



Resolution 2594 (2025)¹

Modification of various provisions of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Parliamentary Assembly reiterates that its actions and decisions shall be based on clear, consistent and effective parliamentary rules and procedures. It observes that it has regularly amended its rules in recent years in order to accommodate changes in parliamentary practice, clarify the rules and procedures where their application or interpretation has raised difficulties, or 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 to its Rules of Procedure.

2. Having regard to the above considerations and in order to give effect to [Resolution 2553 \(2024\)](#) "Strengthening the youth perspective in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly" and, in particular, to enable the establishment and full participation of youth rapporteurs in the work of the Assembly, the Assembly decides to amend its Rules of Procedure as follows:

2.1. in Rule 50, after paragraph 50.7, add the following paragraph:

"All general committees (other than the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights) may appoint one youth rapporteur, whose role is to present a youth perspective, as relevant, in discussions on reports for which that committee is seized for report. A youth rapporteur for a given committee shall be appointed for a mandate of two years, renewable a maximum of once for that committee. The appointment of a youth rapporteur is subject to the same criteria for appointment as set out in Rule 50.1, with the additional criterion of seeking to encourage young members of the Assembly to take on such roles."

2.2. in Appendix III (Code of conduct for rapporteurs of the Parliamentary Assembly), after paragraph 4, add the following paragraph:

"Application of this code to youth rapporteurs:

– Paragraphs 1 and 4 of this code shall apply mutatis mutandis to youth rapporteurs.

– A youth rapporteur shall recuse themselves from intervening as a youth rapporteur in respect of any report in which they may have a perceived, potential or actual conflict of interest that cannot be adequately addressed through a declaration of interests or through taking specific measures."

1. *Assembly debate* on 8 April 2025 (13th sitting) (see [Doc. 16137](#), report of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, rapporteur: Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 8 April 2025 (13th sitting).



3. In order to simplify and harmonise the approach, the duration of the mandate of general rapporteurs is amended to align it with the approach taken to youth rapporteurs. The Assembly decides to replace Rule 50.7 of the Rules of Procedure with the following text:

“Committees may appoint one or more general rapporteurs whose terms of reference they shall determine beforehand. The terms of reference shall be submitted to the Bureau for approval and its decision shall be subject to ratification by the Assembly. A general rapporteur shall be appointed for a mandate of two years, renewable a maximum of once. The appointment of a general rapporteur is subject to the criteria set out in Rule 50.1.”

4. In order to give effect to [Resolution 2579 \(2024\)](#) “Civil society and the Parliamentary Assembly: towards greater transparency and engagement”, the Assembly intends to continue its work, in order to develop a code of conduct for “interest representatives” who engage with the Assembly, once progress has been made on the framework code of conduct for interest representatives applicable to the Council of Europe as a whole. The Assembly notes that this work could additionally include consideration of how to improve its engagement with civil society as follow up to the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe and the Secretary General’s Roadmap on the Council of Europe’s engagement with civil society 2024-2027. The Assembly would welcome the resumption of the briefing sessions organised by the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe for its members in the margins of the Assembly’s part-sessions.

5. The Assembly encourages committees to engage with a diverse range of interlocutors, including civil society actors active in their thematic areas. It notes that such exchanges can be conducted within the context of hearings, exchanges of views, meetings with rapporteurs and as part of a general exchange of views with civil society to help inform the committee’s work programme. The Assembly decides to revise its Rules of Procedure to clarify which meetings are held in camera by adding, at the end of Rule 48.3, the following sentence:

“The Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs considers individual cases in camera.”

6. In order to promote gender equality in senior roles within the Assembly, while simplifying the rules relating to the composition of national delegations, the Assembly decides to replace the last sentence of Rule 16.3 with the following sentence:

“For every three successive Vice-Presidents proposed by a national delegation, at least one must be a woman and one must be a man.”

7. In order to ensure the effective functioning of the Assembly and that there are sufficient numbers of eligible candidates for roles in the bureaux of committees, the Assembly decides to replace Rule 46.7 with the following text:

“– 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 any committee on expiry of a period of two years. A former vice-chairperson of a committee may stand for the office of vice-chairperson of the same committee on expiry of a period of two years.

– A chairperson or vice-chairperson of a committee who has been dismissed from office pursuant to Rule 55 may not be a candidate for the office of chairperson or vice-chairperson of a committee or a sub-committee.”

8. To ensure consistency in respect of sub-committees, the Assembly decides to replace the sixth sentence of Rule 49.7 with the following sentences:

“A former chairperson of a sub-committee may stand for the office of chairperson or vice-chairperson of the same sub-committee on expiry of a period of two years. A former vice-chairperson of a sub-committee may stand for the office of vice-chairperson of the same sub-committee on expiry of a period of two years.”

9. To ensure that the Rules of Procedure take due account of networks, platforms and alliances, the Assembly decides to add, at the end of Rule 49, the following paragraph:

“– The provisions of the Rules of Procedure applicable to sub-committees and the members of their bureaux shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to networks, platforms and alliances established by the Assembly, unless otherwise provided.”.

10. Emphasising that it is not, in general, advisable to use the urgent procedure for statutory opinions, the Assembly decides to amend its Rules of Procedure as follows:

10.1. replace Rule 50.4 with the following text:

“The report of a committee shall contain an explanatory memorandum by the rapporteur. A report prepared under the urgent procedure shall contain an explanatory memorandum only if it relates to a statutory opinion. The committee shall take note of the explanatory memorandum. Any dissenting opinions expressed in the committee shall be included therein at the request of their authors, preferably in the body of the explanatory memorandum, but otherwise in an appendix.”;

10.2. at the end of Rule 51.1, add the following two sentences (noting that the provision relating to the complementary joint procedure is not new as it is currently in the footnote to Rule 51.1):

“A motion to initiate a complementary joint procedure between the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly in response to a serious violation by a member State of its statutory obligations cannot be the subject of a request for urgent procedure. The urgent procedure should not be used for a statutory opinion unless there are exceptional circumstances justifying its use.”.

11. In order to properly align committee representation in the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and its Council for Democratic Elections with the thematic scope of the concerned committee's terms of reference, the Assembly decides to replace, in part B of Appendix VIII to the Rules of Procedure, “Specific terms of reference of Assembly Committees” (introduced by [Resolution 1842 \(2011\)](#), as modified by [Resolution 2002 \(2014\)](#)), in Chapter IX “Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)”, paragraph 8 with the following sentence:

“The committee shall share the Assembly representation in the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and in its Council for Democratic Elections.”.

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