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10. Verification of credentials

On a proposal from the JURI Committee, Parliament decided to validate the mandates of Jens Holm and Katrin Saks, with effect from 27.09.2006 and 09.10.2006 respectively.

11. Membership of Parliament

Dimitri Abadjiev had given notice of his resignation as an Observer at the European Parliament with effect from 01.12.2006.

Parliament noted the resignation and instructed its President to inform the Bulgarian authorities thereof.

12. Communication of Council common positions

Pursuant to Rule 57(1), the President announced that the Council had sent the following common position, along with the reasons for its adoption and the Commission's position on:

— Common position adopted by the Council on 23 November 2006 with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (14224/4/2006 — C6-0432/2006 — 2004/0270B(COD)) referred to responsible: ENVI

The three-month period available to Parliament to adopt its position would therefore begin the following day, 30.11.2006.

13. Russia-EU summit (debate)

Council and Commission statements: Russia-EU summit

Paula Lehtomäki (President-in-Office of the Council) and Benita Ferrero-Waldner (Member of the Commission) made the statements.

The following spoke: Camiel Eurlings, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, Hannes Swoboda, on behalf of the PSE Group, Paavo Väyrynen, on behalf of the ALDE Group, Daniel Cohn-Bendit, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group, Vladimír Remek, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Konrad Szymański, on behalf of the UEN Group, Mirosław Mariusz Piotrowski, on behalf of the IND/DEM Group, Charles Tannock, Reino Paasilinna, Inese Vaidere, Elmar Brok, Marek Siwiec, Ryszard Czarnecki and Tunne Kelam.

IN THE CHAIR: Antonios TRAKATELLIS Vice-President

The following spoke: Rihards Pīks, Béla Glattfelder, Bogusław Sonik, Paula Lehtomäki and Benita Ferrero-Waldner.

As the motions for resolutions tabled were not yet available, they would be announced in plenary at a later time (Minutes of 12.12.2006, Item 6).

The debate closed.

Vote: Minutes of 13.12.2006, Item 8.15.

14. Accession of Bulgaria — Accession of Romania (debate)

Report on the accession of Bulgaria to the European Union [2006/2114(INI)] — Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Rapporteur: Geoffrey Van Orden (A6-0420/2006)

Report on the accession of Romania to the European Union [2006/2115(INI)] — Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Rapporteur: Pierre Moscovici (A6-0421/2006)

Geoffrey Van Orden introduced the report (A6-0420/2006).

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Pierre Moscovici introduced the report (A6-0421/2006).

The following spoke: Paula Lehtomäki (President-in-Office of the Council) and Olli Rehn (Member of the Commission).

The following spoke: Kinga Gál (draftsman of the opinion of the LIBE Committee), Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (draftsman of the opinion of the FEMM Committee), Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg (draftsman of the opinion of the FEMM Committee), Francisco José Millán Mon, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, Jan Marinus Wiersma, on behalf of the PSE Group, Nicholson of Winterbourne, on behalf of the ALDE Group, Milan Horáček, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group, and Jan Tadeusz Masiel, on behalf of the UEN Group.

IN THE CHAIR: Miroslav OUZKÝ Vice-President

The following spoke: Nigel Farage, on behalf of the IND/DEM Group, Hans-Peter Martin, Non-attached Member, Elmar Brok, Alexandra Dobolyi, Jean-Marie Cavada, Bernat Joan i Marí, Hanna Foltyn-Kubicka, Gábor Harangozó, Panagiotis Beglitis, Herbert Bösch, Paula Lehtomäki and Olli Rehn.

The debate closed.

Vote: Minutes of 30.11.2006, Item 8.8 and Minutes of 30.11.2006, Item 8.9.

15. Economic and social consequences of restructuring in the automobile sector in Europe (debate)

Commission statement: Economic and social consequences of restructuring in the automobile sector in Europe

Vladimír Špidla (Member of the Commission) made the statement.

The following spoke: Ivo Belet, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, Stephen Hughes, on behalf of the PSE Group, Jean Marie Beaupuy, on behalf of the ALDE Group, Pierre Jonckheer, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group, Francis Wurtz, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Frank Vanhecke, Non-attached Member, José Albino Silva Peneda, Mia De Vits, Jacky Henin, Alain Hutchinson, Véronique De Keyser, Jean Louis Cottigny and Vladimír Špidla.

The debate closed.

16. Financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide ***I (debate)

Report on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide (European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights) (COM(2006)0354 — C6-0206/2006 — 2006/0116(COD)) — Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Co-rapporteurs: Hélène Flautre and Edward McMillan-Scott (A6-0376/2006)

The following spoke: Paula Lehtomäki (President-in-Office of the Council) and Benita Ferrero-Waldner (Member of the Commission).

Hélène Flautre and Edward McMillan-Scott introduced their report.

The following spoke: Alessandro Battilocchio (draftsman of the opinion of the DEVE Committee), Albert Jan Maat (draftsman of the opinion of the BUDG Committee), Teresa Riera Madurell (draftsman of the opinion of the FEMM Committee), Michael Gahler, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, Elena Valenciano Martínez-Orozco, on behalf of the PSE Group, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, on behalf of the ALDE Group, Richard Howitt, Kader Arif, Paula Lehtomäki and Benita Ferrero-Waldner.

The debate closed.

Vote: Minutes of 12.12.2006, Item 14.18

(The sitting was suspended at 20.20 and resumed at 21.00.)