

Procedure file

Basic information		
REG - Parliament's Rules of Procedure	2001/2040(REG)	Procedure completed
EP Rules of procedure: general revision		
Subject 8.40.01.08 Business of Parliament, procedure, sittings, rules of procedure		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFCO Constitutional Affairs		24/01/2001
		PSE CORBETT Richard	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense		20/03/2001
		PSE MCAVAN Linda	
	BUDG Budgets		27/02/2001
		PPE-DE PRONK Bartho	
	CONT Budgetary Control		29/05/2001
		PPE-DE THEATO Diemut R.	
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs		27/02/2001
		PSE CASHMAN Michael	
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs		27/02/2001
		PSE RANDZIO-PLATH Christa	
	JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market		05/03/2001
		PSE ROTHLEY Willi	
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		15/02/2001
		PPE-DE BASTOS Regina	
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy		13/09/2001
	PPE-DE JACKSON Caroline		
PECH Fisheries		06/03/2001	
	PPE-DE VARELA SUANZES-CARPEGNA Daniel		
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism		20/03/2001	
	PSE SIMPSON Brian		
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		06/03/2001	
	PSE VAN BREMPT Kathleen		
DEVE Development and Cooperation		11/10/2001	
	GUE/NGL MIRANDA Joaquim		

	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	27/02/2001
	PSE THEORIN Maj Britt	
	PETI Petitions	06/03/2001
	PPE-DE WIELAND Rainer	

Key events

28/02/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/12/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
18/12/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0008/2002	
10/06/2002	Debate in Parliament		
12/06/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0305/2002	Summary
12/06/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/10/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2040(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	AFCO/5/14465

Documentation gateway

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A5-0008/2002	18/12/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T5-0305/2002 OJ C 261 30.10.2003, p. 0152-0349 E	12/06/2002	EP	Summary

EP Rules of procedure: general revision

The committee adopted the second report by Richard CORBETT (PES, UK) on the general revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedures with a view to the start of Parliament's next term of office in 2004. The aim is to simplify the Rules and improve their internal consistency. Among other things, the committee proposed changes relating to political groups and in particular the composition of such groups. Whereas at present a political group must comprise Members from more than one Member State, with the minimum number required varying according to how many Member States are involved, the committee proposed a simpler rule to take account of EU enlargement while ensuring that groups retain a transnational character. It said that a political group should comprise Members elected in at least one fifth of the Member States and that the minimum number of members required to form a political group should be 16. The committee also adopted an amendment relating to early termination of office by an MEP. Under this proposal, the Conference of Presidents may, acting by a three-fifths majority of the votes cast, representing at least 3 political groups, propose to Parliament that it terminate the holding of office of the President, a Vice-President, a Quaestor, a Chairman or Vice-Chairman of a committee, a Chairman or Vice-Chairman of an interparliamentary delegation, or any other holder of an office elected within the Parliament, where it considers that the Member in question has been guilty of serious misconduct. Such a proposal must be approved by Parliament by a two-thirds majority representing a majority of its component Members. In another area, in order to 'enhance budgetary responsibility', the committee proposed that the financial consequences and compatibility of Parliament's reports should

already be known before the vote in plenary. A report's explanatory statement should therefore include an assessment of the financial impact of the report. Regarding the right of every Member to speak his or her own language, the report proposed greater flexibility to reflect the post-enlargement situation, in which Parliament may have to deal with 22 languages even though some languages would be spoken by only a few Members. For plenary sittings, the proposed new version of Rule 117 states that speeches will be 'simultaneously interpreted into other official languages' of the EU instead of 'the other official languages' as at present. For committee meetings, interpretation will be provided only into the official languages actually being used. On the question of implementing provisions for Community legislation, Parliament may, within 3 months of the date of receipt of a draft implementing measure, object to the measure, notably if it exceeds the implementing powers provided for in the basic instrument. Where there is no part-session before this period expires, or in cases where urgent action is required, the right of response is delegated to the relevant parliamentary committee, which shall write to the Commissioner responsible. Other changes to the Rules proposed by the committee relate to: the organisation of Parliament's proceedings, including the appearance before Parliament of the President of the Commission, the Council and/or the High Representative for the CFSP; written questions, which could now be put to the ECB as well as the Council and Commission; the tabling of, and voting on, reports and amendments; explanations of vote (oral explanations to be allowed at most twice per MEP per sitting); the abolition of urgent debates, to be replaced by other arrangements; exceptional convening of Parliament in emergencies. ?

EP Rules of procedure: general revision

By adopting the second report by Mr Richard CORBETT (PES, UK), the European Parliament approved the general revision of the Rules of Procedure, which enter into force in 2004. The aim is to simplify the provisions and to improve their internal logic so as to make parliamentary work more comprehensive in light of the enlargement process. 192 amendments were proposed of which only half of them were adopted. The main points of this revision can be summarised as follows: - composition of political groups : a political group shall comprise Members elected in at least one-fifth of the Member States. The minimum number of Members required to form a political group shall be 16. - termination of office by an MEP : the Conference of Presidents may, acting by a three-fifths majority of the votes cast, representing at least 3 political groups, propose to Parliament that it terminate the holding of office of the President, a Vice-President, a Quaestor, a Chairman or Vice-Chairman of a committee, a Chairman or Vice-Chairman of an interparliamentary delegation, or any other holder of an office elected within the Parliament, where it considers that the Member in question has been guilty of serious misconduct. Such a proposal must be approved by Parliament by a two-thirds majority representing a majority of its component Members. - report on financial responsibility : in order to 'enhance budgetary responsibility', the Parliament proposes that the financial consequences and compatibility of Parliament's reports should already be known before the vote in plenary. A report's explanatory statement should therefore include an assessment of the financial impact of the report. - regarding the right of every Member to speak his or her own language: the Parliament states that all members shall have the right to speak in Parliament in the official language of their choice. Interpretation shall be provided in committee meetings from and into the official languages used and requested by the Members and substitutes of that committee. - On the question of implementing provisions for Community legislation, Parliament may, within 3 months of the date of receipt of a draft implementing measure, object to the measure, notably if it exceeds the implementing powers provided for in the basic instrument. Where there is no part-session before this period expires, or in cases where urgent action is required, the right of response is delegated to the relevant parliamentary committee, which shall write to the Commissioner responsible. - other amendments concern the organisation of Parliament's proceedings, including the appearance before Parliament of the President of the Commission, the Council and/or the High Representative for the CFSP; written questions, which could now be put to the ECB as well as the Council and Commission; the tabling of, and voting on, reports and amendments; explanations of vote (oral explanations to be allowed at most twice per MEP per sitting); the abolition of urgent debates, to be replaced by other arrangements; exceptional convening of Parliament in emergencies. On debates on issues in the news, the topical and urgent procedure will now be limited to one hour on human rights questions but there is now a new procedure for a debate of up to one hour on a major crisis relevant to the EU.?