

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE
FOR THE COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY AND THE COMMON
SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

PREAMBLE

The Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), hereinafter referred to as the “Inter-Parliamentary Conference”,

Croatia <i>(The Croatian Parliament)</i>	Amendments to the Preamble - Paragraph 1: The Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), hereinafter referred to as the “Inter-Parliamentary Conference” “COFDAC” Reasoning of proposal: <i>The Croatian delegation proposes the replacement of the abbreviation “Inter-Parliamentary Conference” with the abbreviation “COFDAC” throughout the entire text.</i>
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In accordance with to Protocol 1 of the Lisbon Treaty on the role of national parliaments in the European Union,

In accordance with the decisions of the Conference of Speakers of the European Union (EU) Parliaments, at its meetings in Brussels, on 4-5 April 2011 and in Warsaw, on 20-21 April 2012, establishing an Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP),

Endorsing the recommendations of the Conference of Speakers meeting in Warsaw in April 2012 that the Conference of Speakers should conduct a review of arrangements for the Inter-Parliamentary Conference two years after its first meeting,

The Inter-Parliamentary Conference is established in the spirit of the strengthened role of national Parliaments of the EU Member States, hereinafter referred to as “national Parliaments” and the European Parliament, by virtue of the Treaty of Lisbon, more particularly in the context of interparliamentary cooperation, as per Protocol (1) on the Role of National Parliaments in the EU.

The Inter-Parliamentary Conference is part of the activities of the parliamentary dimension of the Presidency of the Council of the EU, undertaken by the national Parliament of the EU Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU, hereinafter referred to as the “Presidency Parliament” and the “Presidency Member State”, respectively.

Latvia <i>(Saeima)</i>	Supplementing the Preamble with a new Paragraph 6 (thus deleting Article 1.3.) to read as follows: The Inter-Parliamentary Conference replaces the Conference of Foreign Affairs Committee Chairpersons (COFACC) and the Conference of Defence Affairs Committee Chairpersons (CODACC).
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Adopted the present rules of procedure at its first meeting, in Cyprus, on 9-10 September 2012.

ARTICLE 1 – AIMS

- 1.1. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference shall provide a framework for the exchange of information and best practices in the area of CFSP and CSDP, to enable national Parliaments and the European Parliament to be fully informed when carrying out their respective roles in this policy area.
- 1.2. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference shall debate matters of Common Foreign and Security Policy, including Common Security and Defence Policy.
- 1.3 The Inter-Parliamentary Conference shall replace the Conference of Foreign Affairs Committee Chairpersons (COFACC) and the Conference of Defence Affairs Committee Chairpersons (CODACC). Taking into account these matters dealt with by the Conference, Parliaments shall freely and autonomously decide on the composition of their delegations.
- 1.4 The Inter-Parliamentary Conference may in accordance with the procedures laid down in article 7. adopt conclusions on matters related to the CFSP and CSDP of the EU. The conclusions do not bind national Parliaments or the European Parliament or prejudice their positions.

The United Kingdom <i>(The House of Lords and The House of Commons)</i>	Amendments to the Article 1, reasoning and aim of proposal: <i>More generally, we would like to emphasise our belief that the purpose of the AHRC and its recommendations should be to provide suggestion on how the effective functioning of the Conference should be improved. In particular, consideration may be given to how the size of the Conference impacts upon debate and the general efficiency of the Conference, and the process by which the formal Conclusion of the conference are formulated and agreed. On the latter point, some of the UK delegates to the Dublin meeting were concerned they were not given sufficient opportunity to consider the draft Conclusion. Finally, the AHRC should not look to expand the remit or role of the Conference beyond the principles and framework agreed by Speakers, which were reached after some difficulty at the EU Speakers' Conferences in Warsaw on 20-21 April 2012 and Brussels in 4-5 April 2011.</i>
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ARTICLE 2. – COMPOSITION

2.1. Members

- a) The Inter-Parliamentary Conference is composed of delegations of the national Parliaments of the EU Members States and the European Parliament. National Parliaments are represented by six (6) Members of Parliament each. In case of a national Parliament consisting of two Chambers, the number of Members of its delegations shall be allocated according to their internal agreement.

Germany <i>(The German Bundestag)</i>	Amendments to the Article 2 - 2.1., a), reasoning and aim of proposal: <i>The German delegation proposes that the number of members from each parliament could be based, perhaps proportionally, on the distribution formula used for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. See Annex (page 12).</i>
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- b) The European Parliament shall be represented by sixteen (16) Members of the European Parliament.

The Netherlands <i>(The House of Representatives and The Senate)</i>	Amendments to the Article 2 – 2.1., reasoning and aim of proposal: <i>For budgetary and practical reasons, the delegations should be restricted to six delegates of each national parliament and to sixteen delegates of the European Parliament (at maximum).</i>
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2.2. Observers

- a) National Parliaments of an EU candidate country and each of the European member country of NATO, excluding those covered by article 2.1., can be represented by a delegation of four (4) observers each.

2.3. The High Representative, special guests and specialists

- a) The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union shall be invited to the meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference to set out the priorities and strategies of the EU in the area of CFSP and CSDP.

Spain <i>(The Cortes Generales)</i>	Amendments to the Article 2 – 2.3., a): a) The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union shall discuss and set out, in the framework of the Inter-Parliamentary conference , be invited to the meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference to set out the priorities and strategies of the EU in the area of CFSP and CSDP.
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Germany <i>(The German Bundestag)</i>	Amendments to the Article 2 – 2.3., a): 2.3. The High Representative, special guests and specialists a) The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union shall be invited to the meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference to set out the priorities and strategies of the EU in the area of CFSP and CSDP. A written statement should be communicated in advance by the High Representative.
Croatia <i>(The Croatian Parliament)</i>	Amendments to the Article 2 - 2.3.,a): 2.3. The High Representative, special guests and specialists a) The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union shall be invited to the meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference to set out the priorities and strategies of the EU in the area of CFSP and CSDP. A written statement or report should be communicated in advance by the High Representative.

b)*

Spain <i>(The Cortes Generales)</i>	Supplementing the text with Article 2 - 2.3., b): b) To that effect, the High Representative shall submit to the conference in advance a statement in review. On an annual basis, the High Representative shall prepare a report related to the conclusions and recommendations agreed by the Inter-Parliamentary conference. That report may be review every six months.
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Croatia <i>(The Croatian Parliament)</i>	Supplementing the text with Article 2 - 2.3., b): b) The Presidency Parliament may invite, in close cooperation with the national Parliaments and the European Parliament, special guests and specialists to address the meetings on matters relating to the agenda of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference
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2.4. Public access to meetings

Meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference shall be public, unless otherwise determined.

ARTICLE 3. ROLE OF THE PRESIDENCY AND ORGANISATION

3.1. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference shall convene once every six months in the country of the Presidency Parliament or in the European Parliament in Brussels. The Presidency shall decide on the matter. Extraordinary meetings shall be held when deemed necessary or urgent.

Latvia <i>(Saeima)</i>	Amendments to the Article 3.1.: <i>Changes in the order of sentences</i> 3.1. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference shall convene once every six months in the country of the Presidency Parliament or in the European Parliament in Brussels. <u>Extraordinary meetings shall be held when deemed necessary or urgent.</u> The Presidency <u>Parliament</u> shall decide on the matters. Extraordinary meetings shall be held when deemed necessary or urgent.
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3.2. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference shall be presided over by the Presidency Parliament, in close cooperation with the European Parliament.

3.3. At the beginning of each session, the Presidency Parliament shall set the timetable for the session, the order of interventions and the length of speeches which, in any case, may not exceed three (3) minutes each.

The Netherlands <i>(The House of Representatives and The Senate)</i>	Amendments to the Article 3, reasoning and aim of proposal: <i>On a practical level, the communication and cooperation between conference delegations can be improved by setting up an e-mail group list for delegates (i.e. Heads of Delegation) and their clerks, in addition to the network of parliaments' permanent representatives in Brussels.</i>
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The Netherlands <i>(The House of Representatives and The Senate)</i>	Amendments to the Article 3, reasoning and aim of proposal: <i>The effectiveness of the conference and the interaction between the delegates can be improved by organising a number of (small group) topical debates, working groups, breakout sessions, presentations, side events et cetera instead of or next to the plenary meeting.</i>
The United Kingdom <i>(The House of Lords and The House of Commons)</i>	Amendments to the Article 3, reasoning and aim of proposal: <i>One change which we would suggest is the use of concurrent “break-out” session, in addition to the plenary sessions, where interested groups could assemble in smaller numbers to address specific issues of a more strategic nature. We know from our informal discussion with you and your colleagues in Paphos that this is something you were already considering and we would certainly like to encourage it.</i>

The United Kingdom <i>(The House of Lords and The House of Commons)</i>	Amendments to the Article 3, reasoning and aim of proposal: <i>Another improvement would be to shift the balance from lengthy presentation by the speakers to more time for questions and answers, which is the fundamental purpose of the meetings. It is also important to ensure that each chamber present is able to contribute during each debate should they wish.</i>
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ARTICLE 4. POLITICAL GROUPS*

Germany <i>(The German Bundestag)</i>	Supplementing the text with the new Article 4. POLITICAL GROUPS: 4. At least six (6) members from at least five (5) different delegations have the right to create a political group.
The Netherlands <i>(The House of Representatives and The Senate)</i>	Amendments, reasoning and aim of proposal: <i>The Dutch parliament considers the CFSP/CSDP conference to be a formal platform consisting of delegations of the national parliaments in the EU and of the European Parliament. Political groups cannot have an official status or formal rights in the CFSP/CSDP conference (contrary to the practices in the European Parliament and in certain parliamentary assemblies).</i>

ARTICLE 4. DOCUMENTATION OF THE MEETINGS

4.1. Agenda

- a) The agenda of each meeting shall include matters relating to CFSP and CSDP, in line with the scope and role of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference.
- b) A draft agenda shall be communicated to all Parliaments no later than eight (8) weeks prior to each meeting.

Latvia <i>(Saeima)</i>	Amendments to the Article 4.1., b): (b) A draft agenda shall be communicated to all Parliaments in good time before no later than eight (8) weeks prior to each meeting. The agenda must be approved by a majority prior to the start of the meeting.
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Germany <i>(The German Bundestag)</i>	Amendments to the Article 4 - 4.1., b): (b) A draft agenda shall be communicated to all Parliaments no later than eight (8) weeks prior to each meeting. The agenda must be approved by a majority prior to the start of the meeting. Motions to amend the agenda must be submitted by at least three (3) members from at least two (2) different delegations and substantiated prior to the adoption of the agenda; decisions on such amendments shall be made by majority.
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The Netherlands <i>(The House of Representatives and The Senate)</i>	Amendments to the Article 4 - 4.1., reasoning and aim of proposal: <i>It is recommended that all delegations are consulted about the programme of the next conference before the draft is conveyed. This practice will give all delegations the opportunity to actively suggest agenda topics. It will strengthen the commitment to the conference and will facilitate the preparations as well.</i>
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4.2. Other documents

Prior to each meeting, delegations may send any documents relating to items of the agenda to the Secretariat of the Presidency Parliament. The Presidency Parliament may also draw up discussion documents for the Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

Germany <i>(The German Bundestag)</i>	Amendments to the Article 4 – 4.2: 4.2. Other documents Prior to each meeting, delegations may send any documents relating to items of the agenda to the Secretariat of the Presidency Parliament. The Presidency Parliament may also draw up discussion documents for the Inter-Parliamentary Conference. Discussion papers may be added at the request of three (3) members, subject to a decision adopted by a simple majority.
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The Netherlands <i>(The House of Representatives and The Senate)</i>	Amendments to the Article 4 - 4.2, reasoning and aim of proposal: <i>The continuity of the CFSP/CSDP conference is better served by a good transfer between the consecutive presidencies. It is suggested to publish a (public) transfer report prior to the conference, elaborating on the efforts that have been made by the preceding presidency and on the priorities of the succeeding one.</i>
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The Netherlands <i>(The House of Representatives and The Senate)</i>	Amendments to the Article 4 - 4.2, reasoning and aim of proposal: <i>The impact of the contributions delivered by the CFSP/CSDP conference towards the European institutions and the High Representative can be increased by better monitoring of the implementation of the conference conclusions and the follow up on the statements and commitments by the High Representative to the conference. These matters can be addressed in the suggested bi-annual ‘transfer report’.</i>
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ARTICLE 5. LANGUAGES

- 5.1. The working languages of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference shall be English and French. Simultaneous interpretation from and into these languages, as well as from and into the language of the Presidency Member State shall be provided by the host parliament.
- 5.2. Simultaneous interpretation into additional languages may be provided if technically possible and its costs will be borne by the relevant national delegation.
- 5.3. Documents of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference shall be communicated to national Parliaments and the European Parliament in English and French.

Germany <i>(The German Bundestag)</i>	Amendments to the Article 5, reasoning and aim of proposal: <i>The German delegation proposes that German is given a status in line with the fact that the IPC is a EU interparliamentary body (Oral Amendment presented 9/11/2012 by the Head of the German delegation)</i>
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ARTICLE 6. THE SECRETARIAT

- 6.1. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference Secretariat shall be provided by the Presidency Parliament, in close cooperation with the European Parliament and with the previous and next Presidency Parliaments.
- 6.2. The Secretariat shall assist the Presidency Parliament in preparing the documents for each meeting and in communicating them to national Parliaments and the European Parliament.

The Netherlands <i>(The House of Representatives and The Senate)</i>	Amendments to the Article 6, reasoning and aim of proposal: <i>In order to guarantee cost effectiveness and the involvement of all delegations to the conference, no permanent presidency or permanent secretariat or other form of institutionalisation should be established.</i>
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ARTICLE 7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference may by consensus adopt non-binding conclusions on CFSP and CSDP matters related to the agenda of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

Latvia <i>(Saeima)</i>	Amendments to the Article 7.1, reasoning and aim of proposal: <i>Bearing in mind the best practice used within the framework of COSAC (see the respective Rules of Procedure Article 7.5.), Paragraph 1 of Article 7. “Conclusions” in the current wording of the draft Rules of Procedure shall read as follows:</i> 7.1. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference may by consensus shall seek to adopt by broad consensus non-binding conclusions on CFSP and CSDP matters related to the agenda of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference. If this is not possible, contributions shall be adopted with a qualified majority of at least 3/4 of the votes cast. The majority of 3/4 of the votes cast must at the same time constitute at least half of all votes.
Germany <i>(The German Bundestag)</i>	Amendments to the Article 7 – 7.1.: 7.1. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference, acting by a three-quarters majority of votes cast , may by consensus adopt non-binding conclusions on CFSP and CSDP matters related to the agenda of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

- 7.2. Draft conclusions of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference shall be drawn up by the Presidency Parliament in English and French and communicated to the delegations of national Parliaments and the European Parliament during the meeting in a reasonable time before their adoption for any amendments to be submitted and considered.

Lithuania <i>(Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania)</i>	Amendments to the Article 7 – 7.2.: 7.2. Draft conclusions of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference shall be drawn up by the Presidency Parliament in English and French and communicated to the delegations of national Parliaments and the European Parliament during the meeting in a reasonable time before their adoption in good time before the relevant meeting of Inter-Parliamentary Conference for any amendments to be submitted and considered.
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- 7.3. Once the conclusions have been adopted, the Presidency Parliament shall communicate the final texts in English and French, each of these texts being equally authentic, to all delegations, to the Presidents of national Parliaments and of the European Parliament, to the Presidents of the European Council and the Commission and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, for their information.

Germany <i>(The German Bundestag)</i>	Supplementing the text with the new Article 7 - 7.3.: 7.3. Voting rights shall be exercised individually.
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Germany <i>(The German Bundestag)</i>	Amendments to the Article 7 – 7.3.: 7.3. Once the conclusions have been adopted, the Presidency Parliament shall communicate the final texts in English and French, each of these texts being equally authentic, to all delegations, to the Presidents of national Parliaments and the European Parliament, to the Presidents of the European Council and the Commission and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, for their information. The Presidency Parliament shall also communicate the final texts to the High Representative and to the Presidents of the Council and the Commission and ask them to deliver an opinion.
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7.4.*

Latvia <i>(Saeima)</i>	Supplementing the Article 7.4, reasoning and aim of proposal: <i>With reference to principles set by the Article 7 of the Second Protocol of the Lisbon Treaty, insert a NEW Paragraph (7.4) to read as follows:</i> 7.4. Each delegation shall have two votes. In the case of a bicameral Parliamentary system, each of the two chambers shall have one vote.
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ARTICLE 8. RULES OF PROCEDURE

- 8.1. Any national Parliament and the European Parliament may submit proposals to amend these Rules of Procedure. Amendments shall be submitted in writing to all national Parliaments and the European Parliament at least one month before meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference.
- 8.2. Any amendments, which the delegations of national Parliaments and the European Parliament may propose to the Rules of Procedure, are subject to a decision by consensus, and must be in accordance with the framework set by the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments.

Germany <i>(The German Bundestag)</i>	Amendments to the Article 8 – 8.2.: <i>(2013-08-28 correction of the proposal)</i> 8.2. Any amendments, which the delegations of national Parliaments, political groups and the European Parliament may propose to the Rules of Procedure, are subject to a decision by consensus and must be in accordance with the framework set by the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments taken by a three-quarters majority. The quorum for these votes is two-thirds of all members.
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ARTICLE 9. REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE CONFERENCE

9. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference may appoint an ad hoc review committee which would, eighteen (18) months from the first meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference, evaluate the workings of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference and make recommendations thereon to be deliberated upon by the Conference of EU Speakers.

ARTICLE 10. ENTRY INTO FORCE*

Latvia <i>(Saeima)</i>	Supplementing the Rules of Procedure with the new Article 10: 10. ENTRY INTO FORCE 10.1. These Rules of Procedure are drawn up in a single original in English and French, each of these texts being equally authentic, and shall be published in the official languages of the European Union. They shall enter into force on the adoption date.
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*new article

“FACT-FINDING MISSIONS”

<p>Cyprus (The House of Representatives)</p>	<p>Amendments, reasoning and aim of proposal:</p> <p><i>Paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of the Conclusions of the inaugural Meeting of the Interparliamentary Conference on the CFSP and CSDP held in Paphos, on 9-10 September 2012, stipulate that:</i></p> <p><i>"7. [The Inter-Parliamentary Conference] is convinced that Parliaments have a crucial role in promoting democratic values and accountable systems of good governance and emphasizes, therefore, the need for an enhanced role of parliaments, particularly in supporting the democratic transitions in its Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood;</i></p> <p><i>8. Takes the view that this requires, inter alia, enhanced monitoring of the democratic processes in the Union's Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood and coordination, through joint initiatives and improved exchange of information, as well as parliamentary activities in support to these countries;</i></p> <p><i>9. Requests the Presidency to develop proposals to this effect before the next Inter-Parliamentary Conference Meeting;"</i></p> <p><i>In accordance with paragraph 9, the Cyprus House of Representatives suggests that a fact-finding mission be set up by the Inter-Parliamentary Conference to monitor the democratic processes in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Neighbourhood. For this purpose, the mission will pay visits to Arab Spring countries and report its findings to the Conference.</i></p> <p><i>The mission can be composed of up to eight members to be decided upon by the Conference, through an open call. A coordinator can be decided from within the group. The composition can be renewed for each mission.</i></p> <p><i>The duration of the mission's mandate can extend until the next Conference and can be renewed.</i></p> <p><i>The Secretariat can be ensured by the Parliament of which the Coordinator is a Member, acting in cooperation with the Presidency Troika and the European Parliament.</i></p> <p><i>The cost of missions can be covered by participating Parliaments.</i></p>
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Annex to Statement for the minutes on Article 2 - 2.1.
(refer to the amendments of Germany)

	CoE PA votes	multiplied by 2/3	rounded up; minimum 4
Austria	6	4,00	4,00
Belgium	7	4,67	5,00
Bulgaria	6	4,00	4,00
Croatia	5	3,33	4,00
Cyprus	3	2,00	4,00
Czech Republic	7	4,67	5,00
Denmark	5	3,33	4,00
Estonia	3	2,00	4,00
Finland	5	3,33	4,00
France	18	12,00	12,00
Germany	18	12,00	12,00
Greece	7	4,67	5,00
Hungary	7	4,67	5,00
Ireland	4	2,67	4,00
Italy	18	12,00	12,00
Latvia	3	2,00	4,00
Lithuania	4	2,67	4,00
Luxembourg	3	2,00	4,00
Malta	3	2,00	4,00
Netherlands	7	4,67	5,00
Poland	12	8,00	8,00
Portugal	7	4,67	5,00
Romania	10	6,67	7,00
Slovakia	5	3,33	4,00
Slovenia	3	2,00	4,00
Spain	12	8,00	8,00
Sweden	6	4,00	4,00
United Kingdom	18	12,00	12,00
	212	141,33	161,00
European Parliament	18	12,00	16,00
Total:	230	153,33	177,00