

EUROPA-PARLAMENTET EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PARLAMENTO EUROPEO PARLEMENT EUROPEEN
PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EUROPEES PARLEMENT PARLAMENTO EUROPEU



**PRÆSIDIUM
PRÄSIDIUM
ΠΡΟΕΔΡΕΙΟ
BUREAU
MESA
BUREAU
UFFICIO DI PRESIDENZA
BUREAU
MESA**

PROTOKOL FRA MØDET DEN
PROTOKOLL DER SITZUNG VOM
ΣΥΝΟΠΤΙΚΑ ΠΡΑΚΤΙΚΑ ΤΗΣ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑΣΕΩΣ ΤΗΣ
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ACTA DE LA REUNION DEL
PROCES-VERBAL DE LA REUNION DU
PROCESSO VERBALE DELLA SEDUTA DEL
NOTULEN VAN DE VERGADERING VAN
ACTA DA REUNIÃO DE

26.XI.1991

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
Record of attendance	
1. Adoption of draft agenda	1
2. Meetings of parliamentary committees in 1992 outside the usual places of work - application of Parliament's resolution of 14 June 1991: initial exchange of views	2
3. Letters from Mr PETERS, chairman of the Working Party on Property Policy, on the availability of infrastructure in Brussels and Strasbourg	4
4. <u>Activities of the parliamentary committees</u>	
4.1. Request for publication from the Committee on Social Affairs ..	9
4.2. Request from the Committee on Energy to invite four experts to a meeting to be held in February 1992 in Brussels	10
5. Questions concerning the admissibility of certain parliamentary initiatives	11
6. Members' questions tabled pursuant to Rule 25(2) of the Rules of Procedure	13
7. <u>Urgent matters and other business</u>	
7.1. Request for authorization for an external research project for the Directorate-General for Research	14
7.2. Payment of the communications allowance to the German observers	15
8. Items for information	16
9. Date and place of next meeting	17

B U R E A U

MINUTES
of the meeting of
Tuesday, 26 November 1991

BRUSSELS

Mr BARON CRESPO, President of the European Parliament, opened the meeting at 3.45 p.m.

Present

Mr BARON CRESPO, President

Mrs PERY	Vice-President
Mr ALBER	Vice-President
Mr ANASTASSOPOULOS	Vice-President
Mr PETERS	Vice-President
Mr ROMEOS	Vice-President
Sir Fred CATHERWOOD	Vice-President
Mr GALLAND	Vice-President
Mr CAPUCHO	Vice-President
Mr GLINNE	Quaestor
Mr LALOR	Quaestor
Mr RAGGIO	Quaestor
Mr SIMPSON	Quaestor

Apologies for absence:

Mrs FONTAINE	Vice-President
Mr MARTIN	Vice-President
Mr FORMIGONI	Vice-President
Mr CRAVINHO	Vice-President
Mr PEREZ ROYO	Vice-President
Mr TELKÄMPER	Vice-President
Mr GAIBISSO	Quaestor

Also present:

Mr VINCI, Secretary-General

Invited for Item 3

Mrs THEATO,) Members of the Working Party on
)
 Mr TOMLINSON,) Property policy

List of officials present at the meeting :

Mr MICHEL Office of the President

Mr PAGANI

Mr RAMSAY

Mr PUERTO

Mr CHAMIER

Mr HARRIS

Mr FEIDT

Mr CONDOMINES

Mrs GOMEZ DE ENTERRIA

Mr CAMPINOS

Office of the Secretary-General

Mr MORMINO

Mr COINTAT (Item 3)

Mr GAVRIIL

Mr TOORNSTRA (Item 3)

Mr PERILLO

Mr QUEMENER

Mr HARLEY

Mr ROLVERING, Mr COUMAROS, Mr WORINGER and Mr SCHAFF acted as secretary to the meeting.

B U R E A U

1. Adoption of draft agenda

The Bureau

- decided to add the following items to the agenda :

7.1. Request for authorization for an external research project for the
Directorate-General for Research

7.2. Payment of the communications allowance to the German observers

- with these additions adopted the agenda.

(ANNEX I)

2. Meetings of parliamentary committees in 1992 outside the usual places of work - Application of Parliament's resolution of 14 June 1991 : initial exchange of views

The Bureau

- noted the following documents:

- o list of requests from parliamentary committees for meetings outside the three usual places of work in 1992 (PE 156.889/BUR);
- o letter of 8 November 1991 from Mr WAECHTER, chairman of the Committee on Regional Policy, requesting authorization for his committee to meet in the Azores from 18 to 25 May 1992 (PE 156.884/BUR);

- noted a statement by the President, who recalled the mandate given by plenary to restrict the number of committee and political group meetings outside the usual working places and the decision by plenary to reduce the budget items concerned by ECU 1 155 00 and to enter that sum in the reserve;

- noted a statement by the Secretary-General, who observed that, from January to October 1991, the various Parliament bodies had held 55 external meetings (representing 528 half-days) at a cost of ECU 7 100 000. To cut that cost in line with plenary's wishes, Parliament had to make choices possibly involving the following:

- o a cut in the number of meetings; sending of small delegations instead of entire committees;
- o conditions for holding such meetings (restricting them to localities with an appropriate infrastructure, reducing the number of languages and services);

- decided, following an exchange of views involving Sir Fred CATHERWOOD, Mr ROMEOS, Mr SIMPSON, Mr GALLAND and Mr PETERS, to instruct the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its next meeting, a written report containing specific proposals.

3. Letters from Mr PETERS, chairman of the working party on property policy, on the availability of infrastructure in Brussels and Strasbourg

The Bureau

- noted the following documents :

- o a letter from Mr PETERS, dated 22 November 1991, on the availability of new buildings in Strasbourg (PE 157.414/BUR);
- o a letter from Mr PETERS, dated 22 November 1991, on the availability of new buildings in Brussels (PE 157.413/BUR);

- noted, in the presence of Mrs THEATO and Mr TOMLINSON, rapporteurs for Parliament's 1991 and 1992 budgets and members of the Working Party on property policy, a statement by Mr PETERS, chairman of the Working Party, introducing the proposals unanimously adopted by the Working Party, with the support of external legal and financial advisors and Parliament's Legal Service, the details of which were contained in his letters of 21 November 1991 concerning both Strasbourg and Brussels:

I. BRUSSELS

With regard to construction, the Working Party took the view that the Espace Léopold complex met the architectural and technical requirements laid down by Parliament.

From a legal point of view, the Working Party had opted for a long-term lease with option to purchase, a solution which would enable Parliament to apply for exemption from the property tax.

From a financial point of view, the Working Party had taken the view that leasing with option to purchase, for a period of 20 years would be the most advantageous financing basis, since, for various reasons, the total amount in absolute figures, and over the entire duration of the lease, would be substantially lower than in the case of rental, even if, in the first few years, Parliament would have to fund a higher payment. Furthermore, the amount to be entered in the budget for the next 20 years would be known now.

There remained certain items which could not be fully quantified for the time being, at least definitively :

- o the final interest rate (the Working Party believed that better terms could be obtained);
- o the final construction costs;
- o SEL's profit margin;
- o the cost of the land, given that, by letter of 18 November 1991, the Belgian Government had given an undertaking that, under certain conditions, the European Parliament would be granted treatment at least as favourable as that granted to the Council or the Commission.

The Working Party nevertheless asked the Bureau to authorize the President to sign the lease as soon as the outstanding matters had been settled.

- noted the statements by :

- o Sir **Fred CATHERWOOD**, member of the Working Party, who welcomed the spirit in which the Working Party had worked and took the view that the Bureau could authorize the President to sign the lease;

- o Mrs **PERY**, Vice-President, who noted that the Brussels project had been concluded and called for the Strasbourg project to be tackled with the same degree of conviction, serious-mindedness and promptness;
- o Mr **ALBER**, Vice-President, who endorsed Mrs PERY's call and stressed that the outstanding matters referred to ought to be examined carefully before any undertaking was given;
- o Mr **TOMLINSON**, member of the Working Party, who confirmed his agreement in principle while noting that, despite being secondary concerns, the outstanding matters represented considerable sums; the lease could not be signed until those matters had been settled;
- o Mr **GALLAND**, member of the Working Party, who endorsed that position and took the view that it was not appropriate to sign the lease while essential negotiations remained in progress;
- o Mrs **THEATO**, member of the Working Party, who shared that view and stressed that Parliament's position would be weakened if the Bureau gave an early go-ahead;
- o Mr **SIMPSON**, member of the Working Party, who proposed that authorization should be given to the President subject to the settling of the contentious points by the Working Party;
- o Mr **ROMEOS**, Vice-President, who agreed with that proposal;
- o Mr **VINCI**, Secretary-General, who pointed out that it had been proposed to hand over some of the current premises, as they became free, to other institutions, but that, since the work was not scheduled to be completed until 1995/1996, it was not appropriate to take on commitments in this regard, given possible enlargement and the transfers of staff which had already been decided on or which would take place in due course. The Bureau approved that approach;

- decided, therefore, to approve the Working Party's proposals and to authorize the President to sign the lease once the Working Party had reached the conclusion that the four outstanding matters had been satisfactorily settled, it being understood that, should difficulties arise, the question would be referred to the Bureau.

II. STRASBOURG

Mr PETERS stressed that the Working Party had been guided by the letter and spirit of compromise of the Bureau meeting of 18 July 1991 and that the Strasbourg facilities, which had been designed right from the outset for Parliament, would be at least as well appointed as those in Brussels and, moreover, would represent an unparalleled architectural achievement.

The Working Party was negotiating with the Strasbourg authorities. The Strasbourg authorities had forwarded to it on 15 November a full technical dossier on the project, together with details of the financial terms. The Working Party had forwarded the entire dossier to the BOVIS consultancy and would not be in a position to adopt a position until it had received and considered its report.

The Working Party had envisaged the possibility of moving Members' offices from IPE I to IPE IV, where they would be near the Chamber and the meeting rooms; this had not been provided for in the original brief for the architects' competition. Since that option would affect both costs and the content of the negotiations with the Strasbourg authorities, the Working Party would welcome a decision in principle now from the Bureau on this matter.

- noted the statements by:
 - o Mr GALLAND, who argued in favour of the relocation;
 - o Mr TOMLINSON, who drew attention to the fact that the same rigour with regard to costs would have to be observed in Strasbourg and in Brussels and that the initial spending estimates had been considerably exceeded;
 - o Mr VINCI, who drew attention to the shortage of offices in IPE IV, should the intention be to accommodate in it all the Members and the services immediately connected with plenary, and recommended that a hasty decision should not be taken in this regard; rather, the matter should be considered on the basis of specific plans and proposals. He furthermore underscored the need to comply with the provisions of the Financial Regulation, should the Working Party wish to call on the services of other consultancies;
 - o Mr PETERS, who replied that it would be possible to provide 600 offices in IPE IV for Members out of a total of 910 offices (while setting aside 310 offices for the plenary services);
 - o Mr SIMPSON, who took the view that it was necessary now, and with a view to possible enlargement, to modify the plans and allow for a capacity of 1 200 offices in IPE IV;

- asked, the Working Party, in conclusion to draw up a letter from the President to Mrs TRAUTMANN, Mayor of Strasbourg, confirming Parliament's wish to conclude the IPE IV contract promptly;

- called on the Working Party to continue the studies on the desirability and feasibility of the possible relocation of Members from IPE I to IPE IV, taking the view that, given the stage which the project had reached, there would appear to be serious difficulties in the way of relocation;

- unanimously congratulated Mr PETERS and the Working Party for the exemplary manner in which they had carried out their mandate and for the spirit which had prevailed within the Working Party.

4. Activities of the parliamentary committees

4.1. Request for publication from the Committee on Social Affairs

The Bureau

- noted the letter of 29 October 1991 from Mr BARROS MOURA, vice-chairman of the Committee on Social Affairs, requesting publication of the final report of the conference held in Luxembourg on 3 and 4 June 1991, involving Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the ESC, on the problems of migration (PE 156.866/BUR);
- recalled its restrictive approach and, in particular, its recent decisions in this regard;
- decided not to grant the authorization requested.

4.2. Request from the Committee on Energy to invite four experts to a meeting to be held in February 1992 in Brussels

The Bureau

- noted the letter of 18 November 1991 from Mr LA PERGOLA, chairman of the Committee on Energy (PE 157.409/BUR);
- decided to authorize the committee, in connection with the report on Europe's response to the modern technological challenge, to invite the four experts whom it had approached.

5. Questions concerning the admissibility of certain parliamentary initiatives

A. Motion for a resolution (Rule 63) tabled by Mr von Habsburg

The Bureau

- considered this motion (PE 156.883/BUR), declared inadmissible pursuant to Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure, which ought to allow members of other parliaments to be admitted to the Chamber;
- took the view that the motion clashed with the established practice of admitting only Heads of State into the Chamber and to seat other distinguished visitors in the official gallery, which was designed for that purpose;
- took the view that it was difficult to depart from that practice merely on the basis of reciprocity.

B. Motion for a resolution (Rule 63) tabled by Mr COIMBRA MARTINS

The Bureau

- considered this motion (PE 156.888/BUR), declared inadmissible pursuant to Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure, which called for clear and precise instructions to be issued so that the laissez-passer issued to Members pursuant to Rule 2(4) of the Rules of Procedure was fully accepted by national authorities, the Strasbourg authorities and Parliament;
- noted a statement by Mr SIMPSON, Quaestor, who pointed out that, following approaches to national authorities, the situation had improved;
- observed, with regard to Parliament's Administration, that it had been instructed not to insist that the badge be produced when a Member had shown his laissez-passer.

C. Proposal for amendment to the Rules of Procedure tabled by Mr GOLLNISCH

The Bureau

- having been asked to consider the admissibility of this proposal (PE 156.885/BUR);
- observed that normally, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 132 of the Rules of Procedure, proposals to amend the Rules of Procedure were automatically referred to the committee responsible;
- decided, however, in light of the provocative nature of the proposal, which sought to stop Parliament from operating democratically, to declare it inadmissible.

6. Members' questions tabled pursuant to Rule 25(2) of the Rules of Procedure

The Bureau

- adopted the reply to the following question:

- o Question No. 29/91 by Mr GUTIERREZ DIAS (GUE)
on the colour of Parliament documents in Spanish

7. Urgent matters and other business

7.1. Request for authorization for an external research project for the Directorate-General for Research

The Bureau

- noted the letter of 28 October 1991 from Mr RAMSAY (PE 157.410/BUR);

- authorized DG IV to commission a study on the economic impact of dumping and of the European Community's anti-dumping policy to the Ernst and Young Institute.

7.2. Payment of the communications allowance to the German observers

The Bureau

- noted the letter of 21 November 1991 from Mr KLEPSCH, chairman of the PPE Group (PE 157.404/BUR);
- noted that, under the rules in force, the observers enjoyed the facilities normally accorded to Members;
- decided to grant the communications allowance to the German observers from 1 January 1991.

8. Items for information

There was no business under this item.

9. Date and place of next meeting

The Bureau

- decided to hold its next meeting on Wednesday, 11 December 1991 in Strasbourg during the part-session.

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The meeting closed at 5.45 p.m.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

PE-2/BUR/OJ/91/36

BUREAU

Meeting on Tuesday, 26 November 1991

at 3.30 p.m.

Room 71
Belliard I

BRUSSELS

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Adoption of draft agenda
2. Meetings of parliamentary committees in 1992 outside the usual places of work - application of Parliament's resolution of 14 June 1991: initial exchange of views
3. Letters from Mr PETERS, chairman of the Working Party on Property Policy on the availability of infrastructure in Brussels and Strasbourg
4. Activities of parliamentary committees
5. Questions concerning the admissibility of certain parliamentary initiatives
6. Parliamentary questions pursuant to Rule 25(2) of the Rules of Procedure
7. Urgent business and any other business
8. Items for information
9. Date and place of next meeting

Strasbourg, 19 November 1991