

**EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE
Brussels**

M/20/I/007
18 June 1996

**THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE (EEA JPC)**

RULES OF PROCEDURE*

The EEA JPC is established on the basis of Article 95 and Protocol 36 of the European Economic Area Agreement, as well as on the basis of the European Parliament's resolution of 22 January 1993 and the decision of the Committee of Members of Parliament of the EFTA States of 24 January 1994.

Rule 1

The EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee shall consist of two delegations of equal number, to be appointed by the European Parliament and by the Parliaments of the EFTA States, respectively. The members of the committee may sit according to their political affinities.

Rule 2

The term of office of the members of the EEA JPC shall correspond to the terms of office of the European Parliament and of the Parliaments of the EFTA States.

Rule 3

The EEA JPC shall elect its President and Vice-President from among its members. The office of President of the Committee shall be held alternately, for a period of one year, by a member appointed by the European Parliament and by a member appointed by a Parliament of an EFTA State. The delegation not holding the Presidency shall hold the Vice-Presidency.

Rule 4

The Bureau of the EEA JPC shall consist of the President and Vice-President of the EEA JPC and two additional members from each delegation.

Rule 5

* As amended on 4 June 1996. (21 June 1996 PE 218.364)

The Bureau shall prepare, co-ordinate and guide the work of the EEA JPC. It shall, in particular, establish a draft agenda for each session. The Bureau shall fix deadlines for the tabling of draft resolutions and amendments with a view to ensuring translation and proper debate within the JPC. Motions for resolutions must concern matters covered by the EEA Agreement.

Rule 6

The EEA JPC shall hold a general session twice a year, alternately in the Community and in an EFTA State.

Extraordinary sessions of the EEA JPC shall be convened by the Bureau on its own initiative or upon a written request by at least one third of the members of the JPC.

Rule 7

Any Parliament of an EFTA State which does not take part in the EEA Agreement may obtain observer status during sessions of the EEA JPC.

Rule 8

The sessions of the EEA JPC shall be held in public, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

Rule 9

The task of the EEA JPC shall be to contribute, through dialogue and debate, to a better understanding between the Community and the EFTA States in the fields covered by the EEA Agreement.

Rule 10

In order to ensure democratic parliamentary control, the President of the EEA Council, as well as the representatives of the EEA Joint Committee, will be invited to participate actively in the work of the EEA JPC. The Bureau may invite any other person to attend meetings of the JPC.

All E.C. legislation applying to the EEA, as well as its implementation shall be subject to scrutiny by the EEA JPC.

Rule 11

The EEA JPC will express its views in the form of reports or resolutions, as appropriate. It shall, in particular, examine the Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee, issued in accordance with Article 94(4) of the EEA Agreement, on the functioning and the development of the Agreement.

Rule 12

For each report (on the Annual Report issued by the EEA Joint Committee and on specific issues), the Bureau shall appoint co-rapporteurs, one each from the EP and EFTA delegations, who shall present to the Committee reports and draft resolutions.

Such drafts must be submitted in due time to the Bureau, so that translation and proper debate within the JPC can be ensured.

Rule 13

The Committee shall not vote on draft resolutions unless at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of the members of each delegation are present.

Draft resolutions, when put to the final vote in their entirety, shall be considered adopted if they receive the support of two-thirds of the votes cast.

Rule 14

Decisions other than those falling under Rules 13 and 22 shall be taken with a simple majority of the members present.

Rule 15

Adopted reports and resolutions shall be forwarded to the European Parliament and the EFTA Parliaments, as well as to the EEA Council and Joint Committee for further action.

Rule 16

Members of the EEA JPC have the right to put oral and written questions to the representatives of the EEA Council and the EEA Joint Committee.

Rule 17

During sessions of the EEA JPC interpretation will be available to and from official languages of the EC as requested, as well as any other language requested by the EFTA Parliaments.

Acts adopted by the EEA JPC shall be published in the official languages.

Rule 18

Minutes shall be drawn up for each session of the EEA JPC, by the Secretariat of the delegation holding the Presidency, for approval at the opening of the following meeting.

Rule 19

The travel expenses and subsistence allowances of Committee members and officials assisting them shall be paid by the Parliament that has appointed them.

Rule 20

The costs for interpretation and translation shall be borne by the respective Parliaments. Other expenses occasioned by the meetings and activities of the JPC will be met by the host body.

Rule 21

The Secretariat of the EEA JPC shall be provided jointly by the Secretariat of the EP and the EFTA Secretariat.

Rule 22

The Committee shall not consider amendments to the rules of procedure unless at least ½ of the members of each delegation are present. Amendments to the rules shall be adopted if they receive the support of two-thirds of the votes cast.

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