

**Amendment 6****Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Report****A9-0194/2020****Gabriele Bischoff**

Amendments to the Rules of Procedure in order to ensure the functioning of Parliament in extraordinary circumstances  
(2020/2098(REG))

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure****Rule 237 a (new)***Present text**Amendment****Rule 237a******Extraordinary measures***

***1. This Rule applies to situations in which Parliament, due to exceptional and unforeseeable circumstances beyond its control, is hindered from carrying out its duties and exercising its prerogatives under the Treaties, and a temporary derogation from Parliament's usual procedures, set out elsewhere in these Rules is necessary in order to adopt extraordinary measures to enable Parliament to continue to carry out those duties and to exercise those prerogatives.***

***Such extraordinary circumstances shall be considered to exist where the President comes to the conclusion, on the basis of reliable evidence confirmed, where appropriate, by Parliament's services, that for reasons of security, or safety or as a result of the non-availability of technical means it is, or will be, impossible or dangerous for Parliament to convene in accordance with its usual procedures as set out elsewhere in these Rules and its adopted calendar.***

***2. Where the conditions set out in paragraph 1 are fulfilled, the President may decide, with the approval of the Conference of Presidents, to apply one or***

*more of the measures referred to in paragraph 3.*

*If it is impossible, due to reasons of imperative urgency, for the Conference of Presidents to convene in person or virtually, the President may decide to apply one or more of the measures referred to in paragraph 3. Such a decision shall lapse five days after its adoption unless approved by the Conference of Presidents within that period.*

*Following a decision by the President, approved by the Conference of Presidents, the measures provided for by that decision shall be placed on the agenda of the first sitting following the adoption of the decision by the President. If a measure fails to obtain a majority of the votes cast, it shall lapse after the announcement of the result of the vote.*

*3. The decision referred to in paragraph 2 may provide for all appropriate measures in order to address the extraordinary circumstances referred to under paragraph 1, and in particular for the following measures:*

*(a) postponement of a scheduled part-session, sitting or meeting of a committee to a later date and/or cancellation or limitation of meetings of inter-parliamentary delegations and other bodies;*

*(b) displacement of a part-session, sitting or meeting of a committee from Parliament's seat to one of its working places or to an external place, or from one of its working places to Parliament's seat, to one of Parliament's other working places or to an external place;*

*(c) holding a part-session or a sitting on the premises of Parliament in whole or in part in separate meeting rooms allowing for appropriate physical distancing;*

*(d) holding a part session, sitting or meeting of bodies of Parliament under the*

*remote participation regime laid down in Rule 237c;*

*(e) in the event that the ad hoc replacement mechanism laid down in Rule 209(7) fails to provide sufficient remedies to address the extraordinary circumstances under consideration, temporary replacement of Members in a committee by political groups, unless the Members concerned oppose such temporary replacement.*

*4. A decision referred to in paragraph 2 shall be limited in time and shall state the reasons on which it is based. It shall enter into force upon its publication on Parliament's website or, if circumstances prevent such publication, upon its being made public by the best available alternative means.*

*All Members shall also be informed individually of the decision without delay.*

*The decision may be renewed by the President in accordance with the procedure under paragraph 2 once, or more than once, for a limited time. A decision to renew shall state the reasons on which it is based.*

*The President shall revoke a decision adopted under this Rule as soon as the extraordinary circumstances referred to in paragraph 1 that gave rise to its adoption have disappeared.*

*5. This Rule shall be applied only as a last resort, and only measures that are strictly necessary to address the extraordinary circumstances under consideration shall be selected and applied.*

*When applying this Rule, due account shall be taken, in particular, of the principle of representative democracy, of the principle of equal treatment of Members, of the right of Members to exercise their parliamentary mandate without impairment, including their rights stemming from Rule 167 and their right to*

*vote freely, individually and in person,  
and of Protocol No 6 on the location of  
the seats of the institutions and of certain  
bodies, offices, agencies and departments  
of the European Union, annexed to the  
Treaties.*

Or. en

14.12.2020

A9-0194/7

**Amendment 7**

**Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**Report**

**A9-0194/2020**

**Gabriele Bischoff**

Amendments to the Rules of Procedure in order to ensure the functioning of Parliament in extraordinary circumstances  
(2020/2098(REG))

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure**

**Rule 237 c (new)**

*Present text*

*Amendment*

***Rule 237c***

***Remote participation regime***

***1. Where the President decides in accordance with Rule 237a(3), point (d), to apply the remote participation regime, Parliament may conduct its proceedings remotely inter alia by permitting all Members to exercise certain of their parliamentary rights by electronic means.***

***Where the President decides in accordance with Rule 237b that selected technical means under the remote participation regime are to be used, this Rule shall apply only to the extent necessary and only to the Members concerned.***

***2. The remote participation regime shall ensure that:***

***– Members are able to exercise their parliamentary mandate, including, in particular, their right to speak in plenary and in the committees, to vote and to table texts, without impairment;***

***– all votes are cast by Members individually and in person;***

***– all votes, except for specific votes for which the rules require a secret ballot, shall be taken by roll call;***

- *the remote voting system enables Members to cast ordinary votes, roll call votes and secret ballots and to verify that their votes are counted as cast;*
- *a uniform voting system is applied for all Members, regardless of whether they are present or not on Parliament’s premises;*
- *Rule 167 is applied to the greatest extent possible;*
- *the information technology solutions made available to Members and their staff are ‘technology neutral’;*
- *participation of Members in parliamentary debates and votes takes place using secure electronic means that are managed and supervised by Parliament’s services directly and internally.*

*3. When taking the decision referred to in paragraph 1, the President shall determine whether that regime applies to the exercise of Members’ rights in plenary only, or also to the exercise of Members’ rights in Parliament’s committees and/or other bodies.*

*The President shall also determine in his or her decision how rights and practices which cannot be exercised appropriately without the physical presence of Members are adapted for the duration of the regime.*

*These rights and practices concern, inter alia:*

- *the manner in which attendance at a sitting or meeting is counted;*
- *the conditions under which a request for a check of the quorum is made;*
- *the tabling of texts;*
- *requests for splits and separate votes;*
- *the allocation of speaking time;*
- *the scheduling of debates;*

- the presentation of, and the objection to, oral amendments;*
- the order of votes;*
- the deadlines and time limits for the setting of the agenda and for procedural motions.*

**4. For the purposes of the application of the provisions of the Rules relating to quorum and voting in the Chamber, Members who are participating remotely shall be deemed to be physically present in the Chamber.**

**By way of derogation from Rule 171(11), Members who have not spoken in a debate may, once per sitting, hand in a written statement, which shall be appended to the verbatim report of the debate.**

**The President shall, where necessary, determine the manner in which the Chamber may be used by Members during the application of the remote participation regime, and in particular the maximum number of Members who can be physically present.**

**5. Where the President decides in accordance with paragraph 3, first subparagraph, to apply the remote participation regime to committees or other bodies, paragraph 4, first subparagraph, shall apply, mutatis mutandis.**

**6. The Bureau shall adopt measures concerning the operation and security of the electronic means used under this Rule, in accordance with the requirements and standards laid down in paragraph 2.**

Or. en