

Procedure file

Basic information		
REG - Parliament's Rules of Procedure	2011/2266(REG)	Procedure completed
EP Rules of Procedure: changes in Parliament's relationship with the European Council and the Eurogroup following entry in force of the Lisbon Treaty		
Subject 8.40.01.08 Business of Parliament, procedure, sittings, rules of procedure		

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed	
	AFCO Constitutional Affairs		07/04/2011	
		PPE LAMASSOURE Alain		
		Shadow rapporteur		
		S&D GURMAI Zita		
		ALDE DUFF Andrew		
	EFD MESSERSCHMIDT Morten			

Key events			
02/02/2012	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/02/2012	Vote in committee		
01/03/2012	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0039/2012	Summary
29/03/2012	Results of vote in Parliament		
29/03/2012	Decision by Parliament	T7-0111/2012	Summary
29/03/2012	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2011/2266(REG)
Procedure type	REG - Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Procedure subtype	Rules
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 237-p1
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report		PE478.365	16/12/2011	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE480.840	08/02/2012	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0039/2012	01/03/2012	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0111/2012	29/03/2012	EP	Summary

EP Rules of Procedure: changes in Parliament's relationship with the European Council and the Eurogroup following entry in force of the Lisbon Treaty

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs adopted the report drafted by Alain LAMASSOURE (EPP, FR) on amending the Rules of Procedure to take into account the changing relationships between the European Parliament and the institutions representing the national governments following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

By letter of 4 March 2011, the President of the European Parliament referred to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs a proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure following discussions held in the Conference of Presidents on 17 February 2011.

During those discussions, the Conference of Presidents pointed out that, following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, Parliament had become a co-legislator in the EU and that its powers were on a par with those of the Council in the ordinary legislative procedure and in the budget procedure. Given this new balance between the institutions, the Conference of Presidents took the view that there was no longer any need for Council Question Time to be included on the agenda every part-session, as is the case at the moment. The Conference of Presidents does, however, take the view that question hours with the President of the Commission, the Vice-President/High Representative and the President of the Eurogroup should continue to be an option.

Abolishing Council Question Time in its present form would reflect the shift in the institutional balance referred to by the Conference of Presidents. For the reasons set out above, however, it would be sensible to retain the option of putting questions to the Council during a specific question hour on matters relating to responsibilities other than those linked to the exercise of its legislative and budgetary functions.

Given these considerations, the Constitutional Affairs Committee proposes that Parliament should amend Article 116 of its Rules in the following way:

- Parliament and the Council have equal powers in the ordinary legislative procedure and in the budget procedure. Given the new balance between the institutions, there is no longer any reason for the agenda to continue to include Council Question Time in its present form.
- In view of the Council's other responsibilities, in particular its policy-making, coordinating and implementing functions, it ought to be possible for specific question hours to be held with the Council.

EP Rules of Procedure: changes in Parliament's relationship with the European Council and the Eurogroup following entry in force of the Lisbon Treaty

The European Parliament adopted a decision amending the Rules of Procedure to take into account the changing relationships between the European Parliament and the institutions representing the national governments following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon.

Parliament decided to amend Article 116 of its Rules of Procedure in the following way:

- Parliament and the Council have equal powers in the ordinary legislative procedure and in the budget procedure. Given the new balance between the institutions, there is no longer any reason for the agenda to continue to include Council Question Time in its present form.
- On the other hand, the amended Regulation retains the option of putting questions to the Council, during a specific question hour, on matters relating to responsibilities other than those linked to the exercise of its legislative and budgetary functions. These questions may relate to the exercise of its functions in defining, coordinating and implementing Union policies, or concern its powers relating to appointment procedures or the operation of the institutions, agencies and bodies of the European Union or a revision of the Treaties.