

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr COPPIETERS

pursuant to Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure

on amendments to the Rules of Procedure

The European Parliament,

- whereas its enlarged Bureau is adopting the practice pursuant to Rules 28 and 36A of imposing severe restrictions on speaking time and whereas speaking time is calculated on a daily basis for each sitting and not according to the subject matter,
- whereas the allocation of speaking time takes no account of the right to table amendments vouchsafed by Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure and whereas this right can under no circumstances be further curtailed by a simplified allocation of time,
- whereas this method of working places the author of one or more amendments in a position where it is impossible for him to explain the proposed amendment or amendments properly and with the necessary care,
- concerned to ensure the smooth functioning and democratic decision-making processes of the European Parliament,
- convinced that the first requirement for proper democratic decision-making is that all Members should be informed of the reasons for the amendments which have been tabled and their significance and implications for parliamentary initiatives,
- noting that in the present circumstances it would be best for any amendment tabled to be accompanied by a justification in writing.

Requests its Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions to amend Rule 29(2), first paragraph, as follows :

'Amendments shall relate to the text it is sought to alter. They shall be tabled in writing, together with a concise justification and signed by one or more authors. The President shall decide whether they are in order.'