Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Resolution 2102 (2016)[1]

Modifications to the Assembly's Rules of Procedure

Parliamentary Assembly

1. Considering that its actions and decisions must be founded on clear, coherent and effective parliamentary rules and procedures, the Parliamentary Assembly intends to ensure that its Rules of Procedure are updated continually. It recalls that it has regularly amended its rules in recent years in order to accommodate the changes in parliamentary practice, clarify the rules and procedures where their application or interpretation raised difficulties or to address specific problems. It therefore intends to take due account of proposals submitted by its members, national delegations, political groups and committees, and make the necessary adjustments in its Rules of Procedure.

2. Having regard to the above considerations, the Assembly decides to amend its Rules of Procedure as follows:

2.1. with regard to the status of the chairpersons of political groups:

2.1.1. replace Rule 19.5 by the following: "Chairpersons of political groups are *ex officio* members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) and the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs. Rule 44.6 shall not apply to them";

2.1.2. amend accordingly Rule 44.1 with regard to the number of seats on the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, and the complementary texts covering committees' terms of reference;

2.2. with regard to the status of the immediate past President of the Assembly:

2.2.1. replace Rule 20.3 by the following: "The immediate past President, as long as he or she remains a representative or substitute in the Assembly without interruption, shall be an *ex officio* member of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) and the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs. Rule 44.6 shall not apply to him or her";

2.2.2. amend accordingly Rules 44.1, 44.3 and 49.3 with regard to the number of seats on the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Rules of Procedure, and the complementary texts covering committees' terms of reference;

2.3. with regard to the procedure for examining amendments in plenary sitting:

2.3.1. replace Rule 34.9 by the following: "When an amendment or sub-amendment is called, only the following shall be heard: one of the signatories (or, failing that, any other member of the Assembly) in order to move it, one member to speak against and the chairperson or rapporteur of the committee seized for report to express the committee's opinion.[footnote] An amendment or sub-amendment which is not moved shall not be considered. An amendment or sub-amendment which has been withdrawn by its signatories may be moved by any other member of the Assembly. A rapporteur may not sign or move any amendment or sub-amendment to a draft text

1. *Text adopted by the Standing Committee*, acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 4 March 2016 (see Doc. 13986, report of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, rapporteur: Mr Jordi Xuclà).

presented by the committee on whose behalf he or she is reporting except for amendments or sub-amendments tabled on behalf of that committee. [footnote: The committee's position shall only be given by "in favour" or "against", together with the result of the vote in the committee; where appropriate, the Assembly shall be informed when "the committee has not taken any position"]";

2.3.2. in the complementary texts, "Additional provisions relating to Assembly debates", delete paragraph 3 of "Organisation of debates";

2.4. with regard to the substitution of committee chairpersons who are *ex officio* members of certain committees, in Rule 44.1:

2.4.1. amend the footnote under point 7 on the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), as follows: "; plus the chairpersons of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, as *ex officio* members, or, in their absence, a vice-chairperson.";

2.4.2. amend the footnote under point 9 on the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights, as follows: "Plus the chairpersons of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, as *ex officio* members, or, in their absence, a vice-chairperson";

2.5. with regard to the bureaux of committees, replace Rule 46.7 by the following: "The chairperson and the vice-chairpersons of a committee shall remain in office until the opening of the next ordinary session of the Assembly. They may be re-elected for one further term, consecutive or not. A committee chairperson or vice-chairperson elected in the course of a session for an incomplete term may be re-elected for two further terms. A former chairperson of a committee may stand for the office of chairperson or vice-chairperson of the same committee on expiry of a period of four years, for two further terms, consecutive or not. The outgoing chairperson of a committee may stand for the office of chairperson or vice-chairperson of another committee on expiry of a period of two years";

2.6. with regard to the participation of secretaries of political groups in committee meetings, replace Rule 48.8 by the following: "Secretaries of national delegations and secretaries of political groups may attend the meetings of committees of the Assembly, except for those of the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights";

2.7. with regard to the special guest status, replace Rule 60.1 by the following: "The Bureau may grant special guest status to national parliaments of European States not members of the Council of Europe which have applied for membership of the Council of Europe".

3. The Assembly decides that the amendments to the Rules of Procedure set out in this resolution shall enter into force upon their adoption.