

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



BUREAU

MINUTES

of the meeting of

17-01-2011

Louise Weiss Building - Room R 1.1

Strasbourg

BUREAU

MINUTES

of the meeting of 17 January 2011
from 18:30 to 21:00 hours

Louise Weiss Building – Room R 1.1

Strasbourg

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BUREAU

MINUTES

of the meeting of Monday, 17 January 2011

Strasbourg

Mr Jerzy BUZEK, President of the European Parliament, opened the meeting at 18:34 hours

Present

Mr Jerzy BUZEK, President

Vice-Presidents

Mr PITTELLA
Ms KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU
Mr LAMBRINIDIS
Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ
Mr VIDAL-QUADRAS ROCA
Ms ROTH-BEHRENDT
Mr ROUČEK
Ms DURANT
Ms ANGELILLI
Ms WALLIS
Mr TÓKÉS
Mr McMILLAN-SCOTT
Mr WIELAND
Ms KOCH-MEHRIN

Quaestors

Ms GERINGER DE OEDENBERG
Mr HIGGINS
Ms LULLING
Mr MAŠTÁLKA
Mr NEWTON DUNN

Also Present

Mr WELLE, Secretary-General

Also Present

Invited for item 4:

Mr BLOOM, Member, EFD Group

List of officials present at the meeting:

Private Office of the President

Mr ROSINSKA *^{4,5}

Ms WORUM *^{4,5}

Mr ALPERMANN

Mr GOLANSKI

Private Office of the Secretary-General

Mr DREXLER *^{4,5}

Mr MANGOLD *^{4,5}

Mr BAAS

Mr SCHEIBA

Ms BLAU

Secretariat

DG Presidency (PRES)

DG Internal Policies (IPOL)

DG External Policies (EXPO)

DG Information (COMM)

DG Personnel (PERS)

DG Infrastructure and Logistics (INLO)

DG Translation (TRAD)

DG Interpretation and Conferences (INTE)

DG Finance (FINS)

DG Innovation, Technical Support (ITEC)

Legal Service

Conference of Presidents

Ms F. RATTI/ Mr CAROZZA

Mr RIBERA D'ALCALA/Mr DE MENDOZA
ASENSI

Mr AGUIRIANO

Ms LAHOUSSE/Mr DUCH GUILLOT/

Mr WARASIN/Ms VAN DEN BROEKE

Mr QUITIN

Mr STRATIGAKIS/Mr CHAMPETTER

Ms PITT

Ms COSMIDOU

Mr VANHAEREN/ Mr GUILLÉN ZANÓN/ Mr
COLLING

Mr LAFOREST

Mr PENNERA *^{4,5}/Mr PASSOS *⁴/Mr

LORENZ *⁴

Mr HILLER *⁴

*⁴ present for item 4 *in camera*

*⁵ present for item 5 *in camera*

Political group secretariats

Mr	RIPOLL	(EPP)
Mr	HORNAK	(S&D)
Mr	BOUTER	(ALDE)
Mr	DENKINGER	(Greens/EFA)
Mr	WOODARD	(ECR)
Mr	RAECK	(GUE/NGL)
Mr	VAUGIER	(EFD)
Mr	SERVELLÓN	(Non-attached Members)

Vice-Presidents' and Quaestors' assistants

Mr	MARTINELLI	Mr PITTELLA's assistant
Ms	TRAKADAS	Ms KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU's assistant
Ms	ASTERIADI	Mr LAMBRINIDIS's assistant
Mr	GUERRA REINA	Mr MARTÍNEZ's assistant
Ms	CABANELAS ÁLVAREZ	Mr VIDAL-QUADRAS's assistant
Mr	SCHWARZ	Ms ROTH-BEHRENDT's assistant
Ms	ZANELLA	Mr ROUCEK's assistant
Mr	LEMAIRE	Ms DURANT's assistant
Mr	LOMBARDO	Ms ANGELILLI's assistant
Mr	KISEVIC	Ms WALLIS's assistant
Mr	SZILAGYI	Mr TÓKÉS's assistant
Ms	BIESEMANS	Mr McMILLAN-SCOTT's assistant
Mr	BECKER	Mr WIELAND's assistant
Ms	SOLTYSOVA	Ms KOCH-MEHRIN's assistant
Ms	ZIELINSKA	Ms GERINGER de OEDENBERG's assistant
Ms	KEARNEY	Mr HIGGINS's assistant
Mr	ROMANOVSKIS	Ms LULLING's assistant
Ms	ŘEHOŘOVÁ	Mr MAŠTÁLKA's assistant
Ms	KONTÁR	Mr NEWTON DUNN's assistant

Ms LINNUS*^{4,5}, Mr WILKINSON, Mr SCHROEDER and Mr TZIORKAS acted as secretary to the meeting.

*⁴ present for item 4 *in camera*

*⁵ present for item 5 *in camera*

1. Adoption of draft agenda

The Bureau

- noted the draft agenda (PE 452.195/BUR) and adopted it as shown in these minutes.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 13 December 2010

The Bureau

- noted and approved the minutes of the meeting of 13 December 2010 in Strasbourg (PE 455.377/BUR).

3. Statements by the President

3.1 Bureau Away-Days

The Bureau

- heard the President
 - thank all those who attended the Away-Days and express his gratitude to the Secretary-General and the relevant services for the excellent preparation of the event;
 - suggest that the Members who had not been able to present their respective field of work at the Away-Day could possibly do so during an ordinary meeting;
- took note of the President's conclusions of the Away-Days and decided, on a proposal from Mr VIDAL-QUADRAS, Vice-President, that the word "welcomed" in the final point of the section on improvement of the attractiveness of plenary would be replaced by "discussed the proposals".

3.2 Political contacts on Belarus crisis

The Bureau

- heard the President:
 - recall that, the previous week, the Committee on Foreign Affairs had held an extraordinary meeting on the situation in Belarus following the December elections, which he had addressed and to which the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, the Delegation for Belarus and the EP Delegation to the EuroNest Assembly had been associated;
 - note that he had been in contact with Commissioner FÜLE, Baroness ASHTON, Vice-President of the Commission and High Representative, and the families of those who had been persecuted.

3.3 Tunisia

The Bureau

- heard the President recall the encouraging events in Tunisia over the previous days and the statement he had made on the issue and noted that Parliament would continue to monitor developments closely.

3.4 Meeting on energy policy with His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales

The Bureau

- heard the President inform the meeting that he proposed to host a seminar on energy policy and climate change in Parliament during the afternoon of 9 February 2011, with His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales and with Presidents BARROSO and VAN ROMPUY as fellow speakers, as well as the Chairs of the relevant three committees as chairs of working sessions; he invited the members of the Bureau to attend this meeting;
- welcomed this initiative and endorsed the holding of such a seminar.

3.5 First Inter-institutional Meeting on budgetary issues pursuant to Article 324 of the Treaty

The Bureau

- heard the President:
 - recall that, pursuant to Article 324 of the Treaty, regular meetings were to take place between the Presidents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission regarding the annual budgetary, as well as in the course of the MFF negotiation process;
 - note that the first such meeting with Prime Minister Orban and President Barroso will take place on 19 January, focussing on the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

3.6 Ceremony on the situation of Christians in the context of freedom of religion

The Bureau

- heard the President note that, following the debate in plenary on the situation of Christians in the context of freedom of religion, which would be held in the presence of Baroness ASHTON, Vice-President of the Commission and High Representative, there would be a ceremony in the "Bronisław Geremek Agora" courtyard on Wednesday, at 6 p.m., which he would attend together with Mr PITTELLA, Vice-President, and Mr MAURO and Ms MUSCARDINI, Members.

A. DECISIONS

From 19:42 hours, in camera

4. Measures taken in the event of non-compliance with the standards of conduct of a Member
- Letter of appeal from Mr BLOOM, Member

The Bureau

- heard the President, who referred to the incident in the Chamber on Wednesday, 24 November 2010 in Strasbourg, i.e. the inappropriate and insulting remarks made by Mr BLOOM, Member, and to the procedure provided for under Rule 153(3) and 154 of the Rules of Procedure in such cases;
- heard the President remind the Members of the Bureau of the decision he had taken, after having heard Mr BLOOM on 1 December 2010, with regard to the penalty to be imposed, i.e. a forfeiture of the entitlement to the subsistence allowance for seven days, decision which had been communicated to Mr BLOOM on 13 December 2010;
- took note of the appeal made by Mr BLOOM, Member, first with a letter dated 9 December 2010, and subsequently with a second letter dated 20 December 2010 presenting an amended appeal and asking that
 - the findings be declared null and void;
 - the penalty be revoked;
 - all record of the finding be expunged;
 - that if the appeal was not allowed, the President would undertake to apply precisely the same standards to each and every Member and that any Member be treated without qualification or reservation in precisely the same way;
- agreed to hear Mr BLOOM, Member, whilst noting that Article 154 of the Rules of Procedure did not provide Members with a right to be heard by the Bureau;
- invited Mr BLOOM to present his case, with Mr PITTELLA, 1st Vice-President in the Chair, President BUZEK having retired from chairing the meeting;

- heard Mr BLOOM emphasise that the Bureau should undertake to apply precisely the same standards to all Members in plenary and that his comments had not been any worse than some earlier remarks in plenary made by other Members;
- heard Mr PITTELLA remind Mr BLOOM that the hearing granted to him by the Bureau did not preclude his right to external appeal and that he would receive written notification of the Bureau's reasoned decision by official letter by the end of the part-session in Strasbourg;
- heard the Members of the Bureau express their position, with Mr PITTELLA in the Chair and with the participation of Mr MARTÍNEZ, Mr McMILLAN-SCOTT, Mr WIELAND, Mr VIDAL-QUADRAS, Mr ROUČEK and Ms ROTH-BEHRENDT, Vice-Presidents, and Mr HIGGINS, Quaestor;
- emphasised that the remark made by Mr BLOOM, Member, had not been in line with Rule 9(2): *"Members' conduct shall be characterised by mutual respect, be based on the values and principles laid down in the basic texts on which the European Union is founded, respect the dignity of Parliament and not compromise the smooth conduct of parliamentary business or disturb the peace and quiet of any of Parliament's premises"*;
- welcomed the attitude and the approach taken by the President and noted his wish not to comment on the incident or give any recommendation to the Bureau concerning the appeal before Bureau's vote;
- decided, by a unanimous vote, to reject the appeal lodged and confirmed, in accordance with Rule 154, the decision taken by the President in accordance with Rule 152(3) due to violation of Rule 9(2);
- agreed to revert to the general question on Members' conduct in plenary following proposals to be made by the Working Group on attractiveness of plenary, established by the Conference of Presidents and chaired by Mr SWOBODA, Member;
- invited the Deputy Secretary-General, in charge of plenary, to propose for examination to the Bureau further guidelines so as to support the Vice-Presidents while chairing the plenary.

In camera

5. Staff matters

- took note of eleven notes from the Secretary-General distributed to the Members of the Bureau in a separate confidential cover;
- heard the Secretary-General introduce the matter relating to the approval of shortlists for eleven vacant posts: Director for Presidency in the Directorate-General for Presidency, Director for Legislative Acts in the Directorate-General for Presidency, Director of Resources in the Directorate-General for Presidency, Director of Resources in the Directorate-General for Internal Policies, Director of Resources in the Directorate-General for External Policies, Director of Resources in the Directorate-General for Communication, Director of Committees in the Directorate-General for External Policies, Director in the Directorate for Relations with Political Groups, Director of Administrative Management in the Directorate-General for Personnel, Director for Budget and Financial Services in the Directorate-General for Finances, and Director for Administrative and Financial Affairs in the Legal Service;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms ROTH-BEHRENDT, Mr McMILLAN-SCOTT, Mr MARTÍNEZ, Ms KOCH-MEHRIN and Ms ANGELILLI, Vice-Presidents responsible for staff policy, and the Secretary-General;
- approved the shortlists and agreed to return to the matter at a following meeting.

6. Information office: Helsinki - lease of new premises - Note from the Secretary-GeneralThe Bureau

- took note of a note of 17 December 2010 from the Secretary-General (PE 455.394/BUR and annexes);
- heard the President introduce the matter, and Mr VIDAL-QUADRAS, Vice-President and Chair of the Working Group on Buildings, Transport and a Green Parliament, highlight the progress on the file to date, noting in particular that the higher rent in the first ten-year period had been agreed with the owner of the building in the light of the cost of the refurbishment work that the owner had undertaken to carry out and pointing out that, in any event, the rent was half that of the other property identified in the market survey;
- held an exchange of views on the matter, with the participation of Mr PITTELLA, Vice-President with secondary responsibility for buildings policy, Mr ROUČEK, Ms ROTH-BEHRENDT, Mr WIELAND and Ms DURANT, Vice-Presidents, and Mr MAŠTÁLKA, Quaestor, and requested the services to produce a comparative table listing all the Information Offices, setting out the size of each Office, the number of staff employed, how the various rooms are used and the respective rent, together with the size of the Member State concerned and the number of Members representing it, while at the same time recognising that the price of each Office depended on the complex interplay of many different factors;
- approved the proposed terms and conditions of the lease and its signing by the Commission;
- decided to refer the matter to the Committee on Budgets, pursuant to Article 179(3) of the Financial Regulation;
- instructed the Secretary-General to:
 - (i) finalise the administrative arrangements with the Commission;

- (ii) have the lease for the present building extended until such time as the work had been completed.

7. Orientation debate on Carbon Off-SettingThe Bureau

- took note of a note of 12 January 2011 from the Secretary-General (PE 455.433/BUR and executive summary);
- heard the President introduce the matter and Mr VIDAL-QUADRAS, Vice-President and Chair of the Working Group on Buildings, Transport and a Green Parliament, outline the three options included in the study regarding Parliament's offsetting parameter (minimum, intermediary or carbon neutral) and explain their budgetary and legal implications as well as the political and administrative decisions linked to each of them;
- held an exchange of views on the matter with the participation of Ms DURANT, Mr McMILLAN-SCOTT, Ms ROTH-BEHRENDT, Ms WALLIS, Mr WIELAND, Ms KRATSA- TSAGAROPOULOU and Mr VIDAL-QUADRAS, Vice-Presidents, and Ms LULLING, Quaestor, stressing, *inter alia*, that:
 - the option of offsetting should not be used as an excuse for Parliament to let up on its efforts to meet its target for an important reduction of its overall carbon emissions;
 - Parliament should organise its work in an optimal way, including the use of new technologies (e.g. video-conferences), so as to reduce its dependence on travel and thus reduce its overall carbon footprint;
 - the inclusion (or not) of Members' flights to and from Parliament's three places of work constituted an important factor in the decision on carbon offsetting options;
 - when considering the results of the study, it was necessary to take into account all kinds of harmful emissions for the environment and not just carbon dioxide and also all modes of transport and not just flights;

- comparisons needed to be made with the systems applied by the national parliaments and governments of the Member States and other international organisations of a public character;
 - although the study suggested a centralised approach where Parliament would pay to offset the carbon emissions produced by the activities of all its Members, one could not ignore the option of a decentralised approach based on individual responsibility, according to which every Member could decide to bear the costs of offsetting its own carbon footprint as various Members already do, or even a mixed approach where Parliament would cover a certain percentage of the costs and Members would bear the responsibility for the rest;
- decided to refer the matter to the Working Group on Buildings, Transport and a Green Parliament for further examination in order to ensure an appropriate preparation of further consideration and decisions by the Bureau;
- invited the Directorate responsible for Relations with National Parliaments to provide information regarding similar arrangements in the National Parliaments in the EU.

B. DECISIONS WITHOUT DEBATE

8. Adaptation of the implementing measures and the financing of European political parties and foundations - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau

- decided to postpone the item to the next meeting.

9. Report on the respect of the Code of Conduct on Multilingualism during the first semester 2010, established pursuant to Article 15(3) thereof (Awareness-raising of users of linguistic services) - Note from the Secretary-General

The Bureau

- took note of a note of 19 December 2010 from the Secretary-General, report on the respect of the Code of Conduct on Multilingualism (PE 452.304/BUR and annex);
- heard Mr WIELAND, Vice-President, express the view that the cost of cancelled interpretation services by Members was too high and that stringent measures to remedy the situation should therefore be introduced;
- heard the Secretary-General propose that the bodies using interpretation services should receive an annual budget for such services, from which cancellation costs would be deducted;
- held an exchange of view on the matter, with the participation of Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ, Vice-President responsible for multilingualism, Ms KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU, Ms ROTH-BEHRENDT - who noted also that Committee coordinators should take responsibility for the Members of their Group who fail to inform the committee or interparliamentary delegation secretariat concerned of their intention to be absent and that the matter should be discussed by both the Conference of Committee Chairs and the Conference of Delegation Chairs - and Ms DURANT, Vice-Presidents;
- endorsed the remarks made and invited the Secretary-General to submit a proposal to the Bureau at a subsequent meeting;
- requested the President to inform the Parliamentary Committees and Parliamentary Delegations that persistently failed to respect the deadlines set by the Code of Conduct to better respect the Code of Conduct;
- requested the Secretary-General to send the information contained in his note to the users concerned with a view to further reducing the costs generated by the late

cancellation of meeting requests with interpretation and come forward with an evaluation of the possibility to introduce direct costings and budgets for political instances of the House with a view of optimizing the relevant resources and responsabilising, in the future, those who generate such costs.

10. Allocation of expertise budgets between committees for 2011 - Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of a letter of 15 December 2010 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs (PE 455.389/BUR and annex);
- endorsed the decision of the Conference of Committee Chairs of 14 December 2010;
- assigned the appropriations allocated to expertise budgets (namely EUR 8 000 000) for 2011 to the parliamentary committees, the two subcommittees and any temporary committee or committee of inquiry which may be set up, in accordance with the proposal annexed to the above-mentioned decision of the Conference of Committee Chairs.

11. Joint Parliamentary Meeting with the Hungarian Parliament on the Western Balkans - towards a more integrated Europe - Letter from Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ, Vice-President responsible and Chair of the Steering Group on National Parliaments

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of a letter of 8 December 2010 from Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ, Vice-President responsible and Chair of the Steering Group on National Parliaments (PE 455.362/CPG, draft programme and financial statement);
- took note of the decision of the Conference of Presidents of 15 December 2010 to approve the theme for the Joint Parliamentary Meeting (JPM), to be co-organised by the European Parliament and the Hungarian Parliament on 13-14 April 2011, under the general title 'Joint Parliamentary Meeting on the Western Balkans - towards a more Integrated Europe' and with two Working Groups focusing respectively on 'Co-operation in the field of Justice and Home Affairs' and 'Integration of Citizens';
- approved the financial aspects of the Joint Parliamentary Meeting.

12. Programme for travel by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs during 2011 - Letter from Ms BERÈS, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of the letter from Ms BERÈS, Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (PE 455.326/CPG and annex), by which she requested to:
 - replace a delegation visit to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), in Geneva, on 21-22 March 2011, as foreseen in the annual programme of committee delegation activities for 2011, with a delegation visit to the World Social Forum, in Dakar, Senegal, on 6-11 February 2011 (dates set aside for political group and committee activities);
 - limit the number of Members participating at the delegation to the UN ECOSOC, in New York, and to the World Social Forum, in Dakar, respectively to three and five Members;
- recalled its decision of 13 December 2010 on the programme of activities of Committee delegations for 2011, by which, *inter alia*, it had approved the second request and had decided to postpone its decision on the first request pending the recommendation of the Conference of Presidents;
- noted that the proposed delegation visit to the World Social Forum, in Dakar, on 6-11 February 2011, coincided with dates set aside for political group and committee activities;
- recalled that pursuant to Article 6 (1) of the Rules governing travel by delegations from the parliamentary committees outside the three places of work, the duration of missions may not, in principle, exceed three days, including journey times;
- took note of the favourable opinion of the Conference of Presidents, as adopted at its meeting of 15 December 2010;
- approved the request in question, on an exceptional basis, on the understanding that the delegation visit would be reduced to five days, including travel time.

13. Programme for travel of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence during 2011 - information on the request to send a delegation to Kourou (French Guyana) from 18 to 22 July 2011 - financial statement - Letter from Mr DANJEAN, Chair of the Subcommittee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of a letter of 2 December 2010 from Mr DANJEAN, Chair of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence (PE 455.344/CPG, annex and financial statement);
- recalled the Conference of Presidents' decision of 25 November 2010 on the programme of committee delegation travel for 2011, pursuant to which the SEDE Subcommittee had been invited to provide further information on its proposed visit to the European Space Port in Kourou, French Guyana from 18 to 22 July 2011;
- recalled its decision of 13 December 2010 on the programme of activities of Committee delegations for 2011;
- recalled that pursuant to Article 6(1) of the Rules governing travel by delegations from the parliamentary committees outside the three places of work, the duration of missions may not, in principle, exceed three days, including journey times;
- took note of the favourable opinion of the Conference of Presidents, adopted at its meeting of 15 December 2010;
- approved the request in question, on an exceptional basis and in the light of the additional justifications provided.

14. More detailed justification on the planned visit to the French Guyana by a REGI Committee delegation - Letter from Ms HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of a letter of 10 December 2010 from Ms HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee on Regional Affairs (PE 455.381/CPG and annex);
- recalled its decision of 13 December 2010 on the programme of committee delegation travel for 2011, pursuant to which the REGI Committee had been invited to provide further information on its proposed visit to the French Guyana with no specific dates detailed;
- recalled the rules in force governing travel by delegations from the parliamentary committees outside the three places of work;
- recalled its decision of 13 December 2010, by which it had regretted the lack of precision in the programmes submitted by some Committees, as regards the number of Members participating and/or the dates of a number of visits and had asked that specific requests be submitted by the Committees concerned in connection with each one of these visits, accompanied by financial statements and respecting the rules in force concerning travel periods and quotas, including the rules on visits to agencies;
- endorsed, in principle, the Committee's request to travel to the French Guyana taking into account the additional justifications provided and invited the Committee to communicate the dates, the specific number of Members and the programme of the visit, as soon as the information was available, in conformity with the rules in force;
- took note of the request from the Committee to apply Article 6(2) of the rules in force, granting two days of additional journey time for the above-mentioned mission owing to its long journey and endorsed this request;
- took note of the favourable opinion of the Conference of Presidents, adopted at its meeting of 13 January 2011;

- approved the Committee's visit to French Guyana as part of the programme of parliamentary committee delegations for 2011 outside Parliament's three places of work.

15. More information on the program for travel by the CULT Committee during 2011 - Letter from Ms PACK, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of a letter of 9 December 2010 from Ms PACK, Chair of the CULT Committee (PE 455.395/CPG and annex);
- recalled its decision of 13 December 2010 on the programme of committee delegation travel for 2011, pursuant to which the CULT Committee had been invited to provide further information on its proposed visit to Palermo during the week 44;
- recalled the rules in force governing travel by delegations from the parliamentary committees outside the three places of work;
- recalled its decision of 13 December 2010, by which it had regretted the lack of precision in the programmes submitted by some Committees, as regards the number of Members participating and/or the dates of a number of visits, and had asked that specific requests be submitted by the Committees concerned in connection with each one of these visits, accompanied by financial statements and respecting the rules in force concerning travel periods and quotas, including the rules on visits to agencies";
- took note of the favourable opinion of the Conference of Presidents, adopted at its meeting of 13 January 2011;
- approved the request to travel to Palermo, in the light of the additional justifications provided as part of the programme of parliamentary committee delegations for 2011 outside Parliament's three places of work.

16. Request from the CRIS Committee to organize in the first half of 2011 a high level public conference on the financial and economic crisis - Letter from Mr KLINZ, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- decided to postpone this item to a subsequent meeting, pending a decision from the Conference of Presidents.

17. Request from the ITRE Committee to authorize a public hearing on "Applications of Spectrum: present and long term perspective" in Brussels on 1 February 2011 (Committees week) - Letter from Mr REUL, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of a letter of 16 December 2010 from Mr REUL, Chair of the ITRE Committee (PE 455.411/BUR and programme);
- recalled that the proposed hearing did not feature in the programme of hearings for 2011 approved by the Bureau at its meeting of 22 November 2010;
- authorised the hearing in question on the understanding that reimbursement of any costs incurred by invited experts would be deducted from the committee's annual quota to that effect.

18. Request to postpone to 8 February 2011 (day set aside for political groups meetings) the Committee on Petitions delegation to Scotland, originally scheduled for 7 December 2010 - Letter from Ms MAZZONI, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of a letter of 15 December 2010 from Ms MAZZONI, Chair of the Committee on Petitions requesting authorisation to postpone the four-member delegation initially scheduled for 7 December 2010 to the Scottish Parliament Petitions Committee to 8 February 2011 (date set aside for political group activities) (PE 455.402/BUR and financial statement);
- recalled that pursuant Article 5(1) of the rules in force governing Committee Delegations outside the three places of work of the European Parliament: "[t]he committees shall in principle undertake missions during the weeks set aside for committee meetings or the weeks set aside for external parliamentary activities";
- took note of and endorsed the unfavourable opinion given by the Conference of President at its meeting of 13 January 2011;
- invited the Committee to find another date for the mission during a week set aside for committee meetings or external parliamentary activities.

19. Urgent matters and any other business

19.1 Proposed allocation of appropriations under item 400 (ex 4000) of the 2011 EP budget for the political groups - Letter from Mr DAUL, Chair of the EPP Group

The Bureau, without debate,

- took note of a letter dated 12 January 2011 from Mr DAUL, Chair of the EPP Group, on behalf of the Chairs of the political groups, regarding the draft allocation of budget item 400 (ex 4000) appropriations for 2011 (PE 455.531/CPG and annex);
- took note also of the favourable opinion expressed by the Conference of Presidents at its meeting of 13 January 2011;
- approved the draft allocation of budget item 400 appropriations for 2011.

19.2 Publication of the names of local assistants

The Bureau

- heard Mr HIGGINS, Quaestor, note that local assistants had been notified over the Christmas period of the decision to publish their names on the Parliament's website and their right to have their names withheld for security reasons and requested that the notification be sent a second time since some local assistants had not been able to submit their reasons in time on account of the vagaries of the postal system at Christmas;
- heard Ms ROTH-BEHRENDT, Vice-President and Chair of the Temporary Evaluation Group on the implementation of the Members' and Assistants' Statutes, recall that the Group had intended that accredited and local assistants should be treated in the same way;

- heard the Secretary-General, promise that a second notification would be sent and indicated that he would show flexibility within the remits of the rules.

20. Items for information

The Bureau

- noted the following documents:

Inter-institutional mail

External mail

Internal mail

- a note of 10 January 2011 from the Secretary-General concerning financing of political parties and foundations - revised version including the decisions taken by the Bureau on 13 December 2010 (PE 452.266/BUR and annexes);
- a letter of 17 December 2010 from the Secretary-General, Parliament's resolution of 17 May 2001 on the estimates of revenue and expenditure of Parliament for the financial year 2002 calls for the submission of a number of reports (PE 447.073/BUR);
- Conclusions of the President related to the Away-Days of the Bureau in La Hulpe on 10 and 11 January 2011 (PE 455.479/BUR).

21. Date and place of next meeting

The Bureau

- decided to hold its next meeting on **2 February 2011** from 18:00 to 20:00 hours in room 6B01 in the Paul-Henri Spaak building.

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The meeting closed at 21:07 hours

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