

23.1.2019

A8-0462/ 001-067

AMENDMENTS 001-067

by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

Report

Richard Corbett

A8-0462/2018

Amendments to Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Rules of Procedure (2018/2170 (REG))

Amendment 1

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Rule 11 – title

Present text

Amendment

Members' financial interests and standards of conduct

Standards of conduct

Justification

It is proposed here to split the current Rule 11 into a Rule 11 dealing only with the standards of Members' conduct and (new) Rules 11a and 11b including paragraphs 1, 2 and 7 of current Rule 11.

Amendment 2

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Rule 11 – paragraph 1

Present text

Amendment

1. Parliament shall lay down rules governing the transparency of its Members' financial interests in the form of a Code of Conduct which shall be adopted by a majority of its component

deleted

Members and attached to these Rules of Procedure as an annex⁴.

Those rules shall not otherwise prejudice or restrict Members in the exercise of their office or of any related political or other activity.

⁴ *See Annex I*

Justification

To be deleted here and inserted in a new Rule 11a(1). See amendment 20.

Amendment 3

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 11 – paragraph 2

Present text

Amendment

2. Members should adopt the systematic practice of only meeting interest representatives that have registered in the Transparency Register established by means of the Agreement between the European Parliament and the European Commission on the transparency register⁵.

deleted

⁵ *Agreement of 16 April 2014 between the European Parliament and the European Commission on the transparency register for organisations and self-employed individuals engaged in EU policy-making and policy implementation (OJ L 277, 19.9.2014, p. 11).*

Justification

To be deleted here and inserted in a new Rule 11a(2). See amendment 20.

Amendment 4

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 11 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1

Present text

The conduct of Members shall be characterised by mutual respect, be based on the values and principles laid down in the Treaties, and particularly in the Charter of Fundamental Rights, **and shall respect the dignity of Parliament. Furthermore, it shall not compromise the smooth conduct of parliamentary business, the maintenance of security and order on Parliament's premises or the functioning of Parliament's equipment.**

Amendment

The conduct of Members shall be characterised by mutual respect **and shall** be based on the values and principles laid down in the Treaties, and particularly in the Charter of Fundamental Rights. **Members shall respect Parliament's dignity and shall not harm its reputation.**

Amendment 5

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 11 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 2**

Present text

In parliamentary debates, Members shall not resort to defamatory, racist or xenophobic language or behaviour, nor shall they unfurl banners.

Amendment

deleted

Amendment 6

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 11 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 3**

Present text

Members shall comply with Parliament's rules on the treatment of confidential information.

Amendment

deleted

Amendment 7

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 11 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 4**

Present text

Amendment

Failure to comply with those standards and rules may lead to the application of measures in accordance with Rules 165, 166 and 167.

deleted

Amendment 8

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 11 – paragraph 3 a (new)**

Present text

Amendment

3a. Members shall not compromise the smooth conduct of parliamentary business and shall not compromise the maintenance of security and order on Parliament's premises or the functioning of its equipment.

Amendment 9

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 11 – paragraph 3 b (new)**

Present text

Amendment

3b. Members shall not disrupt the good order of the Chamber and shall refrain from improper behaviour. They shall not display banners.

Amendment 10

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 11 – paragraph 3 c (new)**

Present text

Amendment

3c. In parliamentary debates in the Chamber, Members shall not resort to offensive language.

Amendment 11

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 11 – paragraph 3 c (new) – interpretation

Present text

Amendment

The assessment of whether the language used by a Member in a parliamentary debate is offensive or not should take into consideration, inter alia, the identifiable intentions of the speaker, the perception of the statement by the public, the extent to which it harms the dignity and reputation of Parliament, and the freedom of speech of the Member concerned. By way of example, defamatory language, “hate speech” and incitement to discrimination based, in particular, on any ground referred to in Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, would ordinarily constitute cases of “offensive language” within the meaning of this Rule.

Amendment 12

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 11 – paragraph 3 d (new)

Present text

Amendment

3d. Members shall comply with Parliament's rules on the treatment of confidential information.

Amendment 13

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 11 – paragraph 3 e (new)

Present text

Amendment

3e. Members shall refrain from any type of psychological or sexual harassment and shall respect the Code of appropriate behaviour for Members of the

European Parliament in exercising their duties which is attached to these Rules of Procedure as an annex^{1a}

Members may not be elected as office-holders of Parliament or one of its bodies, be appointed as rapporteur or participate in an official delegation or interinstitutional negotiations, if they have not signed the declaration relating to that Code.

^{1a}The Code of appropriate behaviour for Members of the European Parliament in exercising their duties, adopted by the Bureau on 2 July 2018, shall become an annex to these Rules.

Amendment 14

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 11 – paragraph 4

Present text

Amendment

4. The application of this Rule shall not otherwise detract from the liveliness of parliamentary debates, nor shall it undermine Members' freedom of speech.

deleted

It shall be based on full respect for Members' prerogatives, as laid down in Union primary law and the Statute for Members.

It shall be based on the principle of transparency and be so undertaken that the relevant provisions are made clear to Members, who shall be informed individually of their rights and obligations.

Amendment 15

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 11 – paragraph 5

Present text

5. Where a person ***employed by*** a Member, or another person for whom the Member has arranged access to Parliament's premises or equipment, fails to comply with the standards of conduct set out in ***paragraph 3, the penalties provided for in Rule 166 may***, where appropriate, ***be imposed upon*** the Member concerned.

Amendment

5. Where a person ***working for*** a Member, or another person for whom the Member has arranged access to Parliament's premises or equipment, fails to comply with the standards of conduct set out in ***this Rule, this behaviour may***, where appropriate, ***be imputable to*** the Member concerned.

Amendment 16

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 11 – paragraph 5 a (new)**

Present text

Amendment

5a. The application of this Rule shall not otherwise detract from the liveliness of parliamentary debates, nor shall it undermine Members' freedom of speech.

Amendment 17

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 11 – paragraph 5 b (new)**

Present text

Amendment

5b. This Rule shall apply, mutatis mutandis, in Parliament's bodies, committees and delegations.

Justification

Proposed addition in order to ensure, in analogy to Rule 165(7), application of the sanction regime to misconduct in committees, bodies and delegations of Parliament.

Amendment 18

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 11 – paragraph 6**

Present text

Amendment

6. The Quaestors shall determine the maximum number of assistants who may be registered by each Member.

deleted

Amendment 19

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 11 – paragraph 7

Present text

Amendment

7. The code of conduct and the rights and privileges of former Members shall be laid down by a decision of the Bureau. No distinction shall be made in the treatment of former Members.

deleted

Justification

To be deleted here and inserted in a new Rule 11a(5). See amendment 20.

Amendment 20

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 11 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

Rule 11a

Members' financial interests and Transparency register

1. Parliament shall lay down rules governing the transparency of its Members' financial interests in the form of a Code of Conduct which shall be adopted by a majority of its component Members and attached to these Rules of Procedure as an annex^{1a}.

Those rules shall not otherwise prejudice or restrict Members in the exercise of their office or of any related political or other activity.

2. Members should adopt the systematic practice of only meeting interest representatives that have registered in the Transparency Register established by means of the Agreement between the European Parliament and the European Commission on the transparency register^{1b}.

3 Members should publish online all scheduled meetings with interest representatives falling under the scope of the Transparency register. Without prejudice to Article 4(6) of Annex I, rapporteurs, shadow rapporteurs and committee chairs shall, for each report, publish online all scheduled meetings with interest representatives falling under the scope of the Transparency register. The Bureau shall provide for necessary infrastructure on Parliament's website.

4. The Bureau shall provide the necessary infrastructure on Members' online page on Parliament's website for those Members who wish to publish a voluntary audit or confirmation, as provided for under the applicable rules of the Statute for Members and its implementing rules, that their use of the General Expenditure Allowance complies with the applicable rules of the Statute for Members and its implementing measures.

5. The code of conduct and the rights and privileges of former Members shall be laid down by a decision of the Bureau. No distinction shall be made in the treatment of former Members.

^{1a} See Annex I.

^{1b} Agreement of 16 April 2014 between the European Parliament and the European Commission on the transparency register for organisations and self-employed individuals engaged in EU policy-making and policy implementation (OJ L 277, 19.9.2014, p. 11).

Justification

See amendments 2, 3 and 19.

Amendment 21

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 34 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

1a. Intergroups as well as other unofficial groupings shall be fully transparent in their actions and shall not engage in any activities which might result in confusion with the official activities of Parliament or of its bodies. They may not organise events in third countries that coincide with a mission of an official Parliament body, including an official election observation delegation.

Amendment 22

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 34 – paragraph 2

Present text

Amendment

2. Such groupings shall be fully transparent in their actions and shall not engage in any activities which might result in confusion with the official activities of Parliament or of its bodies.
Provided that the conditions laid down in ***the*** rules ***adopted by the Bureau*** governing ***their*** establishment are complied with, political ***groups*** may facilitate their activities by providing them with logistical support.

2. Provided that the conditions laid down in ***Parliament's internal*** rules governing ***the*** establishment ***of such groupings*** are complied with, ***a*** political ***group*** may facilitate their activities by providing them with logistical support.

Amendment 23

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 34 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

Other unofficial groupings shall also be required to declare, by the end of the following month, any support, whether in cash or in kind, which Members have not declared individually in accordance with their obligations under Annex I.

Amendment 24

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 34 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

3 a. Only interest representatives who are registered in the Transparency register may participate in intergroup or other unofficial grouping activities organised on Parliament's premises, for instance by attending meetings or events of the intergroup or other unofficial grouping, by offering support to it, or by co-hosting its events.

Amendment 25

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 34 – paragraph 4

Present text

Amendment

4. The Quaestors shall keep a register of the declarations referred to in paragraph 3. ***That register shall be published on the Parliament's website.*** The Quaestors shall adopt detailed rules on those declarations ***and shall ensure the effective enforcement of this Rule.***

4. The Quaestors shall keep a register of the declarations referred to in paragraph 3. The Quaestors shall adopt detailed rules on those declarations ***and their publication on Parliament's website.***

Amendment 26

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 34 – paragraph 4 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

4a. The Quaestors shall ensure the effective enforcement of this Rule.

Amendment 27

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 128 – paragraph 4

Present text

Amendment

4. **One of** the questioners **may** move the question in Parliament. The addressee shall answer.

4. **A Member designated in advance by** the questioners **shall** move the question in Parliament. **If that Member is not present, the question shall lapse.** The addressee shall answer.

Justification

Alignment with the proposed Rule 130 b(4) – see below.

Amendment 28

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 130 – paragraph 1

Present text

Amendment

1. Any Member may put questions for written answer to the President of the European Council, to the Council, to the Commission or to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy in accordance with criteria laid down in an annex to these Rules of Procedure²⁷. The content of questions shall be the sole responsibility of their authors.

1. Any Member, **a political group or a committee** may put questions for written answer to the President of the European Council, to the Council, to the Commission or to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy in accordance with criteria laid down in an annex to these Rules of Procedure²⁷. The content of questions shall be the sole responsibility of their authors.

²⁷ See Annex II

²⁷ See Annex II

Amendment 29

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 130 – paragraph 2

Present text

2. Questions shall be submitted to the President. Issues concerning the admissibility of a question shall be decided by the President. The President's decision shall not be based exclusively on the provisions of the annex referred to in paragraph 1 but on the provisions of these Rules of Procedure in general. The questioner shall be notified of the President's reasoned decision.

Amendment

2. Questions shall be submitted **in electronic form** to the President. Issues concerning the admissibility of a question shall be decided by the President. The President's decision shall not be based exclusively on the provisions of the annex referred to in paragraph 1 but on the provisions of these Rules of Procedure in general. The questioner shall be notified of the President's reasoned decision.

Amendment 30

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 130 – paragraph 3

Present text

3. **Questions shall be submitted in electronic format.** Each Member may submit a maximum of twenty questions over a rolling period of three months.

Amendment

3. Each Member, **political group or committee** may submit a maximum of twenty questions over a rolling period of three months. **As a general rule, the questions shall be answered by the addressee within six weeks of being forwarded to it. However, any Member, political group or committee may every month designate one of its questions as a "priority question" to be answered by the addressee within three weeks of being forwarded to it.**

Amendment 31

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 130 – paragraph 5

Present text

5. If a question **cannot be** answered by the addressee within **three weeks (priority question) or within six weeks (non-**

Amendment

5. If a question **was not** answered by the addressee within **the deadline provided for in paragraph 3, the committee**

priority question) of being forwarded to the addressee, it may, at the request of the author, be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the committee responsible.

responsible may decide to place it on the agenda for its next meeting.

Amendment 32

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 130 – paragraph 6

Present text

Amendment

6. Each Member may table one priority question per month.

deleted

Amendment 33

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 130 – paragraph 7

Present text

Amendment

7. Questions, and any answers, including their related annexes, thereto, shall be published on Parliament's website.

7. Questions, and answers, including their related annexes, thereto, shall be published on Parliament's website.

Amendment 34

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 130a

Present text

Amendment

Rule 130 a

deleted

Minor interpellations for written answer

1. In minor interpellations, consisting in questions for written answer, the Council, the Commission or the Vice-President of the Commission/High-Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy may be asked by a committee, a political group or at least five per cent of Parliament's component Members to provide Parliament with information on

specifically designated issues.

Such questions shall be submitted to the President who, provided that the questions are in accordance with these Rules of Procedure generally and that they fulfil the criteria laid down in an annex to these Rules of Procedure²⁸, shall ask the addressee to reply within two weeks; the President may extend this time limit in consultation with the questioners.

2. Questions and answers shall be published on Parliament's website.

²⁸ See Annex II

Justification

Deleted following merge of Rules 130 and 130a.

Amendment 35

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 130b – title**

Present text

Major interpellations for written answer
with debate

Amendment

Major interpellations for written answer

Amendment 36

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 130b – paragraph 1**

Present text

1. *In* major interpellations, *consisting in* questions for written answer *with debate, those questions may be* put to the Council, the Commission or the Vice-President of the Commission/High-Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy by *a committee*, a political group *or at least five percent of Parliament's component Members. Questions may include a brief*

Amendment

1. Major interpellations *shall consist of* questions for written answer put to the Council, the Commission or the Vice-President of the Commission/High-Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy by a political group.

explanatory statement.

Such questions shall be submitted in writing to the President who, provided that the questions are in accordance with these Rules of Procedure generally and that they fulfil the criteria laid down in an annex to these Rules of Procedure²⁹, shall immediately inform the addressee of the question and ask the addressee to state whether it will be answered and, if so, when.

²⁹ *See Annex II*

Amendment 37

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 130b – paragraph 1 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

1a. The major interpellation shall be of general interest and shall be submitted in writing to the President. It shall not exceed 500 words. Provided that the major interpellation is in accordance with the provisions of the Rules in general, the President shall immediately transmit it to the addressee for a written answer.

Amendment 38

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 130b – paragraph 1 b (new)

Present text

Amendment

1b. There shall be maximum 30 major interpellations every year. The Conference of Presidents shall ensure a fair distribution of such interpellations among the political groups, and no political group shall submit more than one per month.

Amendment 39

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 130b – paragraph 1 c (new)

Present text

Amendment

1c. If the addressee fails to answer the major interpellation within six weeks of being forwarded to it, the interpellation shall, at the request of the author, be placed on the final draft agenda of Parliament in accordance with the procedure provided for in Rule 149 and subject to paragraph 3a.

Justification

See amendment 41.

Amendment 40

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 130b – paragraph 2

Present text

Amendment

2. On receipt of the written ***reply***, the major interpellation shall be placed on the draft agenda of Parliament in accordance with the procedure provided for in Rule 149. ***A debate must be held if a committee, a political group or at least five per cent of Parliament's component Members so demand.***

2. On receipt of the written ***answer, if Members or a political group or groups reaching at least the medium threshold so request***, the major interpellation shall be placed on the ***final*** draft agenda of Parliament in accordance with the procedure provided for in Rule 149 ***and subject to paragraph 3a***.

Amendment 41

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 130b – paragraph 3

Present text

Amendment

3. ***If the addressee refuses to answer the question or fails to do so within three weeks, the question shall be placed on the draft agenda. A debate must be held if a committee, a political group or at least***

deleted

five per cent of Parliament's component Members so demand. Prior to the debate one of the questioners may be given leave to state supplementary reasons for the question.

Justification

See amendment 39.

Amendment 42

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 130b – paragraph 3 a

Present text

Amendment

3a. The number of major interpellations debated during the same part-session shall not exceed three. If debates are requested for more than three major interpellations during the same part-session, the Conference of Presidents shall include them in the final draft agenda in the order it has received those requests for debate.

Amendment 43

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 130b – paragraph 4

Present text

Amendment

4. ***One of the questioners may*** move the ***question*** in Parliament. ***One member*** of the ***institution concerned*** shall answer.

4. ***A Member designated in advance by the author, or by those requesting the debate in accordance with paragraph 2, shall*** move the ***major interpellation*** in Parliament. ***If that Member is not present, the major interpellation shall lapse. The addressee*** shall answer.

Rule 123(2) to (5) concerning the tabling of, and voting on, motions for resolutions shall apply mutatis mutandis.

Rule 123(2) to (8) concerning the tabling of, and voting on, motions for resolutions shall apply mutatis mutandis.

Amendment 44

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 130b – paragraph 5

Present text

5. Such **questions**, as well as the answers to them, shall be published on Parliament's website.

Amendment

5. Such **interpellations**, as well as the answers to them, shall be published on Parliament's website.

Amendment 45

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 165 – paragraph 1

Present text

1. The President shall call to order any Member who **disrupts the smooth conduct of the proceedings or whose conduct fails to comply with the relevant provisions of Rule 11**.

Amendment

1. The President shall call to order any Member who **breaches the standards of conduct defined in Rule 11 (3b) or (3c)**.

Amendment 46

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 165 – paragraph 2

Present text

2. If the **offence** is repeated, the President shall call the Member to order a second time, and the fact shall be recorded in the minutes.

Amendment

2. If the **breach** is repeated, the President shall call the Member to order a second time, and the fact shall be recorded in the minutes.

Amendment 47

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 165 – paragraph 3

Present text

3. If the **disturbance** continues, or if a further offence is committed, the Member may be denied the right to speak and may be excluded from the Chamber by the

Amendment

3. If the **breach** continues, or if a further **breach** is committed, the Member may be denied the right to speak and may be excluded from the Chamber by the

President for the remainder of the sitting. In cases of exceptional seriousness, the President may also resort to exclusion of the Member concerned from the Chamber for the remainder of the sitting immediately and without a second call to order. The Secretary-General shall, without delay, see to it that such disciplinary measures are carried out, with the assistance of the ushers and, if necessary, of Parliament's Security Service.

President for the remainder of the sitting. In cases of exceptional seriousness, the President may also resort to exclusion of the Member concerned from the Chamber for the remainder of the sitting immediately and without a second call to order. The Secretary-General shall, without delay, see to it that such disciplinary measures are carried out, with the assistance of the ushers and, if necessary, of Parliament's Security Service.

Amendment 48

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 165 – paragraph 5

Present text

5. The President may decide to interrupt the live broadcasting of the sitting in the case of *defamatory, racist or xenophobic language or behaviour* by a Member.

Amendment

5. The President may decide to interrupt the live broadcasting of the sitting in the case of *a breach of Rule 11(3b) or (3c)* by a Member.

Amendment 49

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 165 – paragraph 6 – subparagraph 1

Present text

The President may order the deletion from the audiovisual record of the proceedings of those parts of a speech by a Member that *contain defamatory, racist or xenophobic language*.

Amendment

The President may order the deletion from the audiovisual record of the proceedings of those parts of a speech by a Member that *breach Rule 11(3b) or (3c)*.

Amendment 50

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 166 – paragraph 1

Present text

1. In serious cases of *disorder or disruption of Parliament in violation of*

Amendment

1. In serious cases of *breach of Rule 11 (3a) to (5b)*, the President shall adopt a

the principles laid down in Rule 11, the President shall adopt a reasoned decision imposing the appropriate penalty.

reasoned decision imposing *upon the Member concerned* the appropriate penalty *in accordance with this Rule*.

In relation to Rule 11 (3b) or (3c), the President may adopt a reasoned decision under this Rule regardless of whether or not an immediate measure within the meaning of Rule 165 had previously been imposed upon the Member concerned.

In relation to Rule 11 (3e), the President may only adopt a reasoned decision under this Rule following the establishment of the occurrence of a harassment in accordance with the applicable internal administrative procedure on harassment and its prevention.

The President may impose a penalty upon a Member in cases in which provision is made, by these Rules of Procedure or by a decision adopted by the Bureau under Rule 25, for the application of this Rule.

The Member concerned shall be invited by the President to submit written observations before the decision is adopted. In exceptional cases, the President may convene an oral hearing of the Member concerned.

That decision shall be notified to the Member concerned by registered letter or, in urgent cases, via the ushers.

After that decision has been notified to the Member concerned, any penalty imposed on a Member shall be announced by the President in Parliament. The presiding officers of the bodies, committees and delegations on which the Member serves shall be informed.

Once the penalty becomes final, it shall be published prominently on Parliament's website, and shall remain there for the rest of the parliamentary term.

Amendment 51

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 166 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

1a. The Member concerned shall be invited by the President to submit written observations before the decision is adopted. The President may decide to convene an oral hearing instead whenever it is more appropriate.

The decision imposing the penalty shall be notified to the Member concerned by registered letter or, in urgent cases, via the ushers.

After that decision has been notified to the Member concerned, any penalty imposed on a Member shall be announced by the President in Parliament. The presiding officers of the bodies, committees and delegations on which the Member serves shall be informed.

Once the penalty becomes final, it shall be published prominently on Parliament's website, and shall remain there for the rest of the parliamentary term.

Amendment 52

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 166 – paragraph 2

Present text

Amendment

2. When assessing the conduct observed, account shall be taken of its exceptional, recurrent or permanent nature and of its seriousness.

2. When assessing the conduct observed, account shall be taken of its exceptional, recurrent or permanent nature and of its seriousness. ***Account shall also be taken, if applicable, of possible damage inflicted on the dignity and reputation of Parliament.***

A distinction should be drawn between actions of a visual nature, which may be tolerated provided they are not offensive, defamatory, racist or xenophobic, and

remain within reasonable bounds, and those which actively disrupt parliamentary activity.

Justification

It is proposed to delete the interpretation, because, on the one hand, the revised Rule 166 would no longer deal with rules on conduct, and, on the other hand, content-wise this interpretation would be superfluous in light of the proposed new drafting of Rule 11 (3b).

Amendment 53

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 166 – paragraph 4**

Present text

4. The measures laid down in points (b) to (e) of paragraph 3 may be doubled in the case of repeated **offences**, or if the Member refuses to comply with a measure taken under Rule 165(3).

Amendment

4. The measures laid down in points (b) to (e) of paragraph 3 may be doubled in the case of repeated **breaches**, or if the Member refuses to comply with a measure taken under Rule 165(3).

Amendment 54

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 174 – paragraph 7**

Present text

7. The President may put other amendments to the vote collectively where they are complementary, unless a political group or Members reaching at least the low threshold have requested separate or split votes. Authors of amendments may also propose **such** collective votes **where** their amendments **are complementary**.

Amendment

7. The President may put other amendments to the vote collectively where they are complementary, unless a political group or Members reaching at least the low threshold have requested separate or split votes. Authors of amendments may also propose collective votes **on** their amendments.

Amendment 55

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 174 – paragraph 10**

Present text

10. Amendments in respect of which a roll-call vote has been requested shall be put to the vote *individually*.

Amendment

10. Amendments in respect of which a roll-call vote has been requested shall be put to the vote *separately from other amendments*.

Amendment 56

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 177 – interpretation**

Present text

Any infringement of this Rule is considered *as a serious case of disorder as referred to in Rule 166(1) and will have the legal consequences mentioned in that Rule*.

Amendment

Any infringement of this Rule is considered *a serious breach of Rule 11(3b)*.

Justification

Necessary alignment to new Rule 11(3b)

Amendment 57

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 196**

Present text

Rule 196
Setting-up of standing committees
Parliament shall, on a proposal from the Conference of Presidents, set up standing committees. Their responsibilities shall be defined in an annex to these Rules of Procedure⁵². That annex shall be adopted by a majority of the votes cast. Their members shall be appointed during the first part-session following the re-election of Parliament *and again two and a half years thereafter*.

The responsibilities of standing committees can also be *defined* at a time other than that

Amendment

Rule 196
Setting-up of standing committees
Parliament shall, on a proposal from the Conference of Presidents, set up standing committees. Their responsibilities shall be defined in an annex to these Rules of Procedure⁵². That annex shall be adopted by a majority of the votes cast. Their members shall be appointed during the first part-session following the re-election of Parliament.

The responsibilities of standing committees can also be *redefined* at a time other than

at which the committee is set up.

that at which the committee is set up.

⁵² See Annex V.

⁵² See Annex V.

Justification

The proposed changes concerning Rule 196 would enter into force in 2019 together with the revised Rule 196.

Amendment 58

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 204 – paragraph 1

Present text

1. At the first committee meeting after the appointment of committee members pursuant to Rule 199, the committee shall elect a bureau consisting of a Chair and of Vice-Chairs from among its full members in separate ballots. The number of Vice-Chairs to be elected shall be determined by Parliament upon a proposal by the Conference of Presidents. The diversity of Parliament must be reflected in the composition of the bureau of each committee; it shall not be permissible to have an all male or all female bureau or for all of the Vice-Chairs to come from the same Member State.

Amendment

1. At the first committee meeting after the appointment of committee members pursuant to Rule 199, ***and again two and a half years thereafter***, the committee shall elect a bureau consisting of a Chair and of Vice-Chairs from among its full members in separate ballots. The number of Vice-Chairs to be elected shall be determined by Parliament upon a proposal by the Conference of Presidents. The diversity of Parliament must be reflected in the composition of the bureau of each committee; it shall not be permissible to have an all male or all female bureau or for all of the Vice-Chairs to come from the same Member State.

Justification

Clarification following proposed change of Rule 196.

Amendment 59

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 210a – title

Present text

Procedure for the consultation by a committee of confidential information ***received by Parliament***

Amendment

Procedure for the consultation by a committee of confidential information ***in a committee meeting in camera***

Amendment 60

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 210a – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1

Present text

Once the Chair of the committee has declared that the confidential procedure is to be applied, the meeting *shall* be attended only by members of the committee *and by officials and experts who* have been designated in advance by the Chair *and whose presence is strictly necessary*.

Amendment

Once the Chair of the committee has declared that the confidential procedure is to be applied, the meeting *shall be in camera and may* be attended only by members of the committee, *including substitute members. The committee may decide, in compliance with the applicable inter-institutional legal framework, that other Members may attend the meeting pursuant to Rule 206(3). The meeting may also be attended by those persons who* have been designated in advance by the Chair, *as having a need-to-know, in due respect of any restrictions stemming from the applicable rules governing the treatment of confidential information by Parliament. As regards the consultation of classified information at the level of CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL and above, or in case of specific limitations of access stemming from the interinstitutional legal framework, additional restrictions may apply.*

Justification

The main objective of this amendment is to avoid any possible incoherence with the applicable implementing rules on the treatment of confidential information (Bureau decision of 15 April 2013) as well as with the applicable interinstitutional agreements.

Amendment 61

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 210a – paragraph 4

Present text

4. Members or a political group or groups reaching at least the medium threshold in the committee which has applied the confidential procedure may request consideration of a breach of confidentiality. This request may be placed on the agenda of the next committee meeting. By a majority of its members, the committee may decide to submit the matter to the President for further consideration under Rules 11 and 166.

Amendment

4. ***Without prejudice to the applicable rules on breach of confidentiality in general,*** Members or a political group or groups reaching at least the medium threshold in the committee which has applied the confidential procedure may request consideration of a breach of confidentiality. This request may be placed on the agenda of the next committee meeting. By a majority of its members, the committee may decide to submit the matter to the President for further consideration under Rules 11 and 166.

Amendment 62

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 211 – title**

Present text

Public hearings on citizens' initiatives

Amendment

Public hearings ***and debates*** on citizens' initiatives

Amendment 63

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 211 – paragraph 7 a (new)**

Present text

Amendment

7 a. Parliament shall hold a debate on a citizens' initiative published in the relevant register pursuant to point (a) of Article 10(1) of Regulation (EU) No 211/2011, at a part-session following the public hearing and shall, when placing the debate on its agenda, decide whether or not to wind up the debate with a resolution. It shall not wind up the debate with a resolution if a report on an identical or similar subject matter is scheduled for the same or the next part-session, unless the President, for

exceptional reasons, proposes otherwise. If Parliament decides to wind up a debate with a resolution, the committee responsible for the subject matter or a political group or Members reaching at least the low threshold may table a motion for a resolution. Rule 123(3) to (8) concerning the tabling and voting of motions for resolutions shall apply mutatis mutandis.

Amendment 64

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 223a – title – footnote

Present text

⁶¹ Rule 223a shall only apply to European political parties and European political foundations within the meaning of Article 2 (3) and (4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014. *See also footnotes to Rules 224 and 225.*

Amendment

⁶¹ Rule 223a shall only apply to European political parties and European political foundations within the meaning of Article 2 (3) and (4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014.

Amendment 65

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 223a – paragraph 2 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

2a. On the basis of the first subparagraph of Article 10(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014, a group of at least 50 citizens may submit a reasoned request inviting Parliament to request the verification mentioned in paragraph 2. That reasoned request shall not be launched or signed by Members. It shall include substantial factual evidence showing that the European political party or European political foundation in question does not comply with the conditions referred to in paragraph 2. The President shall forward admissible requests from groups of citizens to the

committee responsible for further examination.

Following that examination, which should take place within four months from the President's referral, the committee responsible may, by a majority of its component members representing at least three political groups, submit a proposal to follow up the request and inform the President thereof.

The group of citizens shall be informed of the outcome of the committee's examination.

Upon reception of the committee proposal, the President shall communicate the request to Parliament.

Following such a communication, Parliament shall, by a majority of the votes cast, decide on whether or not to lodge a request to the Authority for European political parties and European political foundations.

The committee shall adopt guidelines for the treatment of such requests from groups of citizens.

Amendment 66

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 229 – paragraph 3

Present text

These provisions shall not apply to petitions and communications that do not require a decision.

Amendment

These provisions shall not apply to petitions, *citizens' initiatives* and communications that do not require a decision.

Justification

The objective is to ensure that Parliament's ongoing proceedings in relation to ECIs would not lapse at the end of a given term.

Amendment 67

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Annex II – title**

Present text

CRITERIA FOR QUESTIONS AND
INTERPELLATIONS FOR WRITTEN
ANSWER UNDER RULES 130, **130A**,
130B, 131 AND 131A

Amendment

CRITERIA FOR QUESTIONS AND
INTERPELLATIONS FOR WRITTEN
ANSWER UNDER RULES 130, 131
AND 131A

Justification

Alignment with the relevant Rules.