

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



*s e s s i o n   d o c u m e n t s*

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A3-0240/93/PART I

## R E P O R T

of the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, the Verification of  
Credentials and Immunities

on the amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the European  
Parliament subsequent to the Treaty on European Union

Rapporteurs: Sir Christopher PROUT, Mr Willi ROTHLEY  
and Mr Luciano VECCHI

**PART I: Proposal for a decision**

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PE 205.944/fin./I  
Or.FR/DE/EN

\* Consultation procedure requiring a single reading  
\*\* I Cooperation procedure (first reading)

\*\* II Cooperation procedure (second reading) requiring the votes of a majority of the cur  
\*\*\* Parliamentary assent requiring the votes of a majority of the current Members of Pe

**CONTENTS**

Procedural page ..... 3

A. Amendments to the Rules of Procedure ..... 5

**PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION** ..... 63

**Annexes:**

Proposed amendments of the Rules of Procedure (B3-0449/92, B3-1662/92)

By letter of 12 February 1992 the President of the European Parliament notified the Committee on the Rules of Procedure of the Enlarged Bureau decision of 28 January 1992, instructing the Committee on the Rules of Procedure to consider the implications of the Treaty on European Union for Parliament's Rules of Procedure and asking it to submit proposals on this matter by the October part-session, taking account not only of the implications of the Treaty of Maastricht but also including any changes which could usefully be made following the recent modification of the Rules of Procedure (Malangré report), and the proposals which the President had referred to various parliamentary bodies.

At its meeting of 19 March 1992 the Committee on the Rules of Procedure appointed a working party composed of three rapporteurs, Sir Christopher Prout, Mr Willy Rothley and Mr Luciano Vecchi and chaired by Mr Florus Wijsenbeek, committee chairman, with a view to proposing amendments to the Rules of Procedure as part of this process.

At its first meeting on 8 April 1992 in Strasbourg, the Working Party allocated to the three rapporteurs responsibility for the following aspects of its work:

- Sir Christopher PROUT: implications of the Treaty of Maastricht for legislative procedures;
- Mr Willy ROTHLEY: changes in the Rules of Procedure not arising directly from the Treaty of Maastricht but designed to make Parliament's work more efficient;
- Mr Luciano VECCHI: amendments to the Rules of Procedure arising from the Treaty of Maastricht, relating to matters other than legislative procedures.

The President of the European Parliament announced that he had asked the following committees for their opinions:

- . at the sitting of 12 June 1992, the Committee on Institutional Affairs;
- . at the sitting of 6 July 1992, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights;
- . at the sitting of 9 July 1992, the Committee on Budgetary Control;
- . at the sitting of 18 September 1992, the Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs;
- . at the sitting of 14 October 1992, the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Security;
- . at the sitting of 19 April 1993, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy.

The following matters were also referred to the Working Party:

- . Rule 36: amendment pursuant to Rule 132
- . Rule 36(3): interpretation pursuant to Rule 131
- . Rule 36(5): interpretation pursuant to Rule 131
- . Rules 40(2) and 103(1): interpretation referred to the committee on 11 June 1991 pursuant to Rule 131
- . Rule 56(4): A3-0395/91: report by Mr GALLE referred to committee on 15 January 1992 pursuant to Rule 103
- . Compatibility of Rules 69(1) and 120(6): interpretation pursuant to Rule 131
- . Rule 75(1): B3-1662/92: referred on 22 January 1993 pursuant to Rule 131
- . Rule 91: interpretation pursuant to Rule 131
- . Rule 98(1): interpretation pursuant to Rule 131
- . Rule 114: interpretation pursuant to Rule 131
- . Rule 119(3): A3-0394/92: report by Mr HARRISON referred to committee on 15 January 1992 pursuant to Rule 103
- . Rule 131(4): B3-0449/92: referred on 10 April 1992 pursuant to Rule 132
- . European Parliament resolution of 17 December 1992 on the conciliation procedure: interpretation pursuant to Rule 131.

At its meetings of 21-22 May 1992, 24-25 June 1992, 22 September 1992, 1 October 1992, 5-6 November 1992, 26 November 1992, 17-18 February 1993, 16 March 1993, 31 March 1993, 27-28 April 1993, 5-6 May 1993, 26 May 1993, 1 June 1993 and 10 June 1993, the Committee on the Rules of Procedure considered the draft reports.

At its meeting of 21-22 September 1992, the committee decided to submit the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure in the form of a single report tabled jointly by the three rapporteurs.

At its meeting of 14-15 July 1993 the committee adopted the proposal for a decision unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Wijzenbeek, chairman; Prout, Rothley and Vecchi, rapporteurs; Aglietta, Blaney, Bru Puron, Defraigne, Gaibisso, Gil-Robles, Herman, Hoon, Lalor, Langer, Malangré, McCubbin, McIntosh, Onur, Patterson, Peter, Rogalla, Rothe, Stamoulis, Stavrou, Topmann and Vittinghoff.

The explanatory statement will be presented orally in plenary sitting.

The opinions of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Security, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights, the Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs, the Committee on Budgetary Control and the Committee on Institutional Affairs will be published separately.

The report was tabled on 20 July 1993.

The deadline for tabling amendments will appear on the draft agenda for the part-session at which the report is to be considered.

0. Amendment of Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament subsequent to the Treaty on European Union

A3-0240/93

Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament

Existing text

New text

(Amendment No. 1)

Rule 2

The independent Community mandate

1. Members of the European Parliament shall be elected in general, direct and secret elections in the Member States of the European Community.

Members of the European Parliament shall exercise their mandate freely. They shall not be bound by any instructions and shall not receive a binding mandate.

2. Members of the European Parliament shall vote on an individual and personal basis. They shall not be bound by any instructions and shall not receive a binding mandate.

2. Deleted

3. Members shall enjoy privileges and immunities in accordance with the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities, annexed to the Treaty of 8 April 1965 establishing a single Council and a single Commission of the European Communities.

3. Deleted

4. Passes to allow Members to circulate freely in the Member States shall be issued to them by the President of Parliament as soon as their election has been notified to him.

4. Deleted

(Amendment No. 2)

Rule 2A (new)

Rule 2A

Privileges and Immunities

1. Members shall enjoy privileges and immunities in accordance with the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities, annexed to the Treaty of 8 April 1965 establishing a single Council and a single Commission of the European Communities.

2. Passes to allow Members to circulate freely in the Member States shall be issued to them by the President of Parliament as soon as their election has been notified to him.

3. Members shall be entitled to inspect any files held by Parliament or a committee, other than personal files and accounts which only the Members concerned shall be allowed to inspect.

(Amendment No. 3)  
Rule 4

**Financial situation of Members**

The Bureau shall adopt rules governing the payment of expenses and allowances to Members.

**Payment of expenses and allowances**

The Bureau shall lay down rules governing the payment of expenses and allowances to Members.

(Amendment No. 4)  
Rule 5(4)  
**Waiver of immunity**

4. The report of the committee shall be placed at the head of the agenda of the first sitting following the day on which it was tabled. No amendment may be tabled to the proposal(s) for a decision.

Discussion shall be confined to the reasons for or against each of the proposals to waive or uphold immunity.

At the end of the debate there shall be an immediate vote.

4. The report of the committee shall be placed at the head of the agenda of the first sitting following the day on which it was tabled. No amendment may be tabled to the proposal(s) for a decision.

Discussion shall be confined to the reasons for or against each of the proposals to waive or uphold immunity.

The proposal for a decision contained in the report shall be put to the vote at the first voting time following the debate.

*(Interpretation unchanged)*

(Amendment No. 5)  
Rule 17  
**Vacancies**

1. Should it be necessary for the President, a Vice-President or a Quaestor to be replaced, his successor shall be elected in accordance with the above provisions.

A newly elected Vice-President shall take the place of his predecessor in the order of precedence.

2. Should the seat become vacant during an adjournment of the session, the political group to which the Member whose seat has become vacant belonged shall nominate a candidate for temporary membership of the Bureau pending the election referred to in paragraph 1.

The nomination shall be placed before the Enlarged Bureau for ratification.

A temporary member of the Bureau shall enjoy the same rights as a Vice-President.

Should the President's seat become vacant, the first Vice-President shall act as President.

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A newly elected Vice-President shall take the place of his predecessor in the order of precedence.

2. Should the President's seat become vacant, the first Vice-President shall act as President until a new President is elected.

**BUREAU OF PARLIAMENT**

**PARLIAMENT'S GOVERNING BODIES**

**Functions of the Bureau**

1. The Bureau shall carry out the duties assigned to it under the Rules of Procedure.
  2. The Bureau shall take financial and organizational decisions on matters concerning Members, Parliament and its bodies.
  3. The Bureau, after consulting the appropriate committee, shall decide the number of officials and other servants and lay down regulations relating to their administrative and financial situation.
1. The Bureau shall carry out the duties assigned to it under the Rules of Procedure.
  2. The Bureau shall take financial, organizational and administrative decisions on matters concerning Members and the internal organization of Parliament, its Secretariat and its bodies.
    - 2a. The Bureau shall take decisions on matters relating to the conduct of sittings.
    - 2b. The Bureau shall adopt the provisions referred to in Rule 27(2) concerning Non-attached Members.
  3. The Bureau shall establish the establishment plan of the Secretariat and lay down regulations relating to the administrative and financial situation of officials and other servants.

*(Adapt Rule 133(3) accordingly).*

    - 3a. The Bureau shall draw up Parliament's preliminary draft estimates.

*(Adapt Rule 134(1) and (2) accordingly).*
    - 3b. The Bureau shall adopt the guidelines for the Quaestors pursuant to Rule 24A.
    - 3c. The Bureau shall be the authority responsible for authorizing meetings of committees away from the usual places of work, hearings and study and fact-finding missions carried out by rapporteurs.
    - 3d. The Bureau shall appoint the Secretary-General pursuant to Rule 133.

4. The President and/or the Bureau may entrust one or more members of the Bureau with general or specific tasks lying within the competence of the President and/or the Bureau. At the same time the ways and means of carrying them out shall be laid down.

5. When a new Parliament is elected, the outgoing Bureau shall remain in office until the first sitting of the new Parliament.

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5. When a new Parliament is elected, the outgoing Bureau shall remain in office until the first sitting of the new Parliament.

*In addition: Delete Point A3 of Annex II of the Rules of Procedure and modify Rule 96(1) in such a way as to confer this responsibility on the Bureau.*

(Amendment No. 8)  
Rule 23

Composition of the Enlarged Bureau

1. The Enlarged Bureau shall consist of the Bureau and the chairmen of the political groups.

The chairman of a political group may arrange to be represented by a member of his group.

2. The non-attached Members shall delegate two of their number to attend meetings of the Enlarged Bureau, without having the right to vote.

3. Should voting in the Enlarged Bureau result in a tie, the President shall have a casting vote.

Composition of the Conference of Chairmen

1. The Conference of Chairmen shall consist of the President of Parliament and the chairmen of the political groups. The chairman of a political group may arrange to be represented by a member of his group.

2. The non-attached Members shall delegate two of their number to attend the meetings of the Conference of Chairmen, without having the right to vote.

3. The Conference of Chairmen shall endeavour to reach a consensus on matters referred to it.

Where a consensus cannot be reached, the matter shall be put to a vote subject to a weighting based on the number of Members in each political group.

(Amendment No. 9)  
Rule 24

Functions of the Enlarged Bureau

1. The Enlarged Bureau shall carry out the duties assigned to it under the Rules of Procedure.

2. The Enlarged Bureau shall take decisions on questions relating to Parliament's internal organization and on matters affecting relations with non-Community institutions and organizations.

3. The Enlarged Bureau shall deliberate on relations with the other institutions and bodies of the Communities.

4. The Enlarged Bureau shall adopt Parliament's preliminary draft estimates in accordance with Rule 134(2).

Functions of the Conference of Chairmen

1. The Conference of Chairmen shall carry out the duties assigned to it under the Rules of Procedure.

2. The Conference of Chairmen shall take decisions on the organization of Parliament's work and matters relating to legislative planning.

3. The Conference of Chairmen shall be the authority responsible for matters relating to relations with the other institutions and bodies of the Community and with the national parliaments of Member States.

4. The Conference of Chairmen shall be the authority responsible for matters relating to relations with non-member countries and with non-Community institutions and organizations.

5. The Conference of Chairmen shall draw up the draft agenda of Parliament's part-sessions.  
(Adapt Rules 73 and 74 accordingly).

6. The Conference of Chairmen shall be the authority responsible for the composition and competence of committees and committees of inquiry and of joint parliamentary committees, standing delegations and ad hoc delegations.  
(Adapt Rules 110 and 112(2) on conflicts over competence accordingly).

7. The Conference of Chairmen shall decide how seats in the Chamber are to be allocated pursuant to Rule 28.

8. The Conference of Chairmen shall be the authority responsible for authorizing the drawing up of own-initiative reports.

9. The Conference of Chairmen shall submit proposals to the Bureau concerning administrative and budgetary matters relating to the political groups.

(Amendment No. 10)  
Rule 24A (new)

#### Duties of the Quaestors

##### Rule 20

The Quaestors shall be responsible for administrative and financial matters directly concerning Members, pursuant to guidelines laid down by the Bureau.

##### Rule 24A

The Quaestors shall be responsible for administrative and financial matters directly concerning Members, pursuant to guidelines laid down by the Bureau.

(Amendment No. 11)  
Rule 24B (new)

##### Conference of Committee Chairmen

1. The Conference of Committee Chairmen shall consist of the chairmen of all standing or temporary committees and shall elect its chairman.

2. The Conference of Committee Chairmen may make recommendations to the Conference of Chairmen about the work of committees and the drafting of the agenda of part-sessions.

3. The Bureau and the Conference of Chairmen may instruct the Conference of Committee Chairmen to carry out specific tasks.

(Amendment No. 12)  
Rule 24C (new)

##### Conference of Delegation Chairmen

1. The Conference of Delegation Chairmen shall consist of the chairmen of all standing interparliamentary delegations and shall elect its chairman.

2. The Conference of Delegation Chairmen may make recommendations to the Conference of Chairmen about the work of delegations.

3. The Bureau and the Conference of Chairmen may instruct the Conference of Delegation Chairmen to carry out specific tasks.

(Amendment No. 13)

Rule 25

Accountability of the Bureau and Enlarged Bureau

1. A list of the decisions taken at the meetings of the Bureau and the Enlarged Bureau shall be translated into the official languages, printed and distributed to all Members of Parliament, unless the Bureau or the Enlarged Bureau exceptionally, for reasons of confidentiality, decides otherwise.

2. Any Member may ask questions related to the work of the Bureau, the Enlarged Bureau and the Quaestors. Such questions shall be submitted to the President in writing and published in the Bulletin of Parliament within thirty days of tabling, together with the answers given.

Accountability of the Bureau, the Conference of Chairmen and the Quaestors

1. The minutes of the Bureau and the Conference of Chairmen shall be translated into the official languages, printed and distributed to all Members of Parliament, unless the Bureau or the Conference of Chairmen exceptionally, for reasons of confidentiality, decides otherwise.

2. Any Member may ask questions related to the work of the Bureau, the Conference of Chairmen and the Quaestors. Such questions shall be submitted to the President in writing and published in the Bulletin of Parliament within thirty days of tabling, together with the answers given.

(Amendment No. 14)

Rule 26

Formation of political groups

1. Members may form themselves into groups according to their political affinities.

2. A political group shall be considered to have been set up after the President has been handed a statement to that effect containing the name of the group, the signatures of its members and the composition of its Bureau.

3. This statement shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

4. A Member may not belong to more than one group.

5. A minimum number of twenty-three Members shall be required to form a political group if all the Members come from a single Member State. The corresponding number shall be eighteen if the Members come from two Member States and twelve if they come from three or more Member States.

1. Members may form themselves into groups according to their political affinities.

2. The minimum number of Members required to form a political group shall be 26 if they come from one Member State, 21 if they come from two Member States, 16 if they come from three Member States and 13 if they come from four or more Member States.

3. A Member may not belong to more than one group.

4. The President shall be notified in a statement when a political group is set up. This statement shall specify the name of the group, its members and its Bureau.

5. The statement shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

(Amendment No. 15)  
Rule 27  
Non-attached Members

1. Non-attached Members shall be those who do not belong to a political group.
2. The Non-attached Members shall delegate two of their number to attend meetings of the Enlarged Bureau, without having the right to vote.
3. The Non-attached Members shall be provided with administrative facilities and a secretariat, the composition and size of which shall be determined by the Enlarged Bureau on a proposal from the Secretary-General, having regard to the number of Non-attached Members.
4. The speaking time of Non-attached Members shall be calculated in accordance with Rule 83(2). The time thus obtained shall be doubled so as to take account of the great diversity of political views among the Non-attached Members and enable, as far as possible, each such view to be expressed.

Each Non-attached Member shall be accorded the same speaking time. If he does not wish to use his speaking time he may assign it to another Non-attached Member.

The rules governing the utilization of speaking time shall be determined by the Enlarged Bureau.

5. The allocation of seats on the various committees to Non-attached Members shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Rule 110.

1. Members who do not belong to a political group shall be provided with a secretariat. The detailed arrangements shall be laid down by the Bureau on a proposal from the Secretary-General.
2. The Bureau shall also determine the status and parliamentary rights of such Members.
3. Deleted
4. Deleted
5. Deleted

(Amendment No. 16)  
Rule 29

Vote of Confidence in the New Commission

1. The Enlarged Bureau shall give a prior opinion regarding the appointment of the President of the Commission after hearing to this effect the President-in-Office of the European Council.

2. Parliament shall pass a vote of confidence in the new Commission. This vote of confidence shall require a majority of the votes cast.

Consultation of Parliament on the nomination of the President of the Commission

1. When the governments of the Member States have agreed on a proposal for the nomination of the President of the Commission, the President shall request the proposed candidate to make a statement to Parliament. The statement shall be followed by a debate.

The Council may be invited to take part in the debate.

2. Parliament shall approve or reject the proposed nomination by a majority of the votes cast.

The vote shall be taken by roll call.

The vote shall not be valid unless half the component Members take part.

3. After receiving a vote of confidence from Parliament, the Members of the Commission shall give a solemn undertaking before the Court of Justice as required under Article 10 of the Treaty establishing a Single Council and a Single Commission of the European Communities.

The President of Parliament shall be present or be represented when this solemn undertaking is given.

3. The President shall forward the result of the vote to the President of the European Council and to the governments of the Member States as Parliament's opinion.

4. If the result of the vote in Parliament on the proposal for the nomination of the President of the Commission is negative, the President shall request the governments of the Member States to withdraw their proposal and present a new proposal to Parliament.

(Amendment No. 17)  
Rule 29A (new)

#### Rule 29A

##### Vote of Approval of the Commission

1. When the Governments of the Member States have agreed on the other persons whom they intend to appoint as Members of the Commission, the President shall, after consultation of the designated President of the Commission, request the proposed candidates to appear before the appropriate committee according to their prospective field of responsibility.

2. The committee may invite the proposed candidate to make a statement and answer questions. The committee shall report its conclusions to the President

3. The President-designate shall present the programme of the designated Commission at a sitting of Parliament which the whole Council shall be invited to attend. The statement shall be followed by a debate.

4. In order to wind up the debate, any political group may table a motion for a resolution which shall contain a statement as to whether Parliament approves or rejects the designated Commission.

5. Parliament shall vote its approval of the Commission by a majority of the votes cast.

The vote shall be taken by roll call.

The vote shall not be valid unless half the component Members take part.

6. If Parliament approves the designated Commission, the President shall notify the governments of the Member States that the appointment of the Commission may now take place.

(Amendment No. 18)  
Rule 29b  
Annual General Report of the Commission

1. The Annual General Report of the Commission on the activities of the Communities shall be distributed immediately after publication.

2. The various parts of the report shall be referred to the appropriate committees.

3. Committees consulted under paragraph 2 shall not be obliged to submit a report.

Any committee may, where it feels it necessary for Parliament to make known its views on certain essential problems raised by the general report, bring these problems up in Parliament by resorting to one of the existing procedures.

1. The Annual General Report of the Commission on the activities of the European Community shall be referred to the committees, which may submit specific and fundamental questions to the plenary under the existing procedures.

2. Deleted

3. Deleted

(Amendment No. 19)  
Rule 29D (new)

Rule 29D

European Central Bank (European Monetary Institute)

1. The proposed candidate for President of the European Central Bank shall be invited to make a statement before the committee responsible and answer questions put by members.
2. The committee responsible shall make a recommendation to Parliament as to whether the proposed candidate should be approved or not.
3. The vote shall take place within two months of the receipt of the proposal unless Parliament, at the request of the committee responsible, a political group or twenty-three Members, decides otherwise.
4. If the opinion adopted by Parliament is negative, the President shall request the Council to withdraw its proposal and submit a new proposal to Parliament.
5. The same procedure shall apply for proposed candidates for Vice-President and Executive Board Members of the European Central Bank and for President of the European Monetary Institute.
6. The President of the European Central Bank shall present the Annual Report of the Bank to Parliament.
7. Parliament may decide to hold a debate following this presentation.

8. The President of the European Central Bank and other Executive Board Members may be invited to attend a meeting of the committee responsible to make a statement and answer questions. The President of the Bank shall attend such meetings twice a year. He may be invited to attend additional meetings if circumstances justify it in the opinion of the committee responsible confirmed by the Conference of Chairmen.

9. The same procedure shall apply, to the President of the European Monetary Institute for the period of its existence.

(Amendment No. 20)

Rule 30

**Motion of censure on the Commission**

1. A motion of censure on the Commission may be handed to the President of Parliament by one tenth of the current Members of Parliament.

2. The motion shall be presented in writing, labelled 'motion of censure' and supported by reasons. It shall be printed and distributed in the official languages as soon as it is received, and brought to the notice of the Commission.

3. The President shall announce to Members that a motion of censure has been tabled immediately he receives it, and where the motion of censure is received during an adjournment of the session, he shall repeat that announcement at the beginning of the first part-session following receipt of the motion. The debate on the motion shall not be opened until at least twenty-four hours after its receipt is announced. The vote shall not be taken on the motion until at least forty-eight hours after the beginning of the debate. Voting shall be by open vote by way of roll call.

4. The motion of censure shall be adopted only if it secures a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, representing a majority of the current Members of Parliament. The result of the vote shall be notified to the President of the Commission and the President of the Council.

1. A motion of censure on the Commission may be submitted to the President by one tenth of the component Members of Parliament.

2. The motion shall be labelled 'motion of censure' and supported by reasons. It shall be forwarded to the Commission.

3. The President shall announce to Members that a motion of censure has been tabled immediately he receives it.

3a. The debate on the motion shall not take place until at least 24 hours after its receipt is announced to Members.

3b. The vote on the motion shall be by roll call and shall not be taken until at least 48 hours after the beginning of the debate.

3c. The debate and the vote shall take place, at the latest, during the part-session following submission of the motion.

4. The motion of censure shall be adopted if it secures a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, representing a majority of the component Members of Parliament. The result of the vote shall be notified to the President of the Council and the President of the Commission.

INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS

Rule 32

Accession Treaties

1. Any application by a European State to become a member of the Community shall be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration.

2. Parliament may decide, on a proposal from the committee responsible, a political group or at least twenty-three Members, to request the Commission and the Council to take part in a debate before negotiations with the applicant State commence.

3. The Commission and the Council shall keep Parliament informed, through the appropriate committees, of progress in the negotiation of a treaty for the accession of an applicant State to the Community.

4. When the negotiations are completed, but before any agreement is signed, Parliament may decide, on a proposal from the committee responsible, a political group or at least twenty-three Members, to hold a further debate on the proposed terms.

5. If Parliament gives its assent to an application by any European State to become a member of the Community, it shall do so by a majority of the votes of its current Members on the basis of a report by the committee responsible.

1. Any application by a European State to become a member of the Union shall be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration.

2. Parliament may decide, on a proposal from the committee responsible, a political group or at least twenty-three Members, to request the Commission and the Council to take part in a debate before negotiations with the applicant State commence.

3. Throughout the negotiations the Commission and the Council shall inform the committee responsible regularly and thoroughly of the progress in the negotiations, if necessary on a confidential basis.

3a. At any stage of the negotiations Parliament may, on the basis of a report from the committee responsible, adopt recommendations and require these to be taken into account before the conclusion of a Treaty for the accession of an applicant State to the Union. Such recommendations shall require the same majority as the final assent.

4. When the negotiations are completed, but before any agreement is signed, the draft agreement shall be submitted to Parliament for assent.

5. Parliament shall give its assent to an application by a European State to become a member of the Union, by a majority of the votes of its component Members on the basis of a report by the committee responsible.

Association agreements

1. Parliament may, on a proposal from the committee responsible, a political group or at least twenty-three Members, ask the Council to be consulted on the negotiating mandate which the Council intends to give the Commission before the negotiations on the conclusion, renewal or amendment of an association agreement or financial protocol commence.

International agreements

1. When it is intended to open negotiations on the conclusion, renewal or amendment of an international agreement, including agreements in specific areas such as monetary affairs or trade, the committee responsible shall ensure that Parliament is fully informed by the Commission about its recommendations for a negotiating mandate, if necessary on a confidential basis.

2. Parliament may decide, on a proposal from the committee responsible, a political group or at least twenty-three Members, to request the Commission to take part in a debate on its negotiating mandate before negotiations commence.

3. The Commission and the Council shall keep Parliament informed, through the appropriate committees, of progress in such negotiations.

4. When the negotiations are completed, but before any agreement is signed, the draft agreement shall be submitted to Parliament for assent.

5. If Parliament gives its assent to the conclusion, renewal or amendment of an association agreement or a financial protocol concluded by the Community, it shall do so by a majority of the votes of its current Members.

2. Parliament may, on a proposal from the committee responsible or a political group or at least twenty-three Members, request the Council not to authorize the opening of negotiations until Parliament has stated its position on the proposed negotiating mandate on the basis of a report from the committee responsible.

3. The committee responsible shall verify the chosen legal base for international agreements pursuant to Rule 36D.

4. Throughout the negotiations the Commission and the Council shall inform the committee responsible regularly and thoroughly of the progress in the negotiations, if necessary on a confidential basis.

5. At any stage of the negotiations Parliament may, on the basis of a report from the committee responsible, adopt recommendations and require that these be taken into account before the conclusion of the international agreement under consideration.

6. When the negotiations are completed, but before any agreement is signed, the draft agreement shall be submitted to Parliament for opinion or for assent. For the assent procedure Rule 52G shall apply.

7. Parliament shall give its opinion or its assent to the conclusion, renewal or amendment of an international agreement or a financial protocol concluded by the Community, by a majority of the votes cast.

8. If the opinion adopted by Parliament is negative, the President shall request the Council not to conclude the agreement in question.

9. If Parliament by a majority of the votes cast pronounces itself against giving its assent to an international agreement, the President shall refer the agreement in question back to the Council for reconsideration.

*(Rules 34 and 35 fall)*

(Amendment No. 23)  
Rule 36A (new)  
Annual legislative programme

Rule 29a

1. After the presentation of the Annual Programme by the Commission and the debate thereon in Parliament, the Enlarged Bureau and the Commission shall agree on an annual legislative programme and a timetable for the submission by the Commission and the examination by Parliament of proposals which the Commission intends to remit to the Council. The same procedure shall apply to pre-legislative consultation documents such as Green Papers.

The competent committee may give its opinion on pre-legislative documents.

Rule 36A

1. Before the end of each year and following a debate and vote in Parliament on the Annual Programme of the Commission, the Presidents of the Parliament, the Council and the Commission shall agree on behalf of their institutions an Annual Legislative Programme for the following year covering the legislative activity in all three institutions.

1a. The Annual Legislative Programme shall establish the priorities in the legislative field and fix a timetable for the submission by the Commission of all the proposals and documents contained in the programme and for their examination by Parliament and Council.

1b. The Annual Legislative Programme shall refer to:  
(a) all new legislative proposals,  
(b) all pre-legislative documents,  
(c) any other document of a legislative nature,  
(d) agreements with third countries,  
which are to be submitted during the following year by the Commission to Parliament and the Council.

The Programme shall also refer to any legislative proposals and documents requested by Parliament or Council which the Commission has agreed to submit.

1c. The President of Parliament shall, in the discussions about the Annual Legislative Programme, act on the basis of the conclusions of the Conference of Chairmen. Before formulating their conclusions, the Conference of Chairmen shall consult the Conference of Committee Chairmen.

1d. In the case of urgent and unforeseeable circumstances, an institution may propose a legislative measure on its own initiative, in the manner permitted by the Treaty, to be added to the measures proposed in the Legislative Programme.

1e. For each proposal or document in the Annual Legislative Programme, Parliament shall indicate which committee may be designated as the committee responsible when the proposals or documents are submitted.

2. The annual legislative programme thus agreed shall be attached to the minutes of proceedings of the sitting following its adoption.

2. The Annual Legislative Programme as agreed between the three institutions shall be attached to the minutes of the proceedings of the sitting following its adoption. The President shall forward the Annual Legislative Programme to the governments and parliaments of the Member States as well as to the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

3. In the case where an institution is not able to comply with the fixed timetable, it shall notify the other institutions as to the reasons for the delay and propose a new timetable.

4. The Annual Legislative Programme may be revised at the beginning of the second half of the year.

(Amendment No. 24)  
Rule 36B (new)

#### Legislative initiative

1. Parliament may request the Commission to submit to it any appropriate legislative proposal pursuant to Article 138b, second paragraph, of the Treaty by adopting a resolution on the basis of an own-initiative report from the committee responsible and authorized pursuant to Rule 121. The resolution shall be adopted by a majority of the component Members of Parliament. Parliament may at the same time fix a deadline for the submission of such a proposal.

2. Before initiating the procedure under Rule 121, the committee responsible shall establish that no such proposal is under preparation, if:

(a) such a proposal is not included in the Annual Legislative Programme; or

(b) the preparations of such a proposal have not started or are unduly delayed; or

(c) the Commission has not responded positively to earlier requests either from the committee responsible or contained in resolutions adopted by Parliament with simple majority.

3. Parliament's resolution shall indicate the appropriate legal base and be accompanied by detailed recommendations as to the content of the required proposals, which shall respect the principle of subsidiarity and the fundamental rights of citizens.

4. In the case of a proposal with financial implications, Parliament shall indicate how sufficient financial resources can be provided.

5. The committee responsible shall monitor the progress of preparation of any legislative proposal following a particular request by Parliament.

6. The provisions of this Rule shall apply by analogy in cases where the Treaty attributes the right of initiative to Parliament.

7. The majority required for the adoption shall be the majority indicated by the relevant article in the Treaty.

(Amendment No. 25)  
Rule 36C (new)

Rule 36

Consultation of Parliament

1. Requests from the Council for an opinion or from the Commission for advice shall be printed and distributed. The President shall refer such requests to the appropriate committee for consideration.

2. A list of these requests for an opinion or for advice shall be published in the minutes of Parliament's sittings, together with the name of the committee responsible and a description of the chosen legal base for the draft measure.

Rule 44

First and second reading

1. For acts requiring two readings in accordance with the cooperation procedure laid down in Article 149(2) of the EEC Treaty, the procedure for the first reading shall be identical to the procedure set out in Rules 36 to 43.

2. For the second reading, the provisions in Rules 44 to 52 shall apply.

3. Rules 36(5) and (7), 37, 39, 40, 71, 103, 116, 117 and 120 shall not apply during the second reading.

Rule 36C

Consideration of legislative documents

1. Proposals from the Commission and other documents of a legislative nature shall be referred by the President to the appropriate committee for consideration.

Where a proposal is listed in the Annual Legislative Programme the committee responsible may decide to appoint a rapporteur to follow the preparatory phase of the proposal.

Requests from Council for an opinion or from the Commission for advice shall be forwarded by the President to the committee responsible for consideration of the proposal concerned.

The provisions for the first reading as set out in Rules 36A to 43 shall apply to legislative proposals whether they require one, two or three readings.

2. Common positions from the Council shall be referred for consideration to the committee responsible at the first reading.

The provisions for the second reading as set out in Rules 45 to 52 shall apply to common positions.

3. During the conciliation procedure between Parliament and Council following the second reading, no referral back to committee shall take place.

The provisions for the third reading as set out in Rules 52A to 52E shall apply to the conciliation procedure.

4. Rules 36I(1) and (3), 37, 39, 40, 71, 103, 116, 117 and 120 shall not apply during the second and third readings.

4. In the event of a conflict between a provision of the Rules of Procedure relating to the second reading and any other provision of the Rules, the provisions relating to the second reading shall take precedence.

5. In the event of a conflict between a provision of the Rules of Procedure relating to the second and third readings and any other provision of the Rules, the provisions relating to the second and third readings shall take precedence.

(Amendment No. 26)  
Rule 36D (new)

Rule 36(3)

3. The committee responsible shall examine the validity and appropriateness of the chosen legal base for any draft measure on which Parliament is consulted. Where it disputes the validity or the appropriateness of the legal base it may, before dealing with the substance of the proposal and after consultation with the committee responsible for legal affairs, refer the matter to Parliament, reporting orally or in writing.

*If amendments are tabled in Parliament to change the legal base of a Commission proposal without the committee responsible having disputed the validity and appropriateness of the legal base, the committee responsible for legal affairs must deliver an opinion on the amendments tabled before they are put to the vote.*

First reading - committee stage

Rule 36D

Verification of legal base

1. For all Commission proposals and other documents of a legislative nature, the committee responsible shall first verify the validity and appropriateness of the chosen legal base.

2. If the committee responsible disputes the validity or the appropriateness of the legal base, it shall request the opinion of the committee responsible for legal affairs.

3. The committee responsible for legal affairs may also on its own initiative take up questions concerning the legal base in relation to specific proposals submitted by the Commission. In such cases it shall duly inform the committee responsible.

4. If the committee responsible for legal affairs decides to dispute the validity or the appropriateness of the legal base, it shall report its conclusions to Parliament.

5. If amendments are tabled in Parliament to change the legal base of a Commission proposal without the committee responsible having disputed the validity and appropriateness of the legal base, the committee responsible for legal affairs must deliver an opinion on the amendments tabled before they are put to the vote.

(Amendment No. 27)  
Rule 36E (new)

Rule 36E

Subsidiarity, fundamental rights, financial resources

1. During the examination of a legislative proposal, Parliament shall pay particular attention to whether the proposal respects the principle of subsidiarity and the fundamental rights of the citizens. In the case of a proposal with financial implications, Parliament shall establish whether sufficient financial resources are provided.

2. If Parliament concludes that the principle of subsidiarity is not duly respected, or that the fundamental rights of the citizens are not sufficiently respected, or that the financial resources provided are not sufficient, Parliament shall request the Commission to make the necessary modifications to its proposal.

(Amendment No. 28)  
Rule 36F (new)

Rule 36F

Transparency in the legislative process

1. Throughout the whole legislative procedure Parliament and its committees shall request access to all documents relating to Commission proposals under the same conditions as the Council and its working parties.

2. During the examination of a specific Commission proposal, the committee responsible shall request the Commission and the Council to keep it informed about the progress of this proposal in the Council and its working parties, in particular about any emerging compromises which will substantially amend the original Commission proposal.

(Amendment No. 29)  
Rule 36G (new)

Rule 36G

Modification of a proposal by the Commission

1. If the committee responsible, during its examination of a specific Commission proposal, becomes aware that the Council intends to amend significantly this proposal, it shall formally ask the Commission whether it intends to modify its proposal.

2. If the Commission declares that it intends to modify its proposal, the committee responsible shall postpone its examination of this proposal until it has been informed about the new proposal or amendments by the Commission.

3. During the examination of a specific Commission proposal in the committee responsible, the Commission may also on its own initiative table amendments to its proposal directly in the committee.

4. If the Commission declares, following a request under paragraph 1, that it does not intend to modify its proposal, the committee responsible shall proceed with its examination of the proposal. The declaration of the Commission shall be annexed to the report and shall be considered by Parliament as binding on the Commission even after the completion of the first reading.

5. Following a Commission declaration under paragraph 4, and if the Council, notwithstanding the position of the Commission, proceeds to a decision which substantially modifies the original Commission proposal, the President of Parliament shall remind the Council of its obligation to consult Parliament again.

(Amendment No. 30)  
Rule 36H (new)

Rule 36H

Commission position on amendments

1. Before the committee responsible proceeds to the final vote on a Commission proposal, it shall request the Commission to state its position on all the amendments to this proposal adopted by the committee.

2. If the Commission is not in a position to make such a statement or if the Commission declares that it is not prepared to accept all the amendments adopted by the committee then the committee may postpone the final vote.

3. The position of the Commission shall be included in the report.

(Amendment No. 31)  
Rule 36I (new)

First reading - plenary stage

Rule 36I

Conclusion of first reading

Rule 36(4) to (6)

4. Without prejudice to Rules 37, 38 and 116(1), Parliament shall discuss the proposal on which its opinion has been sought on the basis of the report drawn up by the committee responsible pursuant to Rule 117.

5. Parliament shall first vote on the amendments to the proposal with which the report of the committee responsible is concerned, then on the proposal, amended or otherwise, then on the amendments to the draft legislative resolution, then on the draft legislative resolution as a whole, which shall only contain a statement as to whether Parliament approves, rejects or proposes amendments to the Commission's proposal and any procedural requests.

The consultation procedure is concluded if the draft legislative resolution is adopted.

1. Without prejudice to Rules 37, 38 and 116(1), Parliament shall discuss the legislative proposal on the basis of the report drawn up by the committee responsible pursuant to Rule 117.

2. Parliament shall first vote on the amendments to the proposal with which the report of the committee responsible is concerned, then on the proposal, amended or otherwise, then on the amendments to the draft legislative resolution, then on the draft legislative resolution as a whole, which shall only contain a statement as to whether Parliament approves, rejects or proposes amendments to the Commission's proposal and any procedural requests.

The consultation procedure is concluded if the draft legislative resolution is adopted.

*(Interpretation unchanged)*

6. The text of the proposal as approved by Parliament and its accompanying resolution shall be forwarded to the Council and Commission by the President as Parliament's opinion.

3. The text of the proposal as approved by Parliament and its accompanying resolution shall be forwarded to the Council and Commission by the President as Parliament's opinion.

Delegation of the power of decision to committees

1. The President, a minimum of twenty-three Members or a committee may propose to Parliament that a request for an opinion or for advice submitted pursuant to Rule 36 be referred to the appropriate committee with the power to take a decision.

Under the same conditions, the power to take a decision may also be delegated to the committee responsible in the case of reports to be drawn up on the basis of Rules 63 or 121.

2. A decision shall be taken on this proposal at the beginning of the sitting following that during which Parliament was informed thereof. Parliament shall, if necessary after hearing one speaker in favour and one against, vote on the proposal. If at least one-tenth of the current Members of Parliament are opposed to the referral to committee for a decision, this referral shall not take place.

3. If, after referral to committee pursuant to paragraph 2, one third of the current members of the committee request that the power to take a decision be referred back to Parliament, the procedures for debate and amendment of committee reports in plenary shall apply.

4. Where paragraphs 1 and 2 are applied, the usual rules governing discussions in committee shall apply. However, the committee meeting at which a decision is to be taken shall be open to the public; the agenda for this meeting and any deadline for tabling amendments shall be published in the EP Bulletin.

5. As soon as the committee has adopted its report, and subject to Rules 79(1) and 80, the President shall place it on the agenda for the next part-session. The committee's resolution and amendments, if any, shall be deemed adopted and shall be recorded in the minutes unless, before the start of the sitting, one tenth of the current Members of Parliament belonging to at least three political groups have tabled their opposition in writing, in which case the committee's report shall be considered in Parliament at the same sitting in accordance with the normal procedure.

1. The Conference of Chairmen may refer a consultation, a request for advice or for an opinion, an own-initiative report (Rule 121) or a report based on a motion for a resolution tabled pursuant to Rule 63A to the appropriate committee for a decision.

2. Deleted

3. If, after referral to committee pursuant to paragraph 1, one third of the current members of the committee request that the power to take a decision be referred back to Parliament, the procedures for debate and amendment of committee reports in plenary shall apply.

3a. The meeting at which the committee takes its decision shall be open to the public.

4. The deadline for tabling amendments shall be published in Parliament's Bulletin.

5. As soon as the committee has adopted its report, and subject to Rules 79(1) and 80, the President shall place it on the agenda for the next part-session. The committee's resolution and amendments, if any, shall be deemed adopted and shall be recorded in the minutes unless, before the start of the sitting, one tenth of the component Members of Parliament belonging to at least three political groups have tabled their opposition in writing, in which case the committee's report shall be considered in Parliament at the same sitting in accordance with the normal procedure.

*(Interpretations unchanged)*

(Amendment No. 33)  
Rule 43(3)  
Conciliation procedure

3. The delegation which consults with the Council shall consist of a number of Members corresponding to the number of Members of the Council; it shall reflect the political composition of Parliament, care being taken to ensure balanced representation of political tendencies; in principle it shall include the Chairmen and the rapporteurs of the committees concerned. The delegation shall be led by the President of Parliament or by one of the Vice-Presidents.

3. For the composition and procedure of the delegation to the conciliation committee Rule 52B(1) to (7) shall apply.

(Amendment No. 34)  
Rule 45(1)

Second reading - committee stage

Rule 45(1)

Communication of the common position of the Council

1. Communication of the common position of the Council pursuant to the Single Act takes place when it is announced by the President in Parliament. On the day of the announcement, the President must have received the documents containing the common position itself, the reasons which led the Council to adopt its common position and the Commission's position, duly translated into the official languages of the Community. The President's announcement shall be made during the part-session following the receipt of such documents.

1. Communication of the common position of the Council pursuant to Articles 189b and 189c of the Treaty takes place when it is announced by the President in Parliament. On the day of the announcement, the President must have received the documents containing the common position itself, the reasons which led the Council to adopt its common position and the Commission's position, duly translated into the official languages of the Community. The President's announcement shall be made during the part-session following the receipt of such documents.

*(Interpretation unchanged)*

(Amendment No. 35)  
Rule 47(4) to (6)

Referral to and procedure in the committee responsible

4. The provisions for Parliament's second reading in Rules 50(1) and 51(2) shall apply to the proceedings in the committee responsible; only members or permanent substitutes of that committee may table amendments. The committee shall decide by a majority of the votes cast.

4. The provisions for Parliament's second reading in Rules 49A(1), 50(1), 51(2) and 51(4) shall apply to the proceedings in the committee responsible; only members or substitutes of that committee may table proposals for rejection and amendments. The committee shall decide by a majority of the votes cast.

5. The committee responsible may request a dialogue with the Council in order to reach a compromise.

5. The committee responsible may request a dialogue with the Council in order to reach a compromise.

6. The committee responsible shall submit a Recommendation for the Second Reading as to the decision which Parliament should take with respect to the common position adopted by the Council. The Recommendation shall include a short justification for the decision proposed.

6. The committee responsible shall submit a Recommendation for the Second Reading as to the decision which Parliament should take with respect to the common position adopted by the Council. The Recommendation shall include a short justification for the decision proposed.

6a. If the common position is approved without amendment, the recommendation may take the form of a letter.

Second reading - plenary stage

Conclusion of the cooperation procedure

Conclusion of the second reading

(Amendment No. 37)  
Rule 48(2)

2. The cooperation procedure is concluded by Parliament approving, rejecting or amending the common position within the time limits and in accordance with the conditions laid down by the Single Act.

2. The second reading is concluded by Parliament approving, rejecting or amending the common position within the time limits and in accordance with the conditions laid down by Articles 189b and 189c of the Treaty.

(Amendment No. 38)  
Rule 49

Approval without amendment of the common position of the Council

Where no motion to reject the common position, and no amendments to the common position, are adopted under Rules 50 and 51 within the time limits specified by the Single Act, the President shall declare the common position approved without a vote, unless Parliament has marked its approval of the common position by a majority of the votes cast.

Where no motion to reject the common position, and no amendments to the common position, are adopted under Rules 50 and 51 within the time limits specified by Articles 189b and 189c of the Treaty, the President shall declare the common position approved without a vote, unless Parliament has marked its approval of the common position by a majority of the votes cast.

(Amendment No. 39)  
Rule 49A (new)

Rule 49A

Intention to reject the common position of the Council

1. For legislative proposals falling under Article 189b a committee, a political group or at least twenty-three Members may, in writing and before a deadline fixed by the President, table a proposal to declare the intention to reject the common position of the Council. Such a proposal shall require for its adoption the votes of a majority of the component Members of Parliament. A proposal to declare the intention to reject the common position shall be voted on before voting on any amendments.

2. If the proposal to declare the intention to reject the common position is approved, the President shall ask the Council whether it intends to convene the Conciliation Committee. If the Council does not intend to convene the Conciliation Committee, the President shall announce in Parliament that the procedure is terminated and the proposed act shall be deemed not to have been adopted.

3. For the composition and procedure of the delegation to the Conciliation Committee Rule 52B shall apply.

(Amendment No. 40)  
Rule 49B (new)

Rule 49B

Conciliation during second reading

1. In view of the conclusions of the Conciliation Committee convened pursuant to Rule 49A(2), Parliament's delegation may recommend that Parliament confirm its rejection of the common position by a separate vote with a majority of its component Members. In this case the President shall declare the legislative procedure closed.

If Parliament does not confirm the rejection with the required majority then Parliament shall proceed with the consideration of the common position and any amendments tabled to it.

2. In view of the conclusions of the Conciliation Committee, Parliament's delegation may recommend the resumption of the consideration of the common position and any amendments tabled to it or, in consultation with the committee responsible, propose new amendments for consideration by Parliament in accordance with Rule 51.

The delegation may recommend the application of Rule 92(5) for the vote on the amendments.

(Amendment No. 41)  
Rule 50(1)

**Rejection of the common position of the Council**

1. Any Member may, in writing and before a deadline fixed by the President, table a proposal to reject the common position of the Council. Such a proposal shall require for its adoption the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament. A proposal to reject the common position shall be voted on before voting on any amendments.

1. A committee, a political group or at least twenty-three Members may, in writing and before a deadline fixed by the President, table a proposal to reject the common position of the Council. Such a proposal shall require for its adoption the votes of a majority of the component Members of Parliament. A proposal to reject the common position shall be voted on before voting on any amendments.

(Amendment No. 42)  
Rule 51(1)

**Amendments to the common position of the Council**

1. A committee, a political group or at least twenty-three Members may table amendments to the Council's common position for consideration in Parliament.

1. The committee responsible, a political group or at least twenty-three Members may table amendments to the Council's common position for consideration in Parliament.

(Amendment No. 43)  
Rule 51(4)

**Amendments to the common position of the Council**

4. If one or more of the amendments are adopted, the rapporteur of the committee responsible or, failing him, the Chairman of that committee shall ask the Commission whether it proposes to include such amendments in its re-examined proposal.

4. If one more of the amendments are adopted, the rapporteur of the committee responsible or, failing him, the Chairman of that committee shall ask the Commission to state its position.

(Amendment No. 44)

Rule 52(1)

**The consequences of the Commission failing to accept Parliament's amendments in its re-examined proposal**

1. The Enlarged Bureau shall place the Commission's re-examined proposal on the draft agenda for the part-session following its adoption and the President shall request the Commission to inform Parliament of the reasons which led the Commission not to accept Parliament's amendments.

1. For legislative proposals falling under Article 189c of the Treaty, the Conference of Chairmen shall place the Commission's re-examined proposal on the draft agenda for the part-session following its adoption and the President shall request the Commission to inform Parliament of the reasons which led the Commission not to accept Parliament's amendments.

(Amendment No. 45)

Rule 52A (new)

**Third Reading - Conciliation**

**Rule 52A**

**Convening of Conciliation Committee**

Where the Council is unable to approve all Parliament's amendments to the common position, the President may, after consulting the chairmen of the political groups and the chairman and rapporteur of the committee responsible, agree to the convening of a meeting of the Conciliation Committee.

(Amendment No. 46)

Rule 52B (new)

**Rule 52B**

**Delegation to Conciliation Committee**

1. Parliament's delegation to the Conciliation Committee shall consist of a number of Members equal to the number of members of the Council delegation.

2. The political composition of the delegation shall correspond to the composition of Parliament by political groups. The Conference of Chairmen shall fix the exact number of Members from each political group.

3. The members of the delegation shall be nominated by the political groups for each particular conciliation case, preferably from among the members of the committees concerned, except for three members who shall be appointed as permanent members of successive delegations for a period of twelve months. The three permanent members shall be appointed by the political groups from among the Vice-Presidents and shall represent at least two different political groups. The chairman and the rapporteur of the committee responsible in each particular case shall be members of the delegation.

4. The political groups represented on the delegation may appoint substitutes who may only participate in the work of the Conciliation Committee if the full member is absent for the whole meeting.

5. Political groups not represented on the delegation may each send one representative to any internal preparatory meeting of the delegation.

6. The delegation shall be led by the President or by one of the permanent members.

7. The delegation shall decide by a majority of its members. Its deliberations shall be held in camera.

The Conference of Chairmen may lay down further procedural guidelines for the work of delegations to the Conciliation Committee.

8. The results of the conciliation including any proposed amendments or compromises shall be reported by the delegation to Parliament in due time to allow Parliament to complete any further procedural steps pursuant to the provisions of the Treaty.

(Amendment No. 47)

Rule 52C (new)

#### Rule 52C

##### Time limits

1. The President shall, at the request of the delegation, ask the Council to agree to an extension, by a maximum of two weeks, of the six week periods allowed for the work of the Conciliation Committee and for the approval of a joint text or the rejection of a Council text.

2. The President may, after consultation with the delegation, agree on behalf of Parliament to a request from the Council for an extension, by a maximum of two weeks, of the six week periods mentioned in paragraph 1.

(Amendment No. 48)

Rule 52D (new)

#### Third reading - plenary stage

##### Rule 52D

##### Joint text

1. Where agreement on a joint text is reached within the Conciliation Committee, this matter shall automatically be placed on the agenda of the last part-session to fall within six weeks, or eight weeks if extended, of the date of approval by the Conciliation Committee unless the matter has been dealt with earlier.

2. Parliament shall discuss the joint text on the basis of a report by its delegation to the Conciliation Committee.

3. No amendments may be tabled to the joint text.

4. The joint text as a whole shall be the subject of a single vote. The joint text shall be approved only if it secures an absolute majority of the votes cast.

(Amendment No. 49)

Rule 52E (new)

Rule 52E

Council text

1. Where no agreement is reached on a joint text within the Conciliation Committee, the President of Parliament shall invite the Commission to withdraw its proposal, and invite the Council, in any case, not to adopt a position pursuant to Article 189b(6) of the Treaty. Should the Council nonetheless confirm its common position, the President-in-Office shall be invited to justify it to the plenary sitting. The matter shall automatically be placed on the agenda.

2. Parliament shall discuss the Council text on the basis of a report from its delegation to the Conciliation Committee.

3. No amendments may be tabled to the Council text.

4. The Council text as a whole shall be the subject of a single vote. Parliament shall vote on a motion to reject the Council text. If this motion receives an absolute majority of the component Members of Parliament, the President shall declare the proposed act as not adopted.

(Amendment No. 50)

Rule 52F (new)

Rule 52F

Signing of adopted acts

For legislative acts adopted under the procedure in Article 189b of the Treaty, the President shall, after having verified that all procedures have been properly completed, sign the act together with the President of the Council and arrange its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

(Amendment No. 51)  
Rule 52G (new)

Rule 52G

Conclusion of assent procedure

1. Where Parliament is requested to give its assent to an international agreement or a legislative proposal, it shall do so on the basis of a report from the committee responsible containing a draft legislative resolution only recommending the adoption or rejection of the proposal as a whole. No amendments may be tabled. The majority required for the adoption of the assent shall be the majority indicated in Article 189b of the Treaty.

2. For accession treaties and international agreements, Rules 32 and 33 shall apply respectively.

3. For legislative proposals the committee responsible may decide, in order to facilitate a positive outcome of the procedure, to present an interim report to Parliament with a motion for a resolution containing recommendations for modification or implementation of the proposal.

If Parliament approves at least one recommendation with the same majority as required for the final assent, the President shall request the opening of a conciliation procedure with the Council.

The committee responsible shall make its final recommendation for the assent of Parliament in the light of the outcome of the conciliation with the Council.

(Amendment No. 52)  
Rule 56

Statements by the Commission, the Council and the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation

1. Members of the Commission and the Council and the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation may at any time ask the President for permission to make a statement. The President shall decide when the statement may be made.

2. Unless Parliament decides otherwise, such a statement shall not be followed by a debate. Members may, however, avail themselves of a period of thirty minutes in which to put brief and concise questions with a view to clarifying specific points in such statements.

3. Parliament may decide, on a proposal from the President, a committee, a political group or at least twenty-three Members, that a statement made pursuant to paragraph 1 above shall be followed by a debate.

Statements by the Commission and the Council

1. Members of the Commission and the Council may at any time ask the President for permission to make a statement. The President shall decide when the statement may be made. Such a statement may be followed by a debate.

2. A committee, a political group, or at least twenty-three Members may table a motion for a resolution.

3. Motions for resolutions shall be put to the vote on the same day. The President shall decide on any exceptions. Explanations of vote shall be admissible.

In order to wind up the debate, any committee or political group, or twenty-three or more Members, may place before the President a motion for a resolution with a request that an early vote be taken on it.

As soon as the motion for a resolution has been distributed, Parliament shall first decide, if necessary after hearing one of the authors, whether an early vote is to be taken.

Should an early vote be decided upon, the motion for a resolution shall be put to the vote not later than at voting time of the next sitting without referral to committee. Only explanations of vote shall be permitted.

The Rules of Procedure may not be interpreted or changed in such a way as to enable Rule 56(3) to be applied to meetings of the Enlarged Bureau open to all Members.

If, at the end of the statement by the Commission, the Council or the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation, there is no proposal from the President, a committee, a political group or at least twenty-three Members, pursuant to Rule 56(3), that the statement be followed by a debate, the application of Rule 56(2) rules out the possibility of holding a debate on the statement.

The questions procedure shall apply if the President, up to the moment he reminds Members of this possibility, has not received a request for a debate pursuant to paragraph 3.

4. If two or more motions for resolutions are tabled, the committees, political groups or Members tabling the motions may agree among themselves on a joint motion for a resolution. With the formal agreement of the authors, other committees, political groups or individual Members may also sign such a joint motion before the expiry of the deadline for tabling joint motions for resolutions set in the agenda.

A joint motion for a resolution shall replace the previous motions for resolutions tabled by its signatories, but not those tabled by other committees, political groups or Members.

Where a resolution is adopted winding up a debate, no further motions for resolutions to wind up the same subject shall be put to the vote, save where the President exceptionally decides otherwise. The decision of the President cannot be contested.

4. A joint motion for a resolution shall replace the previous motions for resolutions tabled by its signatories, but not those tabled by other committees, political groups or Members.

5. After a resolution has been adopted, no further motions may be put to the vote except where the President, by way of exception, decides otherwise.

6. If no debate is held, Members will be allowed a maximum of 30 minutes in which to put brief and concise questions.

(Amendment No. 53)  
Rule 56A (new)

Rule 56A

Statements by the Court of Auditors in the context of the discharge procedure

1. In the context of the discharge procedure or Parliament's activities in the sphere of budgetary control, the President of the Court of Auditors may be invited to take the floor in order to present the comments contained in the Annual Report, special reports or opinions of the Court, or in order to explain the Court's work programme.

2. Parliament may decide to hold a separate debate on any questions raised in such statements with the participation of the Commission and Council.

(Amendment No. 54)  
Rule 57

European Political Cooperation

Deleted

Rule 57

Deleted

Obligations of the Presidency of European Political Cooperation and the Commission to Parliament

Deleted

1. The Presidency of European Political Cooperation shall report regularly to Parliament on the foreign policy matters examined in the framework of European political cooperation and also on the extent to which the views of Parliament on these matters have been taken into account. Parliament may hold a debate on this matter during which the Commission will also be heard.

1. Deleted

2. The Commission and the Presidency of European Political Cooperation shall ensure that the external policy of the European Community and the policies agreed in European Political Cooperation are consistent. They shall inform Parliament of all contradictions which arise.

2. Deleted

3. The Presidency of European Political Cooperation shall report once a year to Parliament on progress in European political cooperation. Parliament shall discuss this report.

3. Deleted

4. Four colloquies shall also be held each year at which the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation will meet members of the appropriate committee of Parliament.

4. Deleted

Questions to the Commission, the Council and the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation

Questions to the Council and Commission

Rule 58

Questions for oral answer with debate

1. Questions may be put to the Commission, to the Council or to the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation by a committee, a political group or twenty-three or more Members in order that they may be placed on the agenda of Parliament and dealt with by the procedure provided for under this Rule.

Such questions, which may also relate to problems of a general nature, shall be submitted in writing to the President, who shall place them before the Enlarged Bureau at the next meeting held for the purpose of drawing up the draft agenda.

Subject to the provisions below, during each part-session each political group shall have the right to have not more than one question dealt with by the procedure with debate.

These questions shall not be included in the agenda of a part-session if that agenda already provides for the subject to be discussed with the participation of the institutions concerned; they will, however, be included in the debate.

If a question relates to a report tabled by a committee but not yet considered by Parliament, Parliament shall vote on whether it shall be placed on the agenda.

The Enlarged Bureau shall, taking account of the above requirements, exercise its discretion in deciding the order on the agenda of these questions.

2. The Enlarged Bureau shall decide whether the Commission or the Council is to be consulted. It shall decide whether the question is to be converted into a question for written answer, for oral answer at Question Time, or is to be dealt with by oral procedure without debate under Rule 59 or by the procedure provided for under this Rule.

The decision of the Enlarged Bureau shall be notified immediately to the questioner and to the institutions concerned.

A question tabled under this Rule shall be placed on the agenda of the next part-session on the expiry of a three months' period from its date of tabling if within that time no decision has been taken by the Enlarged Bureau as to the manner in which it is to be answered.

1. Questions may be put to the Council or the Commission by a committee, a political group or twenty-three or more Members with a request that they be placed on the agenda of Parliament.

Such questions shall be submitted in writing to the President who shall immediately refer them to the Conference of Chairmen.

The Conference of Chairmen shall decide whether and in what order questions shall be placed on the agenda.

2. Questions to the Commission must be referred to that institution at least one week before the sitting on whose agenda they are to appear and questions to the Council at least three weeks before that date.

The procedure for questions under this Rule may be proposed only where notice of the question can be given within the following time limits: if the question is addressed to the Commission, at least one week and if to the Council, at least five weeks before the opening of the sitting on whose agenda it is to appear.

In urgent cases, the President may propose directly to Parliament that a question which could not be placed before the Enlarged Bureau under the foregoing conditions be placed on the agenda. Such questions, together with any that could not be notified within the time limit specified above, may be placed on the agenda only with the agreement of the institution to which they are addressed.

3. Questions may be put to the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation under the same conditions as laid down in this Rule for questions to the Council.

4. One of the questioners may speak to the question for not more than ten minutes. One member of the institution concerned shall answer. Other Members of Parliament may speak for not more than five minutes, and may do so only once.

One of the questioners may, at his request, comment for not more than five minutes on the answer given.

5. The Enlarged Bureau may ask the authors of questions to reword them.

6. At the request of the author of a question for oral answer with debate, acting in agreement with any co-authors, the question may be withdrawn, but may be immediately taken over by any other Member, under the conditions set out in paragraph 1 above, with the agreement of Parliament deciding by vote without debate.

7. In order to wind up the debate on a question under this Rule, any committee or political group, or twenty-three or more Members, may place before the President a motion for a resolution with a request that an early vote be taken on it.

As soon as the motion for a resolution has been distributed, Parliament shall first decide, if necessary after hearing one of the authors, whether an early vote is to be taken.

Should an early vote be decided upon, the motion for a resolution shall be put to the vote at voting time of the next sitting without referral to committee. Only explanations of vote shall be permitted.

If two or more motions for resolutions are tabled, the procedure set out in Rule 56(4) shall apply.

3. Where the questions have to do with matters referred to in Articles J.7 and K.6 of the Treaty on European Union, the time limit provided for in paragraph 2 of this Rule shall not apply, and the Council shall reply with sufficient promptness to keep Parliament properly informed.

4. A questioner may speak to the question for not more than five minutes. One member of the institution concerned shall answer.

5. Rule 56(2),(3) and (4) shall apply mutatis mutandis.

6. Deleted

7. Deleted

Paragraph 7 does not apply to oral questions with debate to be dealt with in a debate pursuant to the fourth subparagraph of paragraph 1.

The vote on a request for an early vote on a motion for a resolution to wind up the debate on an oral question must take place, pursuant to the second subparagraph of paragraph 7, as soon as the motion for a resolution has been distributed, if possible at the end of the debate. The vote on the motion for a resolution itself must take place at the next sitting, at a time set by the President.

(Amendment No. 56)  
Rule 59

Rule 59

Deleted

Questions for Oral answer without debate

Deleted

1. Any Member may put questions to the Commission, to the Council or to the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation and ask that they be placed on the agenda of Parliament and dealt with by the procedure provided for under this Rule.

1. Deleted

Such questions shall be submitted in writing to the President, who shall place them before the Enlarged Bureau at the next meeting held for the purpose of drawing up the draft agenda.

The Enlarged Bureau shall decide whether the question is to be converted into a question for written answer, or for oral answer at Question Time, or whether it is to be dealt with by the procedure provided for under this Rule.

The decision of the Enlarged Bureau shall be notified immediately to the questioner and to the institutions concerned. If the question is addressed to the Commission such notification shall be made at least one week, and if to the Council, at least five weeks before the opening of the sitting on whose agenda it is to appear.

2. Questions may be put to the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation under the same conditions as laid down in this Rule for questions to the Council.

2. Deleted

3. Questions shall be clearly worded and relate to specific points, not to problems of a general nature. Parliament shall set aside not more than half a day during each part-session for oral answers to these questions. Questions that remain unanswered during that period shall be carried forward to the next part-session or converted into questions for written answer, as the questioner may choose.

3. Deleted

4. The questioner shall read out his question. He may speak to it for not more than ten minutes. A member of the institution concerned shall give a brief answer. Where the question is addressed to the Commission, the questioner may ask one or two supplementary questions, to which the member of this institution shall give a brief answer.

5. The Enlarged Bureau may ask the authors of questions to reword them.

6. If the author of an oral question without debate so requests, the question shall be withdrawn.

4. Deleted

5. Deleted

6. Deleted

(Amendment No. 57)  
Rule 59A (new)

Rule 59A

Recommendations to the Council

1. Twenty-three Members or a political group may table a proposal for a recommendation to the Council concerning subjects under Titles V and VI of the Treaty on European Union.

2. Such proposals shall be referred to the committee responsible for consideration.

Where appropriate, the committee shall refer the matter to Parliament in accordance with the procedures laid down in these Rules.

3. When presenting its report, the committee responsible shall submit to Parliament a proposal for a recommendation to the Council, together with a brief explanatory statement and, where appropriate, the opinions of the committees consulted.

4. In case of urgency, the provisions of Rule 125B shall apply.

(Amendment No. 58)  
Rule 60  
Question Time

1. Question Time shall be held at each part-session at such times as may be decided by Parliament on a proposal from the Enlarged Bureau.

2. Questions shall be submitted in writing to the President, who shall decide whether they are admissible; he shall determine the order in which they will be taken, and how they will be grouped.

The questioner shall be notified immediately of the President's decision.

1. Question Time shall be held at each part-session at such times as may be decided by Parliament on a proposal from the Conference of Chairmen. A specific time may be set aside for questions to the President and individual Members of the Commission.

2. No Member may put more than one question to the Council or the Commission at a given part-session.

3. During Question Time any Member may put oral questions to the Commission or Council, in accordance with the provisions of this Rule.

4. Questions may be put to the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation under the same conditions as laid down in this Rule for questions to the Council.

5. Questions put to the Council and the Foreign Ministers shall be taken first on the second day of Question Time.

6. At each part-session, any Member may put only one question respectively to the Commission, the Council and the Foreign Ministers.

7. The procedure for the conduct of Question Time shall be governed by guidelines (1).

(1) See Annex II

3. Questions shall be submitted in writing to the President, who shall rule on their admissibility and on the order in which they are to be taken. The questioner shall be notified immediately of this decision.

4. Deleted

5. Deleted

6. Deleted

7. The detailed procedure shall be laid down in guidelines (1).

(1) See Annex II

(Amendment No. 59)  
Rule 61

Rule 61

Deleted

Debate following Question Time

Deleted

1. Before the close of Question Time, any political group or at least seven Members may request that a debate be held immediately thereafter on the answer given by the Commission, the Council or the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation on a specific matter of general and topical interest.

1. Deleted

2. Such a debate may be requested only after the Commission, the Council or the Foreign Ministers have replied to all supplementary questions on the specific matter concerned.

2. Deleted

3. The decision as to whether to hold the requested debate shall be taken by the President only at the close of Question Time and shall not be subject to debate. If he receives more than one such request, he shall decide thereon, without debate.

3. Deleted

4. The debate shall be limited to one hour, excluding speaking time set aside for the Commission, the Council or the Foreign Ministers. No Member may speak for more than five minutes.

4. Deleted

5. The order of speaking shall be governed by Rule 84, the first speaker being a spokesman for the political group or the Members who requested the debate.

5. Deleted

(Amendment No. 60)

Rule 62

Questions for written answer

1. Questions for written answer may be put by any Member to the Commission, to the Council or to the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation.

These questions shall be brief and relate to specific points falling within the sphere of activities of the Communities; they shall be submitted in writing to the President, who shall communicate them to the institution concerned.

2. Questions to which answers have been given shall be published, together with the answers, in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

3. Questions to which no answer has been given within one month by the Commission, or within two months by the Council or the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation, shall be recorded, pending an answer, in the Official Journal of the European Communities with details of the number, author, date and subject, and of the document in which they were published in full.

1. Questions for written answer may be put by any Member to the Council or the Commission.

2. Questions shall be submitted in writing to the President who shall forward them to the Institution concerned.

3. Questions and answers shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

4. If a question cannot be answered within the time limit set, the author may request that the question be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the committee responsible. Rule 60 shall apply mutatis mutandis.

5. Questions which require an immediate answer but no detailed research (priority questions) shall be answered within three weeks. Each Member may table one priority question each month.

6. Other questions (non-priority questions) shall be answered within six weeks.

7. Members shall indicate which type of question they are submitting. The final decision shall be taken by the President.

(Amendment No. 61)

Rule 63 A.

Motions for resolutions

1. Any Member may table a motion for a resolution of not more than 200 words on a matter falling within the sphere of activities of the Communities. Such motions shall be printed and distributed in the official languages and referred to the appropriate committee, provided no request is made pursuant to Rule 64(1).

1. Any Member may table a motion for a resolution on a matter falling within the sphere of activities of the European Union.

It shall comprise not more than 200 words.

2. The committee shall decide by what procedure each motion for a resolution should be considered and inform the President and the author or authors of its decision. The committee may decide to consider jointly similar motions on related subjects and to consider a motion for a resolution in conjunction with a text which has already been referred to it.

3. Where the committee decides to draw up a report it shall include the text of the motion for a resolution in its report.

4. Instead of drawing up a report, the committee may decide to express its views in an opinion for the attention of the Commission, the Council or the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation. The opinion may take the form of a letter. Such opinions shall, at the request of the committee, be forwarded by the President to the institutions concerned.

2. The appropriate committee shall decide what procedure is to be adopted.

It may combine the motion for a resolution with other motions for resolutions or reports.

It may adopt an opinion, which may take the form of a letter.

It may decide to draw up a report. In that case it shall require the approval of the Conference of Chairmen.

3. The authors of a motion for a resolution shall be informed of the decisions of the committee and the Conference of Chairmen.

4. The report shall contain the text of the motion for a resolution.

5. Opinions in the form of a letter addressed to other institutions of the European Union shall be forwarded by the President.

(Amendment No. 62)  
Rule 64(1), (2) and (3)

#### Debates on topical and urgent subjects of major importance

1. A political group or at least twenty-three Members may ask the President in writing for a debate to be held on a topical and urgent subject of major importance, which shall be held as part of one of the debates on topical and urgent subjects of major importance provided for in the agenda pursuant to Rule 73(3). Such a request must be linked with a motion for a resolution tabled pursuant to Rule 63. The President shall notify Parliament immediately of any request for a debate on a topical and urgent subject of major importance and the request shall be printed and distributed in the official languages.

2. After a meeting with the political group chairmen and a representative of the Non-attached Members, the President shall draw up a list of subjects to be included on the agenda of the next debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance on the basis of the requests referred to in paragraph 1 and in accordance with the provisions of Annex III. The total number of subjects included on the agenda shall not exceed five. The President shall notify Parliament of this list not later than at the resumption of the sitting on the afternoon of the same day. In drawing up this list, the President shall ensure that during a part-session a balance is maintained both between the requests from the political groups and between these requests and those from individual Members.

1. A political group or at least twenty-three Members may ask the President in writing for a debate to be held on a topical and urgent subject of major importance (Rule 73(3)). Such a request must be linked with a motion for a resolution. The President shall notify Parliament immediately of any such request.

2. The Conference of Chairmen shall draw up a list of subjects to be included on the agenda of the next debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance on the basis of the requests referred to in paragraph 1 and in accordance with the provisions of Annex III. The total number of subjects included on the agenda shall not exceed five. The President shall notify Parliament of this list not later than at the resumption of the sitting on the afternoon of the same day.

Up to the end of the sitting on the same day, a political group or at least twenty-three Members may oppose this decision in writing, stating their reasons, and move that Parliament abandon a topic due to be debated and/or include an unscheduled topic in the debate without, however, exceeding the maximum number of topics laid down by this Rule. The vote on their objections shall take place without debate at the beginning of the next day's sitting.

3. The total speaking time for the political groups and Non-attached Members shall be allocated in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 83(2) to (4) within the maximum time for debates on topical and urgent subjects of major importance of three hours per part-session.

Any time remaining after taking account of the time required for the introduction of and vote on the motions for resolutions and the time agreed on for statements, if any, by the Commission and Council, shall be broken down between the political groups and the Non-attached Members.

(Amendment No. 63)

Rule 67

#### Consultation on appointment of Members of the Court of Auditors

Before the appointment of Members of the Court of Auditors by the Council pursuant to Article 206(4) of the EEC Treaty, Parliament shall adopt an opinion on this matter on the basis of a motion for a resolution tabled by the appropriate committee.

Up to the end of the sitting on the same day, a political group or at least twenty-three Members may oppose this decision in writing, stating their reasons, and move that Parliament abandon a topic due to be debated and/or include an unscheduled topic in the debate without, however, exceeding the maximum number of topics laid down by this Rule. The vote on their objections shall take place without debate at the beginning of the next day's sitting.

3. The total speaking time for the political groups and Non-attached Members shall be allocated in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 83(2) and (4) within the maximum time for debates of three hours per part-session.

Any time remaining after taking account of the time required for the introduction of and vote on the motions for resolutions and the time agreed on for statements, if any, by the Commission and Council, shall be broken down between the political groups and the Non-attached Members.

#### Appointment of the members of the Court of Auditors

1. Candidates proposed as Members of the Court of Auditors shall be invited to make a statement before the committee responsible and answer questions put by members.

2. The committee responsible shall make a recommendation to Parliament as to whether the proposed candidate should be approved.

3. The vote shall take place within two months of the receipt of the proposal unless Parliament, at the request of the committee responsible, a political group or twenty-three Members, decides otherwise.

4. If the opinion adopted by Parliament is negative, the President shall request the Council to withdraw its proposal and submit a new proposal to Parliament.

(Amendment No. 64)

Rule 68A (new)

#### Rule 68A

#### Parliamentary control over the implementation of the budget

1. Parliament shall monitor the implementation of the current year's budget. It shall entrust this task to the committee responsible for budgetary control and the other committees concerned.

2. Each year it shall however consider the problems involved in the implementation of the current budget, where appropriate on the basis of a motion for a resolution tabled by its committee responsible and before the first reading of the draft budget for the following financial year.

(Amendment No. 65)

Rule 69(1)

**Tabling and moving amendments**

1. Any Member may table amendments for consideration in committee.

Amendments for consideration in Parliament may be tabled by a political group, a committee or at least twenty-three Members.

Amendments shall be tabled in writing and signed by their authors.

1. Any Member may table amendments for consideration in committee.

Amendments for consideration in Parliament may be tabled by the committee responsible, a political group or at least twenty-three Members.

Amendments shall be tabled in writing and signed by their authors.

(Amendment No. 66)

Rule 71

Referral of amendments to the committee responsible

1. In cases where the committee responsible submits a report to Parliament, the President shall set a time limit within which Members may table amendments to this report and which allows the committee responsible sufficient time for it to give its views on the amendments before the debate in Parliament. Members shall be informed of this time limit when the report is distributed; alternatively, it will be indicated on the draft agenda for the part-session at which the report is to be considered.

2. If, when the time limit has expired, more than twenty amendments have been tabled other than the amendments already tabled by the committee responsible, the President shall refer them to this committee, unless Parliament decides otherwise on a proposal from the President, the chairman of the committee responsible or the rapporteur. In the event of referral, the committee shall examine the amendments and put them to the vote, with a view to submitting a supplementary written report at the next part-session, to which the debate shall be held over accordingly. This report shall contain the full text of each amendment, including any compromise amendments tabled by the committee, and the result of the vote.

3. The committee's consideration of the amendments shall take place in public. Authors of amendments who are not members of the committee shall be entitled to attend to move their amendments. Rule 10(3) shall not apply to such committee meetings.

Deleted

1. Deleted

2. Deleted

3. Deleted

4. Amendments which according to the supplementary report have been rejected in committee shall only be put to the vote in Parliament if this has been requested in writing by a committee or at least twenty-three Members before the expiry of the general deadline set for tabling amendments in Parliament.

5. Except in the cases referred to in Rule 92(4), no amendment may be put to the vote in Parliament other than those which have been tabled within the time limit referred to in paragraph 1.

4. Deleted

5. Deleted

(Amendment No. 67)

Rule 73

Draft agenda

1. Before each part-session, the draft agenda shall be drawn up by the Enlarged Bureau taking into account the agreed annual legislative programme referred to in Rule 29a and after consulting the political groups and the committees.

Before the opening of each part-session, the final draft agenda to be submitted to Parliament shall be established at a meeting between the President and the political group chairmen. A representative of the Non-attached Members shall be invited to attend the meeting.

The Commission and the Council may attend the deliberations on the draft agenda at the invitation of the President.

2. The draft agenda may indicate voting times for certain items down for consideration.

3. One or two periods, together totalling a maximum of three hours, shall be set aside in the draft agenda for debates on topical and urgent subjects of major importance pursuant to Rule 64.

1. Before each part-session the draft agenda shall be drawn up by the Conference of Chairmen on the basis of recommendations by the meeting of committee chairmen and taking into account the agreed annual legislative programme referred to in Rule 36A.

The Commission and Council may attend the deliberations of the Conference of Chairmen on the draft agenda at the invitation of the President.

2. The draft agenda may indicate voting times for certain items down for consideration.

3. One or two periods, together totalling a maximum of three hours, shall be set aside in the draft agenda for debates on topical and urgent subjects of major importance pursuant to Rule 64.

4. The final version of the draft agenda shall be distributed to Members at least three hours before the beginning of the part-session.

(Amendment No. 68)  
Rule 74(1) and (2)  
Adopting and amending the agenda

1. At the beginning of each part-session, Parliament shall decide on the draft agenda submitted to it by the President without amendment other than such as may be proposed by the latter, or to him in writing by at least twenty-three Members, on the understanding that a political group or at least thirteen Members shall have the right to propose, at each part-session, one amendment to the draft agenda. Any such proposals must be received by the President at least one hour before the opening of the part-session. On such a proposal only the mover, one speaker in favour and one speaker against may be heard, in each case for a maximum of three minutes.

2. Once adopted, the agenda shall not be amended, except in application of Rules 71, 75 and 102 to 106 or on a proposal from the President.

Where the President proposes an amendment to the agenda, the only speakers who may be heard before the vote shall be one speaker in favour, one speaker against and the chairman or the rapporteur of the committee responsible, in each case for a maximum of three minutes.

If a procedural motion to amend the agenda is rejected, it shall not be tabled again during the same part-session.

1. At the beginning of each part-session, Parliament shall decide on the final version of the draft agenda. Amendments may be proposed by a committee, a political group or at least twenty-three Members. Any such proposals must be received by the President at least one hour before the opening of the part-session. The President may give the floor to the mover, one speaker in favour and one speaker against. The maximum speaking time shall be one minute.

2. Once adopted, the agenda shall not be amended, except in application of Rules 75 and 103 to 106 or on a proposal from the President.

If a procedural motion to amend the agenda is rejected, it shall not be tabled again during the same part-session.

(Amendment No. 69)  
Rule 83  
Allocation of speaking time

1. The President may, after consulting the chairmen of the political groups, propose to Parliament that speaking time be allocated for a particular debate. Parliament shall decide on this proposal without debate.

2. The President shall allocate speaking time in accordance with the following criteria:

- (a) a first fraction of speaking time shall be divided equally among all the political groups;
- (b) a further fraction shall be divided among the political groups in proportion to the total number of their members;
- (c) the Non-attached Members shall be allocated an overall speaking time based on the fractions allocated to each political group under sub-paragraphs (a) and (b).

3. The speaking time of Non-attached Members, calculated in accordance with paragraph 2, shall be doubled so as to take account of the great diversity of political views among them and enable, as far as possible, each such view to be expressed.

1. The Conference of Chairmen may propose to Parliament that speaking time be allocated for a particular debate. Parliament shall decide on the proposal without debate.

2. Speaking time shall be allocated in accordance with the following criteria:

- (a) a first fraction of speaking time shall be divided equally among all the political groups;
- (b) a further fraction shall be divided among the political groups in proportion to the total number of their members;
- (c) the Non-attached Members shall be allocated an overall speaking time based on the fractions allocated to each political group under sub-paragraphs (a) and (b).

3. Deleted

Each Non-attached Member shall be accorded the same speaking time. If he does not wish to use his speaking time he may assign it to another Non-attached Member.

The rules governing the utilization of speaking time shall be determined by the Enlarged Bureau.

4. Where a total speaking time is allocated for several items on the agenda, the political groups shall inform the President of the fraction of their speaking time to be used for each individual item. The President shall ensure that these speaking times are respected.

5. No Member may speak for more than three minutes on any of the following: the minutes of proceedings, points of order and procedural motions, amendments to the draft agenda or to the agenda, and, unless Parliament decides otherwise, personal statements.

4. Where a total speaking time is allocated for several items on the agenda, the political groups shall inform the President of the fraction of their speaking time to be used for each individual item. The President shall ensure that these speaking times are respected.

5. No Member may speak for more than one minute on any of the following: the minutes of proceedings, procedural motions, amendments to the draft agenda or to the agenda.

(Amendment No. 70)

Rule 84(5)

List of speakers

5. Members of the Commission and Council shall be heard at their request.

5. Members of the Commission and Council shall be heard in the debate on a report as a rule immediately after its presentation by the rapporteur. Thereafter Members of the Commission and Council shall be heard at their request.

*(Interpretation unchanged)*

(Amendment No. 71)

Rule 90A (new)

Rule 90A

Principles governing voting

1. Voting on a report shall take place on the basis of a recommendation from the committee responsible. The committee may delegate this task to its chairman and rapporteur.

2. The committee may recommend that all or several amendments be put to the vote collectively, that they be accepted or rejected or declared void.

It may also propose compromise amendments.

3. Where the committee responsible recommends that amendments be put to the vote collectively, the vote on these amendments shall be taken first.

4. Where the committee responsible proposes a compromise amendment it shall be given priority in voting.

5. Amendments for which a roll call vote has been requested shall be put to the vote individually.

6. A split vote shall not be admissible in the case of a collective vote or on a compromise amendment.

(Amendment No. 72)

Rule 91

(Rule 91 is renumbered Rule 92)

Rule 91

Separate votes

1. Where the text to be put to the vote contains two or more provisions or references to two or more points or lends itself to division into two or more parts each with a distinct logical meaning and normative value, a separate vote on each part may be requested.

Split voting

1. Where the text to be put to the vote contains two or more provisions or references to two or more points or lends itself to division into two or more parts each with a distinct logical meaning and normative value, a separate vote on each part may be requested.

(Interpretation unchanged)

2. Before the President declares the vote open, any Member may make such a request for separate votes.

2. The request may be made no later than one hour before the time at which voting begins, unless the President fixes a different deadline. The President shall decide on the request.

(Amendment No. 73)

Rule 92

(Rule 92 is renumbered Rule 91)

Order of voting on amendments

Rule 92(7)

7. The rapporteur or the chairman of the committee responsible shall advise the President as to where paragraphs 3, 4, 5 or 6 may be used.

Rule 91(7)

7. Deleted

(Amendment No. 74)

Rule 93

Right to vote

The right to vote is a personal right. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

The right to vote is a personal right.

Members shall cast their votes individually and in person.

(Interpretation unchanged)

(Amendment No. 75)

Rule 94

Voting

1. Normally Parliament shall vote by show of hands.

1. Normally Parliament shall vote by show of hands.

2. If the President decides that the result of the show of hands is doubtful, a fresh vote shall be taken by sitting and standing.

3. If the President decides that the result of this last vote is doubtful, the vote shall be taken by roll call in accordance with Rules 95(2) or 96.

2. If the President decides that the result is doubtful, a fresh vote shall be taken using the electronic voting system and, if the latter is not working, by sitting and standing.

3. The result of the vote shall be recorded.

(Amendment No. 76)

Rule 98

Explanations of vote

1. Once the general debate and consideration of the texts have been concluded, explanations of vote may be given before the final vote, provided that a request to do so has been submitted to the President before the beginning of that vote.

The absence of a final vote during the second reading on the Council's common positions pursuant to Rule 98 excludes the possibility of giving explanations of vote.

No further requests to give explanations of vote shall be accepted once the first explanation of vote has begun.

2. A Member who does not choose to give an oral explanation of vote may request that a written explanation of vote, not exceeding 200 words, be included in the verbatim report of proceedings.

3. Explanations of vote shall last not more than one and a half minutes, but each political group may give an explanation of vote lasting up to three minutes.

4. Explanations of vote shall not be admissible in cases of votes on procedural matters.

5. Where a final vote has been postponed under Rule 89(3) or (5) or for any other reason, and explanations of vote have already been given, no further explanations of vote shall be admissible before the final vote is eventually taken.

Once a Commission proposal or a report has been put to the vote without debate pursuant to Rule 38, Members are deemed to have waived the right to an oral explanation of vote. In this case Rule 98(2) applies.

1. Once the general debate has been concluded, any Member may give an oral explanation on the final vote for not longer than one minute or give a written explanation of no more than 200 words, which shall be included in the verbatim report of proceedings.

Any political group may give an explanation of vote lasting not more than two minutes.

No further requests to give explanations of vote shall be accepted once the first explanation of vote has begun.

2. Explanations of vote shall not be admissible in cases of votes on procedural matters.

3. Deleted

4. Deleted

5. Deleted

6. When a Commission proposal or a report is on the agenda of Parliament pursuant to Rules 37(5) or 38, Members may submit written explanations of vote pursuant to paragraph 1.

(Amendment No. 77)

Rule 100

Points of order and procedural motions

1. A Member who asks to raise a point of order shall have a prior right to do so (Rule 101).

Procedural motions

1. Deleted

2. A Member who asks to move a procedural motion, namely:

- (a) the inadmissibility of a matter (Rule 102);
- (b) referral back to committee (Rule 103);
- (c) the closure of a debate (Rule 104);
- (d) the adjournment of a debate (Rule 105);
- (e) the suspension or closure of the sitting (Rule 106);

shall have a prior right to do so.

Only the following shall be heard on motions (a) to (e): the mover of the motion, one speaker in favour and one against, and the chairman or rapporteur of each committee concerned, each for not more than three minutes.

3. The matters referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall take precedence over the main question, the discussion of which shall be suspended while they are being considered.

2. Requests to move a procedural motion, namely:

- (a) Deleted
- (b) referral back to committee (Rule 103);
- (c) the closure of a debate (Rule 104);
- (d) the adjournment of a debate (Rule 105);
- (e) the suspension or closure of the sitting (Rule 106);

shall take precedence over other requests to speak.

Only the following shall be heard on these motions in addition to the mover: one speaker in favour and one against and the chairman or rapporteur of the committee responsible.

3. Speaking time shall not exceed one minute.

(Amendment No. 78)

Rule 101

Points of order

1. A Member may raise a point of order, i.e. draw the attention of the President to any failure to respect Parliament's Rules of Procedure. He or she shall specify which Rule or Rules are not being respected and shall not speak for more than one minute. A point of order shall take precedence over requests to speak on the subject of the debate.

2. The President shall take an immediate decision on points of order in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and shall announce his ruling immediately after the point of order has been raised.

3. Exceptionally, he may state that he will announce his ruling later, but not more than twenty-four hours after the point of order was raised. The postponement of the ruling shall not entail the adjournment of the debate. The President may refer the matter to the appropriate committee.

1. A Member may be allowed to speak to draw the attention of the President to any failure to respect Parliament's Rules of Procedure. The Member shall first specify to which rule he/she is referring.

1a A request to raise a point of order shall take precedence over all other requests to speak.

1b Speaking time shall not exceed one minute.

2. The President shall take an immediate decision on points of order in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and shall announce his ruling immediately after the point of order has been raised. No vote shall be taken on the point of order.

3. Exceptionally, he may state that he will announce his ruling later, but not more than twenty-four hours after the point of order was raised. The postponement of the ruling shall not entail the adjournment of the debate. The President may refer the matter to the appropriate committee.

Referral back to committee

1. Referral back to committee may be requested by any Member at any time during the debate before the final vote begins, subject to Rule 99(2).

A request for referral back to committee may also be made at the beginning of each part-session, during the discussion of the draft agenda, subject to the same conditions as for an amendment to the draft agenda pursuant to Rule 74(1).

Application of Rule 40(2) does not preclude a request for referral back to committee pursuant to Rule 103.

The vote shall be taken immediately on the request for referral back to committee. (If a check on the quorum has been requested and the quorum is not present, the provisions of Rule 89(3) final sentence and Rule 103(2) shall not apply and Parliament shall proceed with the debate.)

2. The matter shall be referred back to the committee responsible where, pursuant to Rule 89(3), two votes have been taken following a request for a check on the quorum, without the quorum being present.

Paragraph 2 shall not apply to votes on procedural motions but only to votes on the subject matter itself.

3. Referral back to committee shall entail suspension of the discussion and vote in Parliament on the item under consideration. If the request for referral back to committee is accepted after a Member has already spoken on behalf of a political group, only one Member may speak from each political group which has not yet provided a speaker in that debate.

4. When referring a matter back to committee, Parliament may set a time limit within which the committee shall report its conclusions.

5. If a motion requesting referral back to committee is rejected, it shall not be tabled again during that debate.

If a request is made for a report to be referred back to committee pursuant to Rule 103, the committee responsible is obliged to submit a new report to Parliament. This obligation derives from the fact that, once a report has been tabled, Parliament has sole discretion to decide on how the report submitted for its consideration is to be treated.

Under Rule 103, a request for referral back to committee may also be made during the partial vote on a text up to the point at which the final vote on the text as a whole is opened by the President pursuant to Rule 90(1)(d).

1. Referral back to committee may be requested by a political group or at least twenty-three Members when the agenda is fixed or before the start of the debate or the final vote.

2. A request may be made only once at each of these three procedural stages.

3. Referral back to committee shall entail suspension of the discussion of the item.

4. Parliament may set a time limit within which the committee shall report its conclusions.

5. Deleted

The tabling of a request for referral back to committee during the discussion of the draft agenda at the beginning of each part-session shall not preclude such a request being retabled during the debate before the final vote begins.

(Amendment No. 80)  
Rule 104(1)  
Closure of a debate

1. A debate may be closed before the list of speakers has been exhausted on a proposal from the President or at the request of the chairman of a political group or at least thirteen Members.

1. A debate may be closed before the list of speakers has been exhausted on a proposal from the President or at the request of a political group or at least twenty-three Members. Such a proposal or request shall be put to the vote immediately.

Such a proposal or motion shall be put to the vote immediately.

(Amendment No. 81)  
Rule 105  
Adjournment of a debate

1. Before or during a debate on an item on the agenda, any Member may move that the debate be adjourned to a specific date and time.

1. At the start of a debate on an item on the agenda, a political group or at least twenty-three Members may move that the debate be adjourned to a specific date and time. Such a motion shall be put to the vote immediately.

Such a motion may only be made immediately before or during the debate.

Such a motion shall be put to the vote immediately.

(Amendment No. 82)  
Rule 106  
Suspension or closure of the sitting

The sitting may be suspended or closed during a debate or a vote if Parliament so decides on a proposal from the President or at the request of the chairman of a political group or at least thirteen Members.

The sitting may be suspended or closed during a debate or a vote if Parliament so decides on a proposal from the President or at the request of a political group or at least twenty-three Members.

Such a proposal or motion shall be put to the vote immediately.

Such a proposal or motion shall be put to the vote immediately.

(Amendment No. 83)  
Rule 107(3)  
Minutes

3. If any objections are raised to the minutes of proceedings, Parliament shall, if necessary, decide whether the changes requested should be considered. No Member may speak on the minutes for more than three minutes.

3. If any objections are raised to the minutes of proceedings, Parliament shall, if necessary, decide whether the changes requested should be considered. No Member may speak on the minutes for more than one minute.

**Rule 109(3)**

3. Parliament shall, at the request of one quarter of its current Members, set up committees of inquiry to investigate alleged contraventions of Community law or instances of maladministration with respect to Community responsibilities. The request shall indicate the matter to be investigated and contain a justification in sufficient detail for the President, without reference to Parliament, to decide whether the conditions are met.

The provisions of these Rules of Procedure relating to committees shall apply to the proceedings to the committee of inquiry and to the powers of its chairman.

A committee of inquiry shall consist of no more than fifteen members. It shall conclude its work within a period not exceeding nine months by submitting a report to Parliament on the outcome of its inquiry; it shall not be entitled to submit any motion for a resolution to Parliament. Only full members and permanent substitutes may vote in committees of inquiry.

**Rule 109A**

**Temporary committees of inquiry**

1. Parliament may, at the request of one quarter of its Members, set up temporary committees of inquiry to investigate alleged contraventions of Community law or instances of maladministration in the implementation of Community law, indicating their composition and the time limit within which they must complete their work, which may not exceed nine months.

2. A committee of inquiry shall consist of no more than fifteen members.

3. The modus operandi of temporary committees of inquiry shall be governed by the provisions of these Rules of Procedure relating to committees, save as otherwise specifically provided for in this Rule.

Only full members and permanent substitutes may vote in temporary committees of inquiry.

4. Temporary committees of inquiry may not submit motions for resolutions to Parliament. When they complete their work they shall submit to Parliament a report on the results of their work, accompanied by minority opinions if appropriate.

5. The detailed provisions governing the right of inquiry shall be the subject of an interinstitutional agreement between Parliament, the Council and the Commission; this agreement shall be annexed to these Rules.

6. Temporary committees of inquiry may instruct their chairman, vice-chairmen or any other member to carry out particular tasks and to report thereon.

7. The bureau of a temporary committee of inquiry may make provision for handling certain information confidentially.

8. The President of Parliament shall take all the necessary steps to ensure that the conclusions of the inquiry are acted upon in practice.

(Amendment No. 85)  
Rule 110  
Composition of committees

1. Committee members shall be elected after nominations have been submitted to the Bureau by the political groups, the Non-attached Members or at least thirteen Members. The Bureau shall submit to Parliament proposals designed to ensure fair representation of Member States and of political views.

*When a Member changes political groups he shall retain, for the remainder of his two and a half year term of office, the seats he holds in parliamentary committees. However, if a Member's change of political group has the effect of disturbing the fair representation of political views in a committee, new proposals for the composition of that committee shall be made by the Bureau in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 1, second sentence, whereby the individual rights of the Member concerned shall be guaranteed.*

2. Amendments to the proposals of the Bureau shall be admissible only if they are tabled by at least thirteen Members. Parliament shall vote on such amendments by secret ballot.

3. Members shall be deemed to be elected on the basis of the Bureau's proposals, as and where amended pursuant to paragraph 2.

4. In circumstances of failure by a political group to submit nominations for membership of a committee of inquiry pursuant to paragraph 1 within a time limit set by the Bureau, the Bureau shall submit to Parliament only the nominations communicated to it within that time limit.

5. The Bureau of Parliament may provisionally decide to fill any vacancy on a committee with the agreement of the persons to be appointed and having regard to paragraph 1.

6. Any such changes shall be placed before Parliament for ratification at the next sitting.

1. Members of committees and committees of inquiry shall be elected after nominations have been submitted by the political groups and the Non-attached Members. The Conference of Chairmen shall submit to Parliament proposals designed to ensure fair representation of Member States and of political views.

*When a Member changes political groups he shall retain, for the remainder of his two and a half year term of office, the seats he holds in parliamentary committees. However, if a Member's change of political group has the effect of disturbing the fair representation of political views in a committee, new proposals for the composition of that committee shall be made by the Conference of Chairmen in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 1, second sentence, whereby the individual rights of the Member concerned shall be guaranteed.*

2. Amendments to the proposals of the Conference of Chairmen shall be admissible only if they are tabled by at least twenty-three Members. Parliament shall vote on such amendments by secret ballot.

3. Members shall be deemed to be elected on the basis of the Conference of Chairmen's proposals, as and where amended pursuant to paragraph 2.

4. In circumstances of failure by a political group to submit nominations for membership of a committee of inquiry pursuant to paragraph 1 within a time limit set by the Conference of Chairmen, the Conference of Chairmen shall submit to Parliament only the nominations communicated to it within that time limit.

5. The Conference of Chairmen may provisionally decide to fill any vacancy on a committee with the agreement of the persons to be appointed and having regard to paragraph 1.

6. Any such changes shall be placed before Parliament for ratification at the next sitting.

(Amendment No. 86)  
Rule 111(1)  
Substitutes

1. The political groups may appoint a number of permanent substitutes for each committee equal to the number of full members representing them on the committee. The President shall be informed accordingly. These permanent substitutes shall be entitled to attend and speak at committee meetings and, in the event of the absence of the full member, to take part in the vote.

1. The political groups and the Non-attached Members may appoint a number of permanent substitutes for each committee equal to the number of full members representing them on the committee. The President shall be informed accordingly. These permanent substitutes shall be entitled to attend and speak at committee meetings and, in the event of the absence of the full member, to take part in the vote.

(Amendment No. 87)

Rule 117(1)

Committee reports on consultations

1. Where Parliament is asked for its opinion on a Commission proposal, the chairman of the committee to which the matter has been referred shall propose to the committee the procedure to be followed. A decision to proceed by a simplified procedure, or by the procedure without report, shall be governed by the provisions of Rule 116.

1. The chairman of the committee to which a Commission proposal has been referred shall propose to the committee the procedure to be followed.

(Amendment No. 88)

Rule 120(7)

Opinions of committees

7. The chairman and draftsman of the committee asked for an opinion may take part in an advisory capacity in meetings of the committee responsible, insofar as these relate to the matter of common concern. In special cases, the committee asked for an opinion may appoint up to five other members who, with the agreement of the chairman of the committee responsible, may take part in an advisory capacity in the meetings of that committee, insofar as these deal with the matter of common concern.

7. The chairman and draftsman of the committee asked for an opinion may take part in an advisory capacity in meetings of the committee responsible, insofar as these relate to the matter of common concern.

(Amendment No. 89)

Rule 121

Own-initiative reports

A committee intending to draw up a report and to submit a motion for a resolution to Parliament on a subject within its competence on which neither a request for an opinion nor a motion for a resolution has been referred to it may do so only with the authorization of the Enlarged Bureau. Where such authorization is withheld the reason must always be stated.

A committee intending to draw up a report and to submit a motion for a resolution to Parliament on a subject within its competence on which neither a request for an opinion nor a motion for a resolution has been referred to it may do so only with the authorization of the Conference of Chairmen. Where such authorization is withheld the reason must always be stated.

At the request of the committee responsible, the Enlarged Bureau may, when giving authorization, stipulate that the power to take a decision is to be delegated pursuant to Rule 37.

The Conference of Chairmen may, when giving authorization, stipulate that the power to take a decision is to be delegated pursuant to Rule 37.

Decisions of the Enlarged Bureau providing for authorization to draw up a report and, where the committee concerned has so requested, delegation of the power of decision, must be put to the vote in Parliament pursuant to Rule 37(2).

**COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY**

*(The expression 'European Political Cooperation' shall be deleted from all the provisions of Parliament's Rules of Procedure. Where it is referred to as an area of Community activity, it shall be replaced by the expression 'common foreign and security policy'. Where it is referred to as an institutional process, it shall be replaced by 'the Council'. This shall also apply to references to the Foreign Ministers.)*

(Amendment No. 91)  
Rule 125A (new)

**Rule 125A**

**Consultation and provision of information to Parliament within the framework of the common foreign and security policy**

- 1. The committee responsible for the common foreign and security policy shall ensure that Parliament is consulted on such policies and that its opinions are duly taken into account, particularly in connection with the joint action referred to in Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union and the activities referred to in Article 228a of the Treaty.**
- 2. Where appropriate, the committee shall inform Parliament in accordance with these Rules.**
- 3. The Council and the Commission shall provide the committee responsible with full and timely information on the development of the Union's common foreign and security policy.**
- 4. At the request of the Commission or the Council, a committee may decide to hold its proceedings in camera.**

(Amendment No. 92)  
Rule 125B (new)

**Rule 125B**

**Recommendations within the framework of the common foreign and security policy**

- 1. The committee responsible for the common foreign and security policy may draw up recommendations to the Council in its areas of responsibility after obtaining authorization from the Conference of Chairmen or on a proposal within the meaning of Rule 59A.**

**In case of urgency, the authorization referred to in the first subparagraph may be granted by the President of Parliament, who may likewise authorize an emergency meeting of the committee concerned.**

2. During the process for adopting these recommendations, which must be put to the vote in the form of a written text, Rule 79 shall not apply and oral amendments shall be admissible.

3. Recommendations drawn up in this way shall be included on the agenda for the next part-session. Recommendations shall be considered as adopted unless, before the beginning of the part-session, a minimum of one tenth of the component Members of Parliament submit a written objection, in which case the committee's recommendations shall be considered and each recommendation shall be put to the vote as a whole in plenary during the same part-session.

4. The debates provided for under Article J.7 of the Treaty on European Union shall be held in accordance with the arrangements laid down in Rule 56(3) and (4).

(Amendment No. 93)  
Rule 125C (new)

### Rule 125C

#### Joint parliamentary committees

1. Parliament may set up joint parliamentary committees with the parliaments of States associated with the Community or States with which accession negotiations have been initiated.

Such committees may submit recommendations to the parliaments involved. In the case of the European Parliament, these recommendations shall be referred to the committee responsible, which shall put forward proposals on the action to be taken.

2. The general responsibilities of the various joint parliamentary committees shall be defined by the European Parliament and by the agreements with the third countries.

3. Joint parliamentary committees shall be governed by the procedures laid down in the agreement in question. Such procedures shall be based on the principle of parity between the delegation of the European Parliament and the delegation of the parliament involved.

The European Parliament shall appoint its representatives in accordance with Rule 126.

4. Joint parliamentary committees shall draw up their own rules of procedure and submit them for approval to the Bureaux of the European Parliament and of the parliament involved.

5. The composition of European Parliament delegations to joint parliamentary committees shall be established at the same time and under the same conditions as for standing committees.

(Amendment No. 94)

Rule 126(2) to (5)

**Setting up and duties of interparliamentary delegations**

2. Members of the delegations shall be elected after nominations have been submitted to the Bureau by the political groups, the Non-attached Members or at least thirteen Members. The Bureau shall submit to Parliament proposals designed to ensure — as far as possible — fair representation of Member States and of political views. Rule 110(2), (3), (5) and (6) shall apply.

3. The Bureaux of the delegations shall be set up in accordance with the procedure used for committee Bureaux.

4. Parliament shall determine the general powers of the individual delegations. It may at any time decide to increase or restrict these powers.

5. The implementing provisions needed to enable the delegations to carry out their work shall be adopted by the Enlarged Bureau upon a proposal by the Committee of Chairmen of Interparliamentary Delegations.

2. Members of the delegations shall be elected after nominations have been submitted to the Conference of Chairmen by the political groups and the Non-attached Members. The Conference of Chairmen shall submit to Parliament proposals designed to ensure — as far as possible — fair representation of Member States and of political views. Rule 110(2), (3), (5) and (6) shall apply.

3. The Bureaux of the delegations shall be set up in accordance with the procedure used for committee Bureaux.

4. Parliament shall determine the general powers of the individual delegations. It may at any time decide to increase or restrict these powers.

5. The implementing provisions needed to enable the delegations to carry out their work shall be adopted by the Conference of Chairmen upon a proposal by the Committee of Chairmen of Interparliamentary Delegations.

(Amendment No. 95)

Rule 126(6) (new)

**Setting up and duties of interparliamentary delegations**

6. The chairman of the delegation shall submit to the committee responsible for foreign affairs and security a report on the activities of the delegation.

(Amendment No. 96)

CHAPTER XIII A (new)

**CHAPTER XIII A**

**Cooperation the fields of justice and home affairs**

Rule 127A (new)

**Rule 127A**

**Provision of information to Parliament in the fields of justice and home affairs**

1. The committees responsible for the various aspects of cooperation in the fields of justice and home affairs shall each ensure that Parliament is fully informed and consulted on the activities covered by such cooperation and that its opinions are duly taken into consideration, particularly in connection with the joint actions referred to in Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union.

2. Where appropriate, the committees shall inform Parliament in accordance with these Rules.

3. The Council and Commission shall provide the committees responsible with full and timely information on the development of cooperation in the fields of justice and home affairs.

4. The detailed rules for consultation and information, including procedures and frequency, shall be included in the annex to these Rules.

(Amendment No. 97)

Rule 127B (new)

Rule 127B

Recommendations in the fields of justice and home affairs

1. The committees responsible for cooperation in the fields of justice and home affairs may draw up recommendations to the Council in their areas of responsibility after obtaining authorization from the Conference of Chairmen or on a proposal within the meaning of Rule 59A.

Recommendations drawn up in this way shall be included on the agenda for the next part-session.

2. The debate provided for under Article K.6 of the Treaty on European Union shall be held in accordance with the arrangements laid down in Rule 56(3) and (4).

(Amendment No. 98)

Rule 128

Submission and referral of petitions

1. Any citizen of the Union, and any natural or legal person residing or having its registered office in a Member State, shall have the right to address, individually or in association with other citizens or persons, a petition to the European Parliament on a matter which comes within the Union's fields of activity and which affects him, her or it directly.

2. Petitions to Parliament shall show the name, occupation, nationality and permanent address of each signatory.

3. Petitions shall be entered in a register in the order in which they are received if they comply with the conditions laid down in paragraph 2; those that do not shall be filed without further action, and the petitioner shall be informed of the reasons therefor.

4. Petitions entered in the register shall be forwarded by the President to the committee responsible, which shall first ascertain whether the petitions registered fall within the sphere of activities of the Union.

Right of petition

1. Any citizen of the Union, and any natural or legal person residing or having its registered office in a Member State, shall have the right to address, individually or in association with other citizens or persons, a petition to the European Parliament on a matter which comes within the Union's fields of activity and which affects him, her or it directly.

2. Petitions to Parliament shall show the name, occupation, nationality and permanent address of each signatory.

2a. Petitions must be written in one of the official languages of the Union.

3. Petitions shall be entered in a register in the order in which they are received if they comply with the conditions laid down in paragraph 2; those that do not shall be filed, and the petitioner shall be informed of the reasons therefor.

4. Petitions entered in the register shall be forwarded by the President to the committee responsible, which shall ascertain whether the petitions registered fall within the sphere of activities of the Union.

5. Petitions declared inadmissible by the committee shall be filed without further action; the petitioner shall be informed of the decision and the reasons therefor.

6. Petitions addressed to the European Parliament by natural or legal persons who are neither citizens of the Union nor reside in a Member State nor have their registered office in a Member State shall be registered and filed separately. The President shall send a monthly record of such petitions received during the previous month, indicating their subject matter, to the committee responsible for considering petitions, which may request those which it wishes to consider.

5. Petitions declared inadmissible by the committee shall be filed; the petitioner shall be informed of the decision and the reasons therefor.

5a. In such cases the committee may suggest to the petitioner that he contact the competent authority of the Member State concerned or of the Union.

5b. Where the committee deems it appropriate, it may refer the matter to the Ombudsman.

6. Petitions addressed to the European Parliament by natural or legal persons who are neither citizens of the Union nor reside in a Member State nor have their registered office in a Member State shall be registered and filed separately. The President shall send a monthly record of such petitions received during the previous month, indicating their subject matter, to the committee responsible for considering petitions, which may request those which it wishes to consider.

(Amendment No. 99)  
Rule 130A (new)

#### CHAPTER XIVA OMBUDSMAN

##### Rule 130A

##### Appointment of the Ombudsman

1. At the start of each parliamentary term the President shall, immediately after his election, call for nominations for the office of Ombudsman and set a time limit for submitting nominations.

2. Nominations must have the support of at least twenty-three Members of the European Parliament and must demonstrate that the candidate fulfils the conditions required for the performance of the duties of Ombudsman.

They shall also include a solemn undertaking by the candidate not to engage in any other occupation, whether gainful or not, during his term of office in the event of his being appointed.

3. They shall be forwarded for consideration to the committee responsible, which may ask to hear the candidates.

4. The committee responsible shall put its choice of candidate to Parliament's vote.

5. Parliament shall place the vote on the agenda for the part-session following the forwarding of the proposal by the committee responsible.

6. The vote shall be held by secret ballot on the basis of a majority of the votes cast.

7. Before opening the vote, the President shall ensure that half of Parliament's component Members are present.

8. Should the vote be negative, the President may ask the committee responsible to make a new proposal or issue a further call for nominations.

9. The candidate appointed shall immediately be called upon to take an oath before Parliament.

10. The Ombudsman shall exercise his duties until his successor takes office, except in the case of his death, resignation or dismissal.

(Amendment No. 100)

Rule 130B (new)

### Rule 130B

#### Dismissal of the Ombudsman

1. One tenth of Parliament's Members may request the Ombudsman's dismissal if he no longer fulfils the conditions required for the performance of his duties or if he is guilty of serious misconduct.

2. The request shall be forwarded to the Ombudsman and to the committee responsible, which, if it decides by a majority of its members that the reasons are well-founded, shall submit a report to Parliament. If he so requests, the Ombudsman shall be heard before the report is put to the vote. Parliament shall, following a debate, take a decision by secret ballot.

3. Before opening the vote, the President shall ensure that half of Parliament's component Members are present.

4. If the vote is in favour of the Ombudsman's dismissal and he does not resign accordingly the President shall, at the latest by the part-session following that at which the vote was held, apply to the Court of Justice to have the Ombudsman dismissed with a request for a ruling to be given without delay.

Resignation by the Ombudsman shall terminate the procedure.

5. Where the Ombudsman resigns or is removed from office, the procedure under Rule 130A shall apply.

(Amendment No. 101)  
Rule 130C (new)

Rule 130C

Role of the Ombudsman

1. The conditions governing referrals to the Ombudsman, together with the procedures and the rules governing the latter's powers, shall be laid down in a special annex to the Rules of Procedure. The Ombudsman may draw up a proposal to this end which shall be forwarded to the committee responsible for the Rules of Procedure, which shall report to Parliament.

2. The Ombudsman shall inform the committee responsible of his activities on a regular basis or when the committee requests him to do so.

3. The Ombudsman and the chairman of the committee responsible shall each safeguard the confidentiality of the information made known to them in connection with the Ombudsman's activities. Such information shall be made available only to the judicial authorities and only where it is needed for criminal proceedings.

(Amendment No. 102)  
Rule 131(4)

**Application of the Rules of Procedure**

4. Should a political group or at least thirteen Members contest the committee's interpretation, the matter shall be put to the vote in Parliament. Adoption of the text shall be by simple majority. In the event of rejection, the matter shall be referred back to the committee.

4. Should a political group or at least twenty-three Members contest the committee's interpretation, the matter shall be put to the vote in Parliament. Adoption of the text shall be by simple majority provided that at least one third of Parliament's Members are present. In the event of rejection, the matter shall be referred back to the committee.

(Amendment No. 103)  
Rule 132(3)

**Amendment of the Rules of Procedure**

3. Amendments to these Rules shall enter into force on the first day of the part-session following their adoption.

3. Unless otherwise specified when the vote is taken, amendments to these Rules shall enter into force on the first day of the part-session following their adoption.

(Amendment 104)  
Rule 134(1) and (2)  
**Estimates of Parliament**

1. The Bureau shall draw up a first preliminary draft of the estimates of Parliament on the basis of a report prepared by the Secretary-General, and shall consult the committee responsible on the subject.

1. The Bureau shall draw up the preliminary draft estimates on the basis of a report prepared by the Secretary-General.

2. After receiving the opinion of that committee, the Enlarged Bureau shall adopt the preliminary draft estimates.

2. Deleted

(Amendment No. 105)  
Annex II - Conduct of Question Time under Rule 60  
A (1) to (11)

1. Questions shall be admissible only where they
  - are concise and are drafted so as to permit a brief answer to be given;
  - fall within the competence and sphere of responsibility of the Commission, the Council, or the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation, and are of general interest;
  - do not require extensive prior study or research by the institution concerned;
  - are clearly worded and relate to specific matters;
  - do not contain assertions or opinions;
  - do not relate to strictly personal matters;
  - are not aimed at procuring documents or statistical information;
  - are interrogatory in form.

2. Questions shall not be accepted for Question Time at any part-session if the agenda already provides for the subject to be discussed with the participation of the institution concerned.

3. Should the President decide that the question is inadmissible, the questioner may challenge the decision, in which case it shall be for the Enlarged Bureau to rule on the matter. This ruling shall be notified immediately to the questioner.

4. Each Member may put only one supplementary question to each question at Question Time.

10. If neither the questioner nor his substitute is present, the question shall be answered in writing by the institution concerned, and published together with the answer in the Report of Proceedings.

11. The same procedure shall be applied to questions that remain unanswered for lack of time unless the author withdraws his question.

1. Questions shall be admissible only where they
  - are concise and are drafted so as to permit a brief answer to be given;
  - fall within the competence and sphere of responsibility of the Commission and the Council and are of general interest.
  - do not require extensive prior study or research by the institution concerned;
  - are clearly worded and relate to specific matters;
  - do not contain assertions or opinions;
  - do not relate to strictly personal matters;
  - are not aimed at procuring documents or statistical information;
  - are interrogatory in form.

2. A question shall be inadmissible if the agenda already provides for the subject to be discussed with the participation of the institution concerned.

2a. A question shall be inadmissible if an identical or similar question has been put down and answered during the preceding three months.

3. Deleted

4. Each Member may put a supplementary question to any question. He or she may put in all only one supplementary question to the Council and two supplementary questions to the Commission.

10. If neither the questioner nor his substitute is present, the question shall lapse.

11. Questions that remain unanswered for lack of time shall be answered in writing unless the author withdraws his question.

(Amendment No. 106)

Annex IV

Implementing procedures for examination of the General Budget of the European Communities and supplementary budgets

Article 5(3)

Consideration of the Councils deliberations - second stage

3. Such draft amendments shall be admissible only if they are presented in writing, bear the signature of at least twenty-three Members or are tabled on behalf of a committee and ensure the maintenance of a balance between revenue and expenditure.

Draft amendments shall be admissible only if they refer to the texts modified by the Council.

3. Such draft amendments shall be admissible only if they are presented in writing, bear the signature of at least twenty-three members or are tabled on behalf of a committee and ensure the maintenance of a balance between revenue and expenditure. Rule 120(6) shall not apply.

Draft amendments shall be admissible only if they refer to the texts modified by the Council.

(Amendment No. 107)

Annex IV

Implementing procedures for examination of the General Budget of the European Communities and supplementary budgets

Article 6(1)

Total rejection

1. Twenty-three Members or a committee may, for important reasons, table a proposal to reject the draft budget as a whole. Such a proposal shall be admissible only if it is accompanied by a written justification and tabled within the time limit set by the President. The reason for rejection may not be contradictory.

1. At least twenty-three Members or a committee may, for important reasons, table a proposal to reject the draft budget as a whole. Such a proposal shall be admissible only if it is accompanied by a written justification and tabled within the time limit set by the President. The reasons for rejection may not be contradictory.

(Amendment No. 108)

Annex V,

Procedure for the consideration and adoption of decisions on the granting of a discharge

Article 1(1)

Documents

1. The following documents shall be printed and distributed:
  - (a) the revenue and expenditure account, the financial analysis and the balance sheet forwarded by the Commission;
  - (b) the report of the Court of Auditors, accompanied by the Institutions' answers; and
  - (c) the Council recommendation.

1. The following documents shall be printed and distributed:
  - (a) the revenue and expenditure account, the financial analysis and the balance sheet forwarded by the Commission;
  - (b) the Annual Report and special reports of the Court of Auditors, accompanied by the Institutions' answers;
  - (ba) the statement of assurance as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors pursuant to Article 188c of the Treaty;
  - (c) the Council recommendation.

(Amendment No. 109)  
Annex V  
Procedure for the consideration and adoption of  
decisions on the granting of a discharge  
Article 7(2)  
Implementation of discharge decisions

2. The committee responsible shall report to Parliament at least annually on the action taken by the institutions in response to the comments accompanying the discharge decisions.

2. The committee responsible shall report to Parliament at least annually on the action taken by the institutions in response to the comments accompanying the discharge decisions and the other comments contained in Parliament's resolutions concerning the implementation of expenditure.

3. On the basis of a report by the Committee on Budgetary Control, the President, acting on behalf of Parliament, may bring an action before the Court of Justice against the institution concerned, pursuant to Article 175 of the Treaty, for failure to comply with the obligations deriving from the comments accompanying the discharge decision or the other resolutions concerning implementation of expenditure.

(Amendment No. 110)

*(The new Rules of Procedure should be numbered consecutively, e.g. 29, 30, 31, etc. rather than 29, 29a, 29b, etc. This should be done throughout the text. Rules should be designated by numbers, not by numbers followed by letters.)*

(Amendment No. 111)

*(The terms 'European Communities', 'Communities', 'Community' and 'European Community' should be replaced with 'European Union' throughout the text in Rules 2, 32, 63, 64, 65, 128 and 131 and with 'European Community' in Rules 7, 24, 28, 29, 29b, 33, 66, 67, 107, 108 and 129.)*

(Amendment No. 112)

*(The words 'Enlarged Bureau' should be replaced with 'Conference of Chairmen' throughout the text.)*

(Amendment No. 113)

*(The expressions 'European Political Cooperation' and 'the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation' should be deleted throughout the text.)*

## **PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION A3-240/93**

**amending the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament subsequent to the Treaty on European Union**

### **The European Parliament,**

- having regard to the President's letter of 12 February 1992,
  - having regard to the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure (B3-0449/92 and B3-1662/92),
  - having regard to Rules 131 and 132 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, the Verification of Credentials and Immunities and the opinions of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Security, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights, the Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs, the Committee on Budgetary Control and the Committee on Institutional Affairs (A3-0240/93),
1. Amends its Rules of Procedure as indicated above;
  2. Instructs its President to forward this decision for information to the Council and Commission.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT (B3-0449/92), pursuant to Rule 132 of the Rules of Procedure, by Mr GALLE and Mr MELANGRE concerning Rule 131(4) of the Rules of Procedure

Rule 131(4)

4. Should a political group or at least thirteen Members contest the committee's interpretation, Parliament shall be called upon to decide by a simple majority, subject to one third of its Members being present, whether the interpretation should be referred back to committee.

Justification

It should not be permissible for the interpretations proposed by the Committee on the Rules of Procedure to be referred back to committee when only very few Members are present to cast their vote.

The proposed amendment set out above is designed to ensure that the quorum is present when interpretations are put to the vote.

A

Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament

Current text

Proposed new text

(Amendment No. 1)

Rule 75(1)

1. A request that a debate on a proposal on which Parliament has been consulted pursuant to Rule 36(1) be treated as urgent may be made to Parliament by the President, by a committee, by at least twenty-three Members, by the Commission or by the Council. This request shall be made in writing and supported by reasons.

1. A request that a debate on a proposal on which Parliament has been consulted pursuant to Rule 36(1) be treated as urgent may be made to Parliament by the President, by a committee, by at least twenty-three Members, by the Commission or by the Council. This request shall be made in writing and supported by reasons.

When the Council requests that a legislative proposal be dealt with by urgent procedure, it shall, in addition to giving reasons, present a timetable for adoption which it shall undertake to observe.

