



7th PARLIAMENTARY TERM (2009-2014)

SEPTEMBER 2009

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS OF INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS ¹

RULES OF PROCEDURE RELEVANT TO THE CONSTITUENT MEETINGS OF INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

Rule 12 Provisional Chair

1. At the sitting provided for under Rule 134(2), and at any other sitting held for the purpose of electing the President and the Bureau, the outgoing President or, failing him or her, one of the outgoing Vice-Presidents in order of precedence or, in the absence of any of them, the Member having held office for the longest period shall take the Chair until the President has been elected.

2. No business shall be transacted while a Member is provisionally in the Chair by virtue of paragraph 1 unless it is concerned with the election of the President or the verification of credentials.

The Member who is provisionally in the Chair by virtue of paragraph 1 shall exercise the powers of the President referred to in the second subparagraph of Rule 3(2). Any other matter relating to the verification of credentials that is raised when he or she is in the Chair shall be referred to the committee responsible for the verification of credentials.

Rule 13 Nominations and general provisions

1. The President, Vice-Presidents and Quaestors shall be elected by secret ballot, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 169. Nominations shall be with consent. They may only be made by a political group or by at least forty Members. However, if the number of nominations does not exceed the number of seats to be filled, the candidates may be elected by acclamation.

2. In the election of the President, Vice-Presidents and Quaestors, account should be taken of the need to ensure an overall fair representation of Member States and political views.

¹ Applicable to Inter-parliamentary Delegations, Delegations to Joint Parliamentary Committees, Delegations to Parliamentary Cooperation Committees and Delegations to Multilateral Assemblies

Rule 14

Election of President - opening address

1. The President shall be elected first. Nominations shall be handed before each ballot to the Member provisionally in the Chair by virtue of Rule 12, who shall announce them to Parliament. If after three ballots no candidate has obtained an absolute majority of the votes cast, the fourth ballot shall be confined to the two Members who have obtained the highest number of votes in the third ballot. In the event of a tie the elder candidate shall be declared elected.

2. As soon as the President has been elected, the Member who is provisionally in the Chair by virtue of Rule 12 shall vacate the Chair. Only the elected President may deliver an opening address.

Rule 164

Right to vote

The right to vote is a personal right.

Members shall cast their votes individually and in person.

Any infringement of this Rule shall be considered as a serious case of disorder as referred to in Rule 153(1) and shall have the legal consequences mentioned in that Rule.

Rule 168

Electronic voting

1. The President may at any time decide that the voting operations indicated in Rules 165, 167 and 169 shall be carried out by means of the electronic voting system. Where the electronic voting system cannot be used for technical reasons, voting shall take place pursuant to Rules 165, 167(2) or 169.

The technical arrangements for using the electronic voting system shall be governed by instructions from the Bureau.

2. Where an electronic vote is taken, only the numerical result of the vote shall be recorded. However, if a vote by roll call has been requested in accordance with Rule 167(1), the votes shall be recorded in the minutes of the sitting by political group in the alphabetical order of Members' names.

3. The vote by roll call shall be taken in accordance with Rule 167(2) if a majority of the Members present so request. The system indicated in paragraph 1 of this Rule may be used to determine whether a majority exists.

Rule 169

Voting by secret ballot

1. In the case of appointments, voting shall be by secret ballot without prejudice to Rules 13(1), 186(1) and 191(2), second subparagraph.

Only ballot papers bearing the names of Members who have been nominated shall be taken into

account in calculating the number of votes cast.

2. Voting may also be by secret ballot if requested by at least one-fifth of the component Members of Parliament. Such requests must be made before voting begins.

When a request for a secret ballot is submitted before voting begins by at least one-fifth of the component Members of Parliament, Parliament must hold such a vote.

3. A request for a secret ballot shall take priority over a request for a vote by roll call.

4. Between two and eight Members chosen by lot shall count the votes cast in a secret ballot, unless an electronic vote is taken.

In the case of votes pursuant to paragraph 1, candidates shall not act as tellers.

The names of Members who have taken part in a secret ballot shall be recorded in the minutes of the sitting at which the ballot was held.

Rules 198

Setting-up and duties of interparliamentary delegations

1. On a proposal from the Conference of Presidents, Parliament shall set up standing interparliamentary delegations and decide on their nature and the number of their members bearing in mind their duties. The members shall be elected during the first or second part-session following the re-election of Parliament for the duration of the parliamentary term.

2. Members of the delegations shall be elected after nominations have been submitted to the Conference of Presidents by the political groups and the non-attached Members. The Conference of Presidents shall submit to Parliament proposals designed to ensure as far as possible fair representation of Member States and of political views. Rule 186(2), (3), (5) and (6) shall apply.

3. The bureaux of the delegations shall be constituted in accordance with the procedure laid down for the standing committees pursuant to Rule 191.

4. Parliament shall determine the general powers of the individual delegations. It may at any time decide to increase or restrict these powers.

5. The implementing provisions needed to enable the delegations to carry out their work shall be adopted by the Conference of Presidents on a proposal from the Conference of Delegation Chairs.

6. The chair of a delegation shall submit to the committee responsible for foreign affairs and security a report on the activities of the delegation.

7. The chair of a delegation shall be given an opportunity to be heard by a committee when a point is on the agenda which touches on the field of responsibility of the delegation. The same shall apply at meetings of a delegation to the chair or rapporteur of that committee.

Rule 200

Joint parliamentary committees

1. The European Parliament may set up joint parliamentary committees with the parliaments of States associated with the Community or States with which accession negotiations have been initiated.

Such committees may formulate recommendations for the parliaments involved. In the case of the European Parliament, these recommendations shall be referred to the committee responsible, which shall put forward proposals on the action to be taken.

2. The general responsibilities of the various joint parliamentary committees shall be defined by the European Parliament and by the agreements with the third countries.

3. Joint parliamentary committees shall be governed by the procedures laid down in the agreement in question. Such procedures shall be based on the principle of parity between the delegation of the European Parliament and the delegation of the parliament involved.

4. Joint parliamentary committees shall draw up their own rules of procedure and submit them for approval to the bureaux of the European Parliament and of the parliament involved.

5. The election of the members of European Parliament delegations to joint parliamentary committees and the constitution of the bureaux of these delegations shall take place in accordance with the procedure laid down for interparliamentary delegations.

ANNEX I

Provisions governing the application of Rule 9(1) - Transparency and Members' financial interests

Rule 1

1. Before speaking in Parliament or in one of its bodies or if proposed as rapporteur, any Member who has a direct financial interest in the subject under debate shall disclose this interest to the meeting orally.

2. Before Members may be validly nominated as office-holders of Parliament or one of its bodies, pursuant to Rules 13, 191 or 198(2), or participate in an official delegation, pursuant to Rule 68 or 198(2), they must have duly completed the declaration provided for in Article 2.

Rule 2

The Quaestors shall keep a register in which all Members shall make a personal, detailed declaration of:

- (a) their professional activities and any other remunerated functions or activities,
- (b) any salary which the Member receives for the exercise of a mandate in another parliament,
- (c) any support, whether financial or in terms of staff or material, additional to that provided by Parliament and granted to them in connection with their political activities by third parties, whose identity shall be disclosed.

Members of Parliament shall refrain from accepting any other gift or benefit in the performance of their duties.

The declarations in the register shall be made under the personal responsibility of the Member and must be updated every year.

The Bureau may, from time to time, draw up a list of matters which it considers should be declared in the register.

If after the appropriate request Members do not fulfil their obligation to submit a declaration pursuant to (a) and (b), the President shall remind them once again to submit the declaration within two months. If the declaration has not been submitted within the time-limit, the names of the Members concerned together with an indication of the infringement shall be published in the minutes of the first day of each part-session after expiry of the time-limit. If the Members concerned continue to refuse to submit the declaration after the infringement has been published the President shall take action in accordance with Rule 153 to suspend them.

Chairs of groupings of Members, both intergroups and other unofficial groupings of Members, shall be required to declare any support, whether in cash or kind (e.g. secretarial assistance), which if offered to Members as individuals would have to be declared under this Article.

The Quaestors shall be responsible for keeping a register and drawing up detailed rules for the

declaration of outside support by such groupings.

