



QUAESTORS' Quarterly

Issue 3
March 2016

Since January 2016 I have the honour of chairing the College of Quaestors, taking over from my colleague Catherine Bearder. I will be continuing the tradition of a Quaestors Newsletter in the hope of raising awareness of various decisions and developments that may affect you or benefit you in the course of your parliamentary work.

In addition to dealing with matters raised by Members in the course of their parliamentary activities, I have set a few priorities of my own on which I hope to make some progress. In particular, the car service is being reviewed possibly with a view to internalise it. This should strengthen the security of the service, in line with the increased security at the entrances to our buildings.

I will also be requesting a review of the provision of IT services to Members and overseeing plans to modernise the provision of television services in Members' offices from the current satellite-based service (with limited access to TV channels) to an internet-based system, to be operational by January next year.

Bonne lecture ...

... and a Happy Spring!



Andrey KOVATCHEV

Chair-in-Office, Quaestors



IN THIS ISSUE

[Special arrangements for Members in Strasbourg airport](#)

[Enrolment of children in after-school childcare centres 2016-2017](#)

[Excuses for absence at plenary sittings](#)

[Reopening of the Sports Centre in Brussels](#)

[Update on new catering services](#)

Special arrangements for Members in Strasbourg airport



Following certain delays experienced by Members during the last few plenary sessions at Strasbourg airport as a result of the passport controls introduced by France in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in Paris, the Bureau mandated Ms MORIN-CHARTIER, Quaestor responsible for the relations with the local and national authorities in the three places of work, to look for appropriate solutions.



The following has been agreed and applies as of the March plenary session and for the whole duration of the state of emergency in France:



Arrivals

A special fast lane indicated 'Passengers with assistance' will be put in place for passport controls of passengers related with the European institutions and in particular for Members of Parliament. On presentation of their badge upon arrival, Members will be accompanied by specially assigned airport staff to this fast lane, where Members will be given priority.



Departures

A maximum number of checkpoints and security staff will be employed for passport controls for international flights in order to ensure a steady flow of passengers. Signposts will clearly distinguish between Schengen and non-Schengen flights and airport staff will ensure the shortest waiting time for Members.



The special measures will be subject to a continuous assessment in order to ensure the least possible impact on passengers due to the state of emergency in France.

Enrolment of children in after-school childcare centres 2016-2017



For those Members with children (aged 4 to 12) attending the European schools, you can now register them (until 15 April 2016) for afterschool child care for the next school year using the online Kiddyweb web page.



A letter will be sent during week 24 (June) to Members who have enrolled their child which will specify whether the application has been accepted or whether their child has been placed on the waiting list. This applies also to newly registered children in the European Schools (even if confirmation of a place in the European school is not sent until 27 April 2016).

WHERE TO REGISTER?

Kiddyweb web page.

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/kiddyweb>

Note that an ECAS account will need to be created first.

Deadline: 15 April 2016



KIDDYWEB APPLICATION

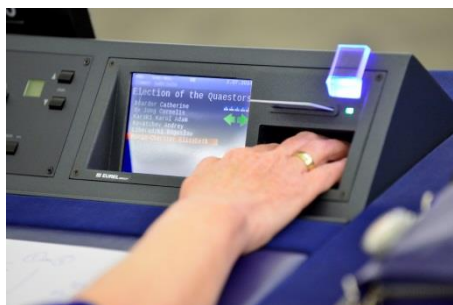
You can already check/create your Kiddyweb profile and manage your registration files (encoding, authorisations etc.).

Members whose children are already enrolled in child care and therefore already have a profile should not create a new one.

New registrants need to send the completed documents (attached) to the following address:

OIB-GARDERIESPOSTSCOLAIRES@ec.europa.eu

Excuses for absence at plenary sittings



In 2014 the Rules of Procedure were amended granting Members who did not attend a plenary sitting the option to be excused by the President, under certain circumstances, and to be indicated as 'excused' in the Minutes of the plenary sittings. In particular, the Minutes include two lists:

- a list of the Members 'present', for those who have signed the attendance register;
- a list of the Members 'excused', for those who have been excused from attending by the President.



In accordance with Article 31(3) and (4) of the Implementing Measures for the Statute for Members ('IMMS') and under the conditions laid down in these rules the President may excuse Members from attending a plenary sitting on the following grounds:

- ill-health,
- serious family circumstances,
- presence elsewhere on mission on behalf of Parliament,
- expectation of childbirth,
- maternity leave.

The IMMS rules state that the subsistence allowance shall be reduced by 50 % for each day on which a Member has been absent for more than half of the roll-call votes taken during a part-session. Furthermore, if a Member is absent for more than 50% of the days fixed for plenary sessions over the course of a parliamentary year, he/she shall also be required to reimburse half of their annual general expenditure allowance for that period.

An absence excused by the President on the above mentioned grounds does not entitle the absent Member to the full subsistence allowance for the day of his/her absence but is not counted as an absence when considering whether a reimbursement of the general expenditure allowance is required at the end of the year.



Members wishing to be excused from attending must submit a request to the Quaestors' secretariat by ordinary or electronic mail and must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documents (original medical certificate, letter authorising the mission, etc.). A request based on an expectation of childbirth must be accompanied by an original medical certificate indicating the probable date of confinement. A request based on maternity leave must be accompanied by a copy of the child's birth certificate.

Members should submit such requests and supporting documents to the Quaestors as soon as possible and at the latest within a maximum of two months from the date on which the period of absence began.

WANT TO BE EXCUSED FROM PLENARY?



Is a scan of a medical certificate sent by email sufficient for being excused in plenary?



NO! In order for a Member to be officially excused, the original medical certificate confirming the dates of absence must be submitted to the Quaestors Secretariat (Paul Henri-Spaak (PHS) o6Bo3o).



What is the deadline for submitting the supporting documents when requesting to be excused?



The deadline for submitting documents is two months from the moment of absence.



What happens once I send the original medical certificate/respective supporting documents?



Once the Quaestors Secretariat receives the certificate, an official letter will be sent to the Member confirming he/she has been excused and that the relevant Services will be notified accordingly. No further action is needed from the Member.

Reopening of the Sports Centre in Brussels



The Sports Centre in Brussels reopened on Monday 15th February following the withdrawal of the management company that had bid to take over the running of the facility from the previous operator.

Provisionally the sports centre is now being run in-house with the assistance of an accredited sports monitor who also runs the Strasbourg sports centre. However this means that only a reduced service is available for the moment (fitness area, spinning and squash courts).

During this initial phase, access will be temporarily free of charge and limited to Members, EP staff and accredited parliamentary assistants.

SPORTS CENTRE IN BRUSSELS OPENING HOURS

Monday	12.00	20.00
Tuesday to Thursday	07.30	20.00
Friday	07.30	15.00
<i>Closed during Strasbourg sessions</i>		

Arrangements will be made for users who have already paid their subscriptions for January and February to be reimbursed.

Update on new catering services

In September 2015 we brought you news that Parliament's 30 year long relationship with Sodexho was coming to an end as a new catering company was taking over the management of Parliament's canteens, restaurants and bars. It is useful to recall the three main pillars of the new catering strategy - namely:

- No more subsidies to the service provider;
- Introduction of some elements of competition and choice in terms of the offer;
- Emphasis on good quality, locally-sourced, seasonal products and waste reduction.

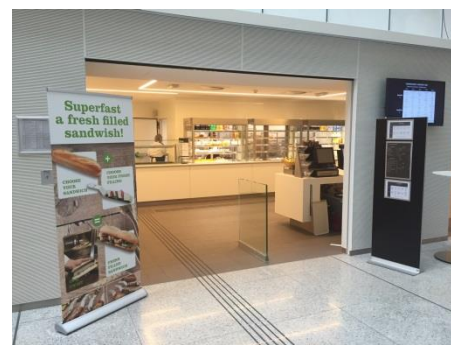


Over the coming months new additional food outlets, run by local independent providers, will be added to the current menus on offer in the cafeteria:

① The sandwich bar, currently located on the 1st floor at the end of the Spinelli building (section E-F), will move to a central location next to the newspaper kiosk on the ground floor, opposite the main entrance and offer take-away sales only. Expected opening by end of May 2016.

② The space vacated by the sandwich bar will be converted into a Mediterranean style restaurant serving hot dishes and a seating area for about 50 persons. Expected opening by September 2016.

③ Between the two, in the space once occupied by the Post Office, there will be a new organic/fair trade food corner offering locally-sourced, seasonal, organic products and a seating area for about 25 people. Expected opening by end of May 2016.



As regards Strasbourg catering, as of 7th March, the General Bar on the ground floor of the LOW building in Strasbourg is offering a selection of fresh salads and sandwiches for take-away. Work will also take place over the summer months on the main canteen in Strasbourg to redesign the placement of the cash tills in order to avoid over-crowding at peak mealtimes on Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes after the votes.

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@europarl.europa.eu