



15 November 2005
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Dear Colleagues,

Survey on rationalisation of cooperation in interparliamentary assemblies and the launch of the website of the Conference of Speakers

In preparing for the next meeting of the Conference of Speakers taking place on 29 June – 2 July the Danish Parliament has undertaken several initiatives which I would like to bring to your attention.

Last spring in Budapest the Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments concluded that the Danish Parliament should follow up on the German initiative to rethink our co-operation in inter-parliamentary assemblies as put forward by Wolfgang Thierse. In regards to this initiative the Danish Parliament has prepared a questionnaire for your consideration. Secondly the Danish Parliament has launched a website for the Conference of Speakers which includes the Calendar of Inter-parliamentary Co-operation as foreseen by the Hague Guidelines. In order to ensure an appropriate implementation of the Calendar, I would be grateful for any comments that you might have.

Rationalisation of interparliamentary co-operation

Having consulted the Troika (Hungary and Slovakia) the Danish Parliament has compiled a questionnaire concerning the participation of national parliaments in different European interparliamentary organisations/assemblies. The scope of the questionnaire is to determine the actual participation of parliamentarians in individual meetings. It should be noted that the list of organisations/assemblies is not exhaustive, and we therefore encourage any additions that your parliament might have to the list.

We kindly ask you to fill out the questionnaire which you find on www.surveylink.net. Your ID number is: **[ID number]** and your password is: **[password]**. If you have any questions in this regard

please do not hesitate to contact Thomas S. Sarup (Thomas.sarup@ft.dk) from the General Management Secretariat of the Danish Parliament.

After receiving all the responses the Danish Parliament will prepare a report that will be made available to all parliaments. Supplement questions about what can be done to rationalize will be asked if the survey gives rise to that. A possible draft report will be prepared for the General Secretary meeting in February 2006. Depending in the results of the survey we might also arrange a working group meeting.

May I also kindly ask you to include a name of a person (phone number + e-mail) from your parliament (or chamber) who will be our contact person?

The website of the Conference of Speakers

Due to the informal structure of the EU Speakers Conference, there has been no systematic attempt to create a website for information, documents and conclusions from its meetings. Therefore the Danish Presidency has decided to create a website containing specific information concerning the forthcoming meetings of the Secretary Generals and Speakers.

The website, which is navigable in English and French, can be accessed at: www.eu-speakers.org or www.euspeakers.org. The website will be made available for future Presidencies of the Conference.

In addition to information concerning events falling under the Danish Presidency the website contains the following:

- A database containing information and documentation from previously held conferences. As there is no formal depository for documents from the Speakers Conferences, the database is not yet complete. Parliaments are encouraged to submit additional information.
- A fully updated and downloadable list of contacts in the national parliaments and the European Parliament.
- Basic texts including the Hague Guidelines and the Guidelines for the Conference of Presiding Officers
- Background information on the EU Speakers Conference
- A link to the IPEX database

It might also be useful to include a section of the website which contains the Curriculum Vitae's of the individual members of the Conference (i.e. the Speakers) including a short summary of their official role and duties. As this information is by nature not static, I would like to request your par-

liament to provide the website with a link to this information from its own parliamentary website. If this information is not already online, then it can be uploaded directly to www.eu-speakers.org.

Calendar for Interparliamentary Co-operation

In addition the website will also host the Calendar for Interparliamentary Co-operation until the launch of the IPEX website at the Speakers Conference in Copenhagen.

With regards to the Calendar, the Danish Parliament, after consultations with the Hungarian and Slovakian parliaments has initially determined what types of interparliamentary meetings which should be included in the calendar. However it is important to note, that the process is not complete. Therefore I would like to call upon my colleagues to submit additional information to the calendar and more importantly send any comments or suggestions concerning the scope of the calendar.

Based on the feedback from the parliaments, the Danish Parliament will prepare a final calendar which will be submitted to the meeting of Secretaries General. Based on the actual developed calendar, a set of Guidelines will also be prepared, and submitted for your consideration.

Please send all comments concerning the website and Calendar of Interparliamentary Co-operation by the end of the year to: Mongin Forrest (mongin.forrest@ft.dk).

Yours sincerely,

Henrik Tvarnø
Secretary General

Please find the questionnaire enclosed.