



## Resolution 80 (1955)<sup>1</sup>

# Amending certain of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly

Parliamentary Assembly

Rules 14, 15, 16, 27, 28, 30, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47 and 48, and also Rules 35, 39 and 53 are modified as follows:

### *RULE 14 - Register of questions submitted to the Assembly*

1. The questions placed on the Assembly's Register shall be those introduced by the tabling of any of the following documents:
  - a. Communications from the Committee of Ministers;
  - b. Communications addressed, to the Assembly by national, supranational or international organisations as a result of agreement between such bodies and the Assembly;
  - c. Motions accepted for inclusion in the Register in accordance with the provisions of Rule 28 below.
2. Any question referred to a Committee in pursuance of a decision taken by the Assembly or the Standing Committee shall also be included in the Assembly's Register.
3. Subject to the provisions of Rule 27 below, the Bureau shall refer the documents mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Rule to the appropriate Committee for examination and shall submit such reference for ratification by the Assembly at its next Sitting. These documents may be referred to any other Committee for an Opinion.
4. The Assembly may, at the request of the Committee concerned, remove a question from its Register.

### *RULE 15 - Settlement of the Agenda*

1. The Bureau shall prepare for each Session or part-Session a draft Agenda which it shall submit to the Standing Committee.
2. Any question on the Assembly's Register may be placed on this draft Agenda. The Progress Report of the Standing Committee shall automatically be placed on the Agenda.
3. On the basis of the draft prepared by the Bureau, the Standing Committee shall adopt the Agenda for the next Session or part-Session at the same time as it fixes the date of the opening or resumption of the Session. The Agenda shall be communicated to Representatives and Substitutes at the same time as the date of the opening or resumption of the Session.
4. The Agenda thus adopted may only be altered in accordance with the provisions of Rule 44 below.

### *RULE 16 - Order of business*

1. So far as circumstances permit, the Bureau shall draw up a draft order of business for each Session or part-Session showing at which Sittings the various questions on the Agenda will be discussed.

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1. see [Doc. 397](#), draft Resolution of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges and Explanatory Memorandum by Mr. Thomson, Rapporteur). This Resolution was adopted by the Assembly at its 25th Sitting, on 25th October, 1955



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2. The draft order of business shall be sent to Representatives and Substitutes and shall be submitted to the Assembly at its first Sitting.

*RULE 27 - Order of debates*

Paragraph 1 is amended as follows:

Unless the Assembly or the Standing Committee decides otherwise, the examination of a question in committee shall be preceded by a general debate.

After paragraph 3 a new paragraph is added as follows:

After a question has been referred to a committee, no Opinion, Recommendation or Resolution may be adopted except on the basis of the text of the Committee to which the question has been referred.

*RULE 28 - Tabling of motions*

1. Motions tabled by Representatives must bear on the substance of the question raised and take the form of a Recommendation or Resolution; they may contain an Explanatory Memorandum. Such motions shall be supported in writing and signed by ten or more Representatives or Substitutes.

2. The President shall decide whether such motions are in order. He may, if he considers it necessary, consult the Committee concerned and refer the matter to the Assembly or to the Standing Committee. Motions which are in order shall be printed and distributed immediately.

3. The inclusion of such motions in the Assembly's Register shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, comprising at least one-third of the Representatives to the Assembly or on the Standing Committee. On the inclusion the following only shall be heard; one speaker " for " the motion, one speaker " against ", and the Chairman of the Committee concerned.

*RULE 30 - Orders and Resolutions*

1. Any Representative or Substitute may lay on the table of the Assembly motions for Orders or Resolutions. The President shall decide whether such motions are in order.

2. Such motions may be put to the vote without being referred to Committee.

*RULE 41 Competence of committees*

1. Committees shall examine all documents referred to them in accordance with Rule 14 above and all questions submitted to them in pursuance of a decision taken by the Assembly or the Standing Committee.

2. Committees shall also examine the action taken on Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Assembly.

3. Should a Committee declare itself to be incompetent to consider a question, or should a conflict arise over the competence of two or more Committees, the question of competence shall be submitted to the Standing Committee or to the Assembly.

4. Any Committee requested to give an opinion on a document which has been referred to another Committee for report may put forward amendments to the report tabled by the latter Committee.

*RULE 42 Procedure in Committee*

Paragraph 7 is completed as follows:

The conditions in which any person who is not a Representative or Substitute may be heard by a Committee shall be decided by that Committee. If the Committee agrees, such a person may take part in the discussions, at the discretion of the Chairman .

*RULE 44 Urgent Procedure*

1. At the request of the Committee of Ministers, of the Committee concerned, or of ten or more Representatives, a debate may be held on a question which has not been placed on the Agenda.

2. In connection with a request for urgent procedure the following only shall be heard: one speaker " for " the request, one speaker " against ", the Chairman of the Committee concerned and a representative of the Bureau speaking in its name.

3. The adoption of urgent procedure shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, comprising at least one-third of the Representatives of the Assembly. If urgent procedure is adopted, the debate shall be opened on a date fixed by the Assembly.

*RULE 45 Access to the Assembly and Committees*

1. Any representative on the Committee of Ministers or any other Minister of the Government of a Member State shall have the right of access to the Assembly and its Committees. He shall be given the right to speak whenever he wishes. He may not vote.

2. Any Minister may, on the same basis, be represented by a Deputy at meetings of Assembly Committees, subject to agreement with that Committee.

*RULE 47 Reports of the Committee of Ministers*

Progress reports communicated by the Committee of Ministers to the Assembly, in pursuance of Article 19 of the Statute, shall be placed on the Assembly's Register and referred to Committee in accordance with Rule 14 above. At the conclusion of the relevant debate the Assembly shall adopt a reply summarising its observations.

*RULE 48 Requests by the Committee of Ministers for opinion or further consideration*

Requests for an opinion or reconsideration from the Committee of Ministers shall be placed on the Assembly's Register and referred to committee in accordance with Rule 14 above. At the end of the debate on the report of the committee, the Assembly shall adopt either an Opinion or a new Recommendation to the Committee of Ministers.

**CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS**

In Rule 35, the words " the inclusion of a question in the Agenda " are replaced by the words " the inclusion of a motion in the Assembly's Register ".

Paragraph 4 of Rule 39 is completed by the words " and the Agenda of Sessions or part-Sessions ".

In paragraph 2 of Rule 53, the words " in the Orders of the Day in accordance with the provisions of Rule 24 above " in the English text are replaced by the words " in the Agenda, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 15 above ".