

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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/Application of the provisions of Rule
37(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the
European Parliament on the terms of
reference of the parliamentary committees

1. Rule 37(1) of the Rules of Procedure provides that:

'1. Parliament shall set up standing or temporary, general or special committees, and shall define their powers. The Bureau of each committee shall consist of a chairman and one, two or three vice-chairmen.'

2. The enlarged Bureau has discussed the allocation of responsibilities among the committees which Parliament has set up.

At its meeting of 25 September 1980, it decided to submit the following motion for a resolution to the European Parliament. This text includes a list of the terms of reference of the parliamentary committees, which was drawn up by the enlarged Bureau in a spirit of conciliation. The enlarged Bureau instructed Mr VANDEWIELE, First Vice-President, to refer the motion for a resolution to the plenary assembly.

The enlarged Bureau hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the terms of reference of the parliamentary committees

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the provisions of Rule 37(1) of its Rules of Procedure,

a) Defines as follows the terms of reference of:

- 1) the Political Affairs Committee
- 2) the Committee on Agriculture
- 3) the Committee on Budgets
- 4) the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
- 5) the Committee on Energy and Research
- 6) the Committee on External Economic Relations
- 7) the Legal Affairs Committee
- 8) the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment
- 9) the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning
- 10) the Committee on Transport
- 11) the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection
- 12) the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport
- 13) the Committee on Development and Cooperation
- 14) the Committee on Budgetary Control
- 15) the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions

b) Resolves that a list of these terms of reference shall be published as an annex to its Rules of Procedure.

I. POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for :

- the institutional structures of the Communities and their development;
(the Legal Affairs Committee will give an opinion on these matters insofar as they involve the interpretation, application or extension of the provisions of the Treaties governing the internal operation of each institution and relations between the institutions);
- general relations with the other Community institutions or bodies;
(the Legal Affairs Committee will give an opinion on these matters insofar as they involve the interpretation, application or extension of the provisions of the Treaties governing the internal operation of each institution and relations between the institutions);
- preparation of a draft uniform electoral procedure;
(the Legal Affairs Committee will give an opinion on the draft report by the Political Affairs Committee on the draft uniform electoral procedure);
- problems of political union and questions pertaining to cooperation in the sphere of foreign policy;
- political aspects of the seat of the Community institutions;
- political and institutional aspects of accession or association agreements with third countries at the application and negotiation stage; in this context, the delegations for relations with third countries which have applied for accession should cooperate closely with this committee in preparing for and discussing the outcome of their meetings;
- political and institutional aspects of relations with other international organizations and with third countries;
- political aspects of international problems;
- problems concerning human rights in third countries.

II. COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

This committee is generally responsible for all matters relating to Title II, Articles 38 to 47 of the EEC Treaty:

- Common market in agricultural and fishery products;
- gradual implementation of a common agricultural policy and organisation of agricultural markets at European level;
- prices and regulation of prices;
- productivity;
- safeguard measures, subsidies, stabilisation machinery;
- supplies and production.

The committee will be required to give its opinion on all matters which, although arising in a different specific field (public health, economic policy, external economic relations, relations with European or other associated countries), may have some bearing on the organization of the Community's agricultural market and on matters pertaining to the commercial policy with regard to agricultural products.

III. COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

This committee is responsible for:

- the definition and exercise of the European Parliament's budgetary powers;
- the budgets of the Communities;
- multiannual estimates of the European Communities' revenue and expenditure;
- financial resources of the Communities (including levies, own resources, Member States' contributions);
- financial implications of Community acts;
- coordination of the conciliation procedure between the Parliament and the Council, with the involvement of the Commission of the European Communities, on Community acts having financial implications;
- the Staff Regulations of the Communities (Article 212 of the EEC Treaty, Article 186 of the EAEC Treaty and Article 78 of the ECSC Treaty); (where matters connected with the Staff Regulations raise questions of principle as regards Community law, they must be examined in close cooperation with the Legal Affairs Committee);
- problems relating to the administrative and accounting management of the Communities which involve budgetary authorization and the Staff Regulations;
- financial and accounting techniques;
- transfers of appropriations which constitute authorization of expenditure;
- Parliament's budget, administration and accounts. (Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure)

In examining Parliament's powers of control, which range from budgetary authorization to supervizing the implementation of the budget, the Committee on Budgets is required to cooperate closely with the Committee on Budgetary Control.

IV. COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS

This committee is responsible for :

- operation of the common market, more specifically for the application of Articles 9 to 37 of the EEC Treaty relating to the movement of goods, customs duties and quotas and problems arising in this area as a consequence of the Community's enlargement;

(matters relating to the application of Articles 52 to 66 of the EEC Treaty, i.e., freedom of establishment, freedom to provide services, etc., would, however, be referred to the Legal Affairs Committee as the committee responsible, which would generally consult the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs unless the problems involved came specifically within the terms of reference of other committees) (for instance, questions of public health, transport, energy...);

- questions of competition, i.e., the application of Articles 85 to 90 of the EEC Treaty (rules on competition, agreements and monopolies), insofar as these are not specific questions falling within the terms of reference of other committees (transport, public health, etc.);
- dumping practices (Article 91 of the EEC Treaty);
- subsidies (Articles 92 to 94 of the EEC Treaty);
- questions of monetary policy, balance of payments, and capital movements and of borrowing and lending policy (control of movements of capital originating in third countries, measures to encourage the export of Community capital; application of Articles 67 to 73 and 104 to 109 of the EEC Treaty);
- application of Articles 95 to 99 of the EEC Treaty on tax provisions;
- all measures and actions to be taken for the progressive establishment of economic and monetary union (machinery for cooperation and conciliation in short-term economic policy, harmonization of medium-term planning, industrial policy, short- or medium-term financial support, arrangements for protection and monetary cooperation, etc.);

(As regards industrial policy, since matters connected with regional planning (industrialization) are the responsibility of the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning, the latter will consider these questions in close cooperation with the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and, where appropriate, with the Committee on Energy and Research);

- problems specific to the common market in coal and steel, particularly questions relating to the stabilization of markets and to prices, agreements and concentrations (Articles 4 and 57 to 67 of the ECSC Treaty);
- forward programmes for coal and steel and the general objectives for coal and steel (Article 46 of the ECSC Treaty);
- medium-term economic policy and, more specifically, the planning and coordination of investments.

V. COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND RESEARCH

This committee is responsible for:

- all matters relating to energy supplies and energy policy in general in the Community;
 - questions relating to scientific and technical research
 - particularly in the nuclear field - and to the development and applications of such research;
 - development of research, in particular technical research;
 - the Joint Research Centres and the Central Office for Nuclear Measurements;
 - technical and economic research within the meaning of Article 55 of the ECSC Treaty;
 - dissemination of information;

 - patents
 - industrial property
- } in agreement with the
} Legal Affairs Committee

VI. COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

This committee is responsible for:

- economic and commercial aspects of relations with third countries and with international organizations such as the OECD and GATT;
(the Committee on Agriculture will be required to give its opinion on all matters pertaining to commercial policy with regard to agricultural products) ;
- matters relating to the common external tariff;
- coordination of Member States' commercial policies and problems associated with the common commercial policy;
- problems of external trade with third countries and agreements or conventions concluded in that sphere;

The delegations other than those mentioned under the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Development and Cooperation will cooperate closely with this committee in preparing for and discussing the outcome of their meetings.

VII. LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for:

- privileges and immunities;
- legal aspects of the creation, interpretation and application of Community law;
- the law of the sea;
- human rights problems in the Community;
(the Political Affairs Committee could give an opinion on these matters if it so requests);
- all matters relating to the definition¹ of the rights of Community citizens as such and the consolidation of legislation covering these rights;
(the Political Affairs Committee could give an opinion on these matters if it so requests);
- coordination at Community level of national legislation:
 - (a) in regulations on freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services (Articles 52 to 66 of the EEC Treaty) including problems of company law;
(in exercising this particular responsibility - and unless the problems are purely legal - the committee will generally consult the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs except in cases where the regulations apply to an area for which a different committee has more specific responsibility) ;
 - (b) in the application of article 220 of the EEC Treaty (protection of natural and legal persons) and all measures with wider application.

Questions concerning the approximation of national legislation (articles 100 and 101 of the EEC Treaty) will be dealt with in each case by the committee responsible for the subject area of the proposals. However, the Legal Affairs Committee may give its opinion on proposals within the meaning of Articles 100 and 101 of the EEC Treaty pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure, wherever it considers this necessary.

¹ Pursuant to Parliament's resolution of 16 November 1977 on special rights (OJ No.C 299 of 12 December 1977, page 26 et seq); the Political Affairs Committee remains the Committee responsible as regards the acquisition of new rights not contained in this resolution.

The committee will also be required to give its opinion on:

- proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations of Officials of the Communities if the legal position of officials is involved;
- the discussions leading to the finalization of a uniform electoral procedure (the legal aspects thereof).

VIII. COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT

This committee is responsible for:

- improving living and working conditions;
- employment policy, particularly where it affects young people;
- vocational training, particularly as regards access to the labour market and to retraining in connection with the reconversion and occupational mobility processes;
- activities of the European Social Fund (retraining, readaptation, etc.);
- free movement of workers;
- social security of migrant workers;
- housing policy and low-cost housing schemes;
- promoting cooperation between the Member States in the field of social policy, with particular emphasis on labour law and the approximation of social legislation;
- promotion of a 'European social budget';
- wages, pensions and incomes policy and policy on capital formation;
- equal pay and equal job and vocational training opportunities for men and women;
- paid holidays schemes.

The committee will also be required to give its opinion on matters relating to the rights of migrant workers.

IX. COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL POLICY AND REGIONAL PLANNING

This committee is responsible for:

- Community regional policy understood as a structural policy aimed at alignment of the economies, the harmonious development of the EEC and the removal of disparities;
- the special problems of the regions which are disadvantaged either because their economies are predominantly agricultural or their industrial sectors are in a state of crisis;
- impact of the other Community policies on the regions involved in regional policy;
- the impact of the enlargement of the European Community on the regional policies of the Member States and of the applicant countries;
- problems related to the management, effectiveness and control of the European Regional Development Fund (in particular its 'non-quota' section) and the other instruments of Community regional policy;
- coordination of Community financial instruments in the field of regional policy;
- review of regional development programmes in the framework of Member States' regional policy and Community regional policy;
- questions relating to Member States' ability to absorb and their criteria for using regional aid received from the Community;
- problems related to the relationship between national town and country planning forecasts and decisions and Community regional policy;
- existing relations between the Community institutions and regional and local authorities within the framework of the Treaties.

X. COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT

This committee is responsible for:

- the development of a common transport policy;
- the creation of a European transport network;
- the liberalization of international transport;
- discrimination, harmonization and coordination in the sphere of transport;
- problems involved in transport by air, sea and pipeline;
- the Community's policy on ports;
- possible areas of interference between a common transport policy and the rules on competition or the requirements of social, agricultural, energy or regional policy (see Articles 3(e) and 74 of the EEC Treaty and Article 70 et seq. of the ECSC Treaty);

The committee will be required to give its opinion on matters pertaining to the fields of competition, the removal of barriers, the right of establishment and freedom to provide services where transport policy is directly involved.

XI. COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

This committee is responsible for:

- environment policy and environmental protection measures:
 - . pollution of air, earth and water,
 - . classification, packing, labelling, transport and use of dangerous substances,
 - . fixing new permissible noise levels,
 - . treatment and storage of waste (including recycling),
 - . international and regional measures and agreements aimed at protecting the environment (for example, the Rhine, the Mediterranean),
 - . protecting fauna and its habitat,
 - . giving opinions on energy and research programmes affecting the environment;

- public health and safety at work:
 - . checks on foodstuffs,
 - . programmes in the field of health education (with the emphasis on preventive action in respect of tobacco, the use of drugs, cardio-vascular illnesses, dietary products),
 - . harmonization of veterinary legislation,
 - . pharmaceutical products, including veterinary products,
 - . cosmetic products,
 - . medical research programmes,
 - . protection of employees at work;

- consumer protection:

problems concerning the implementation of the legislation proposed in the two action programmes, viz:

 - . protection of consumers against risks to health and safety,
 - . protection of consumers' economic interests,
 - . improvement of legal protection for consumers (assistance, advice and legal redress),
 - . improvement of consumer information and education,
 - . appropriate consultation and representation of consumers during the preparatory phase of decisions affecting their interests.

XII. COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, CULTURE, EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND SPORT

This committee is responsible for:

- the activities of the European Youth Forum;
- youth exchanges, including the exchange of young workers, and other measures designed to promote the involvement of young people in the development of the European Community;
- proposals relating to the establishment of a cultural community;
- the policy designed to preserve and restore the cultural heritage and safeguard natural areas, in cooperation with the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection;
- the cultural education policy;
- education programmes, harmonization of syllabuses and mutual recognition of diplomas;
- the development of the European University;
- promoting the system of European schools;
- continuing education for adults and home-study courses;
- matters pertaining to the information of the general public on the activities of the European Communities¹;
- matters relating to information and the media;
- problems associated with the development of the physical education policy;
- tourism;
- leisure.

The committee will be required to give its opinion on problems associated with the youth employment policy and vocational training.

¹ The Bureau is responsible for information on the day-to-day activities and the administration of the European Parliament and its organs.

XIII. COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

This committee is responsible for:

- application of the Lomé Convention;
- application of the association agreements with the Maghreb and Mashrek countries; in this context the delegations for relations with these countries will cooperate closely with this committee in preparing for and discussing the outcome of their meetings;
- UNCTAD problems, including generalized preferences;
- relations with other international organizations specializing in development or cooperation;
- primary commodities of interest to the developing countries;
- relations with certain specific groupings of developing countries;
- food aid;
- malnutrition;
- technical and financial aid to non-associated developing countries.

XIV. COMMITTEE ON BUDGETARY CONTROL

This committee is responsible for:

- the control of financial and budgetary measures aimed at implementing Community policies; monitoring the use of appropriations entered in the budget of the Community institutions (including the EAGGF, the Social Fund, the ERDF, the EDF), where necessary in cooperation with the committees concerned;
- discharge in respect of the implementation of the Community budgets pursuant to the provisions of the Treaty; the Financial Regulations and current practice; relations with the Court of Auditors, which is responsible for assisting Parliament in exercising its powers of control;
- measures adopted by the institutions following Parliament's decisions to give a discharge;
- monitoring the implementation of the budget, particularly on the basis of the institutions' quarterly reports, and examining and monitoring commitments, transfers and the use of appropriations during the year;
- transfers of appropriations in implementation of the budget (pursuant to the agreement with the Committee on Budgets);
- the Communities' financial balance sheets;
- control of the ECSC's financial and administrative operations;
- monitoring the measures taken by the EIB on the basis of a mandate or a transfer of powers from the Commission for the purpose of implementing Community policies;
- financial control of the organs of the European Parliament, closure of accounts, discharge for the implementation of its budget and the decisions taken in this connection (legality and regularity of expenditure, effectiveness and appropriateness of budgetary management). In this context the committee would prepare the discharge decision for Parliament (Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure);
- relations with the Court of Auditors and the national audit bodies.

In exercising Parliament's powers of control, which range from budgetary authorization to supervising the implementation of the budget, the Committee on Budgetary Control is required to cooperate closely with the Committee on Budgets.

XV. COMMITTEE ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND PETITIONS

This committee is responsible for:

- the formulation, application and interpretation of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure and for the examination of proposed amendments thereto;
- petitions, examination of petitions and action thereon.

