Decision on the number of interparliamentary delegations, delegations to joint parliamentary committees and delegations to parliamentary cooperation committees and to multilateral parliamentary assemblies

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The European Parliament adopted a decision on the number of interparliamentary delegations, delegations to joint parliamentary committees and delegations to parliamentary cooperation committees and to multilateral parliamentary assemblies. The aim being to strengthen parliamentary democracy by pursuing continuous interparliamentary dialogue.

The groupings are as follows: (a) Europe, Western Balkans and Turkey (7 delegations); (b) Russia and Eastern Partnership States (5 delegations); (c) Maghreb, Mashreq, Israel and Palestine (4 delegations); (d) The Arab Peninsula, Iraq and Iran (3 delegations); (e) The Americas (8 delegations); (f) Asia/Pacific (9 delegations); (g) Africa (2 delegations); (h) Multilateral assemblies (5 delegations).

Parliament decided that the Conference of Delegation Chairs should draw up a draft six-monthly calendar of activities following a consultation with the Committees on Foreign Affairs, on Development and on International Trade. It should be drafted in close cooperation with the Conference of Committee Chairs' six-month calendar of committee delegations, also taking into account the yearly work programme of the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG), in order to ensure a consistent approach.

It is recalled that only official delegations, duly authorised by the Conference of Presidents, are permitted to carry out activities on behalf of the European Parliament and to represent its position.

Prior to an interparliamentary meeting with the counterpart, or prior to any given outgoing delegation, close consultation should take place with the relevant committee(s) on possible political topics or legislative scrutiny issues that the delegation should address in meetings with the counterparts of the country concerned.

Parliament shall endeavour to ensure in practice that one or more committee rapporteurs or chairs may likewise take part in the proceedings of delegations, joint interparliamentary committees, parliamentary cooperation committees and multilateral parliamentary assemblies, and decides that the President, on the joint request of the delegation and committee chairs concerned, shall authorise missions of this type.

The decision shall enter into force at the first part-session of the ninth parliamentary term.