

**EU Speakers Conference
Troika Meeting
Assembleia da República
Lisboa – 7 January 2008**

Summary

Welcome speech and opening of the meeting by the Secretary-General of Assembly of the Republic, Adelina Sá Carvalho.

Congratulations to the organisation of the Speakers Conference held in Bratislava.

Welcoming words addressed to the Parliaments of France and Sweden, which will organise the forthcoming Conferences (2009 and 2010).

The Troika approved the proposed agenda items:

1. Interparliamentary Cooperation: following the work of the previous Conferences and of the WG on that theme, with the active participation of the Slovak Parliament;
2. New Emerging Democracies: following the work of the previous Conferences and of the WG on that theme, with the active participation of the Italian and of the Danish Parliaments;
3. Women's Participation in Political Life: this agenda item was proposed by the Speakers of the Parliaments of Austria (Barbara Pramer), Estonia (Ene Ergma), the National Assembly of Hungary (Katalin Szili) and the Chamber of Representatives of the Netherlands (Gerdi A. Verbeet);
4. Following the Lisbon Treaty, the new responsibilities for National Parliaments (NP) and the new partnership between NP

and EP: how will NP explore all the possibilities of this Treaty, namely how will NP coordinate in order to accomplish the early warning mechanism on subsidiarity check (*yellow and orange cards*).

During the meeting, the Troika:

- took note of the initiative of the Portuguese Speaker concerning the role of the Speakers Conference and, consequently, the Conference's format (less Conference-like, more business-like and open debate). Thus, the proposal of reserving the first part of the Speakers Conference for an informal meeting, for a more direct and closer contact between Speakers, dedicated to the debate of the new challenges of the Lisbon Treaty;
- debated, the new responsibilities for NP and the new partnership between NP and EP, following the Lisbon Treaty, notably the:
 - Management of all the information that NP will receive from the European institutions;
 - Implementation of the new mechanisms of consultation and evaluation that NP became associated with in the European process of policy formulation and decision making;
 - Co-ordination of the NP's opinions on the subsidiarity control mechanism (early warning mechanism);
- highlighted the fact that 2008 represents a crucial moment for the EU and, consequently, the moment for the Portuguese Presidency of the Speakers Conference to foster a constructive relationship between NP, with a view to preparing the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty, with the assistance of the Troika;
- took note of the position of the Portuguese Speaker, who considers that – in the context of the latest developments of meetings between National Parliaments and the European Parliament and the reinforcement of the role of NP in the Treaty

of Lisbon – the Speakers Conference should take place, in the future, at the same time as the EU Presidencies, in order to present its conclusions to the European Council;

- agreed to reduce the agenda of the Speakers Conference in Lisbon to two items: i) Following the Lisbon Treaty, the new responsibilities for NP and the new partnership between NP and EP, and ii) the Women's participation in political life, which will also provide the wished opportunity to exchange information between Parliaments; furthermore, the sole presentation of the reports by the working groups and, eventually, the decision on specific issues;
- agreed on inviting the National Parliaments from the candidate countries, although the debate is likely to privilege the exchange of views between Parliaments which have the same competences (EU National Parliaments);
- suggested that the evaluation of the Hague Guidelines on Interparliamentary Cooperation is continued: i) trying to focus on the essential; ii) with the participation of all Chambers (mostly by electronic means); and, if a consensus is reached, iii) is concluded on time to be submitted to the decision of the Speakers Conference;
- recommended that the Secretary-Generals meeting in April focus on subjects of common interest:
 - The promotion of real cooperation, mostly between standing committees on subjects of common concern;
 - The acknowledgement of the activities within COSAC;
 - The reflection on the role of the Permanent Representatives in Brussels and the potential of strengthening that network, in the view of the new responsibilities laid down by the Lisbon Treaty;
 - The reinforcement of IPEX effectiveness, as well as the correspondent political awareness of IPEX, as a critical

cooperation and exchange of information tool (debate on the co-financing of a permanent IPEX Officer);

- recommended that NP ensure the conditions required from IPEX in order to implement the «early warning mechanism» (yellow and orange cards), as laid down by the Lisbon Treaty;
 - took note of the current concern within interparliamentary cooperation, which is no longer the date and the subjects of the meetings, but how NP work together, considering the Lisbon Treaty;
 - manifested its support to the maintenance of the IPEX Board currently in function and to the study of a solution of stability for that Board (from one to three year mandate);
 - took note of the importance of NP providing the IPEX Permanent Officer's co-financing;
 - invited the Danish Parliament to present a proposal for a date and place for an IPEX Correspondent and Board meeting;
 - welcomed the idea that the work of the WG on Assistance to New Emerging Democracies would rather focus on practical ways of sharing information on that issue. The essential point must be, above all, to ensure the exchange of information on National Parliaments' cooperation activities in order to avoid duplication of work;
- agreed on the dates for the following meetings:

WG on Interparliamentary Co-operation (IPC): the Portuguese Presidency invited the Slovak Parliament to co-chair the WG meeting. The WG should also focus on the role and model of the Speakers Conference in the EU and on the reinforcement of IPEX in view of the new Treaty.

Next WG meeting: 1 February 2008, in Lisbon.

WG on Assistance to New Emerging Democracies (NED): the Portuguese Presidency invited the Danish Parliament to co-chair the GT meeting.

Next WG meeting: one day, between 21 and 24 January 2008, at the EP, Brussels.

IPEX Correspondents and Board meeting: organized on the initiative of the Danish Parliament.

Secretary-General Meeting: 4 April 2008, in Lisbon.

Speakers Conference: 13 and 14 June 2008, in Lisbon (still to be confirmed).

The Portuguese Speaker welcomed the participants of the Troika meeting, stressing his proposals for the forthcoming Speakers Conference and wishing a successful preparatory work for the Conference.

The list of the invited participants at the Troika meeting:

Peter Juul Larsen (Denmark)

Pernille Deleuran (Denmark)

Harald Romer (EP)

Martine Boitard (France)

Jean-Pierre Bloch (France)

Alain Delcamp (France)

Jean Laporte (France)

Bruno Hromy (Slovak)

Mária Krosláková (Slovak)

Anders Forsberg (Sweden)

Charlotte Rydell (Sweden)