

Josep Borrell Fontelles
President

Mr Giuseppe GARGANI
Chairman of the Committee on Legal Affairs

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Dear Chairman,

Following the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of Presidents held this morning to discuss the progress made in relation to the Members' Statute, I am pleased to inform you that, at the end of its ordinary meeting, the Conference of Presidents adopted conclusions on this matter.

In summary, in these conclusions the Conference of Presidents expressed its conviction that the European Parliament should react positively to this Council position, subject to Council confirming its draft. The Conference of Presidents then urged the Legal Affairs Committee to adopt a report in time to enable Parliament to debate and adopt the report at the Brussels plenary session of 22/23 June, thus giving Council the opportunity to conclude this dossier under the Luxembourg Presidency. The full text of the conclusions adopted by the Conference of Presidents is annexed to this letter.

Furthermore, the Conference of Presidents mandated me to convey its conclusions to the Legal Affairs Committee at its meeting of 6 June 2005.

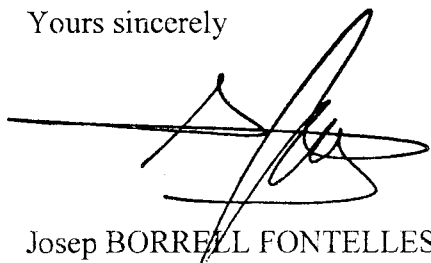
Allow me to add two further related points which were raised during the discussions. Parliament hopes that the successful conclusion of this part of the Statute under the Luxembourg Presidency will then enable us to concentrate our efforts on reaching an agreement on the question of the privileges and immunities of Members, which, as you are aware, involves a difficult and lengthy procedure. I understand that Council will be adopting a declaration committing itself to work on this subject.

Secondly, at the meeting the question was raised as to whether, with the entry into force of the Statute, it would still be possible for a Member State to pay supplementary allowances to Members of Parliament, particularly in order to ensure equality of treatment between Members of the European Parliament and national Members of Parliament. As you know, the Conference of Presidents saw no objection to such a possibility.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr Schmit, the President-in-Office of Council, as part of the ongoing dialogue between our Institutions on this priority matter.

Let me thank you once again for your participation in the meeting of the Conference this morning where you will have noted the very constructive and positive approach of the Group Leaders.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a horizontal line followed by a series of loops and a large, sweeping flourish that extends upwards and to the right.

Josep BORRELL FONTELLES

Annex

ANNEX

Conclusions adopted by the Conference of Presidents at its meeting of 2 June 2005.

- The Conference took note of the progress made in the evolution of this dossier, and notably of the fact that Council is now likely to transmit officially to Parliament - as requested by Parliament - the reasons for which it failed to mark its agreement in January 2004 and the conditions under which Council could agree.
- The Conference welcomed this position and expressed its conviction that the European Parliament should react positively to this Council position subject to Council confirming its draft; it underlined that Council had now indicated its agreement to elements in a Statute, very similar to those elements supported massively in Parliament's resolution of December 2003.
- The Conference, in view of the limited time available before the end of the Luxembourg Presidency, urged the Legal Affairs Committee and its Rapporteur to present a draft report to the next (extraordinary) meeting of the Legal Affairs Committee on 6 June, along the lines examined by the Conference of Presidents, and, again, subject to the confirmation of Council's position.

On the basis of those discussions the Committee should open a deadline of amendments, with a view to adopting the report on the Statute at a further (extraordinary) meeting on 15 June.

This timetable would allow Parliament to debate and to adopt the report at the occasion of the Brussels Plenary Session of 22/23 June, thus giving Council the opportunity to conclude this dossier under the Luxembourg Presidency.

- The Conference mandates the President to convey those conclusions to the Legal Affairs Committee at its meeting of 6 June 2005.