

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON STABILITY, ECONOMIC COORDINATION AND GOVERNANCE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

PREAMBLE

Considering :

- *Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union;*
- *Protocol (No 1) of the Treaty of Lisbon on the Role of National Parliaments in the European Union;*
- *the conclusions of the Conference of the Speakers of the European Union Parliaments, adopted on 23rd April 2013 in Nicosia, 8th April 2014 in Vilnius and 21st April 2015 in Rome;*
- *the guidelines for Interparliamentary Cooperation in the European Union adopted by the Conference of the Speakers of the European Union Parliaments on 21st June 2008 in Lisbon;*

these Rules of Procedure have been adopted on 10th November 2015 in Luxembourg.

1. DENOMINATION OF THE CONFERENCE

- 1.1. The Conference, following Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union, shall be named "Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union", hereafter Interparliamentary Conference on SECG.

2. COMPETENCE AND SCOPE

- 2.1. The Interparliamentary Conference on SECG shall provide a framework for debate and exchange of information and best practices in implementing the provisions of the Treaty in order to strengthen cooperation between national Parliaments and the European Parliament and contribute to ensuring democratic accountability in the

area of economic governance and budgetary policy in the EU, particularly in the EMU, taking into account the social dimension and without prejudice to the competences of EU Parliaments.

- 2.2 The Interparliamentary Conference on SECG shall replace the meetings of the chairpersons of relevant committees organised within the framework of the parliamentary dimension of the Presidency of the Council by the national Parliament of the Member State holding the Presidency, hereinafter referred to as the Presidency Parliament.

3. *ROLE OF THE PRESIDENCY AND ORGANISATION OF THE MEETINGS*

3.1 Frequency and place of meetings

The Interparliamentary Conference on SECG shall convene at least twice a year, in coordination 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-presided 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 EU Presidency and presided over by the Presidency Parliament.

3.2 Convocation of the meetings

The Interparliamentary Conferences on SECG should be convened before the presentation of the Annual Growth Survey and the adoption of the National Reform Programmes.

3.3 Presidential Troika

The Presidential Troika of the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG shall consist of the delegations of the current, preceding and following Presidency Parliaments and of the European Parliament.

3.4 Agenda

A draft agenda to be submitted to other Parliaments shall be drawn up by the Presidency Parliament and in close cooperation with the Presidential Troika. In the first semester of each year the latter shall be drawn up together with the European Parliament.

3.5 Conduct of meetings

At the beginning of each meeting, the Presidency Parliament shall set the timetable of the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG and shall determine the order and the length of interventions. In the first semester of each year these shall be set together with the European Parliament.

3.6 Documentation

The secretariat of the Presidency Parliament shall prepare the necessary documents. In the first semester of each year the documentation shall be prepared together with the European Parliament.

3.7. Modus operandi

The Interparliamentary Conference on SECG shall operate on the basis of the principle of consensus.

3.8. Public access to the meetings

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

4. COMPOSITION

4.1 Members

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

4.2 Representatives of EU Institutions

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

4.3 Observers

Two members of the Parliaments of each candidate country shall be invited as observers to the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG.

4.4 Special guests

The Presidency Parliament may also invite, after consulting the Presidential Troika, observers from other EU institutions or bodies as well as from other Parliaments as special guests. In the first semester of each year, these invitations shall be established together with the European Parliament. The delegations of other Parliaments shall be represented by one member each.

5. *LANGUAGE REGIME*

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

5.2 Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation from and into English and French, as well as from and into the language(s) of the Member State of the EU Council Presidency shall be provided by the Presidency Parliament in the second and by the European Parliament in the first semester of each year. Simultaneous interpretation into additional languages may be provided if requested; its costs shall be borne by the relevant national delegation or the European Parliament. The host Parliament shall make available the appropriate technical facilities.

5.3. Documents

The documents of the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG shall be transmitted to national Parliaments and to the European Parliament in English and in French. Each Parliament shall be responsible for translating these documents into its official language(s). Each delegation shall be responsible for translating any document which it submits to the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG into English and/or French.

6. *CONCLUSIONS*

6.1 The Presidency Parliament may present non-binding conclusions on the outcome of the meeting in English and French. In the first semester of each year the latter may be presented together with the European Parliament.

7. *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 within a reasonable time ahead of the meetings of the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG.
- 7.2. Any amendments 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 shall be put on the agenda of the first Interparliamentary Conference on SECG following the transmission of the proposal.

8. *ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE*

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