


Procedure file

Basic information		
REG - Parliament's Rules of Procedure	2001/2135(REG)	Procedure completed
EP Rules of procedure: specific provisions for public access to the European Parliament's documents		
Subject 1.20.05 Public access to information and documents, administrative practice 8.40.01.08 Business of Parliament, procedure, sittings, rules of procedure		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFCO Constitutional Affairs		12/06/2001
		PPE-DE MAIJ-WEGGEN Hanja	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs		11/07/2001
		PSE CASHMAN Michael	

Key events			
05/07/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
11/10/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
11/10/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0349/2001	
12/11/2001	Debate in Parliament		
13/11/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0586/2001	Summary
13/11/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
13/06/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2135(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

Documentation gateway

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0349/2001	11/10/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0586/2001 OJ C 140 13.06.2002, p. 0024-0120 E	13/11/2001	EP	Summary

EP Rules of procedure: specific provisions for public access to the European Parliament's documents

In accordance with the principles of transparency and the right of access to EU documents, as laid down in the Amsterdam Treaty and incorporated in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, the committee adopted a report by Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN (EPP-ED, NL) proposing amendments to parts of Parliament's Rules of Procedure in order to take account of the new provisions governing public access to EU documents. The committee said Parliament should set up a register, which should be operational by 3 June 2002, to enable the public to learn of the existence of documents (and therefore request to see them). Under the rules, the public would be entitled to have access to documents drawn up by MEPs or political groups as soon as they had been tabled. As for Parliament's committees, if their meetings took place behind closed doors, the documents and minutes of the meetings could only be classified as confidential under certain conditions already provided for in the Rules of Procedure (protection of the public interest in the fields of security, defence, international relations, financial, monetary or economic policy, privacy, etc). Lastly, the report said that an interinstitutional committee should be set up to examine best practice. ?

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The European Parliament adopted the report by Mrs Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN (EPP/ED, NL). Essentially, the Parliament agrees with the position expressed by the decision of the committee responsible (please refer to the previous text). However, it also insisted on some specific points: - that consideration by the committee responsible of requests for waiver of immunity shall always take place in camera; - that the categories of documents which are directly accessible shall be set out in a list adopted by the Parliament; - that Parliament documents which are not directly accessible through the register shall be available in written form; - where the confidential nature of documents received by the Parliament is questioned by one of the institutions, that matter shall be referred to the interinstitutional committee to be created.?