

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 and Mr FORTH

pursuant to Rule 112 of the Rules of Procedure

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard in particular to Rule 66 of those Rules, paragraphs 1 to 5;
1. Observes that in fact speaking time is not at the discretion of the President or Vice-President acting in that capacity but is governed by the allocation of speaking times to political groups;
 2. Considers that this practice stultifies debate, precludes originality or liveliness in exchanges between Members and contributes to the frequently low attendance in the Chamber;
 3. Considers that the situation would be remedied by adoption of a system of "catching the President's eye";
 4. Decides therefore to amend Rule 66 as follows :-
 - paragraph one: Add new sentence:

"Members must then seek to attract the President's attention in order to fulfil the intention to speak"
 - paragraph two: unchanged
 - paragraph three: unchanged
 - paragraph four: unchanged
 - paragraph five: unchanged
 5. Therefore instructs its President to inform the chairmen of the political groups that the practice of allocating speaking time through political groups is hereby discontinued.

PE 78.067