



C/2023/454

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Amendments to Parliament's Rules of Procedure concerning question time, the central rostrum, the blue-card procedure, the explanations of votes, the transparency register and the Ombudsman

European Parliament decision of 19 April 2023 on amendments to Parliament's Rules of Procedure concerning question time, the central rostrum, the blue-card procedure, the explanations of votes, the transparency register and the Ombudsman (2023/2014(REG))

(C/2023/454)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the letter from its President of 24 June 2022,
 - having regard to Rules 236 and 237 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (A9-0072/2023),
1. Decides to amend its Rules of Procedure as shown below;
 2. Points out that the amendments will enter into force on the first day of the next part-session;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this decision to the Council and the Commission, for information.

Amendment 1

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Rule 11 — paragraph 2

Present text

Amendment

2. Members should adopt the systematic practice of only meeting interest representatives that **have** registered in the **Transparency Register** established by means of the Agreement **between the European Parliament and the European Commission** ⁽⁶⁾.

2. Members should adopt the systematic practice of only meeting interest representatives that **are** registered in the **transparency register** established by means of the **Interinstitutional** Agreement **on a mandatory transparency register** ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽⁶⁾ Agreement of **16 April 2014** between the European Parliament and the European Commission on **the** transparency register **for organisations and self-employed individuals engaged in EU policymaking and policy implementation** (OJ L 277, 19.9.2014, p. 11).

⁽⁶⁾ **Interinstitutional** Agreement of **20 May 2021** between the European Parliament, **the Council of the European Union** and the European Commission on **a mandatory** transparency register (OJ L 207, 11.6.2021, p. 1).

Amendment 2
Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 11 — paragraph 3

Present text

3. Members should publish online all scheduled meetings with interest representatives falling under the scope of the **Transparency register**. Without prejudice to Article 4(6) of Annex I, rapporteurs, shadow rapporteurs and committee chairs shall, for each report, publish online all scheduled meetings with interest representatives falling under the scope of the **Transparency register**. The Bureau shall provide for necessary infrastructure on Parliament's website.

Amendment

3. Members should publish online all scheduled meetings with interest representatives falling under the scope of the **Interinstitutional Agreement**. Without prejudice to Article 4(6) of Annex I, rapporteurs, shadow rapporteurs and committee chairs shall, for each report, publish online all scheduled meetings with interest representatives falling under the scope of the **Interinstitutional Agreement**. The Bureau shall provide for necessary infrastructure on Parliament's website.

Amendment 3
Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 123 — paragraph 2

Present text

2. Badges shall not be issued to individuals within a Member's entourage who fall within the scope of the Agreement **between the European Parliament and the European Commission on the transparency register**.

Amendment

2. Badges shall not be issued to individuals within a Member's entourage who fall within the scope of the **Interinstitutional Agreement on a mandatory transparency register**.

Amendment 4
Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 123 — paragraph 3 — subparagraph 1

Present text

3. Entities **listed** in the transparency register, and their representatives who have been issued with long-term access badges to the European Parliament must respect:

- the Code of Conduct for Registrants annexed to the **agreement**;
- the procedures and other obligations laid down by the **agreement**; and
- the provisions implementing this Rule.

Amendment

3. Entities **entered** in the transparency register, and their representatives who have been issued with long-term access badges to the European Parliament must respect:

- the Code of Conduct for Registrants annexed to the **Interinstitutional Agreement**;
- the procedures and other obligations laid down by the **Interinstitutional Agreement**; and
- the provisions implementing this Rule.

Amendment 5
Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 123 — paragraph 5

Present text

5. The Bureau, acting on a proposal from the Secretary-General, shall lay down the measures needed to implement the transparency register, in accordance with the provisions of the **agreement on the establishment of that register**.

Amendment

5. The Bureau, acting on a proposal from the Secretary-General, shall lay down the measures needed to implement the transparency register, in accordance with the provisions of the **Interinstitutional Agreement**.

Amendment 6
Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 137

Present text

Rule 137

Question Time

1. Question Time with **the Commission** may be held at each part-session for a duration of up to 90 minutes on one or more **specific horizontal** themes to be decided upon by the Conference of Presidents **one month** in advance **of the** part-session.

2. The Commissioners invited to participate by the Conference of Presidents shall have a portfolio related to the **specific horizontal** theme or themes on which questions are to be put to them. The number of Commissioners to be invited shall be limited to two per part-session. However, it shall be possible to invite a third Commissioner, depending on the **specific horizontal** theme or themes chosen for the Question Time.

3. **In accordance with guidelines established by the Conference of Presidents, specific question hours** may be held with the Council, with the President of the Commission, with the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and with the President of the Eurogroup.

4. Question time shall not be specifically allocated in advance. The President shall, as far as possible, ensure that Members that hold different political views and that come from different Member States are given the opportunity to put a question in turn.

5. The Member shall be given one minute in which to formulate the question and the **Commissioner** two minutes in which to reply. That Member may put a supplementary question, lasting no longer than 30 seconds and having a direct bearing on the main question. The **Commissioner** shall then be given two minutes in which to give a supplementary reply.

Questions and supplementary questions must be directly related to the **specific horizontal** theme decided under paragraph 1. The President may rule on their admissibility.

Amendment

Rule 137

Question Time

1. Question Time with **Commissioners** may be held at each part-session for a duration of up to **about** 90 minutes on one or more themes to be decided upon by the Conference of Presidents in advance, **and at the latest on the Thursday before the relevant** part-session.

2. The Commissioners invited to participate by the Conference of Presidents shall have a portfolio related to the theme or themes on which questions are to be put to them. The number of Commissioners to be invited shall be limited to two per part-session. However, it shall be possible to invite a third Commissioner, depending on the theme or themes chosen for the Question Time.

3. Question **Time** may **also** be held, **under the terms laid down in paragraph 1, with the President of the European Council**, with the **Presidency of the** Council, with the President of the Commission, with the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and with the President of the Eurogroup.

4. Question time shall not be specifically allocated in advance. The President shall, as far as possible, ensure that Members that hold different political views and that come from different Member States are given the opportunity to put a question in turn.

5. The Member shall be given one minute in which to formulate the question and the **person being questioned** two minutes in which to reply. That Member may put a supplementary question, lasting no longer than 30 seconds and having a direct bearing on the main question. The **person being questioned** shall then be given two minutes in which to give a supplementary reply.

6. Questions and supplementary questions must be directly related to the theme decided under paragraph 1. The President may rule on their admissibility.

Amendment 7

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Rule 171 — paragraph 2

Present text

2. **Members** may **not** speak unless called upon to do so by the President. **Members shall speak from their places and shall address the President.** If speakers depart from the subject matter of the debate, the President shall call them to order.

Amendment

2. **No speaker** may speak unless called upon to do so by the President. If speakers depart from the subject matter of the debate, the President shall call them to order.

2a. Speakers whose interventions are foreseen on the list of speakers shall speak from the central rostrum. Speakers with disabilities may speak from their places if they prefer.

For all other interventions, speakers shall speak from their places.

Amendment 8

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Rule 171 — paragraph 8

Present text

8. The President may give the floor to Members who indicate, by raising a blue card, their wish to put to another Member, during that Member's speech, a question of no longer than half a minute's duration related to what that Member has said. The President shall only do so if the speaker agrees to the question and if the President is satisfied that this will lead neither to disruption of the debate nor, through the putting of successive questions by raising a blue card, to a gross imbalance in the political group affinities of Members speaking in that debate.

Amendment

8. The President may give the floor to Members who indicate, by raising a blue card, their wish to put to another Member, during that Member's speech, a question of no longer than half a minute's duration related to what that Member has said. The President shall only do so if the speaker agrees to the question and if the President is satisfied that this will lead neither to disruption of the debate nor, through the putting of successive questions by raising a blue card, to a gross imbalance in the political group affinities of Members speaking in that debate. **The Member raising the blue card and the speaker shall not be from the same political group, and they shall not both be non-attached Members. Subject to the conditions set out in the second sentence, applied mutatis mutandis, the President may allow the Member who has asked such a question to react to the speaker's answer for no longer than half a minute. The speaker may then follow up on that reaction.**

Amendment 9

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Rule 194 — paragraph 1 — subparagraph 1

Present text

1. **Once the voting session has been concluded**, any Member may give an oral explanation on the single and/or final vote on an item submitted to Parliament for not longer than one minute. Each Member may give a maximum of three oral explanations of **vote** per part-session.

Amendment

1. Any Member may give an oral explanation on the single and/or final vote on an item submitted to Parliament for not longer than one minute. **Such explanations of votes shall be given at the end of the sitting during which the vote concerned has taken place, unless the President decides on an exceptional basis to postpone them until later in the part-session.** Each Member may give a maximum of three oral explanations of **votes** per part-session.

Amendment 10
Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 216 — paragraph 4

Present text

4. Rule 171(2) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to committees. **However, the second sentence of Rule 171(2) shall not apply to Members who are attending the meeting remotely.**

Amendment

4. Rule 171(2) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to committees.

Amendment 11
Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 231 — paragraph 2

Present text

2. Nominations must have the support of at least 38 Members who are nationals of at least two Member States.

Each Member may support only one nomination.

Nominations shall include all the supporting documents needed to show conclusively that the nominee fulfils the conditions laid down in **Article 6(2) of Decision 94/262/ECSC, EC, Euratom** of the European Parliament ⁽⁵³⁾.

⁽⁵³⁾ **Decision 94/262/ECSC, EC, Euratom** of the European Parliament of **9 March 1994** on the regulations and general conditions governing the performance of the Ombudsman's duties (OJ L 113, 4.5.1994, p. 15).

Amendment

2. Nominations must have the support of at least 38 Members who are nationals of at least two Member States.

Each Member may support only one nomination. **The support of a Member shall only be valid if indicated on a standardised form, provided by Parliament's services immediately after the publication of the notice calling for nominations in the Official Journal of the European Union. That standardised form shall clearly state the date of signature. That date shall be within the time limit for submission of nominations set in accordance with paragraph 1.**

Members may withdraw their signatures of support by notifying the President of the withdrawal before the end of that time limit. If, at the end of that time limit, a Member is found to have granted signatures in support of more than one nomination, none of those signatures shall count for any of the nominations.

Nominations shall include all the supporting documents needed to show conclusively that the nominee fulfils the conditions laid down in **Article 11(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2021/1163** of the European Parliament ⁽⁵³⁾.

⁽⁵³⁾ **Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2021/1163** of the European Parliament of **24 June 2021** laying down the regulations and general conditions governing the performance of the Ombudsman's duties (**Statute of the European Ombudsman**) and repealing **Decision 94/262/ECSC, EC, Euratom** (OJ L 253, 16.7.2021, p. 1).

Amendment 12
Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 231 — paragraph 3

Present text

3. Nominations shall be forwarded to the committee responsible. A full list of the Members who have given their support to the nominees shall be made available to the public **in due time**.

Amendment

3. Nominations shall be forwarded to the committee responsible. A full list of the Members who have given their support to the nominees shall be made available to the public **on the working day following the expiry of the time limit for submission of nominations set in accordance with paragraph 1.**

Amendment 13

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Rule 231 — paragraph 3 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

3a. Nominees shall, upon request, be issued with a temporary badge granting him or her access to Parliament's premises.

Amendment 14

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Rule 231 — paragraph 8

Present text

Amendment

8. The Ombudsman shall exercise his or her duties until his or her successor takes office, except in the case of his or her death or dismissal.

deleted

Amendment 15

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Rule 232

Present text

Amendment

Rule 232

Rule 232

Activities of the Ombudsman

Activities of the Ombudsman

1. The committee responsible shall examine cases of maladministration that it has been informed of by the Ombudsman pursuant to **Article 3(6) and (7) of Decision 94/262/ECSC, EC, Euratom**, following which it may decide to draw up a report under Rule 54.

The committee responsible shall examine the report submitted by the Ombudsman at the end of each annual session on the outcome of his or her inquiries, in accordance with **Article 3(8) of Decision 94/262/ECSC, EC, Euratom**. The committee responsible may submit a motion for resolution to Parliament if it considers that Parliament needs to take a position in respect of any aspect of that report.

2. The Ombudsman may **also provide the committee responsible with information** at its request, **or** be heard by it **on his or her own initiative**.

1. The committee responsible shall examine cases of maladministration that it has been informed of by the Ombudsman pursuant to **Article 4(1) and (3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2021/1163**, following which it may decide to draw up a report under Rule 54.

1a. The committee responsible shall examine the report submitted by the Ombudsman at the end of each annual session on the outcome of his or her inquiries, in accordance with **Article 4(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2021/1163**. The committee responsible may submit a motion for resolution to Parliament if it considers that Parliament needs to take a position in respect of any aspect of that report.

2. **In line with Article 4(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2021/1163**, the Ombudsman may, **on his or her own initiative or at the request of the committee responsible**, be heard by **that committee or provide information on his or her activities**.

2a. Where the Ombudsman consults Parliament on draft implementing provisions for Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2021/1163 pursuant to Article 18 thereof, the committee responsible for that Regulation shall submit a report to Parliament pursuant to Rule 51. Rule 59(1), (2), (4) and (5) shall apply mutatis mutandis.

Amendment 16
Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 233 — paragraph 2

Present text

2. The request shall be forwarded to the Ombudsman and to the committee responsible, which, if it decides by a majority of its members that the reasons are well founded, shall submit a report to Parliament. ***If he or she so requests***, the Ombudsman shall be heard before the report is put to the vote. Parliament shall, following a debate, take a decision by secret ballot.

Amendment

2. The request shall be forwarded to the Ombudsman and to the committee responsible, which, if it decides by a majority of its members that the reasons are well founded, shall submit a report to Parliament. The Ombudsman shall be heard before the report is put to the vote. Parliament shall, following a debate, take a decision by secret ballot.