expression in Turkey, Mustafa DZHEMILEV, and Nadia MURAD and Lamiya AJI BASHAR;

- heard the President report the outcome of the joint committee vote; further heard him note that he had consulted the political groups on their positions, which had reflected the joint committee vote, and that a decision should be taken by consensus, if possible;

- heard Mr WEBER, Chair of the EPP Group, recall the consensual approach supported by his group in the previous year, and note that the Conference of Presidents should follow the outcome of the joint committee 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, Mr BORRELLI, Co-Chair of the EFDD Group, and Ms LE PEN, Co-Chair of the ENF Group, during which, inter alia:

- Group Chairs expressed support for nominees selected by their respective groups;
- it was underlined that all nominees would be worthy winners of the prize;
- it was noted that a revision of the statute of the Sakharov Prize should be considered with a view to avoiding undue politicisation of the process;

- unanimously decided, notwithstanding the desirability of arriving at a decision without a vote as strongly expressed by the President, that, since each of the candidates received strong backing in the committees and the political groups, a vote on the three nominees be held and, if no nominee obtained an absolute majority, a second vote be held on the two nominees who received the largest number of votes in the first round;

- decided, after two rounds of voting, to award the 2016 Sakharov Prize to Nadia MURAD and Lamiya AJI BASHAR;

- decided also to pay tribute to the other finalists in a similar way as had been done in the previous years, and to receive Mustafa DZHEMILEV and Can DÜNDAR, on the day of the award ceremony in Strasbourg in December.
6. **Draft calendar of Parliament's part-sessions for the year 2018**

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- **took note** of the proposal for a draft calendar of Parliament's part-sessions in 2018 (PE 590.314/CPG);

- **noted** that the adoption of Parliament's calendar of part-sessions for 2018 at this juncture should facilitate the planning and coordination of key activities of an inter-institutional nature with the other institutions, including meetings of the European Council;

- **endorsed** the draft calendar of Parliament's part-sessions in 2018, and **submitted** it to plenary for adoption.
7. **Request from parliamentary committees to draw-up own-initiative reports under Rule 52, requests for the application of Rule 54 and 55, and related requests**

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- **took note** of a letter dated 18 October 2016 from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, submitting requests from parliamentary committees for authorisation to draw up own-initiative reports under Rules 45 and 52, for the application of Rules 54 and 55 of the Rules of Procedure, and for co-rapporteurship (PE 590.342/CPG and annexes);

- **took note** of the request for authorisation for six non-legislative own-initiative reports under heading C and **authorised** them to be drawn up;

- **noted** and **endorsed** the drawing up of one implementation report;

- **noted** the request to draw up one own-initiative report under Rule 45 pursuant to Article 14 (2) of the TEU by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) entitled “Composition of the European Parliament”;

- **noted** the request of the AFCO committee to appoint two co-rapporteurs for the above mentioned report, **recalled** that the Rules of Procedure made no provision for the appointment of co-rapporteurs, but that the Conference of Presidents, on previous occasions, had authorised the appointment of co-rapporteurs for a very limited number of highly important reports, generally of a budgetary or institutional nature; **noted** that the content of such a report was contingent on the state of the withdrawal process of the United Kingdom from the EU and, in view of the complexity of the issues involved, **postponed** a decision on authorisation to a subsequent meeting;

- **noted** and **endorsed** the agreement reached between the Committees on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) on the application of Rule 55 with regard to the proposed own-initiative report on “Online Platforms and the Digital Single Market”;

- **noted** and **endorsed** the following agreements on the application of Rule 54 for own-initiative reports reached between:
- IMCO and ITRE and the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) on the association of ITRE and JURI to the proposed IMCO own-initiative report entitled “EU eGovernment action plan 2016-2020”;

- IMCO and ITRE on the association of ITRE to the proposed IMCO implementation report entitled “European standards - implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012”;

- noted and endorsed the agreement reached between ITRE, IMCO and the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) as regards to the proposed ITRE own-initiative report on “Digitising European industry” on the application of the so-called Rule 53+ to the IMCO and CULT opinions.
8. Request from the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection to send an ad hoc delegation to Geneva, Switzerland, from 1 to 2 November 2016

The Conference of Presidents

- took note of a letter dated 18 October 2016 from Ms FORD, Chair of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, requesting authorisation for a mission to Geneva, Switzerland, from 1 to 2 November 2016 (PE 590.354/CPG, draft programme, and financial statement);

- noted that the ad hoc delegation had not been included in the draft programme for ad hoc delegations by parliamentary committees outside the territory of the European Union for the second half of 2016;

- noted that the dates proposed coincided with two days set aside for external parliamentary activities (Tuesday and Wednesday);

- noted that no interpretation had been requested;

- heard Mr WEBER, Chair of the EPP Group, propose that the mission be authorised;

- authorised the request.
9. Request from the Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly to hold a joint meeting of the Euronest ECON/ENER committees in Brussels on 1 December 2016.

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 18 October 2016 from Ms HAUTALA, Chair of the Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, requesting authorisation to hold a joint meeting of the Euronest committees on Economic Integration, Legal Approximation and Convergence with EU Policies (ECON) and on Energy Security (ENER) in Brussels on Thursday afternoon, 1 December 2016 (PE 590.371/CPG and financial statement);

- noted that the meeting as now proposed had not been included in the draft programme of activities by standing inter-parliamentary delegations for the second half of 2016;

- noted that the date proposed for the meeting coincided with half a day set aside for parliamentary committee activities, but that the applicable rules allowed for meetings of standing inter-parliamentary delegations during Thursday afternoon slots of committee weeks;

- authorised the request.
10. **Request from the S&D Group to hold a meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, from 2 to 3 December 2016**

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 21 October 2016 from Mr PITTELLA, Chair of the S&D Group, requesting authorisation to hold a meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, on 2 and 3 December 2016 (PE 590.339/CPG/rev and financial statement);

- noted that the meeting coincided with two days without parliamentary activity (Friday and Saturday);

- noted that interpretation into six languages had been requested;

- exceptionally authorised the request.
11. **Request from the Greens/EFA Group to hold a meeting in Brussels, from 3 to 5 February 2017**

*The Conference of Presidents*, without debate

- took note of the letter dated 12 October 2016 from Ms HARMS and Mr LAMBERTS, Co-Chairs of the Greens/EFA Group, requesting authorisation to hold a meeting in Brussels, outside Parliament’s premises, at the Tour and Taxis site, from 3 to 5 February 2017 (PE 590.346/CPG and financial statement);

- noted that the meeting coincided with three days without parliamentary activity (Friday to Sunday);

- noted that interpretation into four languages had been requested;

- authorised the request by way of exception.
12. **Urgent matters and any other business**

12.1 **Demonstration in Diyarbakir, Turkey**

The Conference of Presidents

- heard Ms ZIMMER, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group, report that Ms UCA, former Member of the European Parliament and current Member of the Turkish Parliament, had been attacked by Turkish police forces during a demonstration against the arrest of the co-mayors of Diyarbakir, Turkey, and propose that Parliament convey its strongest concerns to the Turkish authorities;

- heard the President undertake to contact the Turkish authorities on that matter.
12.2 **November II 2016 part-session in Brussels**

**The Conference of Presidents**

- heard Mr WEBER, Chair of the EPP Group, propose that the November II 2016 part-session in Brussels be cancelled, unless urgent matters required holding that part-session;

- heard Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, and Mr BORRELLI, Co-Chair of the EFDD Group, propose that a decision be taken at a subsequent meeting;

- heard the President recall that, on 15 September 2016, the Conference of Presidents had been informed, that Mr ESSEBSI, President of Tunisia, had been invited to address the Plenary on 1 December 2016 during the part-session in Brussels;

- agreed to return to the matter at its next meeting.
13. **Items for information**

13.1 **Internal correspondence**

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
  
  - a letter dated 26 October 2016 from Mr BUZEK, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, on the forwarding of draft RPS measures during the winter recess of 2016 (PE 590.405/CPG and annexes);
  
  - a letter dated 24 October 2016 from Mr HÄNDEL, Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, proposing the establishment of a special temporary committee to monitor the legislative consequences of the Brexit negotiations (PE 590.415/CPG).

13.2 **Inter-institutional correspondence**

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
  
  - two letters dated 21 October 2016 from Mr SCHULZ, President of the European Parliament, to Mr JUNCKER, President of the European Commission (PE 590.380/CPG), and Mr FICO, President in Office of Council (PE 590.379/CPG), on the upcoming negotiations on the 2017 Budget of the European Union and mid-term revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, and replies dated 25 October 2016 from Ms GEORGIEVA, Vice-President of the European Commission (PE 590.414/CPG), and 26 October 2016 from Mr FICO, President in Office of Council (PE 590.416/CPG), respectively.

13.3 **External correspondence**

There was none.
14. **Date and place of next meetings**

   **The Conference of Presidents**

   - noted that the next ordinary meeting would be held on Thursday 17 November 2016 from 11:00 to 13:00 hours in room 06B01, in Paul-Henri SPAAK Building, in Brussels.

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   The meeting closed at 11.19 hours