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PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF PARLIAMENT'S RULES OF PROCEDURE

pursuant to Rule 202 of the Rules of Procedure

by Graham Booth and Vladimír Železný

Amendment of Rules 159, 161 and 185

Voting, electronic voting and voting in committee

PARLIAMENT'S RULES OF PROCEDURE

Present text	Amendments
Amendment 1 Rule 159	
1. Normally Parliament shall vote <i>by show of hands</i> .	1. Normally Parliament shall vote <i>using the electronic voting system</i> .
2. <i>If the President decides that the result is doubtful, a fresh vote shall be taken using the electronic voting system and, if the latter is not working, by sitting and standing.</i>	2. <i>Where the latter cannot be used for technical reasons, Parliament shall vote by show of hands.</i>
3. The result of the vote shall be recorded.	3. <i>Before voting takes place on any entire piece of legislation the President shall take a fresh vote using the electronic voting system to verify that the quorum is present.</i>
	4. <i>The result of the vote shall be recorded.</i>

Or. en

Justification

As the current Rule 159, whereby Parliament's normal method of voting is by show of hands, leads to numerous and repeated counting errors, which result in the unlawful adoption or rejection of amendments and entire pieces of legislation in plenary and committee, the authors aim with this amendment to stop the ongoing disruptions of Parliament's democratic decision making, and propose as an immediate remedy to this that Parliament use the electronic voting system as standard procedure. Routine use by Parliament of the electronic voting system would increase the validity and legitimacy of the results of votes cast, while substantially boosting Parliament's credibility in the eyes of citizens of EU Member States and worldwide. The routine use of electronic voting is in fact the best way to prevent flawed estimates of the result of the vote and the only objective way of establishing whether a majority, or a qualified majority, exists or whether the quorum is present in plenary and in committee.

Amendment 2
Rule 161

1. The President ***may at any time decide*** that the voting operations indicated in Rules 159, 160 and 162 ***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 ***159***, 160(2) or 162.

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 160(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 160(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.

1. The President ***must ensure*** that the voting operations indicated in Rules 159, 160 and 162 ***are*** carried out by means of the electronic voting system.

Where the electronic voting system cannot be used for technical reasons, voting shall take place ***by show of hands***, or pursuant to Rules 160(2) or 162.

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 160(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 160(2) if a majority of the Members present so request ***as established by means of the electronic voting system***. The system indicated in paragraph 1 of this Rule may be used to determine whether a majority exists.

Or. en

Justification

To preserve the internal coherence of the EP's Rules of Procedure, the authors suggest amending Rule 161 in line with the proposed modifications to Rule 159.

Amendment 3
Rule 185

1. Any Member may table amendments for

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consideration in the committee responsible.

2. A committee may validly vote when one-quarter of its members are actually present. However, if so requested by one-sixth of its members before voting begins, the vote shall be valid only if the majority of the component members of the committee have taken part in it.

3. Voting in committee shall be *by show of hands*, unless a quarter of the committee's members request a vote by roll call. In this case the vote shall be taken in accordance with Rule 160(2).

4. The chairman may take part in discussions and may vote, but without having a casting vote.

5. In the light of the amendments tabled, the committee may, instead of proceeding to a vote, request the rapporteur to submit a new draft taking account of as many of the amendments as possible. A new deadline shall then be set for amendments to this draft.

consideration in the committee responsible.

2. A committee may validly vote when one-quarter of its members are actually present ***as established by means of the electronic voting system***. However, if so requested by one-sixth of its members before voting begins, the vote shall be valid only if the majority of the component members of the committee have taken part in it ***as established by means of the electronic voting system***.

3. Voting in committee shall *normally* be by ***means of the electronic voting system***. ***If the latter cannot be used for technical reasons, the vote may be taken by*** show of hands ***or by sitting and standing***. ***A roll call vote shall be taken if*** a quarter of the committee's members *so* request. In this case the vote shall be taken ***by means of the electronic voting system*** in accordance with Rule 160(2).

4. The chairman may take part in discussions and may vote, but without having a casting vote.

5. In the light of the amendments tabled, the committee may, instead of proceeding to a vote, request the rapporteur to submit a new draft taking account of as many of the amendments as possible. A new deadline shall then be set for amendments to this draft.

Or. en

Justification

To preserve the internal coherence of the EP's Rules of Procedure, the authors suggest amending Rule 185 in line with the proposed modifications to Rule 159.