



QUAESTORS' Quarterly

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Dear Colleagues,

Since July 2017 I have the honour of chairing the College of Quaestors again as part of the 6-monthly rotation.

We will continue to meet with the services of the Administration every month to address concerns and plan ahead for future developments and improvements to parliamentary life - from security matters to the quality of food on offer in the canteens, scientific services, external organisations' ranking of Members' activities as well as administrative and financial matters concerning Members.

In addition, we will be overseeing plans to modernise the provision of the television service in Members' offices from next year as the current satellite-based service (with limited access to TV channels) is replaced by an internet-based service and examining the on-going difficulties related to the re-opening of Parliament's sports centre.



Andrey KOVATCHEV
Chair-in-Office of the Quaestors

Happy autumn!



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DEADLINE REMINDERS FOR MEPS

The deadline for submitting requests for the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses and the cost of language and computer courses is **Tuesday 31 October 2017**.

The deadline for the transmission of costs to be reimbursed for parliamentary assistance for the financial year 2017 is **Thursday 7 December 2017**.

MEPs' Portal
mep.portal@europarl.europa.eu
Tél : 44422

Reimbursement of online language courses

The Quaestors have recently discussed changes to the provisions for language and computer courses taken by Members, in particular, how to make them more flexible and adaptable to the needs and time constraints of many colleagues.

It has been agreed to broaden the scope of eligible computer courses to include some software applications relevant for parliamentary work, such as social media, and to increase the proportion of the budget (though not the overall amount) allocated for language courses that can be used for on-line courses.

As a reminder, Members have EUR 5 000 available for language courses each year, of which EUR 1500 would now be available for online courses. Members also have EUR 1 500 for computer courses, of which EUR 500 can now be used for online courses, as long as they are given by certified teachers and institutions and are not taken during plenary sessions.



The revised Rules were approved by the Bureau on 23 October 2017.

Digital TV coming soon to Members' offices

The Quaestors have been discussing plans to replace and modernise the TV sets and distribution service in Members' offices and in the corridors, in particular the transition from analogue to digital TV, which is one of the priorities of the current Chair-in-office.

The new service would enable improved image quality, a greater number of

channels, the possibility to view TV channels on both television and PC screens and to record TV programmes for later viewing as well as pause, rewind or fast forward (TV on demand). It would also be possible to see on-screen menus to select channels, to create a personal user profile with preferred languages and channels and to see any emergency messages from Parliament's security services.



The project will be implemented in several stages starting in spring 2018.

Christmas and New Year greeting cards

Each year, Members can order printed Christmas and New Year cards from a list of models that have been chosen by the Quaestors in July. In previous years, Members have ordered their cards by filling in a PDF form and sending it to the relevant services by email.

From this year onwards, cards can be ordered simply via the [web2print](#) application of the EP website in the same way as other stationery products for MEPs. The Members' budget for stationery will therefore be increased by EUR 100 (four vouchers worth EUR 25 each, equivalent to their previous entitlement).

This will allow for more efficiency by automating and controlling the complete process from ordering to delivery and invoicing via a single application. As in the past, Members will be entitled to order their cards free of charge by introducing the free promotional codes listed on the web2print application for this purpose.

Any additional cards will be charged, as in the past, to the general expenditure allowance.



The six cards selected by the Quaestors for print in July will be available online for ordering via [web2print](#) as of 16 October 2017.

SENDING YOUR GREETINGS BY E-CARD

Members preferring to send e-cards can do so from December onwards. DG ITEC will communicate the details and links to the website and designs in due course.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

This Newsletter is produced by the Secretariat of the Bureau and Quaestors. For further information on any of the articles in this edition, please contact one of the Quaestors responsible or the Secretariat at the following address:

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Link to the website of the [Quaestors](#)