RULES GOVERNING PHOTOGRAPHERS AND TELEVISION CREWS INSIDE THE BUILDINGS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN BRUSSELS AND STRASBOURG

BUREAU DECISION

OF 7 SEPTEMBER 2005

Article 1

Outside television crews and photographers must be in possession of a permit for their activities issued by the European Parliament’s audiovisual unit.

They shall be supplied with a copy of these rules and shall sign an undertaking to comply with them.

Article 2

Filming, photography and sound recording are permitted subject to the following conditions:

A. Chambers

During part-sessions, film cameramen and photographers have access to the gallery overlooking the Chamber provided that they are in possession of a pass bearing the letter T (for Tribune), valid for the whole of the part-session, issued by the audiovisual unit.

The use of flashes or extra lights is prohibited in the gallery.

B. Other areas

- in all press conferences;
- in meeting rooms, with the prior authorisation of the chairman of the meeting and a majority of the members present;
- in Members’ offices, with the prior authorisation of the Member concerned and in his or her presence. The Member must complete the access form annexed to these rules;
- in the entrance halls (lobbies), the area around the Chamber, corridors, passageways and other public areas, unless the Member expressly object.

Article 3

Filming and photography are strictly prohibited

- in the restaurants and bars;
- around the security equipment at the entrances to the buildings;
- in areas and offices reserved for parliamentary services, including those allocated to the Members’ financial affairs unit;

PE 359.332/BUR
Article 4

Television crews, photographers and those accompanying shall have due regard to the dignity and privacy of all individuals present within the building.

Article 5

The use of hidden cameras and sound recording equipment is prohibited.

Article 6

Journalists not accredited to the European institutions on permanent basis:

In case of serious breach of these rules, a committee composed by a Quaestor, a member of the Parliament's press service and a member of the journalist's representative association, may ban the photographers, television crews or the media outlet for which they were working from filming or photographing in the Parliament for a period of up to three months, and up to two years in case of a second or subsequent breach. The decision will be taken only after having given the individuals concerned the opportunity to present their case.

Article 7

Journalists accredited to the European institutions on permanent basis:

Any proposal from the Quaestors, Parliament's press service or Parliament's security service to withdraw an interinstitutional accreditation card will follow the procedure laid down in the prevailing rules for interinstitutional accreditation agreed by the Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the International Press Association.

Annex:

Form accepting rules
Form requesting access for radio/television crews or photographers to the office of a Member of the European Parliament.
Audiovisual Unit
Directorate General for Information

In conformity with the Rules governing photographers and television crews inside the buildings of the European Parliament in Brussels and in Strasbourg, I, the undersigned:

Name: ..............................................................................................................

First name: ......................................................................................................

TV station: ......................................................................................................

Photo agency: ....................................................................................................

confirm to have received a copy of these Rules and certify to comply with these during the period for which I have received a filming/photo permit.

Made in Brussels/Strasbourg

Date: ..............................................................................................................

Signature: .......................................................................................................
Subject: Access to the offices of Members of the European Parliament

Mr/Mrs/Ms .............................................................., Member of the European Parliament, has invited

(a) the following radio/TV crew: Station: ............................................
Names: (1) .................................................................
(2) .................................................................
(3) .................................................................
(4) .................................................................
(5) .................................................................
........................................................................................

(b) the following photographer(s): Station/paper:
Names: .................................................................
........................................................................................

to visit his/her office, Building ....... No ....... on ............................
expected time: ............

Brussels, ....................
(date)

..............................................................
(signature)

To be sent in advance by fax to the audiovisual division: 032 (0)2 230 12 06