

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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PROPOSAL FOR AN AMENDMENT
TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

tabled by Mr COTTRELL

pursuant to Rule 112 of the Rules of Procedure

concerning the introduction of provisions to
prevent the practice of multiple voting

PE 80.003

The European Parliament,

- A. recalling the plenary session of the week 5-9 July,
 - B. recalling that on the morning of 9 July, a Member was accused of operating the electronic voting machinery in an adjacent seat which was not occupied at the time,
 - C. recalling that on this occasion, the record of the rollcall vote showed clearly that the voting machine of the absent Member had been operated,
 - D. regretting that the Member accused of infringement did not make a personal statement of explanation at the time,
 - E. approving the President's decision to refer the matter to the Bureau
 - F. observing, with concern, that attention has been drawn on previous occasions to the practice of multiple voting,
- 1. Considers that the reputation of Parliament and the good name of Members is at stake,
 - 2. DECIDES

to amend the Rules of Procedure to make the following provisions:-

- a) In the event of Members being accused of multiple voting the President shall suspend the sitting for verification by the voting machinery computer;
- b) In the event of a check revealing the accusation proved "prima facie", the President shall declare the vote null and void and order a new vote;
- c) The facts of the case will be examined by the Bureau and reported to Parliament;
- d) The Member or Members concerned will be offered the opportunity to make personal statements to Parliament;
- e) Parliament shall then decide on the option to suspend the Member accused for a period of not less than 3 months and not exceeding 6 months.