

**RULES GOVERNING PATRONAGE  
BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

**BUREAU DECISION**

**OF 9 JUNE 1997<sup>1</sup>**

*Article 1*

*General principles*

1. Patronage is a way for Parliament to associate itself with a selected number of events which satisfy the conditions for eligibility in order to increase public interest in, and visibility of, its activities and those of the European Union among citizens, the media and civil society.
2. Patronage is a form of moral support and shall not place Parliament under any financial or material obligation.
3. The President shall decide whether Parliament is to lend its patronage to an event. In making this decision, the President shall have a margin of discretion, in particular in order to ensure that Parliament's dignity and image is properly safeguarded and promoted.
4. Requests for representation of the President or Parliament on a committee of honour shall be dealt with by analogy with these rules.

*Article 2*

*Substantive conditions for eligibility*

1. Patronage of Parliament shall only be granted to specific and confirmed events.
2. Events for which patronage is sought shall:
  - have a clear European dimension;
  - be of sufficiently high quality, and
  - have a relevant impact on public opinion, i.e. be adequately publicised and have positive effects extending far beyond the organisers.
3. An event shall not be eligible for patronage if:
  - its organisers or the event itself undermine the basic democratic values, principles and rights set out in the Treaties or in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
  - it has a commercial purpose, or
  - it is of a party-political nature or includes routine or internal activities of trade unions or political parties.
4. Particular attention shall be given to:

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<sup>1</sup> Consolidated by the Bureau on 3 May 2004 and 17 April 2012 and amended on 15 April 2013 and 11 June 2018.

- the extent to which the event highlights the Institution's or the Union's role and contribution to, or priorities in, the field concerned;
- the recurrence of requests for patronage concerning an event, given that such arrangements shall not be permanent;
- events organised by, or aimed at, young people;
- events directly relating to less-favoured social groups;
- the level and standing of other putative or confirmed patrons, and
- any support received from Members of Parliament.

### *Article 3*

#### *Procedural conditions for eligibility*

1. Requests for patronage shall be sent to the President by post, electronically or by fax at least two months before the event is to start.
2. Requests shall contain the following supporting information:
  - a full description of the event;
  - a detailed programme including confirmed dates;
  - the details of any putative or confirmed partners and/or patrons, and
  - any other relevant information.

### *Article 4*

#### *Obligations relating to events having received patronage*

1. Events benefitting from patronage shall adequately highlight this fact and give visibility to Parliament by using the Institution's logo, in accordance with Parliament's Graphics Guide, and by mentioning in their communication that the event takes place under the patronage of Parliament.
2. Events benefitting from patronage taking place during the 12 months before the European election shall include in the communication material a reference to the European election and its date. Relevant visual elements shall be included, in accordance with Parliament's graphics guidelines.

