

CONFERENCE OF THE SPEAKERS OF EUROPEAN UNION PARLIAMENTS

Rome, 20-21 April 2015

DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON STABILITY, ECONOMIC COORDINATION AND GOVERNANCE IN THE EU

(18 DECEMBER 2014)

PREAMBLE

These Rules of Procedure are designed to facilitate and improve the work of the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union, hereinafter referred to as the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG.

The Interparliamentary Conference on SECG shall be organised in accordance with the decisions of the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments taken on 23 April 2013 in Nicosia and on 8 April 2014 in Vilnius to establish a conference foreseen in Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union (hereinafter referred to as the TSCG), Protocol 1 of the Treaty of Lisbon on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union and the Guidelines for Interparliamentary Cooperation in the European Union as adopted at the Conference of Speakers on 21 June 2008 in Lisbon.

These Rules of Procedure were adopted at the meeting of the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [SECG] on [...] and deliberated upon by the EU Speakers Conference at the meeting in [...] on [...].

1. COMPETENCES AND SCOPE

1.1 The Interparliamentary Conference on SECG shall provide a framework for debate and exchange of information and best practices in order to strengthen cooperation between national Parliaments and the European Parliament and contribute to ensuring democratic accountability and legitimacy in the area of economic governance and budgetary policy in the EU, particularly in the EMU, taking into account the social dimension, without prejudice to the competences of EU Parliaments.

1.2 The Interparliamentary Conference on SECG replaces the meetings of the chairpersons of relevant committees organised in the framework of the parliamentary dimension of the Presidency of the Council by each national Parliament of the Member State holding the Presidency, hereinafter referred to as the Presidency Parliament.

1.3 The Interparliamentary Conference on SECG may, in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 6 of these Rules of Procedure, adopt conclusions on matters related to the conference's scope.

2. ROLE OF THE PRESIDENCY AND ORGANISATION OF THE MEETINGS

2.1 Time and place of the meetings

The Interparliamentary Conference on SECG shall convene twice a year. It shall be coordinated with the cycle of the European Semester. In the first semester of each year, it shall be held in Brussels and will be co-hosted and co-chaired over by the Presidency Parliament and the European Parliament. In the second semester of each year, it shall be held in the Member State holding the Presidency and chaired over by the Presidency Parliament.

2.2 Presidential Troika

The Presidential Troika of the Interparliamentary Conference SECG consists of the delegations of the national Parliaments of the Presidency, the preceding Presidency, the following Presidency, and the European Parliament.

2.3 Secretariat

The hosting Parliament(s) shall be responsible for providing the secretariat. The secretariat of the European Parliament and the co-hosting Presidency Parliament, as well as the hosting Presidency Parliament of the second semester should stay in contact to ensure the continuity of the work of the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG.

2.4 Conduct of the meetings

At the beginning of each meeting, the presiding Parliament(s) shall set the timetable of the meeting and shall determine the order and the length of interventions. Meetings shall be chaired by the chairperson(s) of the relevant committees of the presiding Parliament(s).

2.5 Documents

The secretariat(s) of the presiding Parliament(s) shall prepare the necessary documents and shall draw up brief minutes of the meeting.

2.6 Voting

The Interparliamentary Conference on SECG shall adopt its decisions, including on the adoption of the Conclusions, by consensus.

2.7 Public access to the meetings

Meetings of the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG shall be public, unless otherwise determined.

3. COMPOSITION

3.1 Members

The Interparliamentary Conference on SECG is composed of delegations from the relevant committees of the national Parliaments of the EU Members States and the European Parliament. The composition and size of delegations shall be determined by each Parliament.

3.2 Observers

National Parliaments of EU candidate countries can be represented by a delegation of a maximum of two observers each. The presiding Parliament(s) may also invite, after consulting the Presidential Troika, observers from other EU institutions or bodies as well as from EEA-EFTA countries.

3.3 Representatives of the EU Institutions

The President of the European Council, the President of the Eurogroup and the competent members of the European Commission and other EU Institutions shall be invited to the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG to set out the priorities and strategies of the EU in the areas being discussed by the Conference.

3.4 Special guests

The presiding Parliament(s), after consulting the Presidential Troika, may also invite special guests and experts as observers.

4. AGENDA

4.1 A draft agenda shall be drawn up by the presiding Parliament(s) in close cooperation with the Presidential Troika. The delegations may propose to the presiding Parliament(s) that a specific item be put on or removed from the draft agenda.

4.2 A draft agenda shall be communicated by the presiding Parliament(s) to all other Parliaments no later than eight weeks prior to each meeting.

5. LANGUAGES

5.1. The working languages of the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG shall be English and French.

5.2. Simultaneous interpretation from and into English and French, as well as from and into the language of the Presidency Member State shall be provided by the host Parliament(s). Simultaneous interpretation into additional languages may be provided if requested and its costs would be borne by the relevant national delegation or the European Parliament. The host Parliament will make available the appropriate technical facilities.

5.3. Documents of the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG shall be communicated to national Parliaments and the European Parliament in English and French.

5.4 The Conclusions of the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG shall be drawn up in a single original in English and French, both texts being equally authentic.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1. The Interparliamentary Conference on SECG may adopt non-binding conclusions on matters within the scope of the Conference.

6.2. Draft conclusions of the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG shall be drawn up by the presiding Parliament(s) in English and French, in close cooperation with the Presidential Troika, and communicated to all delegations before the relevant meeting in a reasonable time for any amendments to be considered and submitted.

6.3. Once the conclusions have been adopted, the presiding Parliament(s) 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 European Commission, and the competent Commissioners and members of European Institutions, for their information.

7. REVISION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

7.1. 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 four weeks before meetings of the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG.

7.2 Any amendments, which the delegations of national Parliaments or the European Parliament may propose to the Rules of Procedure, shall be subject to a decision by consensus by the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG and must be in accordance with the framework set by the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments.

7.3 Proposals for a revision of the Rules of Procedure should be put on the agenda of the first meeting of the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG following the presentation of the proposal.

8. REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE CONFERENCE

8.1 The relevant Presidency Parliament shall start in the second semester of 2017 an evaluation of the workings of the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG. To this end the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG may appoint an *ad hoc* review committee. The relevant Presidency Parliament shall submit the conclusions of the review together with specific recommendations to be deliberated upon by the Conference of Speakers of European Union Parliaments in 2018.

9. ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

9.1 These Rules of Procedure are drawn up in a single original in English and French, each of these texts being equally authentic. Translations into other official languages of the European Union shall be the responsibility of the relevant Parliaments. They shall enter into force on the adoption date.

