


Procedure file

Basic information		
REG - Parliament's Rules of Procedure	1999/2031(REG)	Procedure completed
EP Rules of procedure, annex V: procedure for the consideration and adoption on the giving of the discharge		
Subject 8.40.01.08 Business of Parliament, procedure, sittings, rules of procedure 8.70.03.01 Basic texts on discharge		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	REGL Rules of Procedure, Verification of Credentials and Immunities		19/01/1999
		PSE FAYOT Ben	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control		16/03/1999
		ELDR KJER HANSEN Eva	

Key events			
02/04/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/04/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
20/04/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0216/1999	
03/05/1999	Debate in Parliament		
04/05/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0380/1999	Summary
04/05/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/10/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/2031(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/4/10876

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0216/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0006	20/04/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0380/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0024-0101	04/05/1999	EP	Summary

EP Rules of procedure, annex V: procedure for the consideration and adoption on the giving of the discharge

The Committee has unanimously adopted Mr Fayot's report on an amendment to Annex V of Parliament's Rules of Procedure (governing the procedure for the consideration and adoption of a decision on giving a budget discharge). In order to complete the budget procedure and allow a discharge to be given for subsequent years, the committee responsible is allowed to use the procedure of "the closure of the accounts" of all the Community's revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities. If the proposal to close the accounts is not adopted in plenary, the report is referred back to the committee responsible. The discharge can be postponed for either technical or political reasons. In order to distinguish between the procedures applicable in each case, and to bring it more into line with Article 89 of the Financial Regulation, the procedure for postponing the discharge has been altered. Now, if there is a technical reason for deferring the discharge, the committee responsible may table a motion for a resolution postponing the decision for a discharge or else instruct the President of Parliament to inform the Commission of the reasons for the postponement. Should Parliament postpone its decision on giving a discharge, the Commission must make every effort to take measures, as soon as possible, to facilitate removal of any obstacles to that decision. The procedure for refusing the discharge has also been amended. Parliament now has to decide on any proposals for such a decision by a majority of votes cast in plenary (pursuant to Article 141 of the EC Treaty) and not by an absolute majority (314 votes). This change meets an immediate need: it enables the 1996 discharge procedure to be completed. It was therefore decided that all the changes will enter into force immediately. To amend an annex to the Rules of Procedure, only a simple majority is needed. ?

EP Rules of procedure, annex V: procedure for the consideration and adoption on the giving of the discharge

The European Parliament adopted the decision by Ben Fayot (PSE,LU) amending Annex V of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, with a view to clarifying the procedure with regard to granting or refusing to grant discharge. Henceforth, the relevant committee within the Parliament will draw up a report comprising: - a proposal for a decision granting or refusing to grant discharge; - a proposal for a decision closing the accounts of all the Community's revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities; - a motion for a resolution containing the comments accompanying the discharge decision including both an assessment of the Commission's budgetary management over the financial year and observations relating to the implementation of expenditure for the future. The relevant committee may also submit a proposal for a resolution to postpone the discharge. The Parliament will decide on these proposals for a decision by a majority of votes cast.?