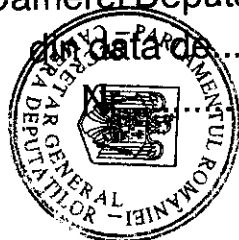


APROBATÎn ședința Biroului permanent al
Camerei Deputaților

31.05.2010

699

Parlamentul României
Camera Deputaților

S.P. Nr. 699 din 31.05.2010

**Parlamentul României
Camera Deputaților**

**Informare
privind participarea delegației Camerei Deputaților la
Conferința Președinților Parlamentelor Naționale
din statele membre ale Uniunii Europene**

- Stockholm, 14-15 mai 2010 -

Conferința Președinților Parlamentelor din Uniunea Europeană a avut loc la Stockholm, fiind organizată de Suedia, țara care a deținut președinția Consiliului Uniunii Europene în semestrul doi al anului 2009. Au participat delegații ale celor 40 de camere legislative din Uniunea Europeană, precum și reprezentanți ai statelor candidate (Croatia, Fosta Republică Iugoslavă a Macedoniei și Turcia). Dintre acestea, 30 de camere legislative din 24 de state membre ale Uniunii Europene au fost reprezentate la nivel de Președinte. De asemenea, din partea Comisiei Europene a participat domnul Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, vicepreședinte.

Camera Deputaților a fost reprezentată de Președinte, doamna Roberta Alma Anastase. Din partea Senatului României a participat Președintele Mircea Geoană.

Principalul obiectiv al Conferinței a fost continuarea discuțiilor, începute în decembrie 2009, cu ocazia Conferinței Extraordinare convocate de președinția suedeză, privind modalitățile de punere în practică a prevederilor Tratatului de la Lisabona privind parlamentele naționale.

Conferința a fost deschisă de alocuțiunea domnului Per Westerberg, Președintele Riksdagului.

Prima temă discutată a constituit-o viitorul relațiilor între Comisia Europeană și parlamentele naționale din statele membre UE. Sesiunea a fost deschisă de o alocuțiune a domnului Maroš Šefčovič, vice-președinte al Comisiei Europene. Vorbitorul a remarcat faptul că parlamentele naționale au demonstrat, încă de la demararea Inițiativei Barroso privind dialogul politic cu Comisia Europeană, că sunt foarte interesate să contribuie activ la elaborarea legislației Uniunii Europene, încă din etapele inițiale ale procesului legislativ. Vice-președintele Comisiei Europene a calificat dialogul politic cu parlamentele naționale ca fiind un succes incontestabil. Referindu-se la principalele modificări aduse de intrarea în vigoare a Tratatului de la Lisabona, domnul Šefčovič a arătat că principalii câștigători sunt parlamentele naționale și cetățenii Uniunii Europene. De asemenea, vorbitorul a salutat

inițiativa de reducere a obiectivelor strategiei EU 2020, de la 24 cât erau prevăzute în Strategia Lisabona, la 5.

Din propunerile exprimate de vorbitori în cadrul luărilor de cuvânt care au urmat prezentării domnului Șefcovič a reieșit un **interes sporit pentru o relație mai strânsă cu Comisia Europeană, precum și cu președinția rotativă a Consiliului**. În acest sens, președinția suedeză a exprimat propunerea de organizare a unor ședințe comune a comisiilor parlamentare înainte de întâlnirea Consiliului în configurația echivalentă. De asemenea, Portugalia a propus invitarea Comisiei și președinției Consiliului la viitoarele Conferințe ale Președinților de parlamente naționale UE. Senatul Spaniei a propus susținerea unei prezentări, în cadrul COSAC, privind programul legislativ al Comisiei, în timp ce delegația Maltei a propus revitalizarea ideii unui “Congres European”, în cadrul căruia reprezentanți ai parlamentelor naționale din U E și ai Parlamentului European s-ar întâlni pentru a discuta temele de actualitate europeană cu reprezentanți ai Consiliului Uniunii Europene și ai Comisiei.

Referindu-se la contactele între parlamentele naționale și Parlamentul European, Președintele acestuia din urmă, domnul Jerzy Buzek, a atras atenția asupra importanței evitării unei proliferări a întâlnirilor inter-parlamentare, cu precădere în lumina constrângerilor impuse de efectele crizei economice globale asupra bugetelor parlamentelor naționale.

Vorbitorii au subliniat importanța IPEX pentru realizarea unui schimb de informații între parlamentele naționale. De asemenea, participanții au apreciat modul de organizarea a *Joint Parliamentary Meetings*.

În cadrul sesiunii, **șeful delegației Camerei Deputaților** a susținut o alocuțiune în fața plenului conferinței. În aceasta, Președintele Camerei Deputaților a exprimat satisfacția față de decizia Comisiei Europene de a intensifica dialogul cu parlamentele naționale, în scopul sporirii influenței acestora în luarea deciziilor la nivelul UE.

Referindu-se la mecanismul prin care parlamentele naționale se pot exprima asupra propunerilor legislative europene, doamna Anastase a afirmat: „Dorim ca mecanismul de control al subsidiarității să conțină o componentă politică semnificativă. Este esențială definirea unui mecanism prin care parlamentele naționale să exprime observații pe substanța propunerilor legislative la nivel european, ajutând, astfel, la îmbunătățirea acestora.”

“Considerăm important ca dialogul dintre parlamentele naționale și Comisia Europeană să înceapă cât mai devreme în cadrul procesului de redactare a propunerii legislative. O modalitate prin care putem reuși acest lucru este prin informarea parlamentelor naționale de îndată ce Comisia Europeană a demarat redactarea unui proiect legislativ major. Acest mecanism de consultare poate permite parlamentelor să contribuie la îmbunătățirea textului legislației în cauză. În plus, el poate constitui o modalitate de *avertizare timpurie* a parlamentelor naționale, permițându-le să fie pregătite pentru redactarea unui aviz de îndată ce există o variantă finală de text,” a spus Președintele Camerei Deputaților.

Totodată, Președintele Camerei Deputaților a precizat că o modalitate de a stimula dialogul cu Comisia Europeană și de a sensibiliza parlamentele naționale asupra dosarelor europene o constituie „organizarea unor întâlniri periodice între parlamentari și comisarii

europeni, în cadrul cărora aceștia din urmă pot răspunde interpelărilor deputaților și senatorilor. Aceste întâlniri ar putea avea loc chiar în plenul parlamentului,” a adăugat Președintele Camerei Deputaților.

Doamna Anastase a lansat participanților propunerea de a revizui arhitectura cooperării inter-parlamentare la nivel european: „Vedem viitorul cooperării interparlamentară ca un triunghi care să cuprindă trei actori: Conferința Președinților de Parlamente UE pe de o parte, iar Conferința Comisiilor de Afaceri Europene (COSAC) și o rețea a Comisiilor de specialitate din parlamentele naționale pe de alta. Consolidarea acestor trei formate, cuplată cu un mai bun schimb de informații între COSAC și Conferința Președinților de Parlamente, ne va permite să lărgim, dar și să aprofundăm cooperarea între parlamentele Uniunii Europene.”

Delegații au fost de acord să continue procesul de implementare a procedurilor Tratatului de la Lisabona în sensul fructificării oportunităților legate de rolul parlamentelor naționale în cadrul mecanismelor de luare a deciziilor la nivel european. Totodată, participanții au remarcat rolul constructiv al contactelor intensificate între Comisie și parlamentele naționale în ceea ce privește monitorizarea propunerilor legislative elaborate la nivel european și pentru asigurarea contribuției parlamentelor naționale la buna funcționare a Uniunii. În acest sens, participanții au luat notă de disponibilitatea Comisiei Europene de a prezenta programul de lucru anual în parlamentele naționale.

Al doilea subiect abordat de participanții la Conferința Președinților de la Stockholm a fost **„Forumurile de cooperare interparlamentară.”** În cadrul acestuia au susținut alocuțiuni introductive doamna Teresa Cunillera, vicepreședintele Congresului Deputaților din Spania, domnul Gianfranco Fini, Președintele Camerei Deputaților italiene, precum și domnul Jean Bizet, președintele Comisiei pentru Afaceri Europene a Senatului Franței. De altfel, alocuțiunea domnului Bizet a făcut legătura cu cea de-a treia temă de discuție: **„Provocări și așteptări privind viitorul cooperării interparlamentare”**, subiect introdus de gazda conferinței, domnul Per Westerberg.

În cadrul acestor sesiuni, participanții au exprimat puncte de vedere privind viitorul COSAC. În vreme ce mai mulți delegați, inclusiv Președintele Camerei Deputaților, au subliniat importanța unui dialog intensificat al COSAC cu Conferința Președinților, în general participanții nu au ajuns la o concluzie fermă privind viitorul acestui for de cooperare inter-parlamentară.

Principalul subiect acordat de către delegați în aceste două sesiuni a fost intensificarea dialogului interparlamentar în domeniul Libertății, Securității și Justiției. În acest sens, s-a remarcat propunerea Senatului Franței de a crea un for de cooperare interparlamentară, după modelul COSAC (6 parlamentari/delegației, 6 europarlamentari), ca succesor al Adunării Parlamentare al Uniunii Europei Occidentale, for care urmează să fie abolit. Propunerea Senatului Franței a fost susținută de delegațiile Letoniei, Greciei, Marii Britanii (Camera Lorzilor). Nu a existat, însă, o majoritate convingătoare a delegațiilor care să sprijine propunerea inițiată de camera superioară a legislativului francez.

Președintele Parlamentului European, domnul Jerzy Buzek, a inițiat o contrapropunere la ideea Senatului Franței, conform căreia cooperarea în domeniul PESA ar fi realizată prin intermediul unor ședințe interparlamentare semestriale care să includă europarlamentari și reprezentanți ai Comisiilor de Afaceri Europene, Politică Externă și Apărare.

Vorbitorii s-au exprimat în favoarea unui mecanism mai flexibil și mai eficient de organizare a întâlnirilor inter-parlamentare, permițându-le, astfel, parlamentelor naționale, să reacționeze în timp util la evenimente de interes prin convocarea de ședințe interparlamentare ad-hoc. În acest context, vorbitorii au evidențiat rezultatele încurajatoare ale unei videoconferințe-test între Adunarea Națională franceză și Parlamentul European, la nivel de Comisii. În consecință, delegații au reafirmat sprijinul fără echivoc pentru depășirea dificultăților tehnice și constrângerilor bugetare pentru a permite utilizarea instrumentelor de comunicare moderne în vederea sprijinirii dialogului interparlamentar în chestiuni cu caracter urgent.

Totodată, Președintele Buzek a exprimat disponibilitatea Parlamentului European de a co-găzdui întâlniri interparlamentare la nivel de comisii, în domeniul Libertății, Securității și Justiției, răspunzând astfel propunerii Comisarului Malmström, dublată de un document scris circulat de președinția suedeză. Aceste întâlniri ar urma să aibă loc, cu precădere, în acele domenii în care Parlamentul European și parlamentele naționale au atribuții comparabile (evaluarea Eurojust și monitorizarea activităților Europol, cf. Art. 85 și 88 ale TUE). Propunerea a fost sprijinită de al președintelui Senatului Olandei, domnul René van der Linden și de domnul Gianfranco Fini, Președintele Camerei Deputaților italiene.

Participanții au agreat nevoia unui dialog intensificat între instituțiile europene și parlamentele naționale în cadrul procesului de elaborare a procedurilor de monitorizare și evaluare a activităților Europol și Eurojust, subliniind necesitatea ca parlamentelor naționale să li se ofere un interval de timp rezonabil pentru a-și exprima punctul de vedere. Președinții consideră binevenit, în acest sens, anunțul Comisiei de lansare a unui document de consultare.

Președinții au considerat oportună organizarea unei întâlniri interparlamentare având drept scop convenirea unor poziții comune privind mecanismele de monitorizare și evaluare a Europol și Eurojust. La această întâlnire ar putea participa reprezentanți ai Comisiilor de resort din parlamentele naționale. Participanții au cerut Belgiei, țară care preia președinția Conferinței Președinților de parlamente, să organizeze această întâlnire.

Delegații au subliniat rolul fundamental al parlamentelor naționale în viitorul proces de monitorizare a Politicii Comune de Securitate și Apărare (PCSA), precum și a politicii externe comune a Uniunii Europene.

Ținând cont de importanța crescândă a temelor europene în agenda comisiilor de specialitate din cadrul parlamentelor naționale, în special în contextul rolului acestora în procesul de monitorizare a legislației europene (scrutiny), președinții au decis ca dezbaterile politice sau tehnice pe teme europene să aibă loc în cadrul comisiilor permanente din cadrul parlamentelor naționale. În acest context, a fost subliniată importanța existenței unor canale de comunicare între comisiile permanente din cele 40 de camere legislative ale UE.

În ceea ce privește coordonarea planificării acțiunilor de cooperare interparlamentare, delegații au subliniat rolul fundamental al unei rețele de contacte permanente între parlamentele naționale, cu precădere în ceea ce privește procesul de monitorizare a guvernelor țărilor respective în ceea ce privește afacerile europene.

În scopul eficientizării cooperării interparlamentare, delegații au considerat necesară o îmbunătățire a coordonării interparlamentare în cadrul Uniunii Europene. Totodată,

președinții au subliniat importanța întăririi și dezvoltării structurilor deja existente pentru a satisface nevoile viitoare în domeniul cooperării interparlamentare. În acest sens, președinții au luat notă de discuțiile avute de către Secretarii Generali privind instituirea unui format de coordonare „trio extins” al Conferinței președinților.

Președinții au cerut președinției belgiene să analizeze posibilitatea organizării de conferințe, la intervale regulate, între comisiile parlamentare pentru Afaceri Europene, Politică Externă, Apărare, precum și cele Juridice, în cooperare cu Parlamentul European. De asemenea, a fost considerată necesară o întărire a legăturilor între diferitele configurații ale Consiliului și parlamentele naționale.

Delegații au subliniat importanța reprezentanților permanenți la Parlamentul European, și contribuția acestora la diseminarea informațiilor între parlamente, inclusiv în domeniul subsidiarității.

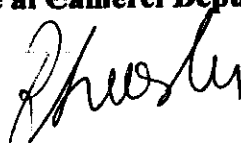
Participanți au încurajat inițiativele menite să stabilească standarde pentru documentele digitale, în scopul facilitării accesului la activitățile parlamentelor naționale și al transparentizării acestora, și au stabilit ca Board-ul IPEX să se ocupe de aceste demersuri.

În ceea ce privește propunerea suedeză de revizuire a regulamentului Conferinței Președinților Parlamentelor UE, participanții au subliniat necesitatea aducerii la zi a regulamentului existent, în contextul Tratatului de la Lisabona.

O altă temă dezbătută de Conferința Președinților a fost **“Noile tehnologii și comunicarea – provocări pentru parlamente.”** Aceasta s-a axat pe rolul pozitiv al noilor tehnologii de comunicare precum Facebook sau Twitter și potențialul acestora de a facilita o comunicare directă cu cetățenii. Delegații au menționat faptul că noile tehnologii sunt utile cu precădere în perioadele de campanie electorală. Mai mulți Președinți de parlamente au subliniat potențialele riscuri ale acestor noi tehnologii, subliniind nevoie pentru o comunicare bidirecțională autentică și continuă.

Următoarea Conferință a Președinților de parlamente naționale din Uniunea Europeană va avea loc în Belgia, în perioada 3-5 aprilie 2011, urmând ca aceasta să fie pregătită de întâlnirea Secretarilor Generali, programată să aibă loc între 16-17 ianuarie 2011.

Deputat Roberta Alma Anastase
Președinte al Camerei Deputaților



Red: A.Coita

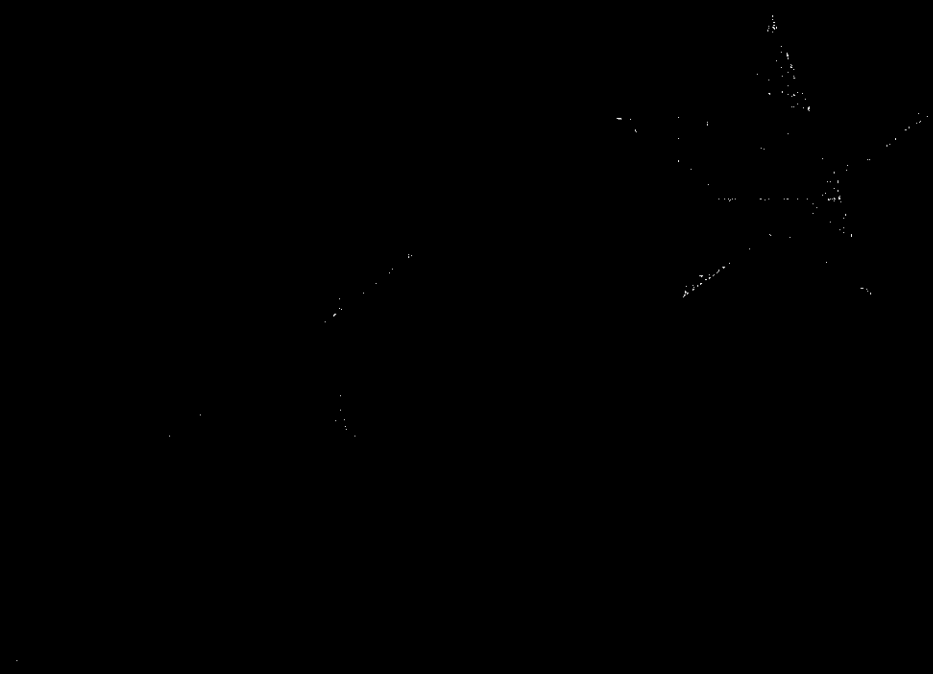


EU Speakers' Conference

Stockholm, 14 -15 May 2009

List of participants

Liste des participants



Country Codes

Country	Code
Austria	AT
Belgium	BE
Bulgaria	BG
Croatia	HR
Cyprus	CY
Czech Republic	CZ
Denmark	DK
Estonia	EE
European Parliament	EP
Finland	FI
France	FR
Germany	DE
Greece	EL
Hungary	HU
Ireland	IE
Italy	IT
Latvia	LV
Lithuania	LT
Luxembourg	LU
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	*
Malta	MT
Netherlands	NL
Poland	PL
Portugal	PT
Romania	RO
Slovenia	SI
Spain	ES
Sweden	SE
Turkey	TR
United Kingdom	UK

* To be confirmed

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Manuel ALBA – Secretary General

Maria ALGUERO – Secretary

Francisco MARTÍNEZ – Director for International Affairs

UNITED KINGDOM – ROYAUME-UNI

House of Lords / Chambre des Lords

John ROPER – Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the European Union Select Committee

Staff

Rhodri WALTERS – Reading Clerk and Clerk of the Overseas Office

House of Commons / Chambre des Communes

Staff

Mark HUTTON – Clerk of the Overseas Office

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Jerzy BUZEK – President

Staff

Klaus WELLE – Secretary General

Eschel ALPERMANN – Advisor to President Buzek

François AMBROSINI – Personal assistant to President Buzek

Markus BONEKAMP – Deputy Head of the European Parliament Information Office in Sweden

Richard FREEDMAN – Press officer to President Buzek

Björn KJELLSTRÖM – Head of the European Parliament Information Office in Sweden

Christine VERGER – Director for Relations with the National Parliaments

CANDIDATE COUNTRIES – PAYS CANDIDATS

CROATIA – CROATIE

Sabor / Parliament / Parlement

Luka BEBIĆ – Speaker

Staff

Josip SESAR – Secretary General

Mišo MUNIVRANA – Head of the Speaker's Office

Marina ŠTANCL – Assistant to the Secretary General for International Affairs and Chief of Protocol

Stjepan VUKAS – Foreign Policy Adviser to the Speaker

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA - ANCIENNE RÉPUBLIQUE YOUGOSLAVE DE MACÉDOINE

Sobranie na Republika Makedonija / Assembly of the Republic / Assemblée de la République

Trajko VELJANOSKI – President

Staff

Elena DOCEVSKA – Advisor on professional and administrative issues

Marian MADZOVSKI – Head of the Cabinet of the President of the Assembly

Todor PENDAROV – Head of Unit for Plenary Sessions, Public Relations and Cooperation with other State Bodies

Sanja UGRINOVSKA – Advisor on professional and administrative issues

TURKEY – TURQUIE

Büyük Millet Meclisi / Grand National Assembly / Grande Assemblée nationale

Meral AKŞENER – Deputy Speaker

Staff

Hakan ARIBURUN – Official

OTHER PARTICIPANTS / AUTRES PARTICIPANTS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION / COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE

Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ – Vice President

Staff

Dora CORREIA – Member of Cabinet

May Ann RAMSAY – Head of Political Section, EC Representation in Sweden

Pierre SCHELLEKENS – Head of the European Commission's Representation in Sweden

SPEAKERS / ORATEURS

Matthew W. BARZUN – U.S. Ambassador to Sweden

Åke GRÖNLUND – Professor of Information Science at Örebro University



EU Speakers' Conference

Stockholm 14–15 May 2010

Programme and General Information (DRAFT as of 4 May 2010)

(English)

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Programme

Thursday 13 May

Arrival of delegations
VIP welcome at the airports
Transfer to the hotels

14.00–21.00 Registration at the hotels

18.40 Bus departure
Hotels to Restaurant Solliden

19.00–21.00 Reception hosted by Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the
Swedish Parliament
Venue: Solliden, Skansen

21.00 Bus departure
Solliden to the Hotels

4 Programme

Friday 14 May

- 08.00–09.00 Registration at the Swedish Parliament (for those unable to register at the hotels on Thursday)
Entrance: Rikspan
- 08.00 Bus departure for officials attending the briefing on procedural and practical matters
Hotels to the Swedish Parliament
- 08.30 Briefing on procedural and practical matters for one official per delegation
Venue: The Plenary Hall
- 08.30 Bus departure
Hotels to the Swedish Parliament
- 09.00–10.30 Plenary meeting
Venue: The Plenary Hall
- 10.40 Bus departure for Heads of Delegation and Secretaries General attending the audience
Swedish Parliament to the Royal Palace
- 11.00–11.45 Audience given by Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia
(For Heads of Delegation and Secretaries General)
Venue: The Royal Palace
- 11.00–11.45 Guided tour of the Swedish Parliament for delegates not attending the audience (in English)
Meeting point: Outside the Plenary Hall
- 11.45 Return to the Swedish Parliament (short walk)

- 11.50 Family photo (Heads of Delegation)
 Venue: The Swedish Parliament
- 12.00–13.30 Luncheon hosted by Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the
 Swedish Parliament (by invitation only)
 Venue: The dining room of the party groups
- 12.00–13.30 Buffet luncheon for other delegates and accompanying
 persons
 Venue: The Grand Gallery
- 13.30–18.00 Plenary meeting
 Venue: The Plenary Hall
- 18.10 Bus departure
 Swedish Parliament to the hotels
- 19.10 Bus departure
 Hotels to the City Hall
- 19.30–22.30 Dinner hosted by Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the
 Swedish Parliament
 Venue: The City Hall
- 22.30 Bus departure
 City Hall to the hotels

6 Programme

Saturday 15 May

- 09.00 Bus departure for those attending the informal meeting
Hotels to the Swedish Parliament
- 09.30–11.40 Informal meeting (limited to 1+1)
Venue: The Plenary Hall
- 11.30 Bus departure for delegates not attending the informal
meeting
Hotels to the Swedish Parliament
- 12.00–12.30 Plenary meeting
Venue: The Plenary Hall
- 12.40 Bus departure
Swedish Parliament to the cruise luncheon
- 13.00 Cruise luncheon hosted by Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of
the Swedish Parliament
Venue: Gustafsberg VII, Nybrokajen berth 8
- 15.00 Bus departure
Cruise luncheon to the hotels
- Departure of delegations (by car)

General Information

Accommodation

Clarion Sign Hotel

Östra järnvägsgatan 35

SE 101 26 Stockholm

Phone: +46 8 676 98 00

Fax: +46 8 676 98 99

E-mail: cl.sign@choice.se

Web: www.clarionsign.se

Sheraton Stockholm Hotel

Tegelbacken 6, Box 195

SE 101 23 Stockholm

Phone: +46 8 412 34 00

Fax: +46 8 412 34 09

E-mail: sheraton.stockholm@sheraton.com

Web: www.sheratonstockholm.com

Audience with Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia, Friday, 14 May at 11.00–11.45

The Heads of Delegation and the Secretaries General are invited to attend the audience. There will be a mandatory bus transfer at 10.40 from the Swedish Parliament to the audience. For security reasons no other means of transportation can be used. Interpreters may not participate. The protocol advises that no gifts will be exchanged.

A guided tour of the Swedish Parliament will be provided for those who are not attending the audience. The tour will depart from outside the Plenary Hall at 11.00.

Bilateral Meetings

Bilateral meetings between speakers will be possible on Friday and on Saturday morning. Rooms for bilateral meetings can be reserved at the information desk.

Conference Badges

A conference badge will be issued to each participant upon presentation of an ID document. All participants are requested to wear their conference badges at all times for security reasons, and to ensure access to buses, conference rooms and receptions.

The ribbons of the badges have the following colours:

Speaker/Head of Delegation
Official
Interpreter
Host staff

Conference Services

Computers, telephones, Internet and fax services are available in the vicinity of the meeting venue. Stationary computers are located near the Plenary Hall. Wi-Fi access requires a single login code, which is available at the information desk.

Conference Venue

Entrance from Riksplan
The Plenary Hall, West Wing
The Swedish Parliament (Riksdagen)
SE-100 12 Stockholm, Sweden
www.riksdagen.se

Contact

For information concerning working sessions or practical matters please contact us by e-mail:

eu2009.SpeakersConference@riksdagen.se

Coffee

In addition to coffee breaks, a permanent coffee and tea service will be available during the conference just outside the meeting venue.

Currency

The currency unit in Sweden is the Swedish krona (SEK). Most major international currencies can be exchanged at Arlanda Airport or at your hotel. All major credit cards are widely accepted in Sweden. There is a cash machine in the Bank Hall, West Wing of the Swedish Parliament.

Documentation

Documentation during the conference will be provided in English and French. For environmental reasons, documents for the meeting are only printed on demand, sent out by e-mail and available on-line at www.riksdagen.se

Drinking Water

Tap water is pure, refreshing and freely available. It is an excellent alternative to bottled water.

Entrance to the Swedish Parliament

The entrance to be used is Rikspan, the East Wing.

Information Desk

An information desk will be situated outside the meeting venue for assistance with practical matters, including codes for Wi-Fi access and mobile phone chargers.

Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided by the Swedish Parliament in English and French. Parliaments that have registered interpreters have been contacted directly and booths have been reserved accordingly. All interpreters will be assisted upon arrival at the Swedish Parliament.

Liaison Officers

Each delegation will have a liaison officer who will be of assistance concerning practical matters. Please keep your liaison officer updated on your flight arrangements.

Receptions

Reception Thursday 13 May, 19.00-21.00

Venue: Solliden, Djurgården

A welcoming buffet reception will be hosted by Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, for all participants including accompanying persons. Bus transport will be provided from the hotels to the reception. For delegates arriving late alternative transport will be provided. Bus transport back to the hotels.

Luncheon Friday 14 May, 12.00-13.30

Venue: The Swedish Parliament

Personal invitations to a separate luncheon will be extended to the Heads of Delegation. The separate luncheon will be served in the dining room of the party groups on the ground floor in the West Wing. There will be a

seating arrangement (including places reserved for interpreters).

All other delegates and accompanying persons will be served a buffet luncheon in the Grand Gallery on the fifth floor in the Eastern Wing.

Dinner Friday 14 May, 19.30-22.30

Venue: The City Hall

Dinner at the City Hall hosted by Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, for all participants including accompanying persons. Bus transport will be provided from the hotels to the reception. There will be a special seating arrangement for the Speakers. For other participants there will be free seating. Bus transport back to the hotels.

Luncheon Saturday 15 May, 13.00-15.00

Venue: Gustafsberg VII, Nybrokajen berth 8

At the end of the conference there will be a boat cruise luncheon for all participants including accompanying persons in the Stockholm archipelago. Bus transport will be provided from the Swedish Parliament. There will be no seating arrangements on the boat. Transport will be provided from the boat to the hotels.

Please note that check-out from the hotels is due before buses leave for the luncheon (in the morning). Baggage should be stored at the hotels during the luncheon.

Please note that delegates with flights scheduled to depart before 17.00 will not be able to participate in the cruise luncheon. Please contact your liaison officer.

12 General information

Medical Assistance

The national emergency number is 112. A qualified nurse will be available during conference hours.

Pharmacies

The nearest pharmacy to the Swedish Parliament is:

Apoteket Korpen

Västerlånggatan 16 (in the Old Town)

Phone: +46 771 45 04 50

Opening hours:

Mon-Fri 10.00–18.00, Sat 11.00–15.00, Sun 12 noon–16.00.

Press

The conference is open to the public and press except during the limited meeting on Saturday, 15 May at 09.00–12.00. A permanent press centre will be available and can be booked at the information desk. There is a section reserved for the press on the balcony. *Photographers are only allowed to take pictures on the floor of the Plenary Hall on Friday, 14 May at 09.00–09.05.*

Please note that the receptions are not open to the press.

Programme for accompanying persons

A cultural programme will be provided (in English) for accompanying persons on Friday, 14 May and Saturday, 15 May. Please see separate sheet.

Recycling

There are recycling bins provided in the conference premises.

Registration in Stockholm

There will be registration desks in the lobby of the hotels, which will be open on Thursday, 13 May between 14.00 and 21.00. On Friday, 14 May, registration will take place at the Swedish Parliament, entrance Rikspan, between 08.00 and 09.30, for those who were unable to register on Thursday.

Security

The Swedish Parliament will provide all necessary security measures. If your delegation will be accompanied by armed security officers please contact:

eu2009.SpeakersConference@riksdagen.se

Seating

Delegations are seated in the order of the EU Presidency in the Plenary Hall. There will be a special seating arrangement for the limited meeting on Saturday morning.

Smoking

Please note that smoking is not allowed in the Swedish Parliament buildings or any public areas. A smoking room is located on the third floor inside the Café and on the balconies outside the Plenary Hall.

Tourist Information and Weather

For tourist information please consult www.stockholmtown.se. A tourist office is located on Hamngatan 27.

Transport

For questions please contact:

eu2009.SpeakersConference@riksdagen.se

Arrival/Departure

Upon arrival and departure individual transport and VIP service will be provided for the Heads of Delegation and those travelling together with the Heads of Delegation. *All other delegates are kindly referred to either Arlanda Express or taxis (see below).*

Please contact your liaison officer (who you will meet upon arrival) for any changes in departure times.

Please note that delegates with flights scheduled to depart before 17.00 on Saturday 15 May will not be able to participate in the cruise luncheon.

Between venues

Bus transport will be provided to all conference meetings and events. Please see the programme for scheduled bus departure times.

Arlanda Express/Taxi

From Stockholm's main airport Arlanda, the express train takes 20 minutes to Stockholm City Terminal. It is possible to book tickets on-line: www.arlandaexpress.com

Taxis are also available directly outside the terminal. The easiest way to order a taxi is to call the taxi companies' switchboards.

Taxi Stockholm Phone: +46 8 15 00 00

Taxi 020 Phone: +46 8 24 25 55

Taxikurir Phone: +46 8 30 00 00

The debate

All delegates who are entitled to take the floor will receive an activated card for debates in the Plenary Hall.

List of speakers – interventions

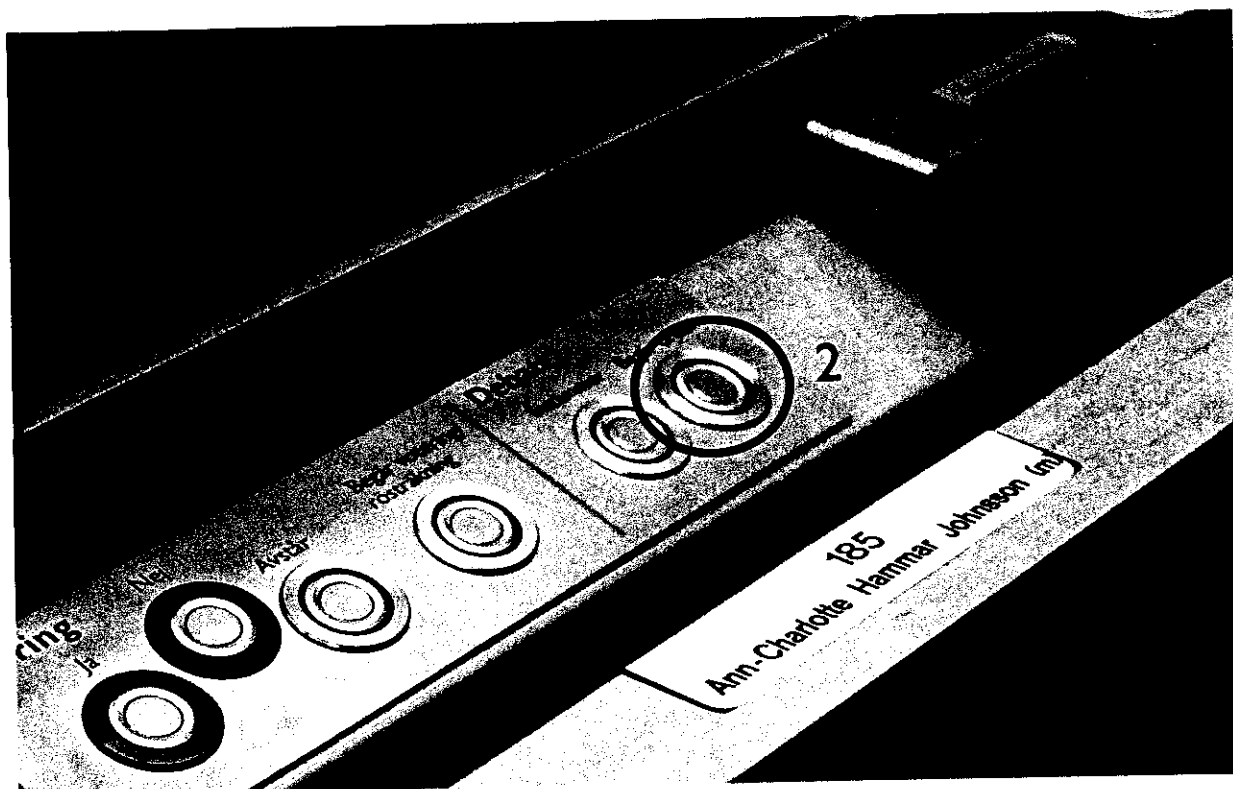
- Speakers/Presidents wishing to intervene in the debates are asked to fill in a form *Request for the floor*.
- On the basis of the incoming requests, a list of speakers will be prepared by the Secretariat of the Conference.
- The speaking time is three minutes for each intervention.

Forms for requesting the floor for each subject will be distributed to all delegations and are available at the Information Desk in the Plenary Hall Foyer.

Requesting the floor – short remarks

- The debate card should be inserted into the card-reader. A green light will indicate that the card is correctly activated. If the light is red, delegates should contact the Information Desk in the Plenary Hall Foyer. Delegates are encouraged to keep the card in the card-reader while in the Plenary Hall.
- Speakers/Presidents who wish to make a short remark are asked to push the *Request the floor* button. The name of the delegate wishing to speak will then appear on the podium screens.

Delegates may start speaking when the red light on the microphone is switched on.



- 1 Card-reader – green light indicates that the card is activated
- 2 Request the floor

A briefing on practical and procedural matters for one official per delegation will be held on Friday at 08.30 in the Plenary Hall.

Embassies

Austria

Kommendörsgatan 35, 5 fl.
114 58 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 665 17 70

Belgium

Kungsbroplan 2, 2 fl.
101 38 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 534 802 00

Bulgaria

Karlavägen 29
114 31 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 723 09 38

Croatia

Engelbrektsplan 2, 3 fl.
114 34 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 440 52 80

Cyprus

Birger Jarlsgatan 37, 4 fl.
103 94 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 24 50 08

Czech Republic

Villagatan 21
100 41 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 440 42 10

Denmark

Jakobs Torg 1
103 23 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 406 75 00

Estonia

Tyrgatan 3
100 41 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 545 122 80

European Parliament and European Commission, Swedish office

Regeringsgatan 65
111 56 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 56 24 44 55

Finland

Gärdesgatan 11
104 51 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 676 67 00

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Riddargatan 35
100 55 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 661 18 30

France

Kommendörsgatan 13
102 43 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 459 53 00

Germany

Artillerigatan 64
115 93 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 670 15 00

Greece

Kommendörsgatan 16
102 04 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 545 660 10

Hungary

Dag Hammarskjölds väg 10
104 51 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 661 67 62

Ireland

Östermalmsgatan 97
100 55 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 661 80 05

Italy

Oakhill, Djurgården
115 21 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 545 671 00

Latvia

Odengatan 5
104 32 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 700 63 00

Lithuania

Grevgatan 5
114 53 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 667 54 55

Luxembourg (Consulate)

Birger Jarlsgatan 6
103 93 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 679 60 19

Malta (Consulate)

Sibyllegatan 46, 4 fl.
114 43 Stockholm
Phone: +46 70 586 10 21

Netherlands

Götgatan 16 A
104 65 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 556 933 00

Poland

Karlavägen 35
114 31 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 505 750 00

20 Embassies

Portugal

Narvavägen 32, 2 fl.
100 55 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 545 670 60

United Kingdom

Skarpögatan 6-8
104 51 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 671 30 00

Romania

Östermalmsgatan 36
100 41 Stockholm
Phone: + 46 8 10 86 03

Slovakia

Arsenalsgatan 2, 3 fl.
103 88 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 545 039 60

Slovenia

Styrmansgatan 4, 1 fl.
114 54 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 545 65 885

Spain

Djurgårdsvägen 21, Djurgården
100 55 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 522 808 00

Turkey

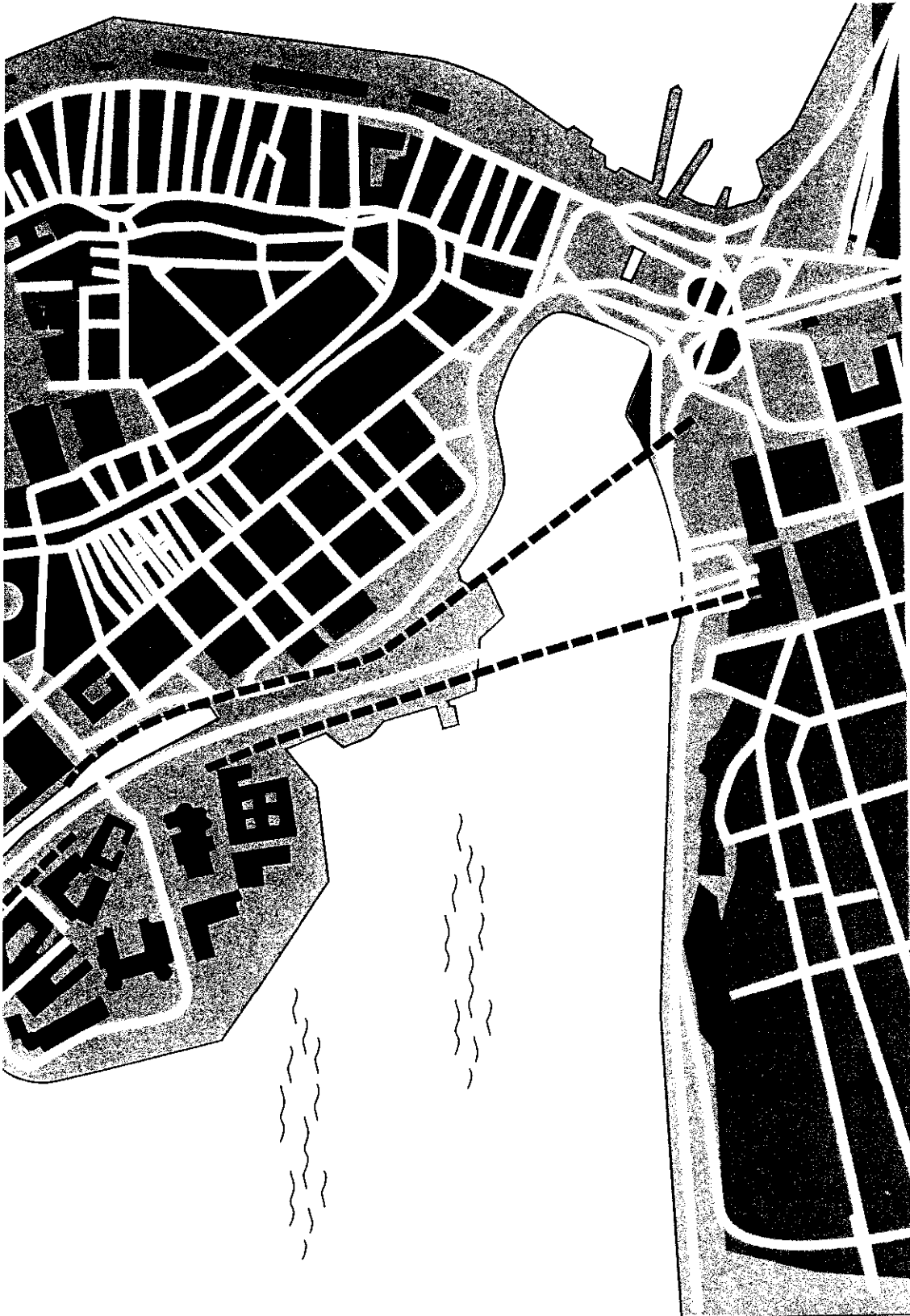
Dag Hammarskjölds Väg 20
115 93 Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 23 08 40

The Swedish Parliament's Environmental Policy

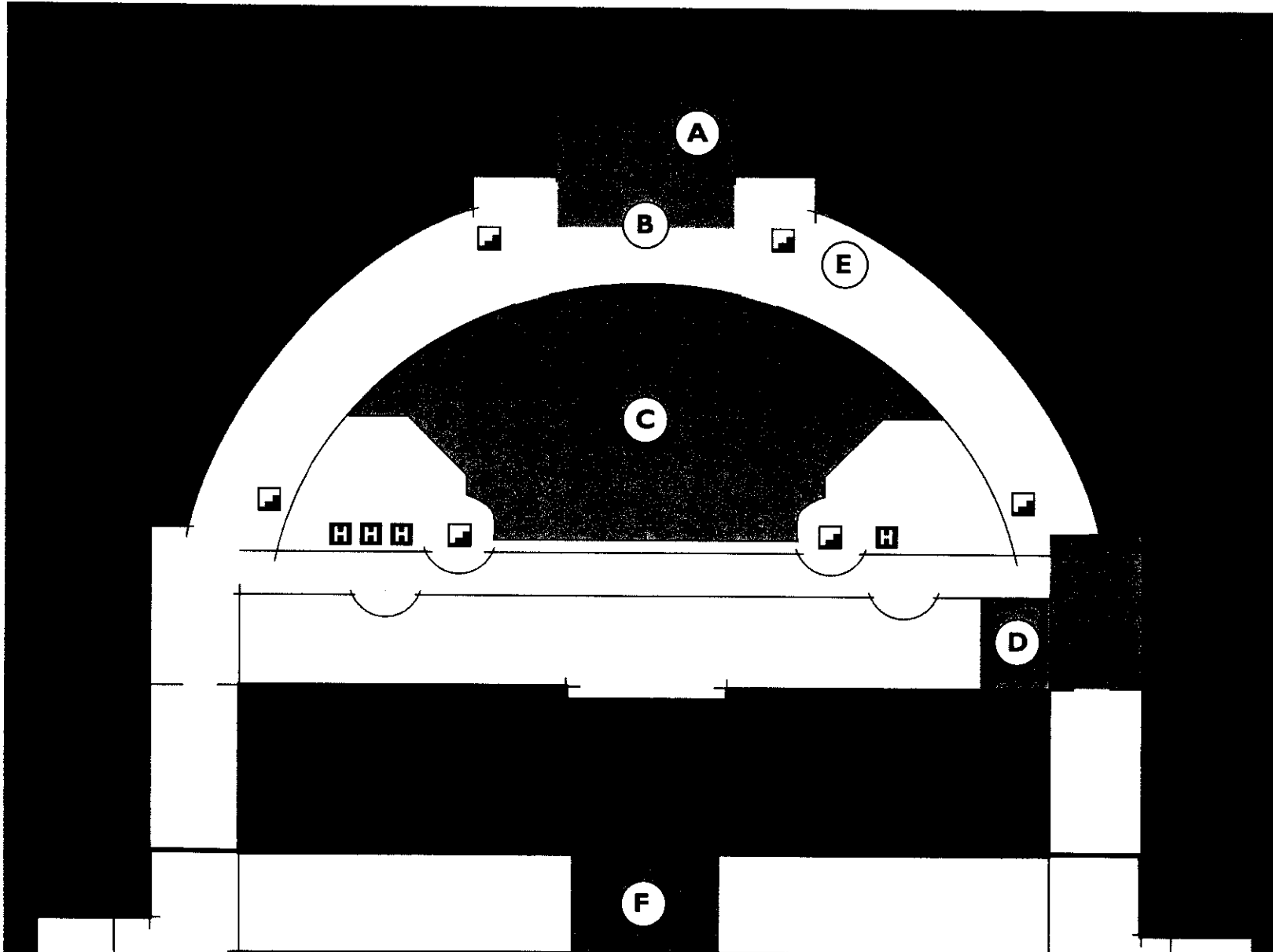
For a number of years the Swedish Parliament Administration has been working systematically to minimise the impact of its operations on the external environment. An environmental policy has been drawn up and routines established for internal environmental work. For the next few years there are measurable environmental objectives and action plans for paper consumption, transport, electricity and energy for the heating of buildings. Environmental requirements are systematically applied in relation to all procurement, and environmental considerations are a natural part in the planning of conferences and meetings arranged by the Swedish Parliament Administration. The Swedish Parliament Administration has been ISO 14 001 certified (environmental management system) since April 2009.

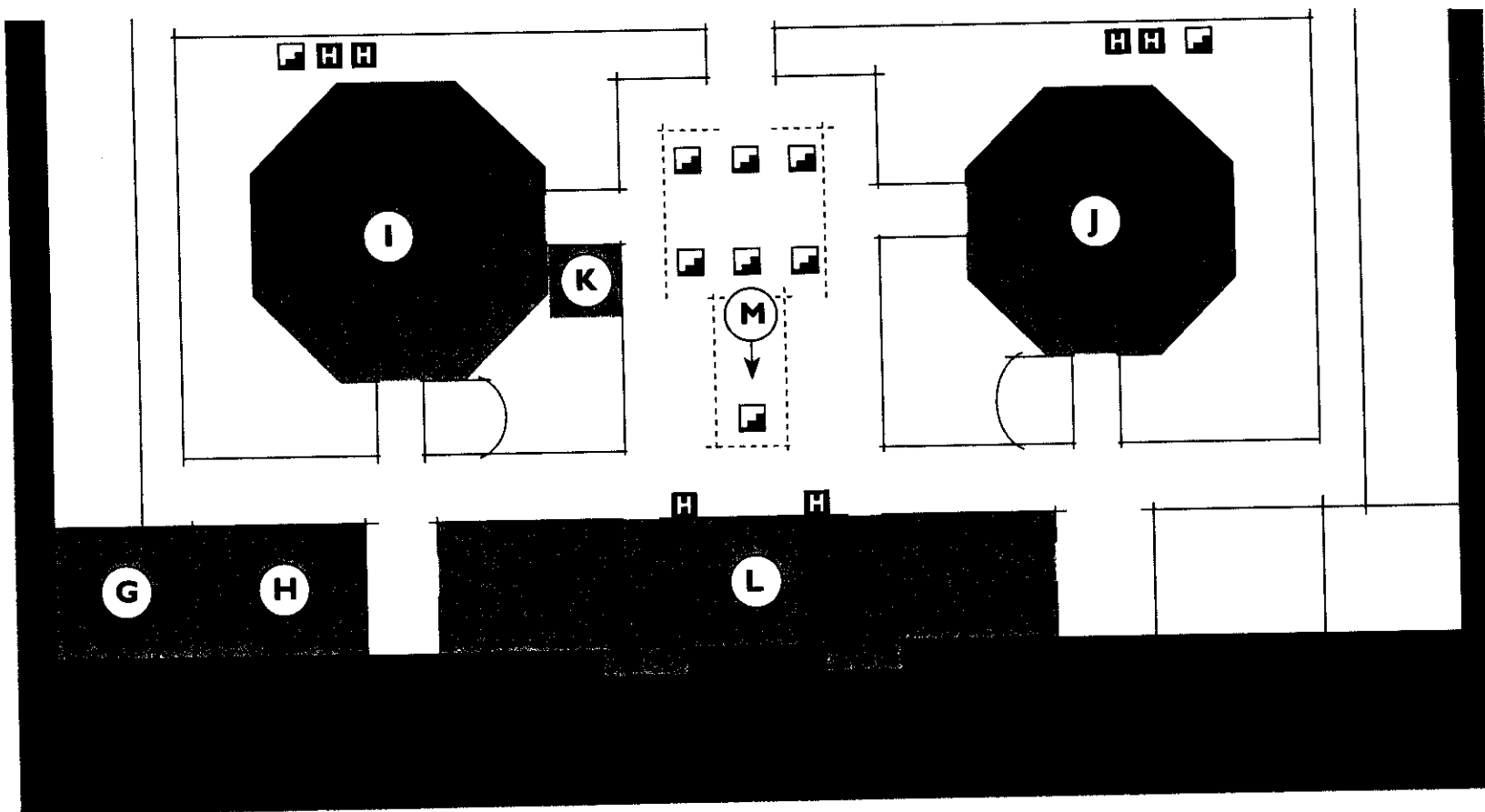
Map of Stockholm / Carte de Stockholm





Western Wing, 5th floor / Aile ouest, 5ième étage Eastern Wing, 5th floor / Aile est, 5ième étage

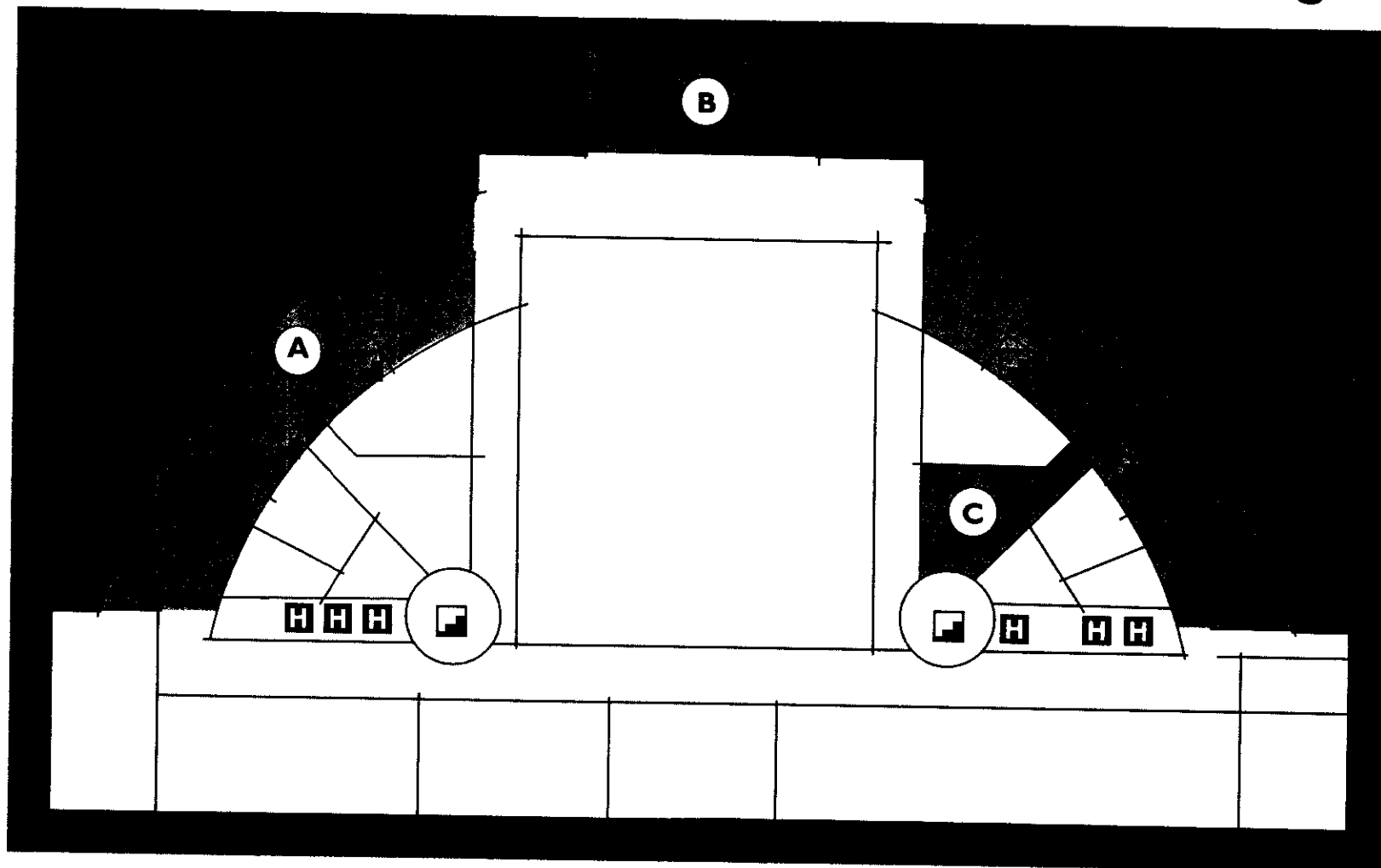




- A** Press Centre / Centre de presse
- B** Information desk / Bureau d'informations
- C** The Plenary Hall / La salle de séance
- D, E** Computers / Ordinateurs
- F, G, H** Room for bilateral meetings / Salle de réunions bilatérales
- I** Former Second Chamber / Ancienne seconde chambre
- J** Former First Chamber / Ancienne première chambre

- K** Medical assistance / Infirmerie
- L** Venue for the buffet luncheon / Lieu du déjeuner-buffet
- M** Entrance / Entrée
- H** Elevators / Ascenseurs
- F** Stairs / Escaliers

Western Wing, 3rd floor / Aile oueste, 3ième étage

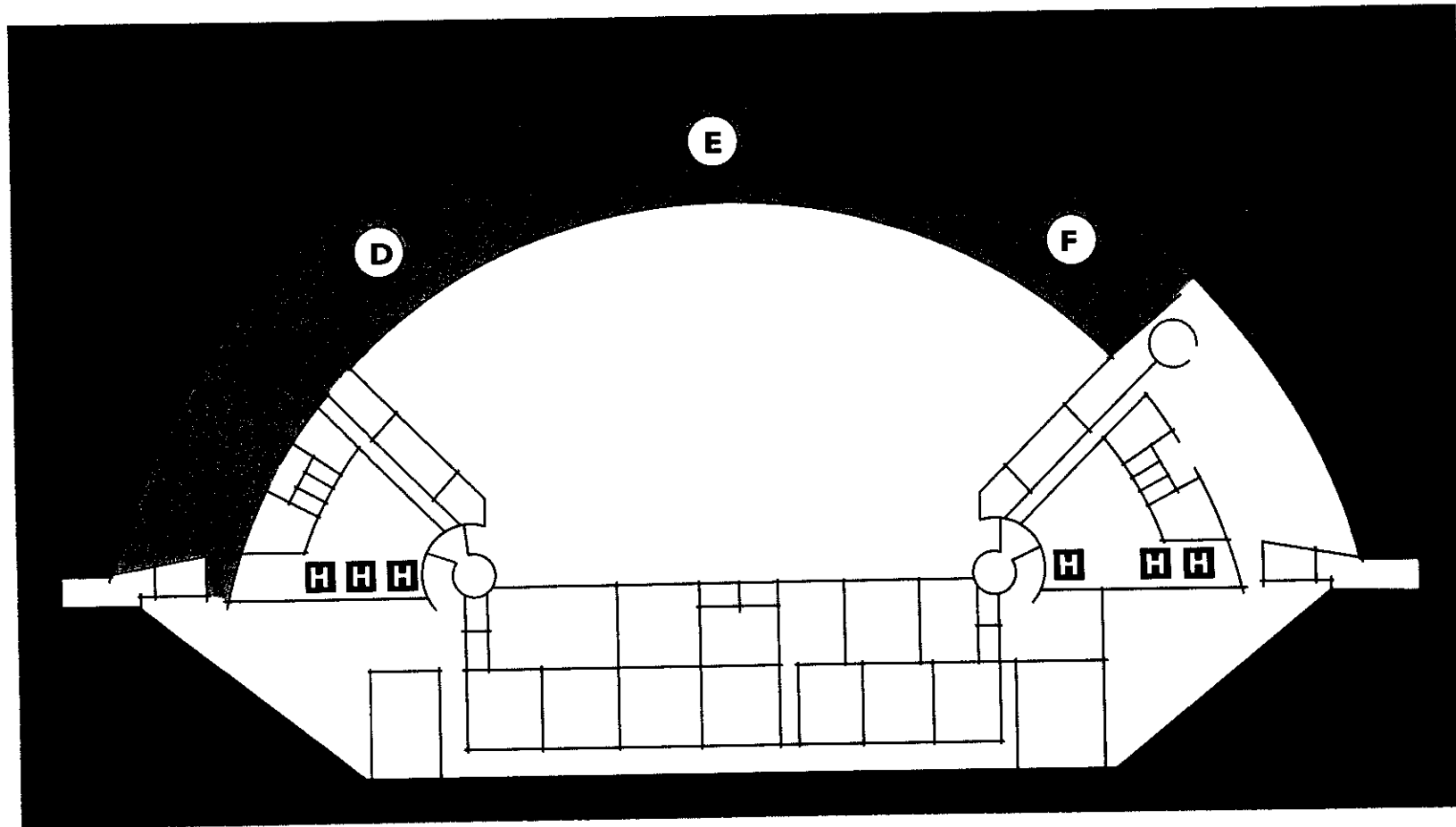


A Interpretation booths / Cabines d'interprétation

B Room for bilateral meetings / Salle de réunions bilatérales

C Smoking room / Fumoir

West Wing, 7th floor / Aile ouste, 7ième étage



- D** Press / Presse
E Interpretation booths / Cabines d'interprétation
F Public / Public

- H** Elevators / Ascenseurs
■ Stairs / Escaliers

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RIKSDAG 

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EU Speakers' Conference

Stockholm, 14-15 May 2010

Presidency Conclusions



SVERIGES 
RIKSDAG 

Introductory remarks

1. The Conference met in Stockholm on 13–15 May 2010. The Speakers (or their representatives) of 30 chambers from 24 member states of the European Union, as well as the President of the European Parliament, participated in this Conference. The Speakers of the parliaments of three candidate countries for membership also attended the Conference.
2. Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia received the Speakers and Secretaries-General of parliaments on 14 May.
3. After the opening address by Speaker of the Riksdag Mr Per Westerberg, the Conference debated *The Lisbon Treaty and Interparliamentary Cooperation*. The theme was addressed on the basis of three topics:
 - a. The topic “The European Commission and National Parliaments” was introduced by Mr Maroš Šefčovič, Vice President of the European Commission with responsibility for inter-institutional relations.
 - b. Opening remarks on the topic “Fora for Interparliamentary Cooperation” were given by Ms Theresa Cunillera, Deputy Speaker of the Spanish Congress of Deputies, Mr Gianfranco Fini, Speaker of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and Mr Jean Bizet, Chairman of the Committee for European Affairs in the French Senate.
 - c. The topic “Challenges and Expectations for Future Interparliamentary Cooperation” was introduced by Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the Riksdag, followed by observations by Mr Přemysl Sobotka, President of the Czech Senate.
4. *New technologies and Communication – Challenges for Parliaments* addressed such issues as the growing use of social media, the challenges and opportunities offered by these new forms of communication in contacts with the public, and how our democratic systems are affected by using these new communication channels. The theme was introduced by H.E. Mr Matthew W. Barzun, US Ambassador to Sweden and Mr Åke Grönlund, Professor of Information Science at Örebro University in Sweden. After the introductions, the key note speakers Ms Ene Ergma, President of the Estonian Parliament and Mr Vannino Chiti, Deputy Speaker of the Italian Senate shared their views on how their parliaments respond to new forms of

communication and social media. The exchange of views that followed at the Conference was led by a moderator, Ms Mia Odabas, journalist.

5. The debate on *New technologies and Communication – Challenges for Parliaments* was supplemented with more practical demonstrations outside the plenary hall of ongoing developments in parliaments. A separate presentation of experiences made by the European Parliament was offered.
6. During the informal part of the meeting in the 1+1 format, the Speakers dealt with the two issues *Preparations for the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament* and *The financial crisis and consequences for parliamentary budgets*.
7. As for the proceedings of the Conference, slightly different procedures were applied in order to develop the formula of the Conference. Short remarks and immediate reactions as a complement to prepared interventions were encouraged. During one item on the agenda a moderator facilitated the debate.
8. The plenary deliberations were open to the public and the press. It was also, for the first time, possible for the public to follow the open parts of the conference via the social network Twitter, www.twitter.com/eusc2010. Followers could contribute to the discussion by including #eusc2010 in their Tweets.

Presidency Conclusions

Concerning the Lisbon Treaty and Interparliamentary Cooperation

1. The Speakers consider it important that national parliaments, while respecting their respective constitutional rules and parliamentary traditions, should be in a position to make full use of the possibilities the Treaty of Lisbon grants them to contribute actively to the good functioning of the European Union.

Regarding the European Commission and National Parliaments

2. The Speakers underline the earlier initiatives and efforts of the European Commission to establish and improve the political dialogue with national parliaments, both in reference to monitoring the application of the principle of subsidiary as well as regarding the political content.
3. The Speakers note that increased contacts and dialogue between the Commission and national parliaments remain important for the general scrutiny of EU matters by

national parliaments and for their contribution to the good functioning of the Union. In this regard, they took note of the willingness of the European Commission to present its annual work programme in national parliaments.

Regarding Fora for Interparliamentary Cooperation

Evaluation and Monitoring in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

4. The Speakers concur in the request of COSAC that the EU institutions should enter into dialogue with national parliaments when drafting and negotiating regulations dealing with parliamentary oversight of Eurojust and Europol, and that national parliaments are given reasonable time to express their views. The Speakers welcome the announced consultation document from the Commission in this regard.
5. The Speakers consider that an interparliamentary meeting, in an appropriate format ensuring adequate representation, preferably by the parliamentary committees or bodies responsible for issues concerning the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, should be arranged on the oversight mechanisms as part of the consultation process regarding the Europol and Eurojust regulations. The Speakers ask the incoming EUSC Presidency to contribute in preparations for such a meeting.

Future Parliamentary Scrutiny of European Security and Defence Policy

6. Given the special nature of the common security and defence policy (CSDP) and the role of national parliaments in the smooth functioning of the European Union, the Speakers stress the fundamental role of national parliaments in the future parliamentary scrutiny of CSDP as well as the common foreign and security policy.
7. The Speakers ask the incoming EUSC Presidency to take the discussion forward on this basis, with a view to reaching an agreement at the next meeting of the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments.

The Future Role of COSAC

8. Following Article 9 of the Protocol on the Role of National Parliaments in the European Union, the Speakers note that Article 10 of this Protocol opens the possibility for a discussion concerning the future role and composition of the conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs [COSAC]. In this regard, they concur that the Treaty of Lisbon's provisions imply a more general approach than before to interparliamentary cooperation.

9. Given that EU matters are increasingly on the agenda of the specialised committees as effective scrutiny and implementation often require their specialist competence, the Speakers consider that political debates on specific issues or themes are best held in meetings or other contacts involving the relevant committees. In this context, they highlight that contacts between specialised committees should be developed and strengthened. Concerning the future role of the conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs [COSAC] the Speakers will await the results of the internal discussion of COSAC before drawing conclusions.

Regarding Challenges and Expectations for Future Interparliamentary Cooperation

Coordination in the Planning of Interparliamentary Cooperation

10. The Speakers consider networking, regular contacts and cooperation between the EU parliaments important for the parliaments' ability to scrutinise the work of their respective governments on EU matters, which is in turn essential for the legitimacy of the Union's decisions.
11. For the intensified interparliamentary cooperation to be conducted in an efficient manner, the Speakers consider that improved coordination of interparliamentary activities within the EU is important. The Speakers stress the importance of developing established structures to meet future needs in interparliamentary cooperation. Overlapping meetings or debates should be avoided. In this regard, the Speakers have taken note of discussions held by their Secretaries-General concerning an extended "trio" formation to be the most appropriate base for coordination and planning. This formation would address issues relating to format of organisation as well as coordination of meetings held on an ad-hoc basis.
12. The Speakers ask the incoming EUSC Presidency to further explore the proposal to schedule regular conferences for parliamentary committees dealing with European Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Defence as well as Justice and Home Affairs in cooperation with the European Parliament. In this context also to elaborate on how to strengthen links between the different council constellations and national parliaments.

13. The Speakers acknowledge the important work of the Brussels representatives and their valuable contribution to the informal exchange of information including on subsidiarity.
14. The Speakers encourage all the initiatives aimed at establishing standards for digital data and documents, so as to make information on the activities of Parliaments and EU institutions more easily accessible and transparent and entrust the IPEX Board with this task.
15. The Speakers took note of the declaration of cooperation of the next trio – Poland/Denmark/Cyprus – that was signed in Stockholm on 14 May.

Revision of the Guidelines for the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments

16. The work of the Conference of Speakers is conducted in accordance with the Guidelines for the Conference of Presiding Officers, adopted at the Conference in Rome in September 2000. The Speakers note that the Guidelines have been complemented by separate accords and practices since their adoption. The Speakers underline the necessity of an update of the present Guidelines within the debate on interparliamentary cooperation as a consequence of the Treaty of Lisbon.
17. The Speakers commend the adoption of the revised Guidelines – “The Stockholm Guidelines for the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments” – and believe that the valuable contribution of the Conference to the revision will increase visibility in how the Conference operates by bringing the Guidelines up to date and codifying complementary accords and practices so as to contribute to effective interparliamentary cooperation within the Union (enclosed).

Concerning New Technologies and Communication – Challenges for Parliaments

18. The Speakers acknowledge that technical developments in society can facilitate greater public participation and involvement in parliamentary work. In this regard, they welcome future exchanges of experiences as well as discussions relating to new forms of communication and their impact on parliaments.
19. The Speakers encourage the use of new technologies for meetings of the Conference as well as for other interparliamentary meetings. In this regard, the Speakers ask the incoming EUSC Presidency to further explore the use of videoconferences as means

for communication between parliaments to be followed up at the next meeting of the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments.

Regarding preparations for the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

20. The Conference debated the draft declaration of the World Conference of Speakers in July in Geneva. The focus of the World Conference of Speakers should concentrate on the main topics on the agenda such as the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the challenges of the global economic and financial crisis etc. At the same time the speakers supported the debate that has started inside the IPU about its structure, its further democratization and its cooperation with the United Nations. A broad majority of speakers was in favour of deleting the paragraphs dealing with the role of IPU (section D) in this document. Several Speakers for constitutional reasons are not in the position to endorse them. The Conference authorized the Presiding Speaker Mr. Westerberg to inform the President of the IPU.

The financial crisis and consequences for parliamentary budgets

21. The Speakers had a useful exchange of views on the current financial situation and shared experiences on the consequences for parliaments.

Incoming EUSC Presidency

22. On behalf of the Belgian Parliament Mr Geert Versnick, chairman of the Foreign Affairs committee in the House of Representatives, invited the Speakers to the next Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments in Brussels on 3-5 April 2011 and the Secretaries-General to a preparatory meeting on 16-17 January 2011.



EU Speakers' Conference

Stockholm, 14-15 May 2010

The Stockholm Guidelines for the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments

Adopted at the EU Speakers' Conference in Stockholm
on 15 May 2010



SVERIGES  
RIKSDAG 

The Stockholm Guidelines for the Conference of Speakers of EU

Parliaments

The "rules and procedures" for the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments. The Guidelines were adopted at the Conference held in Rome 22–24 September 2000 and revised at the Conference held in Stockholm 14–15 May 2010.

Article 1

(Membership and method of operation)

1. The Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments is made up of the Speakers of the national parliaments of the EU member states and the President of the European Parliament, who take part in meetings on an equal basis.
2. The activities of the Conference respect the autonomy and constitutional position of each participating Speaker.
3. Speakers can be represented by a Deputy Speaker/Vice-President of their Chamber.
4. Meetings of the Conference shall operate by consensus.

Article 2

(Objectives)

1. The Conference of Speakers, with full respect for the different powers vested in its members, aims at safeguarding and promoting the role of parliaments and carrying out common work in support of the interparliamentary activities.
2. To this end the Conference is a forum for the exchange of opinions, information and experiences among the Speakers, on topics related to the role of parliaments and the organisation of parliamentary functions, as well as for the promotion of research activities and common action, also with respect to the forms and instruments of interparliamentary cooperation.
3. The Conference shall oversee the coordination of interparliamentary EU activities.

Article 3

(Presidency and meetings)

1. The Conference meets on an annual basis upon the invitation of the Speaker(s) of the presiding parliament.
2. The parliament of the member state holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of a calendar year will normally hold the Presidency of the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments and organise the meeting of the Conference of Speakers in the first half of the following calendar year.
3. The Secretaries-General or other designated officials shall submit proposals in situations where the relevant parliament is unable to assume the Presidency of the Conference of Speakers according to the above procedures.
4. At the end of each meeting, the Conference shall confirm which parliaments will assume the two subsequent Presidencies.

5. The Presidency of the Conference starts from the end of the previous meeting.
6. Upon a proposal by one of the Speakers, seconded by a two-third majority of the Conference's members, an extraordinary meeting may be convened.

Article 4

(Agenda)

1. The dates and draft agendas of meetings are communicated to the Speakers not later than three months prior to ordinary meetings and one month prior to extraordinary meetings.
2. The Presidency prepares a final draft agenda for the meeting, taking into account suggestions from other Speakers and from Secretaries-General or other designated officials during the preparatory meeting in accordance with Article 8.
3. The final draft agenda, reports and working papers are circulated preferably no later than two weeks prior to meetings.

Article 5

(Presidency Conclusions)

1. The Presidency is responsible for the preparation of conclusions from the meeting of the Conference. The Presidency Conclusions should respect the objectives of the Conference as stated in Article 2 and reflect the common view of the Conference and should not include statements of a political nature. The Presidency Conclusions are not binding on individual parliaments.
2. The Presidency and any member of the Conference's members may make public opinions and points of view expressed during meetings. Should they do so, they should state clearly that these opinions have not been confirmed by the Conference as a whole.
3. The Presidency Conclusions shall be sent to the members of the Conference. The Presidency shall also send its conclusions to the President of the European Commission, the President of the European Council, the President-in-Office of the General Affairs Council and to the COSAC Troika. The Presidency Conclusions shall be published on the EU Speakers section of the IPEX website.

Article 6

(Working groups)

1. Upon a proposal by one of the members, the Conference can establish working groups aimed at addressing matters concerning the role of parliaments and the organisation of interparliamentary cooperation and parliamentary functions.
2. The Conference shall define the criteria for setting up each working group and shall entrust one of the members with coordination. The Conference shall also decide at which meeting the conclusions of a working group are to be placed on the agenda.
3. The working groups shall report to the Conference.

Article 7

(Languages)

1. During the meetings of the Conference, simultaneous interpretation is provided from and into official EU languages upon request according to the following:
 - The technical facilities for the interpretation are provided and covered by the presiding parliament.
 - Other practicalities, including languages to be used as base languages for translation, are defined and organised by the presiding parliament.
 - Parliaments are entitled to bring their own interpreters. Those not bringing their own interpreters may request the presiding parliament to provide interpreters for them at their own cost.
 - All parliaments choosing to use the languages provided by the presiding parliament share equally the cost of interpreters for all these languages.
2. Written papers are circulated in French and English. A translation into other languages may be provided by the parliament concerned.

Article 8

(Secretaries-General)

1. The Secretaries-General or other designated officials shall meet to consult on the draft agenda or for any other mutual consultation.
2. The Secretaries-General or other designated officials of the member parliaments shall assist their respective Speakers during the meetings of the Conference.
3. The presiding parliament is in charge of organising such meetings following - where possible - the same criteria laid down for the Conference itself, with the exception of the working languages, which are limited to English and French.

Article 9

(Adoption of and amendments to the guidelines for the Conference)

1. These guidelines shall be adopted by consensus.
2. Any member may propose amendments to these guidelines.
3. Proposed amendments shall be sent - in writing - in English and French to all Speakers, not later than three weeks prior to the meeting of the Conference; such amendments shall be placed on the agenda of the meeting.
4. Official versions of these rules shall be drawn up in English and French; translations into the official languages of the European Union shall be edited by the national parliaments concerned.