

Amendment  
to the

# Rules of Procedure

of the European Parliament  
adopted on 13 March 1991

APRIL 1991

## Rule 36

1. Requests from the Council for an opinion from the Commission for advice shall be printed and distributed. The President shall refer such requests to the appropriate committee for consideration.

### Consultation of Parliament

2. A list of these requests for an opinion or for advice shall be published in the minutes of Parliament's sittings, together with the name of the committee responsible and a description of the chosen legal base for the draft measure.

3. The committee responsible shall examine the validity and appropriateness of the chosen legal base for any draft measure on which Parliament is consulted. Where it disputes the validity or the appropriateness of the legal base it may, before dealing with the substance of the proposal and after consultation with the committee responsible for legal affairs, refer the matter to Parliament, reporting orally or in writing.

*If amendments are tabled in Parliament to change the legal base of a Commission proposal without the committee responsible having disputed the validity and appropriateness of the legal base, the committee responsible for legal affairs must deliver an opinion on the amendments tabled before they are put to the vote.*

4. Without prejudice to Rules 37, 38 and 116(1), Parliament shall discuss the proposal on which its opinion has been sought on the basis of the report drawn up by the committee responsible pursuant to Rule 117.

5. Parliament shall first vote on the amendments to the proposal with which the report of the committee responsible is concerned, then on the proposal, amended or otherwise, then on the amendments to the draft legislative resolution, then on the draft legislative resolution as a whole, which shall only contain a statement as to whether Parliament approves, rejects or proposes amendments to the Commission's proposal and any procedural requests.

The consultation procedure is concluded if the draft legislative resolution is adopted (<sup>1</sup>).

6. The text of the proposal as approved by Parliament and its accompanying resolution shall be forwarded to the Council and Commission by the President as Parliament's opinion.

## **Rule 69**

### **Tabling and moving amendments**

1. Any Member may table amendments for consideration in committee.

An amendment which has obtained at least four votes in the committee responsible may be tabled by its author for consideration in Parliament.

Amendments for consideration in Parliament may be tabled by a political group, a committee or at least twenty-three Members.

Amendments shall be tabled in writing and signed by their authors.

2. Subject to the limitations laid down in Rule 70, an amendment may seek to change any part of a text, and may be directed to deleting, adding or substituting words or figures.

*In this and the following Rule the term 'text' means the whole of a motion for a resolution/draft legislative resolution, of a proposal for a decision or of a Commission proposal.*

<sup>1</sup>) See also Rule 44(1) and Chapter IX.

3. The President shall set a time limit for the tabling of amendments.

4. An amendment may be moved during the debate by its author or by any other Member appointed by the author to replace him.

5. Where an amendment is withdrawn by its author, it shall lapse unless immediately taken over by another Member.

6. Unless Parliament decides otherwise, amendments shall be put to the vote only after they have been printed and distributed in all the official languages. Amendments which have not been printed and distributed in all the official languages shall not be put to the vote if at least ten Members object.

*(For procedure in committee see also interpretation under Rule 123(4))*

## **Rule 71**

1. In cases where the committee responsible submits a report to Parliament, the President shall set a time limit within which Members may table amendments to this report and which allows the committee responsible sufficient time for it to give its views on the amendments before the debate in Parliament. Members shall be informed of this time limit when the report is distributed; alternatively, it will be indicated on the draft agenda for the part-session at which the report is to be considered.

2. If, when the time limit has expired, more than twenty amendments have been tabled other than the amendments already tabled by the committee responsible, the President shall refer them to this committee at the request of the rapporteur or, failing him, the chairman of the committee responsible. In this case, the committee shall examine the amendments and put them to the vote, with a view to submitting a supplementary written report at the next part-session, to which the debate shall be held over accordingly. This report shall contain the full text of each amendment, including any compromise amendments tabled by the committee, and the result of the vote.

3. The committee's consideration of the amendments shall take place in public. Authors of amendments who are

**Referral of amendments to the committee responsible**

not members of the committee shall be entitled to attend to move their amendments. Rule 10 (3) shall not apply to such committee meetings.

4. Amendments which according to the supplementary report have been rejected in committee shall only be put to the vote in Parliament if this has been requested in writing by a political group, a committee or at least twenty-three Members before the expiry of the general deadline set for tabling amendments in Parliament.

5. Except in the cases referred to in Rule 92(4), no amendment may be put to the vote in Parliament other than those which have been tabled within the time limit referred to in paragraph 1.

#### **Rule 74**

##### **Adopting and amending the agenda**

1. At the beginning of each part-session, Parliament shall decide on the draft agenda submitted to it by the President without amendment other than such as may be proposed by the latter, or to him in writing by at least twenty-three Members, on the understanding that a political group or at least thirteen Members shall have the right to propose, at each part-session, one amendment to the draft agenda. Any such proposals must be received by the President at least one hour before the opening of the part-session. On such a proposal only the mover, one speaker in favour and one speaker against may be heard, in each case for a maximum of three minutes.

2. Once adopted, the agenda shall not be amended, except in application of Rules 71, 75 and 102 to 106 or on a proposal from the President.

*Where the President proposes an amendment to the agenda, the only speakers who may be heard before the vote shall be one speaker in favour, one speaker against and the chairman or the rapporteur of the committee responsible, in each case for a maximum of three minutes.*

If a procedural motion to amend the agenda is rejected, it shall not be tabled again during the same part-session.

3. Before closing the sitting, the President shall announce the date, time and agenda of the next sitting.