
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

tabled by Mr H.-J. SEELER

pursuant to Rule 112 of the Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament are to be amended as follows:

1. Rule 24 Insert a new paragraph 3 worded as follows:

Should the enlarged Bureau consider a matter which concerns a body of Parliament, a representative of that body shall have the right to be heard.

2. The existing paragraphs 3 and 4 of Rule 24 become paragraphs 4 and 5.

3. Rule 25 Title to be worded as follows:

Decisions and accountability of the Bureau and the enlarged Bureau.

4. Rule 25(1) to be worded as follows:

Decisions taken at the meetings of the Bureau and the enlarged Bureau shall be published in the Bulletin of the European Parliament, translated into the official languages and distributed to all Members of Parliament, unless the Bureau or the enlarged Bureau exceptionally, for reasons of confidentiality, decides otherwise.

5. Insert a new paragraph 2 after paragraph 1 of Rule 25:

At least a majority of votes of the members of the Bureau or the enlarged Bureau shall be required to amend decisions published in the Bulletin. Any person concerned by the amendment of a decision that has already been published shall normally be heard beforehand.

6. Paragraph 2 of Rule 25 becomes paragraph 3.

Justification: As a matter of principle all decisions taken by the Bureau should be published in the Bulletin of the European Parliament, so as to lend a certain weight to such decisions. This is covered by the amendment to Rule 25(1).

If the Bureau and the enlarged Bureau have discussed and taken a decision on a matter, all those concerned must be able to rely on that decision. In other words, when the decision has been published in the Bulletin of the European Parliament and Members or their staff or others, on the basis of this decision of the Bureau or enlarged Bureau, take steps to conclude contracts or make travel plans or arrangements with a parliament or government representatives of another country - e.g. in preparation for a mission or delegation visit -, they must be able to rely on the relevant decisions of the Bureau or the enlarged Bureau as being binding and final. This will also prevent the Bureau and the enlarged Bureau from continually calling their own decisions into question for