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Delegations to joint parliamentary committees, interparliamentary delegations and delegations to parliamentary cooperation committees

European Parliament decision on the number of interparliamentary delegations, delegations to joint parliamentary committees and delegations to parliamentary cooperation committees

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rules 168 and 170 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the objectives laid down in the Treaty on European Union in the sphere of common foreign and security policy,
 - having regard to the association, cooperation, and other agreements concluded by the Union with third countries,
 - having regard to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 and entered into force on 1 April 2003,
 - having regard to the Declaration of 12 September 2003 adopted at the Cancún session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO,
 - having regard to the Recommendation from the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum on setting up a Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, adopted in Naples on 2 December 2003,
 - anxious to strengthen parliamentary democracy by pursuing a continuous interparliamentary dialogue,
1. Decides that the number of delegations and their regional groupings shall be as follows:

(a) *Europe, Western Balkans and the Mediterranean*

Delegations to the

- European Union-Romania Joint Parliamentary Committee
- European Union-Bulgaria Joint Parliamentary Committee
- European Union-Croatia Joint Parliamentary Committee
- European Union-Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee

– European Union-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee

Delegation for relations with Switzerland, Iceland and Norway and to the European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Parliamentary Committee

Delegation for relations with Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo)

(b) *Community of independent States and Mongolia*

Delegation to the EU-Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee,
Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee,
Delegation to the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee,
Delegation for relations with Belarus,
Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan, EU-Kyrgyzstan and EU-Uzbekistan
Parliamentary Cooperation Committees, and for the relations with Tajikistan,
Turkmenistan and Mongolia,

(c) *South Caucasus*

Delegation to the EU-Armenia, EU-Azerbaijan and EU-Georgia Parliamentary
Cooperation Committees,

(d) *Maghreb, Mashreq, Israel, Palestine, Iran¹ and the Gulf States, including Yemen*

Delegations for relations with

- Israel
- the Palestinian Legislative Council
- the Maghreb countries and the Arab Maghreb Union (including Libya),
- the Mashreq countries
- the Gulf States, including Yemen
- Iran,

(e) *The Americas*

Delegations for relations with

- the United States,
- Canada,
- the countries of Central America,

Delegation to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee

Delegations for relations with

- the countries of the Andean Community,

¹ As regards Iran, the delegation will be put in place, but will start its bilateral work only after a further decision of principle by the Conference of Presidents.

- Mercosur

Delegation to the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee,

(f) *Asia¹/Pacific*

Delegations for relations with

- Japan,
- the People's Republic of China,
- the countries of South Asia and the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC),
- the countries of Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN),
- the Korean Peninsula,
- Australia and New Zealand,

(g) *Africa*

Delegation for relations with South Africa,

(h) *International parliamentary organisations*

Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,
Delegation to the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly,
Delegation for relations with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly;²

2. Decides that the bureaux of the delegations belonging to the same regional grouping, as coordinating bodies, shall hold joint meetings to ensure that political issues and problems affecting a region as a whole can be dealt with in a consistent fashion on a transnational basis; decides, further, that the Bureau of the Delegation for relations with South Africa shall hold joint meetings with the Bureau of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly when the matters under consideration are of mutual interest;
3. Bearing in mind the objectives set out in the Barcelona Declaration and the decision to set up a Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, adopted in Naples on 2 December 2003, decides that members of delegations and joint parliamentary committees belonging to the Mediterranean grouping shall hold joint meetings together with Parliament's delegation to the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly; when proposing the members of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, the political groups will take into account the composition of the bureaux of the delegations for relations with the Maghreb countries, the Mashrek countries, Turkey, Israel, the Palestinian Legislative

¹ As regards Iraq and Afghanistan, the Committee on Foreign Affairs will submit proposals for the sending of ad-hoc delegations when appropriate. The European Parliament will consider the establishment of permanent delegations with Iraq and Afghanistan once parliamentary structures are in place.

² This delegation will consist primarily of members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and its Subcommittee on Security and Defence.

Council, Croatia, FYROM and Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Serbia and Montenegro;

4. Decides that the parliamentary dimension of the WTO is to be dealt with by the Committee on International Trade;
5. Decides that the Conference of Delegation Chairmen should draw up a draft annual calendar, to be adopted by the Conference of Presidents after consulting the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Development, on the understanding, however, that the Conference of Presidents may decide that additional meetings will need to be held in order to respond to political events;
6. Decides that the political groups and non-attached Members shall appoint permanent substitutes to serve on each type of delegation and that the number of those substitutes may not exceed the number of full members representing the groups or non-attached Members;
7. Decides to intensify cooperation with and consultation of the committees concerned by delegation work by organising joint meetings between these bodies in its usual places of work;
8. Will endeavour to ensure at the practical level that one or more committee rapporteurs may likewise take part in the proceedings of delegations, parliamentary cooperation committees and joint parliamentary committees; decides that the President, at the joint request of the chairmen of the delegation and committee concerned, shall authorise missions of this type;
9. Instructs the Conference of Presidents to make the necessary adjustments to the implementing provisions governing the activities of delegations and joint parliamentary committees, acting on a proposal from the Conference of Delegation Chairmen (current Rule 168(5) of the Rules of Procedure), bearing in mind that, because of current budget restrictions, the chairman of each delegation will decide how many members will travel with each delegation or working party on the basis of a pre-established limit, taking account of the areas of activity of each member of the delegation, frequency of participation, interest shown, etc;
10. Decides that this decision will enter into force on the first day of the first part-session of the sixth parliamentary term;
11. Instructs its President to forward this decision to the Council and the Commission for information.