



Procedure file

Basic information	
REG - Parliament's Rules of Procedure	2006/2201(REG)
EP Rules of Procedure, Rule 29: formation of political groups	Procedure completed
Subject	8.40.01.08 Business of Parliament, procedure, sittings, rules of procedure

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFCO Constitutional Affairs	PSE CORBETT Richard	02/05/2007

Key events			
07/09/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
27/05/2008	Vote in committee		Summary
02/06/2008	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0206/2008	
07/07/2008	Debate in Parliament		
09/07/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
09/07/2008	Decision by Parliament	T6-0351/2008	Summary
09/07/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2006/2201(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/6/39117

Documentation gateway					
Committee draft report		PE400.568	28/01/2008	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE405.880	25/04/2008	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0206/2008	02/06/2008	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0351/2008	09/07/2008	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2008)4891	27/08/2008	EC	

EP Rules of Procedure, Rule 29: formation of political groups

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs adopted a report drafted by Richard CORBETT (PES, UK) on the amendment of Rule 29 of the Parliament's Rules of Procedure (formation of political groups).

At present, a group can be formed by a minimum of 20 Members (or 2.5% of EP's membership), who also represent at least one-fifth of the Member States (i.e. at least 6 countries). The rapporteur proposed an amendment to Parliament's rules of procedure to raise the threshold to 30 MEPs (4% of total membership), representing at least one quarter of the Member States (i.e. 7). However, this amendment was rejected by a majority of one vote, with 15 against and 14 in favour.

On the other hand, an amendment was approved to introduce new rules on the possibility for a political group to continue to exist if it falls below the required threshold, under certain conditions. This amendment stipulates that where a group falls below the required threshold, the President, with the agreement of the Conference of Presidents, may allow it to continue to exist until Parliament's next constitutive sitting, provided the following conditions are met: a) the members continue to represent at least one-fifth of the Member States; b) the group has been in existence for a period longer than one year.

The President shall not apply this derogation where there is sufficient evidence to suspect that it is being abused.

EP Rules of Procedure, Rule 29: formation of political groups

The European Parliament adopted by 481 votes to 203, with 26 abstentions, a decision on the amendment of Rule 29 of the Parliament's Rules of Procedure (formation of political groups).

The report had been tabled for consideration in plenary by Richard CORBETT (PES, UK), on behalf of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs.

At present, a group can be formed by a minimum of 20 Members (or 2.5% of EP's membership), who also represent at least one-fifth of the Member States (i.e. at least 6 countries). The Parliament decided to raise the minimum number to 25 Members (or 3.1% of EP's membership), representing at least one-quarter of the Member States (i.e. 7 countries).

An additional amendment introduces new rules on the possibility for a group to continue to exist until Parliament's next constitutive sitting, even if it does not meet the required minimum levels. In this case, the group must have been in existence for a period longer than one year and its Members must continue to represent at least one-fifth of the Member States. The President shall not apply this derogation where there is sufficient evidence to suspect that it is being abused.