

TUESDAY, 14 JULY 2009

IN THE CHAIR: MR PÖTTERING

President

(The sitting was opened at 10.05)

1. Opening of the sitting (first sitting of the newly elected Parliament)

President. – Ladies and gentlemen, under the terms of the Act concerning the election of the representatives of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, I declare the first sitting of the European Parliament following the elections open.

(Applause)

I would ask you to rise for the European anthem.

Ladies and gentlemen, I warmly welcome you to the first sitting of the European Parliament following the elections and congratulate you all: the re-elected Members and the newly elected Members. A little under half of the 736 Members have been elected to the European Parliament for the first time. It is particularly heartening that 35% of the Members are women – a percentage that has never been as high before in the European Parliament.

(Applause)

170 million citizens turned out to vote, and our work serves a great purpose: to unite our continent! In this work, we must never forget that the European Union is based on values. Human dignity, human rights, freedom, democracy, the rule of law and peace are the foundations of our actions. We are bound together by solidarity. I would ask you to ensure that mutual respect forever remains our guiding principle. If we do this, we are sure to succeed. Now let us get to work!

2. Membership of Parliament: see Minutes

3. Membership of political groups: see Minutes

4. Order of business: see Minutes

5. Formation of political groups: see Minutes

6. Verification of credentials: see Minutes

7. Election of the President of the European Parliament

President. – This morning, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, we must elect the President. According to Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure, candidates for the office of President of our Parliament must be nominated, with the consent of the people concerned, by a group or by at least 40 Members.

Under the conditions provided for in the Rules of Procedure, I have received the following nominations for the office of President of the European Parliament:

Mr Jerzy Buzek

Mrs Eva-Britt Svensson

The candidates have informed me that they consent to their nomination as candidates. Both candidates will now introduce themselves briefly, starting with Mrs Svensson.

Eva-Britt Svensson (GUE/NGL). – (SV) Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to congratulate all my fellow Members on the trust that has been shown in you by the citizens of your respective Member States. This is an enormous amount of trust and hence it is also an enormous responsibility for us all to meet our citizens' expectations and demands for the changes that are needed and to build a citizens' Europe. Democracy, the right to choose their elected representatives, is the most important instrument that our citizens have. To be able to talk of true democracy requires more than the right to vote. It requires openness, transparency and an open debate.

I would therefore like to say that it is extremely important for us now to ensure that we reform the first reading procedure. We must take the trust shown in Parliament seriously and demonstrate the openness that is also required with regard to the first reading procedure.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are facing huge challenges: an economic crisis with higher unemployment, increased exclusion and social insecurity. We have a climate crisis that has already resulted in climate refugees. As usual, it is the poorest people that are hit first and hardest. We see an EU and a world full of injustice and poverty. There are, however, political solutions to these crises, but they require a change in policy. The policy that has been pursued up to now has not solved the problems that we have been responsible for solving. On the contrary, in many areas it has helped to create the crises.

We need a change in policy. We need a policy for a social Europe, a policy that promotes workers' rights to protection against social dumping. We need a policy that prevents social marginalisation and poverty. We need a policy that safeguards the participation of all citizens. We need a policy that does *not* discriminate against *any* citizen, regardless of ethnicity, disability, gender, age or sexual orientation. I would like to see an EU that protects the interests of all its citizens.

I want to see a policy that creates new jobs – new *green* jobs. We need to invest in green technology, which – in addition to creating the new jobs that are needed – will also help to create growth and put a stop to climate change, which is one of the most fundamentally important tasks that humanity and Europe are facing.

I want to see an EU that takes responsibility for ensuring fair and responsible international trade. I want to see an EU with a humane asylum and immigration policy that protects immigrants and their rights. I want to see a diverse Europe. This is how we generate development. I want to see a diverse Europe in which every citizen receives protection. I want to see a Europe, an EU, that takes responsibility for human rights. When human rights are repressed, regardless of where in the world it takes place, we can never, ever compromise. These rights are inviolable and this applies to every single human being. Regardless of whether it is a question of freedom of expression, public access, privacy or whatever else, human rights are always inviolable. Ladies and gentlemen, it is our responsibility to stand up for human rights, wherever in the world they are under threat.

I was pleased to hear the President say that the elections in June increased the representation of women in this Parliament. This was made possible by the joint efforts of both men and women. We worked together to increase the representation of women. We are now going a step further and ensuring that we increase the influence of women, including when it comes to positions of responsibility in Parliament and the other institutions of the EU. This is our opportunity. Together, ladies and gentlemen, we can show the citizens of Europe that we are assuming responsibility and demonstrate the emergence of a modern, diverse society.

Today, each one of you has the power of your vote. You have the power to send out a strong message to our citizens that we are now building a citizens' Europe, a social Europe, to demonstrate to both our citizens and the world around us that the EU is prepared to take responsibility for global justice, human rights and the global environment and to demonstrate the power we have with our votes to send out the message that European citizens are expecting of this Parliament.

(Applause)

Jerzy Buzek (PPE). – (PL) Mr President, representatives of the Council and of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, let us congratulate ourselves on meeting in this room. We represent half a billion inhabitants of this continent – a considerable responsibility.

I would like to say a few words about myself. I am a scientist by profession. I began my political activity in 1980 in the Solidarność trade union, which fought for freedom, and human and civil rights (Applause). The fight for human and civil rights has always been at the heart of my activity. Between 1997 and 2001 I was the Prime Minister of Poland. For four years we negotiated Poland's membership of the structures of the

European Union. Since 2004, I have been a Member of the European Parliament. I have been involved with research, innovation and new technologies, then with energy security, climate change and how to address the latter, and also with the Eastern Partnership. It so happens that all of these matters are also our priorities during this current term of office.

We should remember that we are currently living through a crisis, and our citizens expect us, first and foremost, to deal with it. We should also remember to streamline parliamentary activity, a process which has already begun thanks to action taken over the last few years. We can only achieve this if the Treaty of Lisbon is adopted in full. This will help to make us more efficient and more productive, and enable us to act on the international stage. We have certain commitments: the Mediterranean, the Eastern Partnership, Latin America, the strategic alliance with the United States and developing powers on the world stage. These are our major challenges, and this is why the Treaty of Lisbon will provide us with an exceptional tool to meet those challenges.

Finally, I would like to say to you that the most important crisis which we must deal with – and which we must acknowledge, however hard that may be – is the lack of trust from our citizens. Let us speak harshly to one another, as we sometimes must, to overcome our weaknesses. Our citizens often do not understand us. We need to do everything we can to change this. This is primarily our responsibility, as Members of the European Parliament, as we come here every week from our constituencies and, at the end of the week, as we go back, all over Europe. We know better than anyone what our constituents' grievances are and what they expect. Let us hope for this above all, since then it will be easier for us to rise to the challenges before us.

(Applause)

(Voting and counting of votes: see Minutes)

(The sitting was suspended at 11.00 for the counting of votes and resumed at 11.45)

President. – I will now announce the result of the vote.

Number of voters: 713

Voting slips that were not filled in or were invalid: 69

Votes cast: 644

Absolute majority: 323

Jerzy Buzek received 555 votes.

(Loud and sustained applause)

Mrs Eva-Britt Svensson received 89 votes.

(Applause)

Jerzy Buzek has therefore received the absolute majority of the votes cast. I will therefore repeat in my own language what I tried to say in Polish: I congratulate Mr Buzek most sincerely on his convincing election and wish him all the best in the wonderful job that he is about to take over, and I would ask him to take his place here in the President's chair.

(Applause)

IN THE CHAIR: JERZY BUZEK

President

President. – Dear colleagues, thank you for electing me President of the European Parliament. For me it is both an enormous challenge and a great honour. Thank you to those who voted for me; I will do everything not to disappoint your trust. For those of you who did not vote for me, I will try to convince you to me. I wish to work with all of you, regardless of political conventions. I count on your support.

Thank you, Mrs Svensson, for taking part in this election and for our discussions. To our colleagues, Mario Mauro and Graham Watson, who stood as candidates and resigned early in order to strengthen the unity of our House, this was a profound gesture.

Mario, I know how important for you human rights are. In my homeland, Solidarność was born, a great movement for human rights, ...

(Applause)

... which was possible thanks to the lesson of John Paul II. For me, human rights will also be a priority.

Graham, you spoke about the necessity of change in the European Parliament, of the need for reform, of the need to involve in the European project our citizens, who are becoming more and more indifferent. I will make sure that, together, we will do everything we can to change this.

(Applause)

Representatives of the Council, President of the Commission, Commissioners, ladies and gentlemen, today is 14 July, France's National Day, 220 years after the Revolution. Congratulations to our fellow Members.

(Applause)

The Revolution was based on three words: liberty, equality, fraternity. Each resonates with force and certainty in today's European Union. Today is a great day and, above all, a symbolic day. A representative from a Central and Eastern European country has been chosen by you, the MEPs, to assume responsibility for presiding over Parliament.

Let me make a personal observation. Once, many years ago, I longed to be a member of the Polish *Sejm* when Poland regained its independence. Today I am taking over the Presidency of the European Parliament, which I would never have dared dream of in my country all those years ago. This is how our Europe has changed.

(Applause)

I am treating my election as a sign for our countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria. I am also treating it as an expression of respect for the millions of citizens from these countries who did not crumble under the malevolent system. I feel I am a representative of all of these countries.

(Applause)

Twenty years ago, in 1989, Solidarność won the battle for a free, democratic Poland, which gave the impetus for an 'Autumn of the People' in Europe and the fall of the Berlin Wall. At one time we fought on one side of the Iron Curtain for freedom and democracy, while you, on the other side, helped us through your political action and small but incredibly important gestures, sending parcels and help – and we were successful. For five years now we have been creating a unified Europe. There is no longer an 'us and you'. This time we can stand firm and say – we have a united Europe.

I spoke about responsibility. Each of us MEPs has been handed a little bit of power, but with power comes first and foremost responsibility for your citizens. I feel this responsibility. The citizens of the EU have expressed their trust in us. We must defend democracy when it comes to the major issues. The citizens of Europe are expecting us, the politicians, to carry out one of our basic tasks, which is to emerge from the economic crisis. We must make a start on this immediately. They want jobs, and employment is one of our basic challenges. Our voters want to be certain that if they switch their gas on, the gas will be there, and this is why energy security is so important. Our citizens are worried that they will be affected by climate change, as in Asia, Africa or the Pacific. We have to take action against this. Europeans know that peace and stability is not just dependent on us. This is why the Mediterranean region, the Eastern Partnership and Latin America are so important, as is a strategic partnership with the United States and the growing world powers. For all these policies to be successful we must have a Treaty of Lisbon, since we must be well organised and effective within the Union and also in the European Parliament.

Thirty years ago our Parliament was elected for the first time in direct elections. Its President was a woman, the Frenchwoman Simone Veil. We must remember to create the conditions for women to be able to express themselves fully in public and professional activity without having to give up having children and a family life. At that time Simone Veil said, 'The Member States face three great challenges: the challenge of peace, the challenge of freedom and the challenge of prosperity'. It is obvious that we can only face these challenges effectively in a European context. Thirty years later they are still our most important tasks. We must be up to the challenge.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to put the details of my programme for the two-and-a-half-year term of my Presidency forward for discussion in a special address during the autumn session in Strasbourg.

I would now like to turn to my predecessor, Hans-Gert Pöttering. Mr Pöttering, this is a special moment. I have known you for 10 years. Today you are handing over the highest office in the European Parliament to me. On behalf of all my fellow Members I would like to thank you for the great respect which you have won for our Chamber, and for your political conduct and professionalism.

(Applause)

As a memento I would like to present you with this statue of St Barbara, the patron saint of miners, sculpted from a lump of coal. It is a gift of solidarity from my region, Silesia. Once again, many congratulations and best wishes for the future. Thank you!

(Standing ovation)

Joseph Daul, *on behalf of the PPE Group*. – (FR) Mr President, it was unexpected, but it is a joy – I believe – for everyone here no longer to have an Eastern or a Western Europe for the first time in this Parliament. We simply have a Europe that is symbolised by our President, who is in the Chamber today.

(Applause)

This is unity; this is also where our responsibilities lie, as you said earlier, Mr Buzek. Forgetting about East and West, in the two and a half years of your presidency, and speaking only of a single Europe – that is my wish, for you and for Europe.

Martin Schulz, *on behalf of the S&D Group*. – (DE) Mr President, on behalf of our group I would like to congratulate you on your election. We supported your election and, even though we should be careful not to overuse the term ‘historic moment’, I believe that your election as President of the European Parliament is indeed an historic moment.

(Applause)

The fact that 20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, six years after the accession of your country and many other Central and Eastern European countries to the European Union – which was after all a process that you yourself initiated as Prime Minister of your country, as the accession negotiations took place during your term of office – the fact that 20 years after putting an end to the division of the world into two heavily armed blocs, after overcoming the Stalinist dictatorships of the states which had to suffer 40 years longer under these dictatorships than the western part of Europe did under the fascist dictatorships, the fact that 20 years later it is only natural that Members from Poland, Hungary, the Baltic states, the Czech Republic or Slovakia should be sitting together with Members from France, Portugal, Finland, Germany, Austria or Italy in this Chamber and that we are able to elect as head of this assembly a representative of *Solidarność*, a democratically elected head of the Polish Government, in a free, secret and fair election – that is in my view an historic moment, which proves that Europe – this great continent in which 27 states have united to become the European Union – actually represents something, and that is that the dream of democracy and freedom can become reality if we do not merely dream, but also actively work to bring it about, as you have done in your life.

I therefore believe that your Presidency is also an appeal to all of us and that the values on which this Union was founded are the values that drove the dictators to the wall and overcame the dictatorships. It is the wish of our group that your Presidency will be based on these values. My sincere congratulations, Mr Buzek.

(Applause)

Guy Verhofstadt, *on behalf of the ALDE Group*. – Mr President, first of all congratulations from the Liberal and Democratic Group on your election. I can tell you that you have the full support of the Liberal and Democratic Group for the forthcoming years in your work. Your work, from our point of view, means the creation of a more integrated European Union and a European Union that uses the community method.

You have become President at a very difficult time: we have to ratify the Lisbon Treaty; we have to find a single strategy against the economic and financial crisis. It is a huge task in which you have the full support of our group. You should know that you have behind you a large pro-European majority in this Parliament. You should be aware of that.

(Applause)

The only request we have is to use it, this large pro-European majority. To go forward with Europe and also to say what you have to say in the European Council, that you know so well – as I do. I hope that you can make your voice heard there and have more 'Europe' in that institution also.

(Applause)

Rebecca Harms, *on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group*. – (DE) Mr President, I would also like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on behalf of my group. We are also very happy about your election.

I think that it is a slight understatement, Mr President, when you say that it is an honour for you to take up the position to which we have elected you today. It is, on the contrary, an honour for us – at least from the point of view of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance – to have you as President. Everything you have done in your political career has helped you to achieve your current position, and we are all putting our trust in you. I am not sure if it will be possible in two and a half years to overcome the division that still exists between East and West, but I believe that, with you at the head of this House, we can strengthen bridges between East and West.

I personally would like it to be clear to the Members from Western Europe that Poland is in the middle of the continent, that you come from a country at the heart of the continent and that the work to forge links with the East must now be carried out much more intensively than it has been in the past. You are in the best position to do this. I was very pleased to hear you say that we need to get closer to our citizens. We in the Group of the Greens will always support you in this. Strengthening Europe from within is important, but it is also important to think about Europe on a larger scale.

Allow me to express yet another personal wish. As I got to know you particularly well on the streets and in the squares of Kiev during the Orange Revolution – and you were a very courageous politician even then – let us not forget Ukraine in our consideration of the countries to the east of the EU. The situation there also needs to improve. Something I would like to do during the European Football Championships – which are not long away now and which will be hosted in Poland and Ukraine – is to watch one or two matches with you.

I wish you every success in your new role!

(Applause)

Timothy Kirkhope, *on behalf of the ECR Group*. – Mr President, may I congratulate you on your presidency and in particular welcome the fact that in your remarks you have referred to history – and others have referred to it as well. You certainly seem to be someone who will value the freedoms which this House wishes to have: the freedom of expression, but also the freedoms of looking ahead, of change and reform in Europe, and that this House must change and reform with Europe.

The fact that you have a history of which you are proud, and rightfully so, from 1980 in Solidarność and onwards, where you brought Poland into NATO and then started the negotiations for membership of the European Union, you are someone who can embrace the changes that Europe needs now.

We welcome you. We will do our very best to help you in the job that you have taken on.

(Applause)

Lothar Bisky, *on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group*. – (DE) Mr President, I am pleased that a neighbour from Poland has become President of this House. I come from eastern Germany and work near Ślubice. Ślubice and Frankfurt/Oder are both part of a united Europe.

I would like to thank you for focusing in particular on the continued integration of Eastern and Western Europe. There is still much to do in this respect, as we are all aware. However, I would also like to mention the important contribution in terms of Polish culture that you can make to cooperation and cultural diversity in Europe.

I hope that I will soon be able to speak to you in more depth. I have started to work towards this. Two of my sons speak Polish. I once had the honour of presenting the Andrzej Wajda film prize to the director Andreas Dresen and of making a speech to mark the occasion. Andrzej Wajda and other Polish directors are part of

our European culture. I hope that Western Europe and Eastern Europe will not forget the special achievements of Eastern European culture.

Mr President, you have our respect and our support!

Nigel Farage, *on behalf of the EFD Group*. – Mr President, I would like to congratulate you on being elected although I feel that this morning it has been more like a papal inauguration. If this Parliament were a proper Parliament, it would actually select Members to sit in the chair on ability and not have the usual big group stitch-ups. That is rather a shame.

I think the signs for change here are not very good. Just yesterday we had armed Eurocorps soldiers carrying the European flag round the courtyard outside, a sort of European Union version of trooping the colour. We had an orchestra, we had the anthem, we had a choir; we started today, did we not, with the anthem. This is the same flag and anthem that you said had been dropped after the French and Dutch very sensibly said 'no' to the dreaded EU Constitution.

You are not even pretending any more. You are pushing ahead with all the symbols of statehood and trying at the same time to lie and cheat to the Irish by giving them a series of guarantees that are not worth the paper that they are written on. Well, I can tell you that many of us in this Europe of Freedom and Democracy Group will do all we can to help the 'no' side in that Irish referendum.

(Heckling)

The future of European democracy rests very heavily on Irish shoulders.

Mr President, you fought against the Soviet Union. You fought for democracy. You fought for national self-determination. If you continue to ignore the democratic voice of countries like France, the Netherlands and Ireland, then you will turn the European Union back into that very Union that you fought so hard against. Listen to the people, please.

(Mixed reactions)

President. – Thank you for your speech, Mr Farage. European parliamentarianism has always provided a forum for various opinions. This is what discussion in Europe is based on. The speeches of those Members who wished to speak have now ended, but I think that the President of the European Commission, Mr Barroso, is signalling that he would like to say a few words. Mr Barroso, please take the floor.

José Manuel Barroso, *President of the Commission*. – (FR) Mr President, I should like, both personally and on behalf of the European Commission, to congratulate you most sincerely on your election to the presidency of the European Parliament.

The path that you have taken has led you courageously to defend freedom, democracy and the rule of law in order to help impose them in your own country, Poland. Your political career has taken you as far as the office of prime minister, before you were elected as an MEP. You are the first President of this House to come from a Member State in Central or Eastern Europe. It is armed with this wealth of exceptional experience and with the values that you uphold that, today, you assume your new role as President of the European Parliament.

Twenty years on from the fall of the Berlin Wall, and five years on from enlargement, your election is a victory for reunified Europe. There are many of us here who know of and appreciate your personality, your political vision and your campaign work. There are just as many of us who believe that your personal qualities naturally predispose you to play the role of a President who actively and passionately defends the interests of Europe and its citizens. This experience and these values will mean that the handover from Mr Pötering – who knows this institution better than anyone – to you will be a harmonious one. I send Mr Pötering my best wishes now that he is leaving office; he has carried out his role with extraordinary dignity and with an unwavering belief in Europe.

At a time of difficulties, and given the complex political model that we have, we shall have to work now more than ever in a positive, constructive and united spirit, in order to make progress with Europe. The power and the competences of this Parliament will also be strengthened with the Treaty of Lisbon, which an overwhelming majority of Parliament, and the Commission, want to adopt; in fact, a treaty that has already been adopted by 26 parliaments of our Europe deserves the respect of all MEPs.

Our institutions must strengthen one another for the sake of the European project. This is particularly true as regards the relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission. We know perfectly well that it is the cooperation between our two institutions that moves the European project forward.

Mr President, my dear friend, all that remains is for me to wish you, and the new Parliament, success in your work towards establishing a Europe that more fully promotes the values of freedom and solidarity.

Bruno Gollnisch (NI). – (FR) Mr President, I had resigned myself to being overlooked to some extent, in the same way as my non-attached colleagues, for whom I certainly speak in offering you the congratulations that are due to yourself, but rather less, it must be said, to the method of your election, since your triumphant election is, in a way, the result of an agreement between the two main groups of this House, which oppose one another rather artificially at election time and then go on to jointly manage Parliament for five years.

Mr President, I hope that you are the master of your victory, that you do not become a slave to these two main groups, that you are able to defend the rights of minorities and, in particular, the rights of dissidents such as ourselves, of those who are concerned about the effects of economic globalisation on their identity, and of the universal mixing of people, goods and capital, who do not believe that this necessarily brings benefits and who condemn the indefinite increase in the European Union's powers with regard to their national freedoms.

We are, in a way, dissidents just as you once were. We hope that you will protect the rights of dissidents and, in particular, that you will attach great importance to respect for these Rules of Procedure, which should not be systematically amended, since it is clear that they can benefit those who are, I believe, the true defenders of the freedoms of the European nations.

(Applause)

8. Election of Vice-Presidents (deadline for submitting nominations): see Minutes

(The sitting was suspended at 12.25 and resumed at 15.05)

President. – Ladies and Gentlemen, please take your seats. We will start in three minutes.

9. Election of Vice-Presidents (first, second and third ballots)

(For nominations, results of voting and other details: see Minutes)

(Regarding the voting procedure)

József Szájer (PPE). – Mr President, I would like to ask whether there is any minimum requirement for the vote.

President. – Mr Szájer, there is no minimum number: you can leave one person or two persons; it does not matter.

(The vote was held)

(The sitting, which was suspended at 15.15 for the votes from the first ballot to be counted, resumed at 17.15)

President. – Dear colleagues, allow me to say a few words at the beginning. During the break in the sitting it came to my attention that an Italian soldier was killed today in Afghanistan in the NATO-led mission there. His death comes after 15 British soldiers were killed in the past month. I think we always need to remember our men and women in the armed forces who are on missions abroad, often in dangerous situations, so that they know they are not forgotten.

(Applause)

(Gianni Pittella, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou and Stavros Lambrinidis were elected Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament.

Eleven seats remained to be filled. The President noted that nominations would be the same as for the first ballot)

(The vote was held)

(The session which was suspended at 17.40 to wait for votes from the second ballot to be counted, resumed at 19.05)

(The President noted that no candidate had obtained an absolute majority)

(Before the third ballot)

Véronique De Keyser (S&D). – (FR) Mr President, I am truly sorry but, for the sake of a clear vote, since we do not have a display and we have tried to keep up with your very quick delivery, please could you read out the names and the votes again a little more slowly?

Daniel Cohn-Bendit (Verts/ALE). – Mr President, put the numbers on the screen so that we can all see them. It is not very difficult.

(Applause)

Bernd Posselt (PPE). – (DE) Mr President, I would urge you very strongly to ring the bell, as I see that a lot of Members from all groups are not here. Many people are under the impression that the vote is not due to start until 19.30. I would therefore ask you to ring the bell one more time.

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(The deadline for submitting nominations for the election of Quaestors was set for the following day (Wednesday 15 July 2009) at 9.00).

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(The vote was taken)

(The sitting, which was suspended at 19.30 while the votes from the third ballot were being counted, resumed at 20.30)

(The President announced that Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, Libor Rouček, Isabelle Durant, Roberta Angelilli, Diana Wallis, Pál Schmitt, Edward McMillan-Scott, Rainer Wieland and Silvana Koch-Mehrin had been elected Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament)

10. Documents received: see Minutes

11. Texts of agreements forwarded by the Council: see Minutes

12. Action taken on Parliament's positions and resolutions: see Minutes

13. Petitions: see Minutes

14. Transfers of appropriations: see Minutes

15. Closure of the sitting

(The sitting was closed at 20.40)