

**INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE
FISCAL COMPACT
Rome, 29 - 30 September 2014**

**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON
(OPTION 1) ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE OF THE EUROPEAN
UNION [or (OPTION 2) STABILITY, ECONOMIC COORDINATION AND
GOVERNANCE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION]**

PREAMBLE

These Rules of Procedure are designed to facilitate and improve the work of the Interparliamentary Conference [OPTION 1] on Economic and Financial Governance of the European Union, hereinafter referred to as the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [OPTION 2] on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union, hereinafter referred to as the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG.

The Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [SECG] shall be organised in accordance with the decisions of the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments taken on 23 April 2013 in Nicosia and on 8 April 2014 in Vilnius 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), 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.

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

Taking into account the different positions and amendments submitted by the delegations, the Presidency proposes to debate 2 options with reference to the name and competences of the Conference:

OPTION 1: to keep the reference to “Economic and Financial Governance” contained in the draft Rules submitted by the Lithuanian Presidency in Vilnius, which could include all the policy areas and topics of interest of the Conference;

OPTION 2: to adopt the designation “Inter-parliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU” which corresponds to the wording and the content of the Fiscal Compact.

1. COMPETENCES AND SCOPE

1.1 The Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [SECG] shall provide a framework for debate and exchange of information and best practices in order to strengthen cooperation between national Parliaments and the European Parliament and contribute to ensuring democratic accountability and legitimacy of decision-making in the area of [OPTION 1] economic and financial governance [OPTION 2] economic governance and budgetary policy in the EU, particularly in the EMU, taking into account the social dimension, without prejudice to the competences of EU Parliaments.

The Presidency considers the social dimension as an essential element of the EU economic governance and coordination as expressly recognized by EU Institutions.

1.2 The Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [SECG] 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 national Parliament of the Member State holding the Presidency, hereinafter referred to as the Presidency Parliament.

The Presidency believes that the Rules of the Conference should not refer to the European Parliamentary week which is organized by the European Parliament and has a broader scope and content. The relevant Presidency Parliament and the European Parliament shall consider – under Art. 2.1. - whether the Conference in the first semester should take place within the framework of the European week or not, taking into account the general objective to avoid duplication of interparliamentary meetings on the same topics.

1.3 The Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [SECG] may, in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 7 of these Rules of Procedure, adopt Conclusions on matters related to [OPTION 1] economic and financial governance [OPTION 2: economic Coordination, Governance and Budgetary Policy] of the European Union. The Conclusions shall not bind national Parliaments or the European Parliament or and shall not prejudge their positions.

2. ROLE OF THE PRESIDENCY AND ORGANISATION OF THE MEETINGS

2.1 Time and place of the meetings

The Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [SECG] shall convene at least 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.

2.2 Presidential Troika

The Presidential Troika of the Interparliamentary Conference EFG [SECG] consists of the delegations of the national Parliaments of the Presidency, the preceding Presidency, the following Presidency, and the European Parliament.

In the Presidency's view each Parliament should decide the size of its delegation also in the TROIKA meetings.

2.3 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 [SECG].

2.4 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) of the relevant committees of the presiding Parliament(s).

2.5 Documents

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

2.6 Voting

OPTION 1

The Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [SECG] shall adopt its decisions, including on the adoption of the Conclusions, by consensus.

OPTION 2

In general the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [SECG] 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 2/3 of all votes. Each Parliament has two votes. In the case of bicameral Parliaments, each Chamber is given one vote.

In view of the importance of the issue and of the different positions expressed by several delegations the Presidency suggests to discuss two options.

2.7 Public access to the meetings

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

3. COMPOSITION

3.1 Members

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

3.2 Observers

National Parliaments of EU candidate countries 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 as well as from EEA-EFTA countries.

The Presidency considers that participation of Parliaments of EEA-EFTA countries would make a valuable contribution to the conference; however it should be subject to an invitation from the Presidency.

3.3 Representatives of the EU Institutions

The President of the European Council, the President of the Eurogroup and the competent members of the European Commission and other EU Institutions shall be invited to the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [SECG] to set out the priorities and strategies of the EU in the area of [OPTION 1] economic and financial governance [OPTION 2] Economic Coordination, Governance and Budgetary Policy] of the European Union.

The Presidency proposes that the Conference should meet with all the Representatives of EU Institutions having competence in the field of economic governance.

3.4 Special guests

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

4. AGENDA

4.1 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 be put on or removed from the draft agenda.

4.3 A draft agenda shall be communicated by the presiding Parliament(s) to all other Parliaments no later than eight weeks prior to each meeting.

The Presidency considers unnecessary to introduce in the Rules provisions on detailed aspects which are already regulated by well-established practices.

5. LANGUAGES

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

5.2. 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 its costs would be borne by the relevant national delegation or the European Parliament. The Presidency will make available the appropriate technical facilities.

The Presidency stresses the importance to ensure that the language regime of the Conference is fully consistent with the well-established practice followed for the Interparliamentary meetings organized by the Presidency Parliament.

5.3. Documents of the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [SECG] shall be communicated to national Parliaments and the European Parliament in English and French.

5.4 The Conclusions of the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [SECG] shall be drawn up in a single original in English and French, both texts being equally authentic.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [SECG] may adopt non-binding Conclusions on matters of [OPTION 1] economic and financial governance [OPTION 2: Economic Coordination, Governance and Budgetary Policy] in the EU related to the agenda of the meeting.

6.2. Draft Conclusions of the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [SECG] 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.

6.3 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 the competent Commissioners and members of European Institutions, for their information.

With reference to Art. 6.3. see comment on Art. 3.3.

7. REVISION OF THE 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 at least four weeks before meetings of the Interparliamentary Conference on SECG.

7.2 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 by the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [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 should be put on the agenda of the first meeting of the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [SECG] following the presentation of the proposal.

8. REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE CONFERENCE

8.1 The relevant Presidency Parliament shall start in the second semester of 2017 an evaluation of the workings of the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [SECG]. To this end the Interparliamentary Conference on EFG [SECG] may appoint an *ad hoc* review committee. 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 2018.

The possible appointment of an ad hoc review committee should be considered by the relevant Presidency. The review should be undertaken at least 2 years after the Rules have entered into force (presumably after the next EUSC in Roma in 2015).

9. ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

9.1 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.