



QUAESTORS' Quarterly

CATHERINE BEARDER

ELISABETH MORIN-CHARTIER

ANDREY KOVATCHEV

ANTONIO TAJANI

KAROL KARSKI

VLADIMIR MAŇKA

Issue 12

Summer 2018

Dear colleagues,

As my 6-month chairmanship of the Quaestors draws to a close, I would like to thank my fellow Quaestors for their support and collegiate approach which enabled the realisation of many of my stated priorities, outlined below:



It was my honour and pleasure to launch the **Stair Health Campaign** in February and to present the awards to the Stair Champions on Tuesday 12 June. The campaign has been a resounding success. Not only have participants increased their overall health and fitness, but they have also improved their knowledge of the emergency exits, which is essential in the case of evacuations. The elevators have been used less allowing for maintenance and electricity savings. Inspired by its success, it is my intention that this project becomes a Europe-wide stair campaign competition to encourage all European citizens to "Take the First Step"!

I am delighted to announce that the Quaestors recently unanimously adopted the **draft Code on Appropriate Behaviour of Members** laying down principles and guidelines for their conduct towards staff. The code was prepared by the Advisory Committee dealing with harassment complaints between APA and Members of the European Parliament. Members will be asked to sign the Code and the relevant declarations, whether signed or not, will be published on the EP website. Failure to sign the Code will result in exclusion from official functions. The draft Code will now be forwarded to the Bureau for final adoption and then on to the AFCO committee for its inclusion in the Rules of Procedure.

As Quaestor responsible for Members' facilities in **EP Liaison offices (EPLOs)** it came to my attention that the relevant Bureau Rules did not always contain very clear criteria for the allocation and the use of office space by Members and political groups in the EPLOs in the Member States, thus the need for the adoption of some guidelines. The guidelines provide clarification regarding, *inter alia*, the criteria for the identification of available office space within the EPLOs; the criteria to be fulfilled by group staff in order to be

allowed to use allocated office space and a register of authorised persons having access to the offices; the possibility to transform the "Bureaux de passage" into office space for use by political groups; and the use of the conference rooms.

As some of Parliament's **Friendship groups and other unofficial groupings** interfere with the work of AFET and the official interparliamentary delegations, the Quaestors held an exchange of views with the Chair of AFET and the Chair of the Conference of Delegation Chairs in order to address related problems.

They agreed that the Members' freedom to exercise their mandate should be fully respected, but stressed that, when speaking in public or to the media, Members should clarify whether or not they do so in an official capacity and also respect their transparency obligations regarding invitations from third parties, or any gifts or financial or staff support they receive.

IN THIS ISSUE

- [Distribution of publications](#)
- [Reduction of plastic bottles](#)
- [IPTV](#)
- [European Ombudsman](#)
- [Kitchenettes and sanitary facilities](#)

In April, DG SAFE briefed the Quaestors on **Parliament's safety and evacuation strategy**; the training of evacuation volunteers; ongoing building evacuation drills, including the special alert system for disabled Members; the new related information campaign and publications as well as the signage of emergency exits and defibrillators.

It remains for me to wish my colleague **Catherine Bearder** the very best of luck as she takes over the chairmanship for the next 6 months.



Vladimir MAŇKA,
Chair-in-Office of the Quaestors

Distribution of publications

Further to concerns voiced by Members, the Quaestors discussed the distribution of non-nominative publications without a particular European dimension, some of which may even be vehicles for state propaganda.

The Quaestors came to the conclusion that non-nominative publications in which there is a marked interest, such as widely read newspapers and magazines with a European institutional dimension, should continue to be distributed to the Members' pigeonholes on their floors.

The remaining non-nominative publications received by the Parliament for general distribution will be made available in a centrally located area on a self-service basis to be collected by interested Members and staff (see [Quaestors' Notice 15/2018](#)).

Reduction of plastic bottles

The Quaestors recently considered the measures in place for the reduction of single use plastic bottles, which figures amongst the Parliament Catering Strategy's priorities.

The Quaestors concluded that although progress has been made (10,5 % reduction of plastic bottles in 2017, in comparison with 2016) further reductions could be achieved by, *inter alia*, installing more fountains and by introducing reusable glass bottles. Individual plastic bottles for Parliament's official meetings lasting less than one and a half hour should be provided only upon request. In addition, plastic bottles for water and soft drinks in vending machines should be phased out, taking into account contractual obligations. Finally more water fountains will be installed outside meeting rooms and busy corridors in order to supply water for Members, staff and visitors. (see [Quaestors' Notice 13/2018](#)).



Internet Protocol Television

The current analogue TV distribution system, enabling access to the proceedings of the part-session and the main EU television channels, will soon be replaced by a new platform based on Internet Protocol technology.

The new system, known as IPTV, will offer a modern TV distribution platform for all screen-oriented information and allow Members and other users to watch content from their offices, EP computers and other places within the EP network. IPTV offers more TV channels, better image quality and a user-friendly and customisable interface.

The rollout of the new IPTV system will start this summer and from 9 July to 31 August 2018 offices will be equipped accordingly (see [Quaestors' Notice 18/2018](#)).

Meeting with the European Ombudsman

The Quaestors met with Ms O'Reilly, European Ombudsman, to discuss issues

of mutual interest including the work on harassment complaints from staff against Members and transparency in the legislative process.

Kitchenettes and sanitary facilities

Following last year's decision to shut down the hot water supply because of legionella concerns (see [Quaestors' Notice 27/2017](#)), the Quaestors instructed DG INLO to install local hot water circuits and to examine compensatory measures for the Members' offices.

In addition to the showers in the Sports Club, sanitary facilities have been installed on the fourth floor of the BRANDT building consisting of an entrance area-cloakroom with access to three separate bathrooms, one of which is accessible to persons with reduced mobility (PRM), and which are equipped with a shower, a wash basin and a toilet as well as an automatic alert system ensuring that the showers are cleaned after each use.

As hot water in Members' offices has frequently been used for washing dishes, five different prototypes of kitchenettes have been incorporated into the pilot projects refitting Members' offices in zone E on floors 13 and 14 and in zone G on floors 8, 12 and 14 of the SPINELLI building. Their use will be assessed over a period of six months and if the results are positive, similar kitchenettes may be installed on other floors of the building.



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:

SecrQuest@ep.europa.eu

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