



CORTES GENERALES

INFORME SOBRE LA REUNIÓN DE SECRETARIOS GENERALES DE PARLAMENTOS DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA CELEBRADA EN NICOSIA DEL 10 AL 11 DE FEBRERO DE 2013

El Parlamento chipriota organizó la reunión de Secretarios Generales de Parlamentos de la Unión Europea en el hotel Hilton Cyprus de Nicosia, del 10 al 11 de febrero de 2013. Esta reunión tuvo un carácter preparatorio de la Conferencia de Presidentes de Parlamentos de la Unión Europea que tendrá lugar así mismo en Nicosia del 21 al 23 de abril de 2013.

El programa y la lista de participantes en esta reunión se adjuntan al presente informe como anexos 1 y 2, respectivamente.

Por parte de las Cortes Generales asistió la letrada representante de las Cortes Generales ante la Unión Europea, Ilma. Sra. D^a Carmen Sánchez-Abarca Gornals.

Presidió la reunión el Secretario General en funciones de la Cámara de Diputados chipriota, el **Sr. SOCRATOUS**, quien comenzó despidiendo a sus homólogos salientes, en concreto los Secretarios Generales del Bundestag alemán, **Sr. SEMMLER**, y del Senado francés, **Sr. DELCAMP**. Así mismo, dio la bienvenida a los nuevos Secretarios Generales del Bundestag alemán, **Sr. RISSE**, y de los Parlamentos de Portugal, **Sr. CABRAL TAVARES**; Austria, **Sr. DOSSI**; Hungría, **Sr. SOLTÉSZ**; y Malta, **Sr. SCICLUNA**.

El **Sr. DELCAMP**, quien participaba por última vez en esta reunión, tomó la palabra para despedirse de sus colegas, destacando la responsabilidad personal de los Secretarios Generales en la resolución de las cuestiones que se plantean hoy en la UE. Su carta de despedida se adjunta como anexo 3, en ella propone como contribución al debate sobre el futuro de la cooperación parlamentaria en Europa su artículo "*Une seconde chambre européenne est-elle possible?*"¹.

Dirigió a continuación unas palabras a los Secretarios Generales el **Sr. OMIROU**, Presidente de la Cámara de Representantes chipriota, quien señaló la importancia creciente del papel de los Parlamentos Nacionales en la UE. Tras resumir las actividades organizadas por su Parlamento durante segundo semestre de 2012, destacó que la cuestión turca no había afectado a la Presidencia chipriota del Consejo. Solicitó a los Secretarios Generales que transmitieran este mensaje a sus Presidentes,

¹ "*Une seconde chambre européenne est-elle possible?*", por **Alain DELCAMP**, publicado en la revista *Constitutions, Revue de droit constitutionnel appliqué*, ed. Dalloz, julio-septiembre 2010, págs. 331 a 343.



CORTES GENERALES

con quienes confía llegar a acuerdos de calado en la Conferencia que se celebrará en Chipre en abril. El texto completo de su intervención se adjunta como anexo 4.

A continuación, el **Sr. SOCRATOUS** informó de los acuerdos alcanzados en la reunión de la troika celebrada el domingo 10 de febrero, en concreto la adopción del orden del día de la reunión de Secretarios Generales y el borrador del orden del día de la Conferencia de Presidentes.

1. Evolución de los trabajos de aplicación de las conclusiones de la última Conferencia de Presidentes celebrada en Varsovia en 2012

En relación con el primer punto previsto en el orden del día, relativo a la evolución de los trabajos de aplicación de las conclusiones de la última Conferencia de Presidentes celebrada en Varsovia en 2012, el **Sr. SOCRATOUS** señaló que dichos avances se han centrado en dos temas, por un lado la Conferencia para la Política Exterior y de Seguridad Común (PESC) y la Política Común de Seguridad y Defensa (PCSD), y por otro lado el Tratado de Estabilidad, Coordinación y Gobernanza (TECG), firmado el 2 de marzo de 2012 y conocido como Pacto Fiscal Europeo, que fue el tema principal de esta reunión de Secretarios Generales.

En relación con la Conferencia para la PESC y la PCSD, hizo referencia a la celebración de su primera edición, del 9 al 10 de septiembre de 2012, en Pafos, Chipre. La reunión inaugural de este nuevo foro contó con la presencia de todos los Parlamentos nacionales, salvo Finlandia, y el Parlamento Europeo. Así mismo, se invitó a los Parlamentos de los Estados candidatos y Estados miembros de la OTAN. Estuvieron presentes, en relación con el punto relativo a la primavera árabe, representantes de los Parlamentos de Jordania y Líbano. La **baronesa ASHTON** expuso las líneas generales de su política, y se alcanzó por último un acuerdo sobre las reglas de procedimiento de la Conferencia. En la próxima edición de esta Conferencia, que se celebrará en Dublín del 24 al 25 de marzo de 2013, el Parlamento chipriota presentará una propuesta de creación de un grupo de trabajo dedicado a la primavera árabe.

Por su parte, el punto referido al Pacto Fiscal Europeo fue introducido en el orden del día de la Conferencia de Presidentes a petición de la Presidencia polaca, con la finalidad de facilitar un intercambio de opiniones sobre la modalidad de desarrollo de la Conferencia sobre asuntos financieros y presupuestarios prevista en el artículo 13 TECG. En relación con este debate, el **Sr. SOCRATOUS** hizo referencia así mismo a la Semana Parlamentaria Europea organizada del 28 al 30 de enero 2013 por el Parlamento Europeo, en relación con el semestre europeo.



CORTES GENERALES

En el debate que se abrió a continuación, el **Sr. RASNACS**, Secretario General del Parlamento letón, señaló la mejora de la situación económica en Letonia, y su intención de unirse a la zona euro y a la OCDE en 2014. En relación con las conclusiones de la Conferencia de Presidentes, hizo referencia al apoyo que su país ha brindado a Croacia, cuyo representante ya estará presente en la Conferencia de Presidentes de Nicosia, y mostró su confianza en que el resto de Estados miembros siguieran esta línea ratificando el tratado de adhesión de Croacia antes del 1 de julio de 2013.

El **Sr. COUGHLAN**, Secretario General del Parlamento irlandés, en su calidad de Parlamento del Estado que ostenta actualmente la Presidencia del Consejo, hizo referencia a la organización de la II Conferencia para la PESC y la PCSD, que se celebrará en Dublín del 24 al 25 marzo 2013. Las propuestas de la Presidencia irlandesa en relación con esta Conferencia están actualmente siendo negociadas y serán presentadas en Dublín en marzo 2013.

La **Sra. BIESHEUVEL**, Secretaria General de la Cámara de Representantes holandesa, expresa su confianza en que la fórmula apropiada para el desarrollo de los trabajos de la Conferencia para la PESC será definida en breve, y en que dicha fórmula será así mismo aplicada a la Conferencia presupuestaria prevista en el art. 13 TCEG. Por otra parte, señaló así mismo que si el objetivo último de las nuevas Conferencias es aumentar la legitimidad democrática de la UE, los nombres de dichos foros deberían revisarse, para hacerlos comprensibles a los ciudadanos.

El **Sr. WELLE**, Secretario General del Parlamento Europeo, señaló que la Semana Parlamentaria Europea había en efecto sido considerada un éxito, en la medida en que contó con más de 100 parlamentarios nacionales, los Presidentes de las tres principales instituciones europeas y los Comisarios competentes en la materia, así como con reuniones previas de los grupos parlamentarios. Destacó sin embargo la posibilidad de mejorar la posibilidad de un debate real entre los parlamentarios y los Presidentes de las instituciones europeas, tras las intervenciones de éstos últimos.

2. Presentación del orden del día de la Conferencia de Presidentes de Parlamentos de la UE 2013

El **Sr. SOCRATOUS** detalló los puntos previstos en el orden del día de la Conferencia de Presidentes de Parlamentos que se celebrará en Nicosia del 21 al 23 de abril de 2013. Los puntos principales en esta reunión de alto nivel serán cuatro: el papel de los Parlamentos nacionales en la promoción de la democracia y los derechos humanos en terceros países, especialmente en la región mediterránea; el



CORTES GENERALES

acercamiento de los ciudadanos a la Unión Europea; el artículo 13 TCEG, que será discutido en una sesión reservada a los Presidentes (formato uno más uno); y la cohesión social en tiempos de austeridad. El borrador de programa de la Conferencia de Presidentes se adjunta como anexo 5.

Señaló así mismo el **Sr. SOCRATOUS** la recepción de dos cartas enviadas al **Presidente OMIROU** por su homólogo en el Senado belga, **Sr. FLAHAUT**, proponiendo la inclusión como sendos puntos del orden del día de la Conferencia de Presidentes la cuestión de la dimensión mediterránea de la UE y la relación entre los medios de comunicación y los Parlamentos nacionales. Dado que ambas cuestiones se consideran incluidas en el borrador de programa propuesto por la Presidencia chipriota, éste no será modificado en el sentido solicitado por el Senado belga.

El **Sr. DOSSI**, Secretario General del Parlamento austriaco, mostró su satisfacción con el borrador de programa propuesto por el Parlamento chipriota para la Conferencia de Presidentes. Dado que el tema central será el desarrollo del artículo 13 TCEG, insistió en la conveniencia de mantener la discusión sobre este tema reducida a los Presidentes (formato "uno más uno") con el objetivo de permitir un debate informal que permitiera alcanzar acuerdos sobre la futura Conferencia presupuestaria.

La **Sra. BIESHEUVEL**, mostró así mismo su apoyo al programa propuesto por la Presidencia chipriota, y destacó el especial interés del Presidente de la Segunda Cámara holandesa por el tema del acercamiento de los ciudadanos a la UE. En relación con el art. 13 TCEG, insistió en la necesidad de contar con un borrador de conclusiones de la Presidencia cuanto antes y en todo caso dos semanas antes de la Conferencia.

En esta misma línea, el **Sr. MARTENSSON**, Secretario General adjunto del Parlamento sueco, hizo referencia en su intervención a la carta enviada por su Presidente al Presidente de la Asamblea Nacional francesa, en la que señalaba la conveniencia de que fueran los Presidentes de las Comisiones competentes por razón de la materia quienes compusieran la nueva Conferencia, empleando para ello el foro ya existente de las reuniones semestrales de Presidentes de Comisión que organiza la Presidencia de turno del Consejo en su Parlamento. La citada carta del Presidente sueco se adjunta como anexo 6 al presente informe.

El **Sr. RISSE**, Secretario General del Bundestag alemán, hubiera preferido incluir la discusión sobre la Conferencia presupuestaria como un punto ordinario del orden del día de la Conferencia de Presidentes, si bien mostró su apoyo a la discusión informal siempre que ésta sea preparada a fondo y el eventual acuerdo sea plasmado



CORTES GENERALES

en las conclusiones de la Conferencia. En esta línea, sugirió que todas las propuestas sobre este tema se publiquen en la web de IPEX².

El **Sr. HAMILTON**, Secretario General del Senado de los Países Bajos, destacó el creciente papel de los Parlamentos nacionales en la UE, y la necesidad de que la troika ayude a los Secretarios Generales a coordinar a todos los Parlamentos nacionales para lograr un acuerdo sobre la Conferencia del art. 13 TCEG.

El **Sr. BLOCH**, Director de Asuntos europeos de la Asamblea Nacional francesa, recordó el documento de trabajo aprobado por los Presidentes de los Parlamentos de los Estados fundadores de la CEE y el PE en Luxemburgo el 11 de enero 2013, que se adjunta como anexo 7, y la necesidad de llegar a un acuerdo al respecto en la próxima Conferencia de Presidentes.

La **Sra. DELEURAN**, Directora de Relaciones Internacionales del Parlamento danés, tras mostrar el apoyo de su Parlamento al orden del día de la Conferencia de Presidentes propuesto por los chipriotas, recordó la invitación dirigida por su Parlamento a todos los Presidentes de las Comisiones de Asuntos europeos para asistir a una reunión en Copenhague, el 11 de marzo de 2013, para discutir cómo pueden los Parlamentos nacionales aumentar su papel en el Semestre europeo.

El **Sr. VISCA**, Jefe del Servicio de Asuntos Europeos de la Cámara de Diputados italiana, coincidió con el Secretario General del Bundestag en señalar que el debate sobre la Conferencia del art. 13 TCEG será el punto más importante de la Conferencia de Presidentes, y por ello propuso que el orden del día de dicha Conferencia sea modificado, incluyendo un punto en que se incluya de manera más amplia esta cuestión.

El **Sr. PAPAIOANNOU**, Secretario General del Parlamento griego, insistió en la necesidad de que la decisión sobre la Conferencia presupuestaria se adopte en 2013, sin posponerla un año más.

El **Sr. WELLE**, Secretario General del Parlamento Europeo, tomó la palabra para recordar la singularidad del Pacto Fiscal, que si bien es un tratado internacional firmado por 25 Estados, está previsto que se incorpore al Derecho europeo en un plazo de cinco años. El interés principal de los Presidentes en su reunión será, sin duda, la concreción del formato de la Conferencia presupuestaria prevista en este Tratado.

² Véase www.ipex.eu, sección Conferencias de Presidentes.



CORTES GENERALES

El Sr. **COUGHLAN** señaló que el Parlamento irlandés abogaría por alcanzar un acuerdo sobre la Conferencia presupuestaria en la próxima Conferencia de Presidentes en abril 2013, sin posponer más su puesta en funcionamiento. Adelantó que el Parlamento irlandés propondrá evitar la creación de nuevas estructuras, pudiendo el nuevo foro reemplazar a las actuales reuniones semestrales de Presidentes de Comisiones de Economía, con un formato ampliado.

El Sr. **WALTERS**, Jefe de la Oficina de Relaciones Internacionales de la Cámara de los Lores, coincide con la opinión mayoritaria de que la Conferencia de Presidentes debe alcanzar un acuerdo sobre la aplicación del art. 13 TCEG, pero señala que sólo se lograrán avances en este sentido si las propuestas son simples e inclusivas de todos los Estados miembros. Así mismo recordó que, siguiendo las reglas de procedimiento de la Conferencia de Presidentes, los acuerdos deben tomarse por consenso.

El Sr. **SOCRATOUS** señaló que la elección del formato "uno más uno" para el debate del art. 13 TCEG en la Conferencia de Presidentes tiene como objetivo precisamente permitir que los Presidentes fijen claramente sus posiciones, algo que hasta ahora la Presidencia chipriota no ha logrado.

3. Cuestiones relativas a IPEX

El Sr. **RISSE** presentó el Informe Anual de IPEX para 2012, en su calidad de Presidente del Consejo de IPEX. Agradeció a los Parlamentos que voluntariamente están presentes en el Consejo de IPEX, así como a los que decidan hacerlo en el futuro. Tuvo unas palabras de agradecimiento para el Parlamento esloveno, que tras dos años en el Consejo IPEX se retira ahora de dichas funciones. Tras mencionar los principales logros de IPEX en 2012, especialmente su nueva web, y destacó así mismo el papel desempeñado por IPEX en la consecución de la primera tarjeta amarilla por parte de los Parlamentos nacionales en la propuesta conocida como Monti II³. Propuso la recepción directa por parte de IPEX de las iniciativas de la Comisión europea, para lo que sería necesario que los Secretarios Generales formalizaran esta petición a la Comisión europea a través de sus Presidentes. En relación con el papel de los corresponsales, insistió en la importancia de sus tareas, especialmente la publicación de noticias sobre sus respectivos Parlamentos en la web de IPEX y la implantación del sistema XML de envío automático de datos a IPEX. El Bundestag continuará en el Consejo de IPEX en 2013 y 2014, y si los demás Parlamentos así lo desean, mantendrá

³ Propuesta de Reglamento del Consejo sobre el ejercicio del derecho a adoptar medidas de conflicto colectivo en el contexto de la libertad de establecimiento y la libre prestación de servicios, **COM (2012) 130 final**.



CORTES GENERALES

la Presidencia de este órgano. El texto de la presentación del Informe Anual de IPEX para 2012 se adjunta como anexo 8.

La **Sra. DELEURAN**, en representación de uno de los Parlamentos fundadores de IPEX, el danés, agradeció a Alemania su labor y mostró su apoyo a la Presidencia alemana del Consejo de IPEX.

El **Sr. WELLE** mostró así mismo su apoyo a las propuestas realizadas por su homólogo alemán.

El **Sr. POYSER** agradeció su labor al Bundestag, y únicamente planteó, en relación con el punto 7 de las conclusiones sobre IPEX, si la publicación de la información relativa a las nuevas Conferencias interparlamentarias europeas (PESC y PCSD y eventualmente la Conferencia presupuestaria) va a duplicarse en IPEX y la página de la Presidencia de turno, o centralizarse en IPEX.

El **Sr. RISSE** contestó que IPEX no pretende suplantar a las páginas web de cada Presidencia, sino facilitar una vía adicional de acceso a dichos documentos. Visto el consenso en cuanto a la petición de documentos a la Comisión europea, anunció la adición de un nuevo punto 9 a las conclusiones sobre IPEX.

Antes de proceder a la votación del nuevo Presidente del Consejo de IPEX, el **Sr. SOCRATOUS** preguntó a los presentes si sus respectivos Parlamentos deseaban participar así mismo en dicho Consejo. Ante la falta de nuevos candidatos y sin que se formulara ninguna objeción por parte de los presentes, se aprobó por asentimiento el nombramiento del **Sr. RESSI** como Presidente del Consejo de IPEX.

Las conclusiones sobre IPEX, incluyendo la enmienda de adición del punto 9, fueron así mismo aprobadas por asentimiento. El texto final se adjunta al presente informe como anexo 9.

En su intervención final, el **Sr. SOCRATOUS** procedió a realizar un breve resumen de los temas tratados por los Secretarios Generales en esta reunión. Agradeció en especial al Parlamento belga su ofrecimiento para organizar la reunión de corresponsales de IPEX en Bruselas en 2013. En relación con el debate central de la reunión, que giró en torno al desarrollo del art. 13 TCEG, concluyó que todos los Parlamentos consideran necesario llegar a un acuerdo sobre la Conferencia presupuestaria. Según la mayoría de los presentes, debería consensuarse una solución en la Conferencia de Presidentes de abril 2013, dado que en caso contrario el debate se pospondría a la Conferencia de Presidentes que organizará Lituania en 2014.



CORTES GENERALES

En una última intervención relativa a la preparación de la Conferencia de Presidentes, el **Sr. HAMILTON**, señaló la conveniencia de que la Presidencia chipriota elaborara un documento resumiendo todas las propuestas que están actualmente siendo planteadas en relación con la futura Conferencia presupuestaria del art. 13 TCEG, en concreto la propuesta de los Presidentes de los Parlamentos de los Estados fundadores y la del Parlamento danés, para facilitar de este modo la negociación a todas las delegaciones.

El **Sr. SOCRATOUS** agradeció este comentario, que será tenido en consideración, y dio por finalizada la reunión a las 11:30 horas.

De Bruselas para Madrid, a 13 de febrero de 2013

Carmen Sánchez-Abarca Gornals
Letrada representante permanente de las Cortes Generales ante la Unión Europea



CORTES GENERALES

ANEXOS

Anexo 1. Programa de la reunión de Secretarios Generales, Nicosia, 10-11 febrero de 2013.

Anexo 2. Lista de participantes en la reunión de Secretarios Generales, Nicosia, 10-11 febrero de 2013.

Anexo 3. Carta de despedida del Sr. DELCAMP, Secretario General del Senado francés.

Anexo 4. Intervención del Sr. OMIROU, Presidente de la Cámara de Representantes chipriota.

Anexo 5. Borrador de programa de la Conferencia de Presidentes de Parlamentos de la UE que se celebrará en Nicosia del 21 al 23 de abril de 2013.

Anexo 6. Carta enviada por el Presidente del Parlamento sueco al Presidente de la Asamblea nacional francesa sobre la futura Conferencia presupuestaria europea.

Anexo 7. Documento de trabajo aprobado por los Presidentes de los Estados fundadores de la CEE en Luxemburgo el 11 de enero 2013 sobre la futura Conferencia presupuestaria europea prevista en el art. 13 TECG.

Anexo 8. Presentación del informe anual de IPEX para 2012.

Anexo 9. Conclusiones de la reunión de Secretarios Generales sobre IPEX.



CORTES GENERALES

Anexo 1. Programa de la reunión de Secretarios Generales, Nicosia, 10-11 febrero de 2013.



CYPRVS AETERNA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS



Meeting of Secretaries General of EU Parliaments

Nicosia, 10 - 11 February 2013

Hilton Cyprus

PROGRAMME

Sunday, 10 February 2013

Arrival of participants.

15.00 – 19.30 Registration at the hotel.

18.30 – 19.00 Meeting of Secretaries General of the Troika

(Poland, Cyprus, Lithuania and European Parliament)

19.30 Departure from the hotel by bus for the *Famagusta Gate*.

20.00 Official dinner hosted by the Ag. Secretary General of the House of Representatives, Mr. Socrates SOCRATOUS, and cultural event, at the *Famagusta Gate*.

22.30 Return to the hotel by bus.

Monday, 11 February 2013

08.30 – 09.00 Registration.



CORTES GENERALES

09.00 – 09.10 Welcome address by H.E. The President of the House of Representatives, Mr. Yiannakis L. OMIROU.

09.10 – 09.20 Welcome address and presentation by the Ag. Secretary General of the House of Representatives, Mr. Socrates SOCRATOUS.

09.20 – 10.00 Progress of work on the implementation of the conclusions of the last Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments
Discussion.

10.00 – 11.00 Presentation of the programme of the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments 2013
Discussion.

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break.

11.30 – 12.15 IPEX related issues

- Presentation of the Annual Report
- Appointment of the IPEX Chair and Board
- Conclusions on IPEX
- Any other IPEX related matters

12.15 – 12.30 Concluding remarks

12.45 Family photo

13.00 Lunch hosted by the Ag. Secretary General of the House of Representatives, Mr. Socrates SOCRATOUS, at the hotel, *Akamas* room.

15.00 Visit of the venue for the next Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments.

Tuesday, 12 February 2013

Departure of participants.



CORTES GENERALES

Anexo 2. Lista de participantes en la reunión de Secretarios Generales, Nicosia, 10-11 febrero de 2013.



CYPRVS AETERNA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS



**Meeting of Secretaries General of EU Parliaments
Réunion des Secrétaires généraux des Parlements de l'Union européenne
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
10 - 11 February 2013
10 - 11 février 2013
Nicosia - Cyprus
Nicosie - Chypre**

MEMBER STATES – ETATS MEMBRES

AUSTRIA – AUTRICHE

Parlament/ Parliament/ Parlement

Mr Harald DOSSI

Secretary General of the Austrian Parliament

Mr Gerhard KOLLER

Head of the European Relations division in the Austrian Parliament

BELGIUM – BELGIQUE

House of Representatives/ Chambre des Représentants

Mr Roeland JANSOONE

Conseiller division Affaires européennes

Senate/ Sénat

Mr Hugo HONDEQUIN

Secretary General

Mr Tim DE BONDT

Adviser



CORTES GENERALES

BULGARIA – BULGARIE

Narodno Sabranie/ National Assembly/ Assemblée nationale

Mr Ivan SLAVCHOV

Secretary General

CYPRUS – CHYPRE

Βουλή των Αντιπροσώπων/ House of Representatives/ Chambre des Représentants

Mr Socrates SOCRATOUS

Acting Secretary General

Ms Evie HADJIYIANNI

Director of International Relations Service

Mr Phivos HADJIGEORGIOU

European Affairs Officer A'

Presidency Secretariat/ Secrétariat de la Présidence

Ms Georgia ANDRONIKOU

Director of Research, Studies and Publication Service

Mr Andreas CHIMONIDES

Head of Communication Service

Ms Eleni ELIADES

Chief Parliamentary Committees Officer

Ms Anthi TOFARI

Chief Research, Studies and Publications Officer

Mr Andreas CHRISTODOULOU

European Affairs Officer A'

Ms Maria SOTERIOU

European Affairs Officer A'

Ms Avgousta CHRISTOU

International Relations Officer A'

Ms Sophie TSOURIS

International Relations Officer A'

Ms Eleni GEORGIOU

International Relations Officer

Ms Loukia MOUYI

International Relations Officer

Mr Vasilis KILIARIS

International Relations Officer

Ms Maria AGROTOU

Chief Stenographer

Ms Olympia EVGENIOU

Secretary

Ms Alexia TRIFONOS



CORTES GENERALES

Secretary

Mr Panicos ANTONIOU

Technician

Mr Antonis ALEXANDROU

Clerk

Mr Nicolas VIOLARIS

Clerk

CZECH REPUBLIC – RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÉQUE

Poslanecka Snemovna/ Chamber of Deputies/ Chambre des Députés

Mr Petr KYNŠTETR

Secretary General

Ms Jana SCHNEEWEISSOVÁ

Advisor to the President of the Chamber of Deputies

Senát/ Senate/ Sénat

Mr Jiri UKLEIN

Secretary General

Mr Jiri KRBEC

Head of the International Relations Department

DENMARK – DANEMARK

Folketinget/ Danish Parliament/ Parlement danois

Ms Pernille DELEURAN

Head of International Division

Mr Klaus ANDERSEN

Representative of the Folketing to the EU

ESTONIA – ESTONIE

Riigikogu/ The Estonian Parliament/ Parlement estonien

Ms Maria ALAJÕE

Secretary General

Mr Rein OIDEKIVI

Head of the Foreign Relations Department

FINLAND – FINLANDE

Eduskunta/ Parliament/ Parlement

Mr Seppo TIITINEN

Secretary General

FRANCE – FRANCE

National Assembly/ Assemblée nationale



CORTES GENERALES

Mr Jean-Pierre BLOCH

Directeur du service des Affaires européennes

Senate/ Sénat

Mr Alain DELCAMP

Secrétaire général

Mr Jonathan PAPILLON

Administrateur au service de la commission des affaires européennes

GERMANY – ALLEMAGNE

Deutscher Bundestag/ German Bundestag/ Bundestag allemand

Dr Horst RISSE

Secretary General

Dr Andrea KREBS

Head of the Division International Parliamentary Assemblies

Mr Uwe JAENSCH

Senior Advisor – IPEX Correspondent

Bundesrat/ Federal Council/ Conseil fédéral

Mr Claus Dieter KOGGEL

Head of the Parliamentary Relations' Services

GREECE – GRÉCE

Βουλή των Ελλήνων/ Hellenic Parliament/ Parlement hellénique

Mr Athanasios PAPAIOANNOU

Secretary General

Ms Barbara GEORGOPOULOU

Head of Secretary General's Office

Ms Anastasia FRANGOU

Head of European Affairs Directorate

HUNGARY – HONGRIE

Országgyűlés/ National Assembly/ Assemblée nationale

Mr György SUCH

Director General, Office of the Hungarian National Assembly

Mr Péter SÁRDI

Director for Foreign Affairs, Office of the Hungarian National Assembly

Mr Krisztián KOVÁCS

Head of EU Department, Directorate for Foreign Affairs, Office of the Hungarian National Assembly

IRELAND – IRLANDE

Dáil Éireann/ House of Representatives/ Chambre des Représentants



CORTES GENERALES

Mr Kieran COUGHLAN
Secretary General
Mr Derek DIGNAM
Permanent Representative of the Irish Parliament to the EU

ITALY – ITALIE

Camera dei Deputati/ Chamber of Deputies/ Chambre des Députés

Mr Paolo VISCA
Head of the EU Department

Senato della Repubblica/ Senate/ Sénat

Ms Roberta d' ADDIO
Chef du Bureau des relations avec les institutions de l' Union européenne

LATVIA – LETTONIE

Saeima/ Parliament/ Parlement

Mr Dzintars RASNAČS
Secretary General
Mr Āris VĪGANTS
Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Presidium

LITHUANIA – LITUANIE

Seimas/ Parliament / Parlement

Mr Jonas MILERIUS
Secretary General
Ms Loreta RAULINAITYTĖ
Director of Communications Department, EU-Presidency Coordinator, Office of the Seimas
Ms Živilė PAVILONYTĖ
Permanent Representative of the Seimas to the EU

MALTA – MALTE

Il-Kamra Tad-Deputati/ House of Representatives/ Chambre des Représentants

Mr Ray SCICLUNA
Clerk of the House

NETHERLANDS – PAYS-BAS

Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal/ House of Representatives/ Chambre des Représentants

Ms Jacqueline BIESHEUVEL
Secretary General
Mr Herman BEUN



CORTES GENERALES

Deputy-Clerk of the EU Committee

Ms Janneke TIMMER

EU Advisor

Erste Kamer der Staten-Generaal/ Senate/ Sénat

Mr Geert Jan HAMILTON

Secretary General

POLAND – POLOGNE

Sejm/ Sejm

Mr Lech CZAPLA

Secretary General

Mr Adam DUDZIC

Vice-Director of the International Affairs Bureau

Ms Kaja KRAWCZYK

Head of EU Division, International Affairs Bureau

Ms Magdalena SKRZYŃSKA

Polish Sejm Chancellery Representative to the EU

Senat/ Senate/ Sénat

Ms Ewa POLKOWSKA

Secretary General

Mr Leszek KIENIWICZ

Director of the International and European Union Affairs Office

Ms Agata WÓJCIK

Official, International and European Union Affairs Office

Ms Magdalena SKULIMOWSKA

Polish Senate Chancellery Representative to the EU

PORTUGAL – PORTUGAL

Assembleia da Republica/ Assembly of the Republic/ Assemblée de la République

Mr João CABRAL TAVARES

Secretary General

Mr Bruno DIAS PINHEIRO

Permanent Representative of the Parliament to the EU

ROMANIA – ROUMANIE

Camera Deputatilor/ Chamber of Deputies/ Chambre des Députés

Mr George Ionut DUMITRICA

Deputy Secretary General

Mr Andrei MOCEAROV

Head of Division for Parliamentary Studies and EU Law



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SLOVENIA – SLOVÉNIE

Državni Zbor/ National Assembly/ Assemblée nationale

Mr Matjaž PLEVELJ

Deputy Secretary General

SPAIN - ESPAGNE

Congreso de los Diputados/ Congress of Deputies/ Congrès des Députés

Ms Carmen SANCHEZ-ABARCA

Permanent Representative of the Spanish Parliament to the European Union

SWEDEN – SUÉDE

Riksdagen/ Parliament/ Parlement

Mr Claes MÅRTENSSON, Deputy Secretary General

Ms Tuula ZETTERMAN

Representative of the Swedish Parliament to the EU Institutions

UNITED KINGDOM – ROYAUME-UNI

House of Commons/ Chambre des Communes

Mr Crispin POYSER

Clerk of the Overseas Office

House of Lords/ Chambre des Lords

Mr Rhodri WALTERS

Reading Clerk and Clerk of the Overseas Office

ACCEEDING COUNTRY – PAYS EN VOIE D'ADHÉSION

CROATIA – CROATIE

Hrvatski Sabor/ Croatian Parliament/ Parlement de Croatie

Ms Snjezana RAMLJAK

Adviser in the Office for International and European Affairs

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT/ PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN

Mr Klaus WELLE

Secretary General

Ms Christine VERGER

Director for Relations with National Parliaments

Mr Tasos GEORGIU

Head of European Parliament Office in Cyprus

Ms Karen FREDSGAARD

Adviser



CORTES GENERALES

CANDIDATE COUNTRIES – PAYS CANDIDATS

ICELAND – ISLANDE

Althingi/ Parliament/ Parlement

Mr Helgi BERNODUSSON

Secretary General

MONTENEGRO – MONTENEGRO

Skupstina/ Parliament/ Parlement

Mr Damir DAVIDOČIĆ

Secretary General

Ms Irena MIJANOVIĆ

Head of the Secretary General's Office

SERBIA – SERBIE

Narodna Skupstina/ National Assembly/ Assemblée nationale

Ms Jana LJUBIČIĆ

Secretary General

Mr Dejan MILIVOJEVIĆ

Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee



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Anexo 3. Carta de despedida del Sr. DELCAMP, Secretario General del Senado francés (lengua francesa).



CORTES GENERALES

R É P U B L I Q U E F R A N Ç A I S E



Le 11 février 2013

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Ma Chère Collègue, Mon Cher Collègue,

Voilà près de sept ans et demi que j'exerce les fonctions de Secrétaire Général du Sénat. Ces années m'ont donné l'occasion de vous connaître ou de connaître vos prédécesseurs dans le cadre de nombreuses réunions internationales auxquelles nous sommes désormais tenus de participer.

Ce fut pour moi un réel plaisir et je tenais à vous le dire et à vous en remercier. Je vais cependant atteindre l'âge limite d'exercice de mes fonctions au début du mois d'avril prochain et ma participation à la réunion de Chypre sera la dernière.

À cette occasion, je souhaite vous faire part de ma conviction, à savoir que la coopération entre les Secrétaires généraux est tout à fait essentielle dans la mesure où nous sommes désormais dans un monde où les relations interpersonnelles sont devenues très importantes. C'est vrai au niveau des Chefs d'État, des chefs de gouvernement, des Présidents d'assemblées, il n'y a pas de raison que cela n'existe pas aussi au niveau de ceux qui les assistent.

Je le juge en particulier nécessaires au niveau européen, ne serait-ce que pour bien appliquer les nouvelles dispositions des traités. Ceux-ci reconnaissent en effet de plus en plus le rôle des parlements nationaux dans la construction européenne. Ma conviction personnelle est qu'une implication collective plus grande de nos parlements est de nature, en très large partie, à répondre aux critiques sur « le déficit démocratique » de l'Union.

Peu à peu des petites pierres sont posées sur le chemin d'une coopération permanente : la COSAC, les réunions nouvelles sur la politique extérieure et de sécurité communes, demain la coordination au titre de la mise en œuvre du nouveau pacte de stabilité.

Peu à peu s'esquisse une coopération entre les parlements nationaux, et tout porte à penser que d'ici peu celle-ci deviendra institutionnelle et appellera la mise en place de façon plus ou moins formelle d'un secrétariat permanent. C'est le vœu, en tout cas, que je formule et dont je souhaiterais, si possible, que nous puissions nous entretenir, même brièvement, lors de notre réunion de Chypre.




CORTES GENERALES

À titre de première contribution, je vous prie de trouver sous ce pli le texte d'une conférence prononcée, il y a quelque temps déjà, devant d'anciens parlementaires nationaux et européens.

Je serai remplacé pour la conférence des Présidents par mon successeur, M. Jean-Louis HÉRIN qui a, entre autres qualités, celle de s'exprimer parfaitement en anglais, en allemand et en italien, aptitudes qui seront de nature à faciliter cette intimité de relation que je n'ai pas pu toujours avoir avec vous, en raison de la barrière de la langue, autant que je l'aurais souhaité.

Quoi qu'il en soit, je tenais à vous adresser par anticipation mon salut très amical et les vœux très sincères que je forme pour votre réussite personnelle, celle de votre pays et de votre administration.



Alain DELCAMP



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Anexo 4. Intervención del Sr. OMIROU, Presidente de la Cámara de Representantes chipriota (lengua inglesa).



CORTES GENERALES



MEETING OF SECRETARIES GENERAL OF EU PARLIAMENTS

Nicosia, 10-11 February 2013

Welcome address by H.E. The President of the House of Representatives,

Mr. Yiannakis L. Omirou

Monday, 11 February 2013

Dear guests,

It is with particular pleasure that I welcome you to Cyprus and to the Meeting of Secretaries General of Parliaments of EU member-states, which has traditionally been of a preparatory nature, paving the way to the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments. A Conference, which the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus will host with great joy in Nicosia, from 21 to 23 April 2013. I will be particularly honoured to preside over its proceedings.

Secretaries general and other members of staff have an invaluable contribution in ensuring the smooth functioning of national parliaments and in further strengthening cooperation and relations between them, in the framework of institutionalized and other exchanges. This cooperation gained additional importance upon the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty and the consequent enhancement of the role of national parliaments in the work and functioning of the Union.

On 31 December 2012, Cyprus completed its six-month Presidency of the Council of the EU. This was a historic challenge for our country, even more so, given its small size and relatively brief experience in European issues and construction. Let me note that Cyprus rose to the challenge successfully by responding fully and adequately to all commitments it undertook. More particularly, in the context of the parliamentary dimension of the Presidency, the House of Representatives hosted eight interparliamentary conferences, which further enhanced cooperation and a constructive exchange of views, at the level of national parliaments, as well as between national parliaments, the European Parliament and other EU institutions.



CORTES GENERALES

2

The aim of the Cyprus Presidency for a "better Europe" for its citizens and the world has also been a key component of its parliamentary dimension. The economic crisis and ways to deal with it have been a strong preoccupation of our exchanges. The imperative need was stressed to combine any austerity policies with offsetting measures that promote growth, social cohesion and job creation, especially for young people.

Regarding the foreign policy of the Union, emphasis was placed on the important role that Cyprus can play as a bridge of dialogue between the EU and the Middle East, particularly in the light of socio-political changes and wider developments in the Southeastern Mediterranean region. It is worth mentioning that, in the context of the Cyprus Presidency and upon the relevant decisions of the two previous Conferences of Speakers of EU Parliaments, the inaugural Meeting of the Interparliamentary Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) took place. The said Conference constitutes a milestone, in that it aims at further deepening inter-parliamentary cooperation and at further promoting the role of the EU and its potential to have a say in international developments.

Being fully conscious of its great responsibility vis-à-vis its EU partners and, above all, European citizens, Cyprus has acted as an honest and impartial broker. Safeguarding the interests of the Union as a whole has been the primary concern of the Cyprus Presidency.

I will not go into detail regarding the Cyprus problem which, I am certain, you are all aware of as an international problem of invasion, occupation and flagrant violations of international and European law. I would nevertheless like to stress that, as the presiding country, Cyprus did not allow its national problem to determine its behaviour during its Presidency. At the same time, Cyprus acted in such a way, so as to deter any attempts aimed at undermining its role. It also denounced Turkey's provocative intransigence and arrogant stance towards the Presidency, an EU institution, which the neighbouring country, otherwise aspires to join.

As we are going through one of the most difficult periods in the history of the EU, we must remain focused on the primary goal of further strengthening the Union as a whole and on enhancing its credibility in the eyes of its citizens and the wider world. I believe that both this goal and the need to intervene in current developments, which affect the EU, are reflected in



CORTES GENERALES

3

the topics of the proposed agenda of the forthcoming Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments. I am confident that you will convey your discussions to my counterparts, so that, in April, we will hold a fruitful debate, thanks to your efforts too, with substantial and constructive conclusions.

I welcome you once again to Cyprus and wish you a particularly productive and successful meeting. Beyond the work on the agenda, I hope that you will have time to get a first glimpse of the rich culture and the beauty of our island, so that your stay in Cyprus is will be as pleasant as possible.

Thank you.



CORTES GENERALES

Anexo 5. Borrador de programa de la Conferencia de Presidentes de Parlamentos de la UE que se celebrará en Nicosia del 21 al 23 de abril de 2013 (lengua inglesa).



**Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments
“Filoxenia” Conference Centre,
Nicosia, 21-23 April 2013**

DRAFT PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Sunday, 21 April 2013

Arrival of delegations.

15.00 - 19.00 Registration at the hotel.

20.00 Departure by bus from the hotel to the dinner venue

20.30 Cultural event.

Official dinner hosted by H.E. The President of the House of Representatives Mr. Omirou

23.00 Return by bus to the hotels.

Monday, 22 April 2013

07.30 - 08.30 Registration at the hotel.

08.30 Departure by bus from the hotel to the “Filoxenia” Conference Center.

09.00 Opening of the Conference and welcoming address by H.E. The President of the House of Representatives, Mr. Yiannakis L. Omirou. Adoption of the agenda



CORTES GENERALES

09.15 – 11.00 Session I: The role of EU national parliaments in enhancing democracy and human rights in third countries, emphasizing on the Mediterranean region.

Debate.

11.00 – 11.20 Coffee break.

11.20 – 13.00 Session II: Bringing citizens closer to the European Union.

Debate.

13.00 Family photo

13.15 – 15.00 Lunch hosted by H.E. The President of the House of Representatives
Mr. Yiannakis L. Omirou.

15.00 – 16.30 One plus One Session on Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Government in the Economic and Monetary Union. Informal discussion.

For those not participating in the One plus One session: guided tour of Nicosia.
Return to the hotel.

20.30 Departure from the hotels by bus.

21.00 Informal dinner.

Tuesday, 23 April 2013

08.30 Departure by bus from the hotel to the “Filoxenia” Conference Center.

09.00 – 11.00 Session III: Social cohesion in times of austerity – what can national parliaments do.

Debate.

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break.

**11.30 – 12.30 Discussion and adoption of the Presidency Conclusions.
Closing Remarks.**

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch.

Return to the hotel by bus.

Departure of delegations.



CORTES GENERALES

Anexo 6. Carta enviada por el Presidente del Parlamento sueco al Presidente de la Asamblea nacional francesa sobre la futura Conferencia presupuestaria Europea (lengua inglesa).



CORTES GENERALES

THE SPEAKER

SVERIGES 
RIKSDAG 
THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT

Stockholm 01 February 2013

Ref: 1.8.1-904-2012/13

Mr Claude Bartolone
Speaker of the National Assembly
Palais Bourbon
126, rue de l'Université
F-75007 Paris

Mr Speaker,

Thank you for your letter concerning the proposal by the National Assembly for a parliamentary conference on budget policy.

The proposal is thought-provoking and I agree entirely with the underlying view of the proposal, that national parliaments also bear responsibility for the governance and supervision of the EU processes for economic policy coordination.

It is also my conviction that our parliaments have much to learn from each other when they take on this responsibility.

In discussions on the various forms of interparliamentary exchange, I would particularly like to put forward three general starting points.

- Firstly, we should consider the opportunities offered by existing forms of cooperation.
- Secondly, we should give priority to an exchange between the parliamentary committees responsible, so that the experiences gained can be introduced in a natural way into the day-to-day work of each of the parliaments.
- Thirdly, we should strive for efficiency in that we assess our cooperation from the point of view of the costs that are inevitably incurred, for example regarding possible secretariat functions. If these costs are to be transparent, it is vital that they are borne by the national parliaments.

In my opinion, these starting points should make us explore the potential of the regular meetings between the Chairs of our Committees on Finance and Budgets which are arranged every six months by the parliament of the member state holding the Presidency. It is my opinion that those participating in these meetings must themselves have the final say as regards the forms of cooperation.

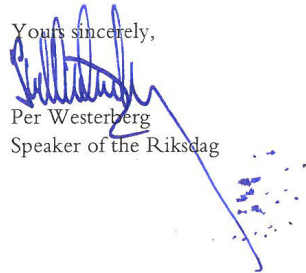


CORTES GENERALES

SVERIGES 
RIKSDAG 
THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT

As you understand, there are pre-conditions for intense and interesting discussions in future, which I am very much looking forward to. At the same time, I would like to emphasise that the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union is at present being considered in the Riksdag and what I suggest here is not in any way intended to forestall the outcome of the Riksdag's consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Per Westerberg
Speaker of the Riksdag



CORTES GENERALES

Anexo 7. Documento de trabajo aprobado por los Presidentes de los Estados fundadores de la CEE en Luxemburgo el 11 de enero 2013 sobre la futura Conferencia presupuestaria europea (lengua inglesa).

Working paper of the meeting of the Speakers of Parliament of the Founding Member States of the European Union and the European Parliament⁴ in Luxembourg on January 11th, 2013

The Speakers of Parliament of the Founding Member States of the European Union and the European Parliament having convened at an informal meeting on 11 January 2013 in Luxembourg for an exchange of views on interparliamentary cooperation and democratic oversight of the Economic and Monetary Union,

- a) having regard to the Treaty of the European Union (TEU), in particular its Article 12 and Title II on the Provisions on Democratic Principles;
- b) having regard to Article 3.3, paragraph 4 TEU stating that the Union “shall promote economic, social and territorial cohesion, and solidarity among Member States”;
- c) having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), in particular Title VIII on Economic and Monetary Policy;
- d) having regard to Protocol No.1 on the Role of National Parliaments in the European Union, in particular its Article 9;
- e) having regard to the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union (TSCG), in process of ratification, in particular its article 13 which provides for the organisation and promotion of a conference of the representatives of the competent committees of the European Parliament and representatives of the competent committees of the national Parliaments;
- f) considering the European Parliament resolution of 20 November 2012 with recommendations to the Commission on the report of the Presidents of the European Council, the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the Eurogroup ‘Towards a genuine Economic and Monetary Union’;
- g) considering the Communication of the European Commission “A Blueprint for a Deep and Genuine EMU, Launching a European debate”, COM(2012)777, published on 30 November 2012;

⁴ Bundestag and Bundesrat of the Federal Republic of Germany, House of Representatives and Senate of the Kingdom of Belgium, National Assembly and Senate of the French Republic, Chamber of Deputies of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, House of Representatives and Senate of the States General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Senate of the Italian Republic, European Parliament. The Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Italy did not participate in the meeting and does not endorse the working document.



CORTES GENERALES

- h) considering the Report by the President of the European Council, Herman van Rompuy in close cooperation with José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the Eurogroup and Mario Draghi, President of the European Central Bank, “Towards a Genuine Economic and Monetary Union”, published on 5 December 2012;
 - i) considering the Conclusions of the European Council of 13 and 14 December 2012;
1. recall the role of Parliaments in article 12 TEU emphasizing in particular the inter-parliamentary cooperation between national Parliaments and the European Parliament, in accordance with the Protocol No.1 on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union;
 2. underline the central role of Parliaments as budgetary sovereigns;
 3. recall that the general objective in a more integrated, balanced and solidarity-based EMU remains to ensure democratic legitimacy and accountability at the level at which decisions are taken and implemented, both at European and national level;
 4. recall that, given the role of the Parliaments in terms of legitimacy and accountability, any further strengthening of the European Economic and Monetary Policy must provide for a strong democratic control including the national Parliaments and the European Parliament;
 5. welcome the fact that the European Commission ‘Blueprint’, the Report by the President of the European Council and the European Council Conclusions underline that any new steps towards strengthening the Economic and Monetary Union will need to be accompanied by further concrete measures towards stronger legitimacy and accountability, by enhancing the role of parliaments in this context;
 6. consider that, in order that this deepened Economic and Monetary Union is subject to parliamentary oversight, a conference in line with Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union must be set up. The conference would consist of representatives from the national Parliaments and the European Parliament, in particular from the relevant committees. In terms of its scale, this conference ought to be comparable to the Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy recently agreed on by the Speakers of the parliaments of the EU Member States;



CORTES GENERALES

7. underline that this conference would discuss topical issues of Economic and Monetary Union, including agreements in the framework of the European Semester, in order to reinforce dialogue between the national Parliaments and with the European Parliament. Yet binding decisions could only be taken at the responsible level;
8. propose to this end, that the Conference will meet at least twice a year, notably before the European Council in June, before or after the adoption of the relevant documents - namely the recommendations on the stability and reform programmes, the orientation of economic policies, the Growth Survey and the Alert Mechanism Report;

propose that at least one of these meetings will in principle take place at the European Parliament in Brussels;

- aa) the Conference should be presided by the Parliament of the Member State holding the rotating EU Council Presidency and organised jointly with the European Parliament;
- bb) the Conference could discuss the European Commission's assessment of the budgetary orientations of the participating EU Member States for the following year and make a collective contribution on the evolution of the Economic and Monetary Union by discussing in particular the Annual Growth Survey to be presented by the European Commission as well as the assessment of the National Reform Programmes (NRPs) and Stability and Convergence Programmes (SCPs) and the recommendations issued in this context;
- cc) the Members of the Conference could also hear the President of the European Commission, the President of the European Council, the President of the Eurogroup, the President of the European Central Bank, as well as any relevant Commissioner;
- dd) the composition of the Conference should reflect the agreed compromise on the Inter-parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy ("6+16").

Prof. Dr. Norbert LAMMERT

Speaker of the Bundestag of the Federal Republic of Germany



CORTES GENERALES

Winfried KRETSCHMANN

Speaker of the Bundesrat of the Federal Republic of Germany

André FLAHAUT

Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Belgium

Claude BARTOLONE

Speaker of the National Assembly of the French Republic

Laurent MOSAR

Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Anouchka VAN MILTENBURG

Speaker of the House of Representatives of the States General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Fred DE GRAAF

President of the Senate of the States General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Vannino CHITI

Vice-President of the Senate of the Italian Republic

Othmar KARAS

Vice-President of the European Parliament

Philippe MAHOUX

Chairman of the Federal Advisory Committee on European Affairs of the Senate of the Kingdom of Belgium

Simon SUTOUR

Chairman of the European Affairs Committee of the Senate of the French Republic

Done at Luxembourg on 11 January 2013



CORTES GENERALES

Anexo 8. Presentación del informe anual de IPEX para 2012 (lengua inglesa).

Agenda item

'IPEX-related issues'

Report of the Chair of the IPEX Board to the Secretaries General of the national Parliaments and on the appointment of a new IPEX Board

Ladies and gentlemen,

Colleagues,

As acting Chair of the IPEX Board I am reporting to you today on the past IPEX year, 2012. I am taking over from the former Secretary General of the German Bundestag, Harro Semmler, who chaired the IPEX Board meetings for more than two years and reported regularly on all IPEX matters over the past years. When Secretary General Semmler took his well-deserved retirement in January 2013, this task passed on to me as the new Secretary General of the German Bundestag. Let me begin by thanking you warmly for the friendly reception I have received here from my fellow Secretaries General of the national Parliaments and of the European Parliament. Regardless of this change of personnel, I am happy to ensure continuity in terms of our substantive work. The German Bundestag is prepared to chair the IPEX Board this year too and to continue to work in the cause of interparliamentary exchange and strengthening IPEX.

Let me begin by specifically thanking those national Parliaments that were prepared in 2012 to serve on the Board in a voluntary capacity, on the basis of the IPEX Guidelines and in other ways too. They were the parliaments of Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the National Assembly of Slovenia and the UK House of Commons. The European Parliament also took an active part in the work of the IPEX bodies.

Some of these chambers and parliaments have already declared that they are prepared to continue serving on the Board. To date they are Cyprus, Lithuania, Italy, Belgium, Denmark, France, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the UK House of Commons and the European Parliament. Perhaps other chambers and parliaments will decide today to participate on a voluntary basis on the Board and the Central Support as a preparatory working group for the coming term of office.

I want to offer special thanks to the National Assembly of Slovenia, which played an active part on the Board for more than two years and is now standing down voluntarily.



CORTES GENERALES

From the Chair's point of view, 2012 was an eventful and successful year for IPEX. That was partly thanks to the above-mentioned members of the Board and the parliaments that were also prepared to work in the Central Support. In its third year of office, the Chair was always able to rely on good cooperation on their part. My warm thanks go to all colleagues involved!

With the start-up of the new IPEX 2.0 website in summer 2011, the Correspondents had two opportunities, during their meetings in Ljubljana in 2011 and in The Hague in 2012 – and here I want to thank my Dutch colleague, Ms Biesheuvel-Vermeijden – to exchange the experience they had gained from working with this new website.

In the margins of our meeting today, I learned that the Belgian parliament has said that it would be willing to organise the 2013 meeting of the Correspondents in Brussels. Thank you very much for this initiative!

The Board based its activities on the IPEX priorities adopted in 2010 and the Action Plan confirmed in 2012, and devoted particular attention to the IPEX database. As we all know, a database is only good and reliable to the extent to which it can provide up-to-date and comprehensive information, data and documents. Its acceptance by users depends largely on how reliable and up-to-date it is. That is the only way to ensure that IPEX is also used more widely.

In February 2012 you, as Secretaries General, declared in Warsaw that you were prepared to make the necessary personnel, financial and technical resources available to IPEX in your chambers and parliaments. On the other hand, it became apparent, especially after the various Correspondents meetings, that the Correspondents' tasks in regard to implementing the IPEX Guidelines need to be described in more detail in order to determine the scale of necessary personnel, financial and technical resources more accurately. On the basis of the experience of previous Correspondents meetings, the Board concluded that there was a gap here between what the national Parliaments needed to know and what they in fact knew about the tasks that national Correspondents should actually carry out. On the basis of those findings, it was decided to draft a description of the Correspondents' tasks, which was sent to you by post in November 2012 and was discussed at the most recent Correspondents meeting in The Hague. It was to be included in the conclusions of the Secretaries General on IPEX. Let me emphasise here that this is a description in the form of a recommendation and that it is in no way intended to impinge on the sovereign power of decision within the national Parliaments. The many letters I have received from you, which all without exception approved of the definition of the Correspondents' tasks, show that many other Secretaries General take the same view.

Since the start-up of the new IPEX website on 1 July 2011, the database has been developed further in accordance with Correspondents' wishes. The written part of the report documents all the developments initiated in 2012. Here I want to give particular thanks to the European Parliament's IT team, which, together with the IPEX information officer, put the findings into practice. One of the most important developments concerned the use of symbols in IPEX. Here it is as important to reach a common understanding of the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon – to mention only the definition of a 'reasoned opinion' in Article 7(2) of Protocol 2 – as to ensure mutual knowledge of national procedures for evaluating and debating European legislative proposals. Coherent data, which can serve as proof of the reliability of a database, can only be obtained on the basis of harmonised



CORTES GENERALES

criteria for using the IPEX symbols. In that connection, I must also mention the cooperation we have had with the European Commission, which runs its own website of reasoned opinions and political dialogue.

A few statistics for the year 2012 show that we are on the right track here. For example, IPEX managed to reproduce, promptly and in full, all the opinions of the national parliaments on the Proposal for a Council Regulation on the exercise of the right to take collective measures within the context of the freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services (COM (2012) 130 final), known as the Monti II Regulation. The R symbol assigned to a reasoned opinion was used correctly. For the first time since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, the required number of 18 votes for a formal subsidiarity objection was attained. As you know, the Commission thereupon withdrew its proposal.

In general it can be said that the quality of the set of data in the IPEX database was improved considerably in 2012.

Other IPEX sections were also upgraded substantially. A growing number of chambers and parliaments are using the 'news' section to report from their parliaments on topical issues of European policy – an aspect that could become even more important in future. Alongside editorial contributions drafted by the IPEX information officer, the parliaments of Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Poland and the United Kingdom stood out particularly in terms of their publication of news. As the Chair of IPEX, the German Bundestag naturally set a good example. The content of IPEX was further enhanced by the national Parliaments' descriptions of their working procedures in relation to checking aspects of subsidiarity and proportionality. A standardised table used in this connection, proposed and developed by the Slovenian National Assembly, allows working procedures to be compared. Finally, the 'Speakers' Conference' website became much more informative by publishing the outcome of earlier conferences. That means that IPEX is also beginning to assume the function of an archive.

Allow me to make a few comments on the 16th, 17th and 18th Bi-annual Reports of COSAC and on the European Parliament's resolution on the Commission's 18th report on better legislation, which contain statements relating to IPEX. In the reports, IPEX is described as an important medium of interparliamentary exchange and one that has established itself. Major progress was made with, for example, the transmission to IPEX of summaries of important national parliamentary decisions in English and/or French. With this generally positive portrayal, however, also comes the obligation to do even better. In that regard it was found unanimously that the level of knowledge about IPEX in the national Parliaments differs widely. One of the tasks of the national IPEX Correspondents and their superiors should be to make the website better known in their chambers and parliaments. Good examples here are the Swedish Parliament, the House of Lords and the European Parliament, where the Correspondents, working together with the IPEX information officer, organised the appropriate information events and widened the circle of Correspondents within the parliaments. The partnership project recently set up is also a means of exchanging best practice and promoting IPEX. The purpose of this partnership project is to establish quite small networks of IPEX Correspondents, with the help also of existing IPEX forums and through more intensive personal contacts, in order to improve the exchange of best practice. The Board supports that project and will make its first assessment of whether it has proved its worth at the end of 2013.



CORTES GENERALES

On the basis of its Guidelines, the IPEX Board sees itself as a body that should respond rapidly and appropriately to the topical requirements of interparliamentary cooperation. Good examples in terms of content could be the debates on the development of Economic and Monetary Union or on parliamentary scrutiny of the Common Foreign and Security Policy. In that context, the Board also discussed the question of the extent to which password-protected IPEX forums, which are already technically available, can be used for the exchange of informal information. Here IPEX certainly does not regard itself as competing with the permanent representatives of the national Parliaments in Brussels. The Board hopes that widening the circle of forum users will ensure that greater and better use is also made of this means of interparliamentary exchange. With this, the Board is also doing what the presidents of the parliaments called for in their conclusions in Brussels in 2011 and in Warsaw in 2012.

At its most recent meeting in December 2012, the Board also considered the question whether in future IPEX could also house the websites of other permanent interparliamentary meetings – as is already the case with the Speakers Conference subsite in IPEX. This was discussed with reference to the Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy as an example. It would also be worth considering including other conferences such as the one on economic and monetary union to be set up under Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union, or on justice and home affairs. Following several requests by the national parliaments to do so, the IPEX Board checked whether IPEX could serve as this kind of information platform for permanent interparliamentary conferences. It came to the conclusion that, acting in coordination with the respective presidency, IPEX could publish their conclusions, reports of proceedings and meetings documents on its website. The Speakers had already taken this view in the conclusions they adopted in Bratislava in 2007. I would ask you to propose to the Speakers that they carry out the interparliamentary exchange of information on the subject matter of those permanent conferences via IPEX. If IPEX expanded its provision of services in this way, eventually this could also engender more publicity about these conferences and more information on them.

Let me point out that IPEX cooperated with the Commission and the Council on a continuous basis last year too and that its contacts with the Commission have already become highly professionalised and consolidated.

In relation to cooperation with the Commission, the IPEX Board also discussed the question whether the Commission could make the complete range of its COM documents available to the national parliaments via IPEX. That applies in particular to COM documents that the college of Commissioners adopted and that the Commission forwards only to the Council. To date, those documents have not been reproduced in IPEX. Since, however, it is the duty of the national parliaments to monitor their governments' activities in the Council, it would be extremely helpful to the national parliaments if they could obtain those documents too. The Chair is aware that this requires the political assent of the Commission, which is why it is asking the Secretaries General to put a request to this effect to the Commission via the Speakers.

From a technical point of view, with regard to the reliable and prompt transmission of data and documents, IPEX is hoping to see a substantial improvement with the introduction by the Commission of the e-TrustEx communication platform. Its expected introduction should not, however, in any way discourage the national Parliaments from using automated



CORTES GENERALES

communication via xml for the reliable and prompt transmission of data and documents. Using the xml data transfer language also helps save resources in the national parliaments. Moreover, its use helps relieve the Correspondents from routine activities so that they can focus more on placing news in IPEX or on the forums. During the Correspondents meeting in The Hague, the parliaments of Finland and Sweden and the Czech Senate showed in exemplary fashion how they already use xml. The German Bundestag has also begun to transmit information from internal parliamentary databases to IPEX via xml. The Italian parliamentary chambers can provide particular help with the introduction of xml as they have developed their own 'xml kit'. This consists of a set of instruments for the automated but targeted transfer of data to IPEX. This kit is also directly available to all other parliaments in IPEX. For that they deserve my thanks.

During this reporting period, the interest of researchers and of European citizens in IPEX has continued to grow. That is thanks also to the completion of the IPEX website, which has made it possible to navigate the websites in all the EU official languages.

Over the past year, the IPEX information officer in Brussels once again had a particularly important role to play. He is the main point of contact for Correspondents in the event of technical problems and as webmaster is responsible for management in IPEX. When the IPEX information officer appointed in 2011 – this is our Romanian colleague Calin Racoti, who is very highly regarded by the Correspondents and the IPEX bodies – reached the end of his term in December 2012, you, as Secretaries General, ensured that this highly important post could be filled again by signing the new Letters of Intent that are once again valid for two years. Thanks to your commitment to ensuring that the post is funded entirely by the national Parliaments, we are returning to normality in this respect, and here the German Bundestag has also undertaken to act as contractor for the years 2013 and 2014. In the next few days you will receive letters in which I will be asking you to transfer the actual contribution towards funding the post for the year 2013. As you will remember, the Chair had asked you to agree by 31 January 2013 to the funding for the years 2013 and 2014 in the form of the above Letters of Intent.

To date we have received the assent of the parliaments of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom. Towards the end of 2013 I will be asking you again on the basis of an actual invoice to transfer the national contribution due for 2014. It is to be expected that the entire amount will then be shared not just between 27 Member State parliaments but, following Croatia's accession to the EU, between the parliaments of 28 Member States. In this connection I also want to thank the European Parliament for enabling the IPEX information officer to continue to use its infrastructure. That means this officer will be in close contact with the representatives of the national Parliaments in Brussels.

As I have already said, the German Bundestag is also prepared to take part on the Board for the 2013/2014 term and to take on the duties of Chair. May I ask you to vote for this! I would also be happy to welcome the other representatives of your parliamentary administrations to the Board again. Finally, I would ask you to approve the Conclusions on IPEX.

Thank you for your attention!



CORTES GENERALES

Anexo 9. Conclusiones sobre IPEX aprobadas en la reunión de Secretarios Generales, 11 febrero 2013 (lengua inglesa).

Conclusions on IPEX

- (1) The Secretaries General take note of the annual report on the current status of IPEX and thank the Board for its work in 2012.
- (2) The Secretaries General agree about the composition of the IPEX Board during the Lithuanian Presidency of EUSC (2013/2014):
 - The national Parliaments hosting the previous, current and upcoming Conference of Speakers of European Union Parliaments (Cyprus, House of Representatives; Lithuania, Seimas; Italy, Chamber of Deputies and Senate)
 - Belgium, Chamber of Deputies and Senate
 - Denmark
 - Germany, German Bundestag (Chair)
 - France, National Assembly and Senate
 - Poland, Sejm and Senate
 - Portugal
 - Romania, Chamber of Deputies and Senate
 - United Kingdom, House of Commons
 - The European Parliament

According to the IPEX Guidelines, COSAC, the ECPRD, the European Commission and the Council participate in and contribute to Board meetings.

- (3) The Secretaries General take note of the conclusion of COSAC referring to IPEX expressed in their 16th, 17th and 18th Bi-annual reports and the resolution of the European Parliament on "the 18th report of the Commission on better legislation – Application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality."
- (4) The Secretaries General reiterate their determination to further develop IPEX as a reliable tool for the exchange of EU information and documents. The Secretaries General agree to strengthen, in this context, the role of the IPEX national Correspondents encouraging them to perform the tasks described in the attached paper "Description of tasks and duties of the IPEX national Correspondent".
- (5) The Secretaries General recognise the steps taken in order to achieve a uniform application of metadata and symbols to each dossier, to publish important decisions of national Parliaments in English and/or French and to use XML for the automatic transfer of documents and information to the IPEX database.



CORTES GENERALES

- (6) The Secretaries General welcome the success of posting news about important European issues debated in National parliaments on the IPEX homepage. They encourage the use of the forums in IPEX in order to share information and discuss important documents, decisions and topics of mutual interest.
- (7) The Secretaries General welcome the findings of the feasibility study carried out by the IPEX Board regarding the ability of IPEX to host the websites of EU Inter-parliamentary Conferences. The Secretaries General invite the Speakers to take this offer into consideration.
- (8) The Secretaries General take note that – in accordance to the conclusions of the EUSC in Warsaw, on 20-22 April 2012 - the IPEX Central Support participated in international meetings on open standards for documents and data. They welcome the decision of the IPEX Board to participate in the Working Group on Open Document Standards established under the framework of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, provided that no cost for IPEX is involved.
- (9) The Secretaries General ask the Speakers to address to the European Commission the interest of the national Parliaments to make the complete range of its COM documents available to them via IPEX.