



EU Speakers' Conference

Stockholm, 14-15 May 2010

Annotated agenda (12 May)

SVERIGES  
RIKSDAG 

Thursday 13 May

Arrival of delegations

19.00–21.00 Reception hosted by Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament

Venue: Solliden, Skansen

Friday 14 May

09.00–10.30 Plenary meeting

Venue: The Plenary Hall

Welcoming address

Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament

The Lisbon Treaty and Interparliamentary Cooperation

The European Commission and National Parliaments

Introduction by Mr Maroš Šefčovič, Vice President of the European Commission

Discussion

Comment:

Focus on the consequences of the Treaty of Lisbon for national parliaments and cooperation between the Commission and parliaments. Discussion with the Commission on its view on the political dialogue with national parliaments and discussions on subsidiarity and information exchange as well as evaluation and monitoring in the area of freedom, security and justice.

Please see “Background note on evaluation and monitoring in the area of freedom, security and justice”.

11.00 Audience given by their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia
(For Speakers and Secretaries-General)

Venue: The Royal Palace

11.50 Family photo

Venue: The Riksdag

12.00–13.30 Luncheon hosted by Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament
(invitation only)

Venue: The dining room of the party groups

Buffet luncheon for other delegates and accompanying persons

Venue: The Grand Gallery

13.30

Plenary meeting

Venue: The Plenary Hall

The Lisbon Treaty and Interparliamentary Cooperation (cont.)

Fora for Interparliamentary Cooperation

Keynote speakers:

Ms Teresa Cunillera, Deputy Speaker of the Spanish Congress of Deputies

Mr Gianfranco Fini, Speaker of the Italian Chamber of Deputies

Mr Jean Bizet, Chairman of the Committee for European Affairs in the French Senate

Discussion

Comment:

The importance of networking and regular contacts between national parliaments as well as between national parliaments and the European Parliament is stressed in the Lisbon Treaty. The new Treaty provisions open the field for debate on coordination of EU interparliamentary activities as well as the future role of COSAC.

The EUSC Presidency has suggested that the focus of the discussion, with reference to the area of freedom, security and justice, at this stage ought to be on ensuring the involvement of parliaments in the drafting of regulations on parliamentary participation regarding Europol and Eurojust, as well as discussions on the format of interparliamentary activities in this field.

Furthermore, an initial discussion to examine the question of the future parliamentary scrutiny of European security and defence policy is needed.

Please see “Background note on evaluation and monitoring in the area of freedom, security and justice”, as well as the “Resolution adopted by the French Senate” and the “Background note on the future role of COSAC”.

Challenges and Expectations for Future Interparliamentary Cooperation

Introduction by Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament

Keynote speaker:

Mr Přemysl Sobotka, President of the Czech Senate

Discussion

Comment:

Continued debate on future expectations regarding interparliamentary cooperation in the light of the Lisbon Treaty is anticipated. This includes the format and working methods of the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments.

On 12 December, initial issues of priority and format were identified in relation to the continued process for work in this field. The Swedish EUSC Presidency is submitting a progress report on the IPEX forum debate on interparliamentary cooperation in the era of the Lisbon Treaty for

consideration. The report includes a proposed update of the Guidelines providing rules and procedures for the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments. Also, a proposal for a common approach to coordination in the planning of interparliamentary meetings has been included (the Hague Guidelines annex). The management of this coordination by an extended “trio-plus” formation as suggested at the meeting of Secretaries-General on 8 March is recommended.

Please see “Progress report on Lisbon forum debate”, as well as the “Proposal for amendment of the Guidelines for the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments” and a contribution from the Danish Parliament on “Cooperation between the national parliaments and the European Parliament”.

Coffee break

16.00

New Technologies and Communication – Challenges for Parliaments

Introduction by

H.E. Mr Matthew W. Barzun, U.S. Ambassador to Sweden

Mr Åke Grönlund, Professor of Information Science at Örebro University in Sweden

Keynote speakers:

Ms Ene Ergma, President of the Estonian Parliament

Mr Vannino Chiti, Deputy Speaker of the Italian Senate

Discussion

Comment:

Technical developments in society can facilitate greater public participation and involvement. Over the last few years, traditional channels of communication have been supplemented with new channels such as Facebook, blogs and Twitter. The aim of the discussion in this part of the meeting is to exchange experiences and to discuss issues relating to new forms of communication and their impact on parliaments. The following discussion will address 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.

Please see background note on “New technologies and communication channels – challenges for parliaments”.

18.00

End of the session

19.30–22.30

Dinner hosted by Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament
Venue: The City Hall

Saturday 15 May

09.30–11.40 Informal meeting (limited to 1+1)

Venue: The Plenary Hall

Preparations for the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

Introduction by

Mr Norbert Lammert, President of the German Bundestag

Ms Barbara Prammer, President of the National Council of Austria

Tour de table

Comment:

The initial discussion should focus on the proposal to reform the IPU into a treaty-based organisation. Referring to the letter sent on 13 April by Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, the Speakers will share their point of views, look further at the important questions and comment on paragraph 31 in the draft outcome document for the World Conference of Speakers in July. There will also be time to discuss other matters on the Geneva agenda.

The Financial Crisis and Consequences for Parliamentary Budgets

Tour de table

Comment:

Suggested items for discussion:

- Have parliamentary budgets been immune from cutbacks?
- What level of cuts or restraint have been expected?
- How have chambers prioritised expenditure?
- Have they given up doing things they used to do?
- What advice can they give to us who may be expected to cut our budgets in the future?

Coffee break

12.00–12.30 Plenary meeting

Venue: The Plenary Hall

Concluding Remarks and Closure

13.00–15.00 Cruise luncheon hosted by Mr Per Westerberg, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament

Venue: Gustafsberg VII, Nybrokajen berth 8