MINUTES
of the ordinary meeting of Thursday

12 April 2018

Paul-Henri SPAAK Building, Room PHS 06B 01

Brussels
CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

MINUTES

of the ordinary meeting of

Thursday, 12 April 2018

from 11:00 to 13:00 hours

Paul-Henri Spaak Building, Room PHA 06B 01

Brussels

CONTENTS

1. Adoption of the draft agenda ............................................................................................................7
2. Approval of the draft Minutes of the meeting of 15 March 2018 ..................................................8
3. Adoption of the final draft agenda for the April part-session (from 16 to 19 April 2018) and the draft agenda for the May I part-session (from 2 to 3 May 2018) – Scheduling of key debates in plenary ................................................................................................................................. 9
4. Communications by the President ..................................................................................................11
   4.1. Guest speakers in Plenary for the debate on the Future of Europe ............................................11
   4.2. Guest speakers in Plenary from Third Countries ......................................................................11
   4.3. The Conference of Presidents’ decision on the proposal of a committee of inquiry on animal transport ...........................................................................................................................................12
   4.4. Invitation to Mr ZUCKERBERG, CEO of Facebook, to appear before Parliament .......... 13
   4.5. Constituent meeting of the Contact Group for the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework post-2020 ..........................................................................................................................14
   4.6. International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia ........................................14
5. Mid-term report of the Special Committee on Terrorism ................................................................15
6. 30th anniversary of the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought - organisation of a conference to be held in Brussels, on 4 and 5 June 2018 .................................................................17
7. Draft calendar of Parliament’s part-sessions for the year 2019 .......................................................18
8. Requests from parliamentary committees to draw up own-initiative reports under Rule 52, and requests for application of Rule 54, and related requests .................................................................................19
9. Attribution of competence for the legislative report on amending the “Common Provisions Regulation” as regards support to structural reforms in the Member States ............................................21
10. Request from the Special Committee on the Union’s authorisation procedure for pesticides to appoint co-rapporteurs ........................................................................................................22
11. Request from the Committee on Petitions to send a fact-finding mission to Famagusta, Cyprus, from 7 to 9 May 2018 ................................................................. 23
12. Request from the Committee on International Trade to send an ad hoc delegation to Mexico City, Mexico, from 21 to 23 May 2018 ................................................................. 24
13. Request from the Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee to hold a meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 10 and 11 May 2018 .................................................. 25
14. Request from the SINEEA Delegation for authorisation to send one Member to attend the meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region in Kiruna, Sweden, on 14 May 2018 .................................................. 26
15. Request from the SINEEA Delegation for authorisation to send one Member to attend the meeting of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference Standing Committee in Koli, Finland, from 14 to 15 May 2018 .................................................. 27
16. Request from the Delegation to the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee to hold a meeting in Strasbourg, on 13 and 14 June 2018 .................................................. 28
17. Request for authorisation for three Members to conduct the first Jean Monnet Dialogue for peace and democracy in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in Ohrid, FYROM, from 17 to 19 May 2018 .................................................. 29
18. Request to send a delegation to an inter-parliamentary conference entitled “Upholding the freedom of expression, including media freedom, in the EU and beyond” in Prague, Czech Republic, on 15 June 2018 .................................................. 30
19. Request to organise the 10th meeting of the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership, in Brussels ................................................................. 31
20. Regular items for the scrutiny of the Conference of Presidents .................................................. 33
20.1. Delegated and implementing acts - Screening of current files .................................................. 33
20.2. Overview of delegated acts and draft RPS measures currently under EP scrutiny .................................................. 34
20.3. First reading agreements - Committee decisions to enter into negotiations and state of play of files currently under negotiation .................................................. 35
21. Urgent matters and any other business .................................................................................. 36
21.1. Request from the Special Committee on the Union’s authorisation procedure for pesticides to send a fact-finding mission to the European Food Safety Authority in Parma, Italy, on 7 and 8 May 2018 .................................................. 36
22. Items for information ................................................................................................................. 38
22.1. Internal correspondence ........................................................................................................ 38
22.2. Inter-institutional correspondence ........................................................................................ 38
22.3. External correspondence ...................................................................................................... 39
23. Date and place of the next meeting ............................................................................................ 40
CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

MINUTES

of the meeting of Thursday 12 April 2018

from 11:00 to 13:00 hours

Brussels

The meeting opened at 11:09 hours with Mr Antonio TAJANI,

President of the European Parliament, in the chair

Present

Mr TAJANI, President

Political Group Chairs

Mr KOVATCHEV (Acting) (EPP)
Ms GUILLAUME (Acting) (S&D)
Mr LEGUTKO (Co-Chair) (ECR)
Mr VERHOFSTADT (ALDE)
Mr DURAND (Acting) (Greens/EFA)
Ms ZIMMER (GUE/NGL)
Mr LUNDEGREN (Acting) (EFDD)
Mr BAY (Co-Chair) (ENF)
Ms DODDS¹ (NI)

Also Present

Mr WELLE, Secretary-General
Mr WINKLER, Deputy Secretary-General

¹ Present pursuant to Rule 26 (2) of the Rules of Regulations of Procedure
Invited - item 5:

- Ms GRIESBECK, Chair of the Special Committee on Terrorism
- Ms HOHLMEIER, co-rapporteur
- Ms STEVENS, co-rapporteur

The Council:
represented by
- Ms TUTS
- Mr KERLEROUX

The Commission:
represented by
- Mr LE GAL

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

The Economic and Social Committee:
represented by
- Mr DELEANU

Office of the President:
- Mr CANGA FANO
- Mr CHIOCCHETTI
- Mr CORAZZA
- Mr WEISS
- Ms GLATIGNY

Office of the Secretary-General:
- Mr MANGOLD
- Ms FERNANDEZ PERLES
- Ms POPTCHEVA
- Mr DE FINANCE

Office of the Deputy Secretary-General:
- Mr JAVELLE

Secretariat:

- DG Presidency (PRES): Mr LANE/Ms ROBSON/Ms GANDOLFO/Ms SAILIS

- DG Internal Policies (IPOL): Mr RIBERA/Ms VANDENBOSCH/Ms ZULETA DE REALES

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2 Assisted by Ms Scheiris and Mr Pouliot, sign interpreters
3 Present for items 1-3
4 Present for item 5
DG External Policies (EXPO) Mr AGUIRIANO
DG European Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS) Mr BASSOT
DG Communication (COMM) Mr DUCH GUILLOT
DG Personnel (PERS) Mr KNUDSEN
DG Infrastructures and Logistics Ms LUEDDECKE
DG Translation (TRAD) Mr MAVRIČ
DG Logistics and Interpretation for Conferences (LINC) Ms WALTER-DROP
DG Innovation and Technological Support (ITEC) Mr VILELLA
DG Security and Safety (SAFE) Mr CAROZZA
Legal Service (SJ) Mr DREXLER/Ms MARTINEZ IGLESIAS
Directorate for relations with political groups Mr SCHWETZ
Secretariat of the Bureau Mr TZIORKAS

Political groups
Ms SCRIBAN/Ms LASKAVÁ (EPP)
Ms GLIUBIZZI/Mr GUERRA/Ms MAHRENHOLZ (S&D)
Mr BARRETT/Mr BOYD (ECR)
Mr BEELS/Ms COLERA-GARZÓN/Mr RASMUSSEN/Mr McLAUGHLIN (ALDE)
Mr BROUWER/Mr LINAZASORO (Greens/EFA)
Ms LEPOLA/Ms ASLETT-RYDBJERG/Ms ROVIRA (GUE/NGL)
Ms LALOUX/ Mr TEUSCHER (EFDD)
Mr CLAEYS (ENF)
Mr BORDEZ (NI)

Ms WOLLNY, Mr ROHLJE, Ms BERTULESSI, Ms SCHADE and Mr VAUGIER 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 618.939/CPG).
2. Approval of the draft Minutes of the meeting of 15 March 2018

The Conference of Presidents

- noted and approved the draft Minutes of the ordinary meeting of 15 March 2018 held in Brussels (PE 615.867/CPG and annex).
3. Adoption of the final draft agenda for the April part-session (from 16 to 19 April 2018) and the draft agenda for the May I part-session (from 2 to 3 May 2018) – Scheduling of key debates in plenary

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
  - the draft agenda of the April part-session (from 16-19 April 2018) in Strasbourg, adopted by the Conference of Presidents on 15 March 2018;
  - a preliminary draft agenda for the May I part-session (from 2 to 3 May 2018) in Brussels;
  - a final table dated 12 April 2018 summarising committee and delegation meetings planned for the April part-session (from 16-19 April 2018) in Strasbourg (PE 620.055/CPG);

- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr KOVATCHEV, acting Chair of the EPP Group, Ms GUILLAUME, acting Chair of the S&D Group, Mr LEGUTKO, Co-Chair of the ECR Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, Mr DURAND, acting Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, Ms ZIMMER, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group, Mr LUNDGREN, acting Chair of the EFDD Group, and Mr BAY, Co-Chair of the ENF Group, and, after a vote, adopted the final draft agenda for the April 2018 part-session with the following modifications:

  Tuesday, 17 April 2018

  - decided that the Statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the violation of human rights and the rule of law in the case of two Greek soldiers arrested and detained in Turkey be taken with resolution;

  Wednesday, 18 April 2018

  - decided that the debate on Implementation of the Development Cooperation Instrument, the Humanitarian Aid Instrument and the European Development Fund be moved to Monday, 16 April 2018, before the short presentations;
  - decided to postpone the topical debate under Rule 153a of Parliament’s Rules of Procedure, and agreed that the sequence of the distribution of topical debates among the political groups, as noted at its meeting on 9 March 2017, be continued at the
subsequent part-session, and that, therefore, the agreed sequence of political groups be extended to include the January I 2019 part-session;

- **decided** to add, as last item in the afternoon, oral questions to Council and Commission on vaccine hesitancy and drop in vaccination rates in Europe, with resolution;

- **adopted** the draft agenda for the May I 2018 part-session without modification.
4. Communications by the President

4.1. Guest speakers in Plenary for the debate on the Future of Europe

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President note the positive feedback that he had received from Heads of State or Government who had spoken in plenary in the framework of the debate on the Future of Europe; and heard him report that the following Heads of State or Government had been confirmed to address plenary at subsequent part-sessions:

- Mr MACRON, President of France, at the April 2018 part-session;
- Mr MICHEL, Prime Minister of Belgium, at the May I 2018 part-session;
- Mr BETTEL, Prime Minister of Luxembourg, at the May II 2018 part-session;
- Mr MORAWIECKI, Prime Minister of Poland, at the July 2018 part-session;
- Mr TSIPRAS, Prime Minister of Greece, at the September 2018 part-session;
- Mr RATAS, Prime Minister of Estonia, at the October I 2018 part-session;
- Mr IOHANNIS, President of Romania, at the October II 2018 part-session;
- Ms MERKEL, Federal Chancellor of Germany, at the November 2018 part-session.

4.2. Guest speakers in Plenary from Third Countries

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President report that Mr SANTOS, President of Columbia, would address plenary on 30 May 2018, in Strasbourg, noting Mr SANTOS' role in the Colombian peace process and the EU's support in the implementation of the peace agreement;

- heard him further report that Mr CONDÉ, President of Guinea and former Chairperson of the African Union, had accepted an invitation to address plenary on Tuesday 29 May 2018, in Strasbourg.
4.3. The Conference of Presidents’ decision on the proposal of a committee of inquiry on animal transport

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President report that he had received a letter from Ms KELLER and Mr LAMBERTS, Co-Chairs of the Greens/EFA Group, and a letter from Ms ZIMMER, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group, regarding the decision of the Conference of Presidents of 15 March 2018 on a proposal to set up a committee of inquiry to investigate alleged contraventions and maladministration in relation to the implementation by EU Member States and enforcement by the Commission of Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport within and outside the EU;

- heard the President recall that, following an exchange of views at that meeting and a vote on the way to proceed, there had been a clear majority in favour of drafting an implementation report instead of setting-up an inquiry committee, and that it had been decided, by majority vote, that the AGRI Committee be tasked with drafting an implementation report on the subject-matter instead of setting-up an inquiry committee, and that the ENVI and TRAN Committees be associated under Rule 54 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure with shared competence over the entire implementation report, and that, therefore, the vote in favour of the implementation report had been at the same time a decision not to forward to plenary the proposal to set up a committee of inquiry;

- heard Mr DURAND, acting Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, and Ms ZIMMER, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group, request clarifications on the procedure followed under Rule 198 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure;

- heard Parliament’s Jurisconsult;

- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr LEGUTKO, Co-Chair of the ECR Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, Mr DURAND, acting Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, and Ms ZIMMER, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group;

- heard the President underline that the Conference of Presidents had clearly expressed its political will at the meeting on 15 March 2018 after an extensive exchange of views on the whole matter, and that the Conference of Presidents enjoyed full political discretion as to whether a request would be forwarded to plenary or not;
- heard him undertake to reply to the two above-mentioned letters, to provide the requested clarifications, and to request a legal opinion from the Jurisconsult containing his oral explanations.

4.4. **Invitation to Mr ZUCKERBERG, CEO of Facebook, to appear before Parliament**

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President report that he had sent a letter to Mr ZUCKERBERG, Chief Executive Officer of Facebook, to invite him to appear before Parliament with a view to providing explanations on the acquisition and use of personal data of millions of Facebook users by the consulting firm Cambridge Analytica;

- heard the President further report that Facebook had indicated that Mr KAPLAN, Vice-President for Global Public Policy at Facebook, would be available to appear before Parliament instead;

- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr KOVATCHEV, acting Chair of the EPP Group, Ms GUILLAUME, acting Chair of the S&D Group, Mr LEGUTKO, Co-Chair of the ECR Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, Mr DURAND, acting Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, Ms ZIMMER, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group, Mr LUNDGREN, acting Chair of the EFDD Group, and Mr BAY, Co-Chair of the ENF Group, during which a strong preference was expressed for Mr ZUCKERBERG to appear before a joint committee hearing;

- heard the President undertake to insist on the appearance of Mr ZUCKERBERG and heard him propose that the hearing be organised by the LIBE Committee with the association of the AFCO, JURI and ITRE Committees;

- endorsed the President’s approach.
4.5. Constituent meeting of the Contact Group for the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework post-2020

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President recall that, at its meeting on 7 March 2018, the Conference of Presidents had decided that a contact group for the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework post-2020 be set up, composed of the negotiating team and representatives of all political groups and chaired by the President, to provide a mandate on the basis of which the negotiating team should pursue its talks with the Council;

- heard the President invite the Group Chairs to nominate their respective representative in the contact group with a view to the constituent meeting of the group scheduled to take place on 18 April 2018.

4.6. International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President propose that, following a request from the coordination of the political groups, the rainbow flag be flown over Parliament’s buildings on the occasion of the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, on 17 May 2018;

- heard Ms GUILLAUME, acting Chair of the S&D Group, propose that rainbow flags also be flown by Parliament's Liaison Offices;

- endorsed the proposals.
5. **Mid-term report of the Special Committee on Terrorism**

**The Conference of Presidents**

- *took note* of a European Parliament decision of 6 July 2017 on setting up a special committee on terrorism, its responsibilities, numerical strength and term of office (2017/2758(RSO)) (PE 620.035/CPG);

- *heard* the President recall that, at its meeting on 19 October 2017, the Conference of Presidents had agreed, in view of the confidential nature of the information examined by the Special Committee on Terrorism, that the preliminary findings of the special committee be presented in the form of an oral mid-term report to the Conference of Presidents;

- *heard* Ms GRIESBECK, Chair of the Special Committee on Terrorism, report on the working method of her committee and on hearings held with Commissioners, experts and high-level staff from organisations and agencies of Member States and of the European Union; and *heard* her underline the importance of the matter to the public;

- *heard* Ms HOHLMEIER and Ms STEVENS, co-rapporteurs, stress their close cooperation on the report and the good cooperation with the shadow rapporteurs, and present their preliminary findings, covering, inter alia, the following issues:

  - the institutional framework and exchange of information;
  - cross-border cooperation between Member States and beyond the EU;
  - aspects of the financing of terrorism and the effectiveness of countermeasures;
  - the protection of critical infrastructure;
  - the victims of terrorism and the approaches to providing support;
  - prevention and de-radicalisation;
  - fundamental rights;

- *held* an exchange of views with the participation of Mr KOVATCHEV, acting Chair of the EPP Group, Ms GUILLAUME, acting Chair of the S&D Group, Mr LEGUTKO, Co-Chair of the ECR Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, which focussed, inter alia, on:

  - the need to develop further European capabilities in the area of counterterrorism, judicial and police cooperation, security and information-sharing;
  - the need to make the information-sharing more efficient across the EU and its Member States and to increase interoperability;
- the role and future development of Europol;
- the desirability of an efficient exchange of best practices and of close cooperation between national authorities and relevant EU bodies;
- the importance of sharing of judicial, law enforcement and intelligence information among Member States;
- the work of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs in that area;

- heard Ms GRIESBECK note that public opinion supported a stronger role of the EU in the fight against terrorism;

- heard the President conclude by thanking Ms GRIESBECK, Ms HOHLMEIER and Ms STEVENS and by underlining that the importance of the safety and security of citizens and the fight against terrorism must be reflected in the priorities of the Multi-annual Financial Framework.
6. **30th anniversary of the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought - organisation of a conference to be held in Brussels, on 4 and 5 June 2018**

The item was postponed.
Draft calendar of Parliament's part-sessions for the year 2019

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of the draft calendar of Parliament's part-sessions in 2019 (PE 620.028/CPG);

- noted that the adoption of Parliament's calendar of part-sessions for 2019 at that 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 and submitted it to plenary for adoption.
8. Requests from parliamentary committees to draw up own-initiative reports under Rule 52, and requests for application of Rule 54, and related requests

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 27 March 2018 from Ms WIKSTRÖM, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs (CCC), submitting requests from parliamentary committees for authorisation to draw up own-initiative reports under Rule 52 of Parliament’s Rules of Procedure (PE 620.013/CPG);

- took note of the requests for authorisation for three non-legislative own-initiative reports under heading C (subject to authorisation and quota) from the EMPL, REGI and FEMM Committees and authorised them to be drawn up;

- recalled its decision of 15 March 2018 in favour of reinstating the maximum deadline of six months for the adoption of an own-initiative report in committee for the remainder of the parliamentary term, with an extension only possible on the basis of a duly justified request;

- noted that, consequently, own-initiative reports should be adopted within six months as from the date of authorisation, and that all procedures where the committee had not adopted its own-initiative report within this timeframe would be deemed to have lapsed;

- noted and endorsed the drawing-up of one implementation report under heading E (under automatic authorisation and out of quota) by the IMCO Committee;

- noted and endorsed the drawing-up of an AFET Committee proposal for a recommendation to the Council on the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly (pursuant to Rule 113);

- noted and endorsed the drawing-up of the TERR Committee report on its findings and recommendations;

- noted the decisions of the coordinators of the DEVE, ENVI, LIBE and FEMM Committees to extend the deadline for the adoption of three implementation reports in their respective remits, namely for the reports on “Implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides”, on “Implementation of Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime”, and on “Implementation of the Joint Staff Working Document (SWD(2015)0182) - Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment:
Transforming the lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020”, as noted by the CCC on 13 March 2018;

- recalled that, under the relevant rules, implementation reports should be voted in committee no later than 12 months after notification to the CCC, while the deadline for adoption in committee could only be extended by the coordinators upon a reasoned request by the rapporteur;

- recalled further that committees should organise the allocation of implementation reports in a way that is not detrimental to the allocation of other legislative and non-legislative reports;

- recalled its decision of 15 March 2018 that no extension of the 12 months deadline for the vote in committee on implementation reports would be permissible for the remainder of the parliamentary term as of 1 April 2018;

- noted that the extension of the deadline for adoption had been notified before its decision of 15 March 2018;

- endorsed the extension of the deadline for the three above-mentioned implementation reports.
9. **Attribution of competence for the legislative report on amending the “Common Provisions Regulation” as regards support to structural reforms in the Member States**

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- **took note** of a letter dated 1 March 2018 from Ms WIKSTRÖM, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs (CCC), submitting a recommendation on the contestation by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) of the competence of the Committee on Regional Development (REGI) and the request for association under Rule 54 by the Committee on Budgets (BUDG) regarding a legislative report entitled “Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 as regards support to structural reforms in Member States” (COM(2017)826 - 2017/0336(COD)) (PE 618.900/CPG and annexes);

- **noted** that it had not been possible to find a solution acceptable to all the committees concerned;

- **took note** of the recommendation from the Chair of the CCC that:
  - the ECON Committee be associated to the proposal under Rule 54 with shared competence over the entire draft Regulation with the additional elements of cooperation as set out in the relevant letter;
  - the BUDG Committee’s request for association under Rule 54 be granted with shared competence over the entire proposal;

- **endorsed** the recommendation from the Chair of the CCC.
10. **Request from the Special Committee on the Union’s authorisation procedure for pesticides to appoint co-rapporteurs**

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- **took note** of a letter dated 22 March 2018 from Mr ANDRIEU, Chair of the Special Committee on the Union’s authorisation procedure for pesticides (PEST), submitting a request for authorisation to appoint two co-rapporteurs for the PEST report (PE 620.006/CPG);

- **recalled** that Parliament’s Rules of Procedure made no provision for the appointment of co-rapporteurs, and that the Conference of Presidents, on previous occasions, had, therefore, only authorised the appointment of co-rapporteurs for a very limited number of highly important reports, generally of a budgetary or institutional nature;

- **authorised** the request, on an exceptional basis.
11. Request from the Committee on Petitions to send a fact-finding mission to Famagusta, Cyprus, from 7 to 9 May 2018

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 21 March 2018 from Ms WIKSTRÖM, Chair of the Committee on Petitions (PETI), requesting authorisation, under Rule 216a of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, to send a fact-finding mission of seven Members, including the Chair, and three accompanying Members to Famagusta, Cyprus, from 7 to 9 May 2018, including travel time (PE 620.000/CPG);

- took note of a letter dated 21 March 2018, co-signed by Ms WIKSTRÖM, Chair of the PETI Committee, and Ms JIMÉNEZ-BECERILL, Member, requesting authorisation that Ms JIMÉNEZ-BECERILL, who was not member of PETI, be added to the delegation as accompanying Member from another committee (PE 620.001/CPG);

- noted that the request had not been included in the draft programme for travel by committees outside Parliament's three places of work and within the European Union, candidate countries and EEA countries during the first half of 2018;

- noted that the dates proposed for the mission coincided with dates set aside for external parliamentary activities and that the length of the mission did not exceed three days;

- recommended to authorise the mission as requested and forwarded its recommendation to the Bureau for final decision.
12. Request from the Committee on International Trade to send an ad hoc delegation to Mexico City, Mexico, from 21 to 23 May 2018

The item was postponed.
13. Request from the Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee to hold a meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 10 and 11 May 2018

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 22 March 2018 from Ms GRIGULE-PĒTERSE, Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan, EU-Kyrgyzstan, EU-Uzbekistan and EU-Tajikistan Parliamentary Cooperation Committees (PCCs) and for relations with Turkmenistan and Mongolia, requesting authorisation to hold the 15th EU-Kazakhstan PCC meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 10 and 11 May 2018 (plus travel time) (PE 620.005/CPG);

- recalled that, in the framework of its decision of 8 November 2017 on the draft programme of standing delegations for the first half of 2018, the Delegation had requested authorisation for the 15th EU-Kazakhstan PCC meeting, in Astana, Kazakhstan, and another location, from 7 to 11 May 2018, without specifying the exact location;

- further recalled that, in view of the missing information on the second meeting venue, it had invited the Delegation to submit a new request and a programme setting out the exact location;

- recalled that, pursuant to the applicable Rules, the PCC should meet once per year alternately in one of Parliament’s places of work and in Kazakhstan, and that the 14th EU-Kazakhstan PCC meeting had taken place in Brussels, on 27 April 2017;

- noted that Parliament’s counterpart had confirmed Astana, Kazakhstan, as the venue for the 15th EU-Kazakhstan PCC meeting;

- further noted that the dates of the mission coincided with three days set aside for external parliamentary activities (Wednesday to Friday of week 19) and one day without parliamentary activity (Saturday of week 19);

- authorised the request.
14. **Request from the SINEEA Delegation for authorisation to send one Member to attend the meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region in Kiruna, Sweden, on 14 May 2018**

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 13 March 2018 from Mr DOHRMANN, Chair of the Delegation for relations with Switzerland and Norway and to the EU-Iceland Joint Parliamentary Committee and the European Economic Area Joint Parliamentary Committee (SINEEA), requesting authorisation for the Chair or for one of the Vice-Chairs of the SINEEA Delegation to attend the meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR) in Kiruna, Sweden, on 14 May 2018 (plus travel time) (PE 618.984/CPG, annex and financial statement);

- recalled that the SCPAR held up to four meetings each year in which the Chair of the SINEEA Delegation might be authorised to represent Parliament when held outside Parliament’s places of work, in line with the decision of the Conference of Presidents of 28 October 2004;

- further recalled that, at its meeting on 8 November 2017, it had authorised, in the framework of its decision on the draft programme of activities of the standing delegations for the first half of 2018, the SCPAR first annual meeting to be held in Strasbourg, on 30 and 31 May 2018;

- noted that the planning of the SCPAR meetings had been changed at the request of Parliament’s counterparts, with a first annual meeting to take place in Kiruna, Sweden, on 14 May 2018;

- noted that the dates requested implied a three-day mission coinciding with two days set aside for parliamentary committee activities (Monday and Tuesday of week 20) and one day without parliamentary activity (Sunday);

- recalled that, in line with the applicable Rules, missions should be undertaken during weeks set aside for external parliamentary activities;

- noted that no interpretation was requested;

- authorised, on an exceptional basis, the Chair of the SINEEA Delegation to attend the SCPAR meeting in Kiruna, Sweden, on 14 May 2018.
15. **Request from the SINEEA Delegation for authorisation to send one Member to attend the meeting of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference Standing Committee in Koli, Finland, from 14 to 15 May 2018**

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 13 March 2018 from Mr DOHRMANN, Chair of the Delegation for relations with Switzerland and Norway and to the EU-Iceland Joint Parliamentary Committee and the European Economic Area Joint Parliamentary Committee (SINEEA), requesting authorisation for the Chair or for one of the Vice-Chairs of the SINEEA Delegation to attend the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (SC BSPC) in Koli, Finland, on 14 and 15 May 2018 (plus travel time) (PE 618.954/CPG, annex and financial statement);

- recalled that the SC BSPC held up to four meetings each year, including one during the BSPC, in which the Chair of the SINEEA Delegation might be authorised to represent Parliament when held outside Parliament’s places of work, in line with the decision of the Conference of Presidents of 28 October 2004;

- further recalled that, at its meeting on 8 November 2017, it had authorised, in the framework of its decision on the draft programme of activities of the standing delegations for the first half of 2018, the SC BSPC first meeting to be held in Brussels, on 22 February 2018, and it had invited the delegation to submit a new request for the second meeting once the date and venue had been decided in agreement with Parliament’s counterparts;

- recalled that, in line with the applicable Rules, missions should be undertaken during weeks set aside for external parliamentary activities;

- noted that the dates coincided with two days set aside for parliamentary committee activities (Monday and Tuesday of week 20) and one day without parliamentary activity (Sunday);

- noted that no interpretation was requested;

- authorised, on an exceptional basis, the Chair of the SINEEA Delegation to attend the SC BSPC meeting in Koli, Finland, on 14 and 15 May 2018.
16. **Request from the Delegation to the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee to hold a meeting in Strasbourg, on 13 and 14 June 2018**

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 22 March 2018 from Mr KUKAN, Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC), requesting authorisation to hold the 8th EU-Serbia SAPC meeting in Strasbourg, on 13 and 14 June 2018 (PE 620.003/CPG and financial statement);

- recalled that the 7th EU-Serbia SAPC meeting had taken place in Belgrade, Serbia, on 20 and 21 December 2017;

- further recalled that, in principle, the EU-Serbia SAPC should meet twice a year alternately in one of Parliament’s places of work and in Serbia;

- noted that the dates requested coincided with a week set aside for Parliament’s part-session in Strasbourg, but that the meeting was scheduled in accordance with the applicable Rules (Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning of week 24);

- authorised the request, provided that the meeting did not coincide with a key debate.
17. Request for authorisation for three Members to conduct the first Jean Monnet Dialogue for peace and democracy in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in Ohrid, FYROM, from 17 to 19 May 2018

The Conference of Presidents without debate

- took note of a letter dated 19 March 2018, co-signed by Mr FLECKENSTEIN, Mr KUKAN and Mr VAJGL, Members, requesting authorisation to conduct the first Jean Monnet Dialogue for peace and democracy in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in Ohrid, FYROM, from 17 to 19 May 2018;

- recalled that, at its meeting on 1 February 2018, it had taken note of the Democracy Support work programme for 2018 submitted by the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG); and recalled that the concept of the Jean Monnet Dialogues for peace and democracy (JMD) would be available to support the ongoing mediation in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;

- recalled that, at its meeting on 15 March 2018, it had decided that, except for election observation missions, external activities of the Democracy Support and Election Observation Group (DEG), for the remainder of the parliamentary term, might only take place during weeks set aside for external parliamentary activities, and that internal DEG activities might not be undertaken during committee weeks;

- noted that the dates for the first JMD, as agreed with Parliament’s counterpart, coincided with one day set aside for parliamentary committee activities (Thursday of week 20) and two days without parliamentary activity (Friday and Saturday of week 20);

- further noted that interpretation had been requested into one language only;

- in view of the above, authorised the request, on an exceptional basis, provided that the resources were available.
18. Request to send a delegation to an inter-parliamentary conference entitled “Upholding the freedom of expression, including media freedom, in the EU and beyond” in Prague, Czech Republic, on 15 June 2018

The Conference of Presidents without debate

- took note of a letter dated 27 March 2018, co-signed by Mr McALLISTER and Ms McAVAN, Co-Chairs of the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG), requesting authorisation to send a six Member ad hoc delegation to an inter-parliamentary conference entitled “Upholding the freedom of expression, including media freedom, in the EU and beyond” in Prague, Czech Republic, on 15 June 2018;

- recalled that, at its meeting on 1 February 2018, it had taken note of the Democracy Support work programme for 2018 submitted by the DEG, which included, as part of the support programme for parliaments of enlargement countries, the above-mentioned conference;

- recalled that, at its meeting on 15 March 2018, it had decided that, except for election observation missions, external activities of the Democracy Support and Election Observation Group (DEG) for the remainder of the parliamentary term might only take place during weeks set aside for external parliamentary activities, and that internal DEG activities might not be undertaken during committee weeks;

- noted that the Chamber of Deputies in the Czech Parliament had proposed to co-organise and to host the event on its premises in Prague, Czech Republic;

- noted that the only compatible date with the parliamentary agenda of the Chamber of Deputies in the Czech Parliament would be Friday 15 June 2018, which coincided with a day without parliamentary activities;

- noted that no interpretation was requested, and that logistical support would be provided by the Czech Parliament, in particular with a view to interpretation from the languages of the region into Czech and English;

- in view of the above, exceptionally authorised the sending of a six Member ad hoc delegation to be appointed by the political groups in accordance with the rolling d'Hondt system, which should also apply to the non-attached Members and preferably be drawn from the AFET, CULT and LIBE Committees and from the Delegations dealing with the Western Balkans countries and Turkey.
19. **Request to organise the 10th meeting of the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership, in Brussels**

The Conference of Presidents without debate

- **took note** of a letter dated 14 February 2018 from Ms HAUTALA, Vice-President, requesting authorisation to host the 10th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP), in Brussels, prior to the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in October 2018 (PE 620.010/CPG, annexes and financial statements);

- **recalled** that, since 2002, Parliament had always been represented by way of ad hoc delegations at ASEP meetings, hosted by the parliament of the ASEM member state hosting the ASEM Summit the same year;

- **recalled** that, following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the Council had decided that multilateral summits would be hosted in Brussels by the President of the European Council, however, if Member States wished to organise and fund such events in the course of their rotating Council Presidencies, a derogation was possible subject to certain conditions;

- **recalled** that, at its meeting on 7 October 2013, Parliament's Bureau had agreed to the principle that Parliament would host the parliamentary dimension of summits, such as the 10th ASEM summit in October 2014;

- further **recalled** that, at Parliament’s Italian counterpart’s request, the 8th ASEP meeting had taken place in Rome, Italy, in October 2014, prior to the ASEM Summit, in Milan, Italy;

- **noted** that the 12th ASEM Summit was scheduled to be held in Brussels, on 18 and 19 October 2018;

- **noted** that the 10th ASEP meeting was proposed to take place on 27 and 28 September 2018, coinciding with one day set aside for political group and parliamentary committee activities (Thursday) and one day without parliamentary activity (Friday);

- further **noted** that it was proposed that Parliament’s representation to the 10th ASEP meeting consist of a delegation composed of up to 11 Members, including the President, the Vice-President in charge of relations with Asia, and the Chairs of the ASEP related delegations;

- further **noted** that interpretation was requested into up to 28 languages;
endorsed the request to host the 10th ASEP meeting, on Parliament’s premises in Brussels, on 27 and 28 September 2018, provided that resources were available, and decided that Parliament be represented by a delegation composed of up to 11 Members, including the President, the Vice-President in charge of relations with Asia, and nine Members to be appointed by the political groups in accordance with the rolling d'Hondt system and preferably to be drawn from among the Chairs of ASEP related delegations.
20. **Regular items for the scrutiny of the Conference of Presidents**

20.1. **Delegated and implementing acts - Screening of current files**

   The Conference of Presidents, without debate

   - recalled its decision of 19 April 2012 to request the competent services to carry out an ongoing screening procedure of upcoming legislative proposals in order to avoid placing on the plenary agenda any vote(s) leading to a first-reading agreement on dossiers where such decisions might be legally questionable;

   - recalled its decision of 27 November 2014 to request a monthly overview of the delegated acts (and draft RPS measures) under scrutiny, indicating also any possible action taken by committees;

   - took note of a letter of 13 March 2018 from Ms Wikström, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, forwarding the results of the screening of files in view of the April 2018 part-session (PE 620.004/CPG), and noted that no legal concerns were raised in relation to any of the dossiers scheduled for vote during that part-session.
20.2. **Overview of delegated acts and draft RPS measures currently under EP scrutiny**

*The Conference of Presidents*, without debate

- took note of a note dated 9 April 2018 from the Secretary-General, providing an overview of the state of play on delegated and implementing acts as at 6 April 2018 (PE 620.029/CPG and annexes);

- recalled the horizontal guidance it had adopted on 19 April 2012 on the inclusion of delegated acts in the basic legislative act; consequently, maintained its request to the Conference of Committee Chairs to carry out a monthly screening of the agreements reached;

- recalled its decision of 27 November 2014 to request a monthly overview of the delegated acts (and draft RPS measures) under scrutiny, indicating also any possible action taken by committees.
20.3. First reading agreements - Committee decisions to enter into negotiations and state of play of files currently under negotiation

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter of 3 April 2018 from Ms Wikström, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, submitting recent decisions adopted by committees in view of first, early second and second reading as well as the state of play of files currently under negotiation (PE 320.025/CPG and annexes I and II);

- recalled its decision of 12 March 2015 to request the competent services to ensure the greatest degree of transparency in the legislative process possible and to request that an overview of negotiating mandates for first reading agreements be made available to it on a regular basis, and noted that the Conference of Committee Chairs would continue to provide systematic information to the Conference of Presidents on all legislative files under negotiation in first, early second and second reading, in accordance with the decision of the Conference of Presidents of 10 March 2011;

- noted that under Rule 69c and Rule 69d of Parliament’s Rules of Procedure, committee decisions to enter into first reading negotiations and early second reading negotiations should be announced in plenary.
21. **Urgent matters and any other business**

21.1. **Request from the Special Committee on the Union’s authorisation procedure for pesticides to send a fact-finding mission to the European Food Safety Authority in Parma, Italy, on 7 and 8 May 2018**

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- took note of a letter dated 28 March 2018 from Mr ANDRIEU, Chair of the Special Committee on the Union’s authorisation procedure for pesticides (PEST), requesting authorisation to send an 11 Member fact-finding mission, plus Chair, to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), in Parma, Italy, on 7 and 8 May 2018 (three days, including travel time) (PE 620.024/CPG and financial statement);

- recalled that, under the relevant Rules, each committee might be authorised to send up to half of its Members, with a minimum quota of 25 Members, on mission in any one year and that no mission might comprise more than 12 official members;

- further recalled that available quota was not in itself a sufficient justification to plan a mission, and underlined that committee missions outside the three places of work had to be duly justified and had to have a direct link with the current work of the committee concerned;

- recalled that, on 6 February 2018, Parliament had decided to set up the Special Committee on the Union’s authorisation procedure for pesticides (PEST), notably with a view to analysing and assessing the authorisation procedure for pesticides in the Union, including the methodology used and its scientific quality, the procedure’s independence from industry, and the transparency of the decision-making process and its outcomes, on the understanding that the powers and available resources of Parliament’s standing committees with responsibility for matters concerning the adoption, monitoring and implementation of Union legislation relating to the area of responsibility of the special committee should remain unchanged;

- further recalled that, at its meeting on 15 May 2017, Parliament’s Bureau had authorised a mission of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), as the committee responsible under Annex V of Parliament’s Rules of Procedure, to the European Food Safety Authority, from 18 to 19 December 2017;
- noted that it was foreseen that the report on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the EFSA for the financial year 2016, as adopted on 20 March 2018 by the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT), would be discussed during the May I 2018 part-session;

- noted that the dates requested for the mission coincided with days set aside for external parliamentary activities (Monday and Tuesday of week 19);

- recommended to authorise the mission, on the understanding that the preparation of and follow-up to the mission would be closely coordinated with the Committees concerned, and forwarded its recommendation to the Bureau for final decision.
22. **Items for information**

22.1. **Internal correspondence**

**The Conference of Presidents**

- noted the following documents:
  
  - a letter dated 22 March 2018 from Ms KAILI, Chair of the STOA, on a proposal for reforming STOA (PE 620.002/CPG);
  
  - a letter dated 28 March 2018 from Ms KAMMEREVERT, Chair of the CULT Committee, on the vote on the resolution on the Bologna process scheduled for the April 2018 part-session in Strasbourg (PE 620.015/CPG);
  
  - a letter dated 22 March 2018 co-signed by Ms KELLER and Mr LAMBERTS, Co-Chairs of the Greens/EFA Group, supporting the request to set up an inquiry committee on animal transport (PE 620.040/CPG);
  
  - a letter dated 27 March 2018 from Ms ZIMMER, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group, supporting the request to set up an inquiry committee on animal transport (PE 620.041/CPG);
  
  - a letter dated 28 March 2018 from Ms PIETIKÄINEN, in her capacity as President of the Animal Welfare Intergroup, supporting the request to set up an inquiry committee on animal transport (PE 620.045/CPG).

22.2. **Inter-institutional correspondence**

There was none.
22.3. **External correspondence**

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following document:

  - a letter dated 20 March 2018 from the President to Mr ZUCKERBERG, CEO of Facebook, extending an invitation to appear before the European Parliament to clarify allegations on the manipulation of Facebook user personal data by Cambridge Analytica (PE 620.069/CPG).
Date and place of the next meeting

The Conference of Presidents

- noted that its next ordinary meeting would be held on Thursday 19 April 2018 from 10:00 to 12:00 in room R 1.1 of the Louise Weiss Building, Strasbourg.

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The meeting closed at 12:48 hours.