EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DELEGATION TO THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

12 October 2004
in
BRUSSELS

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Annex: Attendance list

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12 October 2004
HO/kn

The meeting opened at 10.20 with Mrs Diana WALLIS, chairperson, in the chair.

1. The draft agenda was adopted.

2. The minutes had been distributed to the members and were approved.

With a view to the 23rd meeting of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee on 22-23 November 2004 in Brussels

3. The chair presented the preliminary draft programme.

The chair presented the draft JPC agenda.

The chair informed members:

item 5: following EP co-rapporteurs had been appointed:

The Internal Market Strategy 2003-2006 and the EEA
- Mrs Diana WALLIS

The decision shaping within the EEA and the role of the parliamentarians
- Mr Jens-Peter BONDE

item 7: Members were reminded of the voting rules: art. 13 of the Rules of Procedures

Rule 1 is stating that the JPC shall consists of two delegations (from EP and Parliaments of the EFTA States respectively) of equal number.

However, the EP had established its new delegation with 17 members, without consulting the EFTA side, while the EFTA side had 12 members, as was the number in the past.

Until this question had been clarified, a pragmatic solution could be that the EP side would vote with 12 members. The quorum would then be maintained with 3 members from each side and it would not give the EP side an advantage in the voting.

The chair replied to a question from Mrs HEDKVIST PETERSEN that the JPC resolutions were forwarded to the EEA bodies in order for them to be taken into account in their future work and to report back to the JPC on the follow-up to the resolutions.

Mr BONDE requested from the Commission a list of working groups in the Commission and in the Council where the EFTA side was represented. Mr MEYER, representing of the Commission, replied that the Commission had no global overview of the EFTA representation, but a list on the administrative committees would be elaborated for Mr BONDE. He underlined that the EFTA side was not represented in the comitology committees. Mrs ROTH-BEHRENDT stated that the EFTA side should not be represented in the comitology committees, as the EP was not represented in these committees either.

item 8: The JPC shall draft a report on "The Annual Report on the Functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2004" elaborated by the Joint Committee. The Annual Report will be issued in spring 2005 and the JPC report shall be considered at the JPC meeting to be held in Iceland, spring 2005.

Members were invited to propose a topic for a second report for the first JPC meeting 2005.

Mrs ROTH-BEHRENDT proposed to consider "food and feed hygiene" as a topic for a second report.

The chair suggested the service directives as a possible subject and Mrs HEDKVIST PETERSEN suggested that the inter-regional co-operation be a topic for a report.

The JPC Bureau would consider incoming proposals at its meeting on 22 November 2004.

item 9: The EFTA side would chair the JPC in 2005 and the EP side would have the vice-presidency. (Rule 3).

item 11: The JPC meeting spring 2005 is to be held in Iceland. On a question from Mr GOEPEL the chair informed members that the date would be fixed as soon as the calendar on the EP activities in 2005 had been established. The spring meetings were normally held late spring in order to deal with the Annual Report from the Joint Committee.

4. Consideration of the draft report on ***The Internal Market Strategy 2003-2006 and the EEA*** (1047456 - PE 342.083)

   Co-rapporteurs: Mrs Diana WALLIS (ALDE, UK)
   Mr Jürgen ZECH (Progressive Citizens' Party, Liechtenstein)

   As the draft report has not yet been finalised, the co-rapporteur Diana Wallis gave an oral introduction to this report. She was of the opinion that services, consumer policies and the failure of establishing a community patent could be some of the main themes of the report.

   Members were invited to give their input to the report.

   As soon as the draft report had been finalised, it would be distributed to members (in English only) with a deadline for tabling amendments.

5. Consideration of the draft report on ***The decision shaping within the EEA and the role of the parliamentarians*** (1047457 - PE 342.090)

   Co-rapporteurs: Mr Vidar BJØRNSTAD (Labour Party, Norway)
   Mr Jens-Peter BONDE (IND/DEM, Denmark)

   As the draft report had not yet been finalised, the co-rapporteur Jens-Peter BONDE gave an oral introduction to this report.

   As soon as the draft report has been finalised, it will be distributed to members (in English only) with a deadline for tabling amendments.

The rapporteur was of the opinion that a working document on the EFTA influence in the EEA process could be elaborated to be incorporated in the report.

On a question from Mr SCHWAB on the Nordic co-operation, especially within the Nordic Council, the co-rapporteur stated that all the questions on the Nordic co-operation were covered by the EU policies. Mrs HEDKVIST PETERSEN was not agreeing with this, as a lot of problems in the Nordic Region, especially in the broader regions, should be solved by the Nordic Countries within their normal co-operation procedures.

The chair reminded members that the delegation would hold a joint meeting with the Nordic Council Praesidium in December in Brussels.

6. The chair informed the delegation that*:*

- The EFTA Conference on "The EEA and EFTA in a New Europe" would take place in Reykjavik on 21 October 2004. The chair would, as key speaker on the Constitution of Europe, attend the Conference together with other members of the delegation.

- As chair of the delegation, she had sent a letter to President BORRELL asking for the delegation to maintain responsibility, in co-operation with the Vice-President responsible for multilateral interparliamentaryy relations, for the relation with the Nordic Council and the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region and its Standing Committee.
(Follow-up of the decision of the delegation at its constituent meeting on 21 September 2004).

7. The next meeting of the delegation was scheduled to take place in Strasbourg on Thursday, 28 October 2004, 9.45 - 11.30, to prepare the next EU-Switzerland interparliamentary meeting to be held in Strasbourg on 17-18 November 2004.

The calendar for the meetings of the delegation in 2004 had been distributed to members. On a question from Mr JANOWSKI, the chair informed members that the calendar for meetings in spring 2005 would be distributed to members as soon as the programme of activities of the interparliamentary delegations had been established.

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The meeting closed at 10.50.

BILAG/ANLAGE/ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ/ANNEX/
ANNEXE/ALLEGATO/BIJLAGE/ANEXO/BILAGA

DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/LIITE RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/LISTE DE PRESENCE/ELENCO DEI PRESENTI/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA

Til stede Anwesend Παρόντες Present Presentes Présents Presenti Aanwezig Lasna Närvarande	Formandskabet/Vorstand/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di Presidenza/Mesa/Puhemiehistφ/J.L. Presidium: (*) WALLIS (P) HEDKVIST PETERSEN (1st VP) BONDE (2nd VP) Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Dιputιs/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/jδsenet/ Ledamöter: GOEPEL, PANAYOTOPOULOS, ROTH-BEHRENDT, RÜBIG, SCHUTH, SMITH, JANOWSKI, VANHECKE Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppιιants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter: HUDACKÝ, SCHWAB, HERCZOG, SKINNER, BUDREIKAITÉ, KLINZ

Art. 138,2	
Art. 151,4	
Endv. deltog/Weitere Teiln./ Συμμετείχαν επίσης/Also present Participaron igualmente/ Participaient également/ Hanno partecipato altresi´/ Andere deelnemers/ Outros participantes/ Muut osallistujat/ Dessutom deltog (Dagsorden/Tagesordnung Pkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημεί/Point OJ/Punto OG/Agenda Punt/Ordem do dia-punto/punto orden del dia/ Esityslista Kohta/Föredragningslista punkt):	

* (P) =Formand/Vorsitzender/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Prιsident/Presidente/Voorzitter/Presidente/Puhemies/Ordfφrande
(VP) =Næstform./Stellv. Vorsitz./Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-Prιsident/Vicepresidente/Varapuhemies Ondervoorz./Vice-Pres./Vicepres/Vice ordförande.

Til stede den/Anwesend am/Παρών στις/Present on/Prιsent le/Presente il/Aanwezig op/Presente em/Presente el/Lδsnδ/Nδrvarande den.

(1) 12.10.2004
(3)

Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung d. Vorsitzenden/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chairman/Por invitación del presidente/Sur l'invitation du président/Su invito del presidente/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/A convite do presidente/Puhemiehen kutsusta/ På ordförandens inbjudan: Radet/Rat/Συμβούλιο/Council/Consejo/Conseil/Consiglio/Raad/Conselho/Neuvosto/Rεdet: (*) Kommissionen/Kommission/Επιτροπή/Commission/Comisión/Commissione/Commissie/Commissão/Komissio/ Kommissionen: (*) MEYER, GHIDI Cour des comptes: C.E.S.:		
Andre deltagere/Andere Teilnehmer Επίσης Παρόντες/Also present Otros participantes/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti Andere aanwezigen/Outros participantes Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare		
Gruppernes sekretariat Sekretariat der Fraktionen Γραμματεία των Πολ. Ομάδων Secretariat political groups Secr. de los grupos politicos Secr. groupes politiques Segr. dei gruppi politici Secr. van de fracties Secr. dos grupos politicos Puolueryhmien sihteeristö Gruppernas sekretariat	PPE-DE PSE ALDE	HUMBERT COLLANDER
Cab. du Président		
Cab. du Secrétaire Général		
Generaldirektorat Generaldirektion Γενική Διεύθυνση Directorate-General Dirección general Direction générale Direzione generale Directoraat-generaal Direcção general Contrôle financier Service juridique Pääosasto Generaldirektorat	I II III IV V VI VII	HARRIS
Udvalgssekretariatet Ausschubsekretariat Γραμματεία επιτροπής Committee secretariat Secretaria de la comisión Secrétariat de la commission Segretariato della commissione Commissiesecretariaat Secretaria de comissão Valiokunnan sihteeristö Utskottssekretariatet		OLSEN
Assist./Βοηθός		D'AGOSTO/NANBRU

* (P) =Formand/Pres./Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Prιsident/Voorzitter/Puhemies/Ordfφrande
(VP) =Næstform./Vize-Pres./Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-Prιsident/Ondervoorz./Vice-pres/Varapuhemies/Vice ordfφrande.
(M) =Medlem./Mitglied/Μέλος/Member/Miembro/Membre/Membro/Lid/Membro/Jδsen/Ledamot
(F) =Tjenestemand/Beamter/Υπάλληλος/Official/Funcionario/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ambtenaar/ Functionαrio/Virkamies/Tjδnsteman