

Draft with amendments tabled at the Vilnius Conference 2013-10-17

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

PREAMBLE

These Rules of Procedure are designed to facilitate and improve the work of the Interparliamentary Conference on Economic and Financial Governance of the European Union, hereinafter referred to as the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [*other proposals for an acronym are welcome*].

The Interparliamentary Conference on EFG shall be organised in accordance with the decision of the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments taken on 23 April 2013 in Nicosia 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, as well as 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.

The Interparliamentary Conference on EFG is established with the aim of improving democratic legitimacy and accountability in the area of economic and financial governance of the European Union (EU), particularly in the Economic and Monetary Union, strengthening cooperation between national Parliaments and the European Parliament, and ensuring a greater role for national Parliaments in matters covered by the TSCG.

~~*The Interparliamentary Conference on EFG shall be organised in the framework of the parliamentary dimension of the Presidency of the Council of the EU, undertaken by the national Parliament of the Member State holding the Presidency, hereinafter referred to as the Presidency Parliament, and the European Parliament (proposed by the UK delegation).*~~

These Rules of Procedure were adopted at the meeting of the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG on [...].

1. COMPETENCES AND SCOPE

- 1.1 The Interparliamentary Conference on EFG shall provide a framework for debate *that contributes to ensuring democratic accountability and legitimacy of the decisions taken in the area of economic and financial governance in the EU, particularly in the EMU, and exchange of information and best practices on matters of economic and financial governance of the EU and shall maintain a special focus on the budgetary issues and*

~~procedures covered by the TSCG~~, (proposed by the French delegation) without prejudicing the competences of the EU Parliaments.

- 1.2 The Interparliamentary Conference on EFG 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 Presidency Parliament~~ *the national Parliament of the Member State holding the Presidency, hereinafter referred to as the Presidency Parliament (proposed by the UK delegation)*, and the European Parliamentary Week of the European Semester organised by the European Parliament in the first semester of each year.
- 1.3 The Interparliamentary Conference on EFG may, in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 7 of these Rules of Procedure, adopt Conclusions on matters related to economic and financial governance of the EU, particularly the budgetary matters covered by the TSCG. The Conclusions shall not bind national Parliaments or the European Parliament and shall not prejudge their positions.

2. DESIGNATION OF THE CONFERENCE

- 2.1 The designation of the Interparliamentary Conference shall be “Interparliamentary Conference on Economic and Financial Governance of the European Union – Interparliamentary Conference on EFG”.

3. ROLE OF THE PRESIDENCY AND ORGANISATION OF THE MEETINGS

3.1 Time and place of the meetings

The Interparliamentary Conference on EFG shall convene *at least (proposed by the French delegation)* 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. The date of the next meeting shall be fixed and announced by the date of the preceding meeting at the latest.

3.2 Presidential Troika

The Presidential Troika of the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG consists of the delegations of the national Parliaments of the Presidency, the preceding Presidency, the following Presidency, and the European Parliament. Each delegation consists of a maximum of four Members of its Parliament.

3.3 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 EFG.

3.4 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), *or the designated deputies*, of the relevant committee(s) of the presiding Parliament(s). *The relevant committee(s) will be determined by the presiding Parliament(s) (proposed by the UK delegation).*

3.5 Documents

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

3.6 Side events

Apart from the plenary meeting, side events, such as topical debates in smaller groups, working groups or break-out sessions, can be organised in the framework of the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG, including by Parliaments other than the presiding Parliament(s). *Any delegate to the conference may attend and participate in such side events (proposed by the UK delegation).*

3.7 Voting

~~*In general the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG shall seek to take decisions, including on the adoption of the Conclusions, by consensus. If this is not possible, decisions shall be taken with a qualified majority of at least 3/4 of the votes cast. The majority of 3/4 of the votes cast must at the same time constitute at least half of all votes. Each Parliament has two votes. In the case of bicameral Parliaments, each Chamber is given one vote (proposed by the UK delegation).*~~

3.8 Public access to the meetings

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

4. COMPOSITION

4.1 Members

The Interparliamentary Conference on EFG is composed of delegations from the relevant committees of the national Parliaments of the EU Member States and the European Parliament. *Members of the national EU Member States Parliaments from and out of the euro area, participate in meetings of the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG on equal terms (proposed by the Polish delegation).* The composition and size of delegations shall be determined by each Parliament. The hosting Parliament(s) may, for budgetary or limited facilities reasons, suggest an optimal delegation size.

4.2 Observers

National Parliaments of EU candidate countries *and EEA-EFTA countries (proposed by the Estonian delegation)* 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.

4.3 Member(s) of the Commission responsible for economic and monetary affairs

Member(s) of the Commission responsible for economic and monetary affairs shall be invited to the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG to set out the priorities and strategies of the EU in the area of economic and financial governance, particularly on matters covered by the TSCG.

4.4 Special guests

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

5. AGENDA

- 5.1 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 is put on or removed from the draft agenda. ~~*The decision on the final agenda shall be made by the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG at the beginning of every meeting. (proposed by the Polish delegation)*~~
- 5.2 The agenda of each meeting shall include matters relating to economic and financial governance of the EU, particularly those matters covered by the TSCG, in line with the scope and role of the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG.
- 5.3 A draft agenda, ~~*together with all relevant information on the practical aspects of the forthcoming meeting, such as travel and accommodation arrangements (proposed by the Polish delegation)*~~, shall be communicated by the presiding Parliament(s) to all other Parliaments no later than eight weeks prior to each meeting.
- 5.4 *A revised agenda with all proposals made by Parliament(s) to a draft agenda shall be communicated by the presiding Parliament(s) to all other Parliaments no later than four weeks prior to each meeting. (proposed by the Polish delegation)*
- 5.5 *To ensure the agenda meets the most current issues (proposed by the Polish delegation),* the decision on the final agenda shall be made by the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG at the beginning of every meeting.

6. LANGUAGES

- 6.1. The working languages of the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG shall be English and French.
- 6.2. 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 if technically possible and its costs would be borne by the relevant national delegation or the European Parliament.
- 6.3. Documents of the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG shall be communicated to national Parliaments and the European Parliament in English and French.

- 6.4 The Conclusions of the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG shall be drawn up in a single original in English and French, each of these texts being equally authentic.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Interparliamentary Conference on EFG may *by consensus (proposed by the UK delegation)* adopt non-binding Conclusions on matters of economic and financial governance of the EU related to the agenda of the meeting.
- 7.2. Draft Conclusions of the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG 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.
- 7.3 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 Member(s) of the European Commission responsible for economic and monetary affairs, for their information.

8. REVISION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

- 8.1. 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 EFG.
- 8.2 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 (proposed by the UK delegation)* by the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG, and must be in accordance with the framework set by the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments.
- 8.3 Proposals for a revision of the Rules of Procedure should be put on the agenda of the first meeting of the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG following the presentation of the proposal.

9. REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE CONFERENCE

- 9.1 The Interparliamentary Conference on EFG shall appoint an ad hoc review committee which would, in the second semester of 2015, evaluate the workings of the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG. 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 2016.

10. ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

10.1 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.