


Procedure file

Basic information		
REG - Parliament's Rules of Procedure	1996/2208(REG)	Procedure completed
EP Rules of procedure, rule 48: written declarations		
Subject 8.40.01.08 Business of Parliament, procedure, sittings, rules of procedure		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	REGL Rules of Procedure, Verification of Credentials and Immunities	ARE DELL'ALBA Gianfranco	17/12/1996

Key events			
25/09/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	B4-1092/1996	
22/10/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/09/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
24/09/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0293/1997	
15/06/1998	Debate in Parliament		
16/06/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0333/1998	Summary
16/06/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
06/07/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2208(REG)
Procedure type	REG - Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Procedure subtype	Rules
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 237-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	REGL/4/08308

Documentation gateway			

Non-legislative basic document		B4-1092/1996	25/09/1996	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0293/1997 OJ C 339 10.11.1997, p. 0005	24/09/1997	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0333/1998 OJ C 210 06.07.1998, p. 0021-0044	16/06/1998	EP	Summary

EP Rules of procedure, rule 48: written declarations

The amendments proposed by the rapporteur seek to make it easier for individual Members to exercise their right to table a written declaration while at the same time tightening up the criteria for publication and openness of this procedure. Until 1989 MEPs made considerable use of the written declarations procedure although without sufficient safeguards concerning the arrangements for collecting signatures and the involvement of Members. The Bureau's decision of 7 July 1989, stipulating that written declarations could not be signed by more than one Member when being submitted, thus obliging successive co-signatories to add their own signatures in designated offices that were not easy to locate, has prevented any possible 'abuse' through overly drastic action which has in fact almost entirely ruled out the possibility of making use of Rule 48. Furthermore, the Bureau's interpretation of the existing Rule 48 does not seem to be entirely justified given that no other parliamentary text provides for a ceiling on the number of signatory Members and that elsewhere the Rules of Procedure allow for more than one Member to undertake a joint action without it being necessary to identify a first signatory in the chronological sense. With the aim of giving effect to the right to table written declarations and of restoring an interpretation of Rule 48 that is consistent with the rest of the Rules of Procedure, the rapporteur proposes to spell out the entitlement of Members to table texts with more than one initial signatory. At the same time, the proposed amendments seek to satisfy the requirement of greater formal rigour. The rapporteur is proposing not only a more practical location for the register of written declarations but also the opportunity for MEPs to add their own signatures directly to an official document of Parliament. The greater flexibility of this procedure would be offset by the publication of the list of signatories and by the fact that all Members would be given the necessary time to decide whether to sign a declaration even after the addition of the requirement of support from a majority of Parliament. This would be a means of restoring to Members full and open individual responsibility for deciding whether to sign a declaration under Rule 48.?

EP Rules of procedure, rule 48: written declarations

Adopting the report by Mr Gianfranco DELL'ALBA (ARE, I), the European Parliament amended article 48 of its rules of procedure. It proposed that up to five Members, rather than any Member, may submit a written declaration on a matter falling within the sphere of activities of the European Union. This declaration shall be included with the names of the signatories in a register. Where a declaration is signed by the majority of Parliament's Members, it shall be forwarded to the institutions in question together with the names of the signatories and included in the minutes of the next session.?