

Calendar for Interparliamentary Cooperation

Danish Parliament

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Report prepared by the Danish Presidency for the Meeting of the Secretaries General of European Union Parliaments

On the Calendar for Interparliamentary Cooperation

Introduction

In a letter to the Secretaries General of European Union Parliaments sent 15 November 2005, the Danish Parliament announced the publication of a web-based version of the Calendar for Interparliamentary Cooperation. With the proposed launch of the IPEX website on 29 June 2006, it is proposed that the Calendar be moved from its present location (www.eu-speakers.org) to the IPEX website.

According to the Hague Guidelines, it is the responsibility of the Parliament hosting the forthcoming Speakers Conference to maintain the Calendar. In order to facilitate the updating of the Calendar on the IPEX website, a set of guidelines is proposed, which will outline the specific procedures for updating and maintaining the Calendar.

Background

In order to facilitate and improve the planning and work for the EU parliaments, a Calendar for interparliamentary cooperation was established by the Speakers of the European Union. The Speakers Conference adopted provisions concerning the Calendar at its meeting in The Hague in 2004.

Excerpt from the Hague Guidelines:

To facilitate planning and work for the parliaments an overview of activities should be provided. Information about regular meetings with sectoral committees, COSAC or other established forums and networks, as well as scheduled or intended ad hoc interparliamentary meetings, should be sent to the Secretary General of the parliament hosting the forthcoming EU Speakers' Conference in such a time as to allow him/her to present them at a meeting of Secretary Generals and include them in an annual or long term calendar of meetings. The calendar is subject to the right of any parliament to propose new initiatives.

According to the Guidelines, the Secretary General of the parliament hosting the forthcoming EU Speakers' Conference should present the Calendar at the meeting of the Secretaries General. At the last meeting of Secretaries General in Budapest, the

former Hungarian Presidency submitted a “hard copy” of the Calendar to the Secretaries General.

Under the preparations of the Danish Presidency, the Parliaments representing the troika of the Conference of Speakers (Hungary, Denmark and Slovakia) agreed to publish the Calendar on the Internet^[1]. The Calendar can be accessed using the following link:

- <http://www.eu-speakers.org/en/calendar>

The Hague Guidelines also state that information concerning interparliamentary meetings should be sent to the Secretary General of the parliament hosting the forthcoming EU Speakers’ Conference. During the Danish Presidency several parliaments sent information about specific meetings, which have been included in the Calendar. However the collection of data concerning Interparliamentary meetings proved to be a challenge and a proactive “search” of parliamentary events was therefore required. It is anticipated, that a prominent and visible Calendar on the IPEX website will encourage Parliaments to submit information concerning their own events.

Submission by the Danish Parliament to the Meeting of Secretaries General

Following a request to all EU parliaments by the Danish Parliament, several national parliaments reviewed the online version of the Calendar and sent in proposals for improvement. After reviewing all the proposals, the Danish Parliament prepared a final calendar which is now submitted to the meeting of Secretaries General for approval.

Proposal for Guidelines

The following Guidelines do not alter the provisions for the Calendar already agreed upon in the Hague Guidelines, but rather, they merely elaborate procedural and technical provisions concerning the Calendars updating and maintenance. In addition, the Calendar Guidelines will formally bestow upon IPEX the responsibility for the electronic publication of the Calendar.

The following suggested Guidelines might be adopted by the Speakers:

- I. The Calendar for Interparliamentary Cooperation will be hosted on the IPEX website.
- II. It is the responsibility of the Parliament hosting the forthcoming Speakers Conference to maintain the Calendar for Interparliamentary Cooperation; however the IPEX Central Support may assist in the updating and maintenance of the Calendar pages on the IPEX website.
- III. National parliaments shall submit information concerning Interparliamentary events to the parliament hosting the forthcoming Conference of Speakers. They are also encouraged to send a copy to the IPEX Central Support.
- IV. In order to allow for a structured presentation of the Calendar, parliamentary events should be accessible either through searching by event-date or through performing an event-type search.
- V. Interparliamentary meetings shall be indexed into the following categories:
 - Meetings relating to the Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments

- COSAC meetings
- Interparliamentary meetings organized by a national parliament
- Interparliamentary meetings organized by the European Parliament
- Other Parliamentary Assemblies

VI. The Parliament hosting the forthcoming Speakers Conference may add additional categories of events to the Calendar under the supervision of the IPEX Board.

VII. The Calendar shall be updated on a regular basis.

VIII. The Calendar shall provide links to websites, which provide additional information and documentation concerning the events - whenever possible, these links should be to the host Parliament or Organization. If no such website exists, the information shall be directly uploaded onto the Calendar.

IX. Technical aspects relating to the maintenance of the Calendar shall be the responsibility of the IPEX Central Support.

X. Any future development of the Calendar shall be considered under the supervision of the IPEX Board with subsequent approval of the Secretaries General.

[\[1\]](#) The advantages of an Internet-based Calendar are two-fold: it gives the National Parliaments real time access to the Calendar, while also allowing for the immediate updating of events.