



Rules
of the European Affairs Committees
of the European Communities' Parliaments

(Luxembourg 22 March 1991)

1. FREQUENCY AND DATES OF MEETINGS

1.1. Ordinary meetings

a) In favour of a meeting during the second half of the sixmonthly Presidency of the Council of Ministers are

- the Belgian Senate
- the Bundesrat
- Spain
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece
- Ireland
- Italy
- the House of Lords

whereas the House of Commons proposes that this decision should be a matter for the relevant Committee of the host Parliament because of financial implications.

b) In favour of a meeting at a fixed date, at the beginning or at the end of the first week in May or November f. ex. are

- the Belgian Chambre des Représentants
- Denmark
- the Italian Senate
- Luxembourg

whereas the House of Commons states that this option would need to take account of different parliamentary practices of Member States, of election periods, of the dates of public holidays in Member States etc.

II

1.2. Extraordinary meetings

a) In favour of the organization of a meeting if decided by an absolute majority of the Presidents of the European Affairs Committees and of the corresponding Committee of the European Parliament are

- the Belgian Senate
- Denmark
- the Bundesrat
- Spain
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece
- Ireland
- the Italian Chambre des Députés
- the Italian Senate
- Luxembourg
- the House of Lords

whereas the House of Commons stresses the fact that the questionnaire lacks a definition of the purpose of both ordinary and extraordinary meetings. It nevertheless prefers option a).

b) No delegation was in favour of the organization of a meeting if decided by an absolute majority of the delegation members of the European Affairs Committees of the national Parliaments and of the European Parliament.

The Belgian Chambre des Représentants proposes that this decision should be taken by the troika and the President of the Institutional Committee of the European Parliament.

III

1.3. Preparatory meetings

a) In favour of a preparatory meeting if proposed by the Parliament holding the Presidency of the Council of Ministers are

- Denmark
- Spain
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- the Italian Chambre des Députés.

The Belgian Senate thinks that these preparatory meetings are to be replaced by telephone contacts and correspondance.

The House of Commons expresses the view that this decision should depend on who has responsibility for drawing up the agenda.

b) Greece has chosen the option of an organization of a preparatory meeting if proposed by the host Parliament and if asked for by at least 5 parliamentary delegations and the European Parliament.

c) In favour of the organization of a preparatory meeting if proposed by the presidential troika are

- the Belgian Chambre des Représentants
- the Belgian Senate
- Ireland
- the Bundesrat
- the Italian Senate
- Luxembourg.

The House of Lords expresses the view that the preparatory meetings should be held by officials.

IV

2. PLACE OF MEETINGS

All the delegations second the proposal that the meetings should take place in the Member State holding the presidency of the Council of Ministers.

The House of Commons however specifies that provision should be made for extraordinary meetings to take place elsewhere.

3. DURATION OF MEETINGS

3.1. Ordinary meetings

a) In favour of 1 day and a half are

- the Belgian Chambre des Représentants
- the Belgian Senate
- Denmark
- the Bundesrat
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Ireland
- the Italian Chambre des Députés
- the Italian Senate
- Luxembourg
- the House of Commons
- the House of Lords.

b) Spain proposes to extend the duration of ordinary meetings to 2 days.

c) Greece proposes to extend the duration of ordinary meetings to 3 days.

VI

3.2. Extraordinary meetings

a) In favour of 1 day and a half are

- the Belgian Chambre des Représentants
- the Belgian Senate
- Denmark
- the Bundesrat
- Spain
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- the Italian Chambre des Députés
- the Italian Senate
- Luxembourg
- the House of Lords.

Ireland expresses the view that this decision should be taken by the host Member State.

b) Greece proposes to extend the duration of extraordinary meetings to 2 days.

VII

3.3. Preparatory meetings of the Presidents of the specialized Committees

In favour of a duration of 1 working day are

- the Belgian Chambre des Représentants
- the Belgian Senate
- Denmark
- the Bundesrat
- Spain
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece
- Ireland
- the Italian Chambre des Députés
- the Italian Senate
- Luxembourg.

The House of Commons and the Belgian Chambre des Représentants propose that the decision should be taken by the President of the host Committee, after consulting the troika and the European Parliament.

VIII

4. COMPOSITION

4.1. Ordinary meetings of specialized Committees

a) In favour of 3 representatives per Parliament are

- the Belgian Chambre des Représentants
- the Belgian Senate
- Denmark
- the Bundesrat
- Spain
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece
- the Italian Chambre des Députés
- the House of Lords.

b) In favour of 6 representatives for Member States with a monocameral parliamentary system and 6 members of the European Parliament are

- the Bundesrat
- Ireland
- the Italian Senate
- Luxembourg
- the House of Lords

whereas the House of Commons recommends that only the European Parliament should be represented by 6 members.

Denmark expresses the view that the parliamentary representation of Member States with a monocameral parliamentary system should be reinforced by one or two members.

IX

c) In favour of the invitation of observers of embassies are

- the Bundesrat
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Ireland
- the Italian Senate
- Greece but limited to the embassies of EC Member States
- Luxembourg
- the House of Lords.

. In favour of the invitation of observers of the EC Commission are

- the Bundesrat
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece
- Ireland
- the Italian Senate
- Luxembourg
- the House of Lords.

The Belgian Chambre des Représentants recommends to subject this proposal to negotiation and proposes also to consider inviting observers of the Council of Ministers.

d) In favour of the invitation of experts are

- the Belgian Senate
- Luxembourg
- the House of Commons
- the House of Lords.

The French Assemblée Nationale also adopts this point of view if provided for by the preparatory meeting of the Presidents.

The Bundesrat proposes to invite observers and experts only in special cases.

The French Assemblée Nationale expresses the view that for some questions necessitating a common position it could be useful to plan a meeting of the specialized Committees of national Parliaments alone.

4.2. Extraordinary meetings

The House of Lords is in favour of doubling the national delegations and the delegation of the European Parliament.

In favour of a composition identical to that of ordinary meetings are

- the Belgian Chambre des Représentants
- the Belgian Senate
- Denmark
- the Bundesrat
- Spain
- Ireland
- the House of Commons.

The House of Lords suggests the admission of observers of the EC Commission and experts if decided during the preparatory meeting.

XII

5. CONVOCATION

All delegations are in favour of a convocation by the parliamentary Secretariat of the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

The House of Commons states that special arrangements will be necessary if the meeting is held outside the territory of the Member State holding the Presidency.

6. DESIGNATION OF MEETINGS

6.1. Ordinary meetings

a) In favour of the designation: Conference of European Affairs Committees of the European Communities national Parliaments and of the European Parliament are

- the Belgian Senate
- Denmark
- the Bundesrat
- Spain
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece
- Ireland
- the Italian Chambre des Députés
- the Italian Senate
- the House of Lords.

The Belgian Chambre des Représentants proposes: Conference of European Affairs Committees of the European Communities' Parliaments.

The French Assemblée Nationale suggests introducing the initials CEAC (Conference of European Affairs Committees).

In favour of the name preceded by the chronological number and followed by date and place of the meeting are

- the Belgian Chambre des Représentants
- the Belgian Senate
- Spain
- Ireland
- the Bundesrat
- the Italian Senate
- the House of Lords.

The French Assemblée Nationale proposes to distinguish the CEAC by adding a Roman numeral.

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b) In favour of Conference of the European Communities' Parliaments are

- the Bundesrat
- Luxembourg
- the House of Lords.

Several Parliaments stress the fact that this designation should be reserved for Assizes meetings as of November 1990, namely

- the Belgian Chambre des Représentants
- the Belgian Senate
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the Italian Senate.

The Spanish delegation deliberately abstained from proposing any formula, thus marking the extraordinary character of this conference.

6.2. Extraordinary meetings

a) The Belgian Chambre des Représentants proposes the designation: Conference of the European Affairs Committees of the European Communities' Parliaments, preceded by the chronological number and followed by date and place of the meeting.

In favour of: Extraordinary Conference of the European Affairs Committees of the European Communities National Parliaments and of the European Parliament are

- the Belgian Senate
- Denmark
- the Bundesrat
- Spain
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece
- Ireland
- the Italian Chambre des Députés
- the House of Lords.

The House of Lords proposes the following designation in English: Extraordinary Conference of the European Affairs Committees of the National Parliaments of the European Communities and the European Parliament.

b) In favour of the designation Conference of the European Communities Parliaments are

- the Bundesrat
- Spain
- Luxembourg
- the House of Lords.

7. AGENDA

a) The Italian Senate is in favour of the drawing up of the agenda by the President of the European Affairs Committee of the host Member State or the two Committees, in case of a bicameral system.

The Belgian Chambre des Représentants also shares this view provided that the presidential troika and the European Parliament are consulted.

The House of Commons expresses the view that this task should be entrusted to the President of the host Committee, after consulting the troika, having regard to any suggestions put by other specialized Committees. The Conference itself should have the power to decide on the agenda of a subsequent conference.

The French Assemblée Nationale and the French Senate think that the drawing up of the agenda can be entrusted to the President of the European Affairs Committee of the host Parliament, if the Presidents of the European Affairs Committees were consulted in writing on the draft agenda, which will be definitely adopted during the preparatory meeting of the Presidents.

XVII

b) In favour of the drawing up of the agenda by the presidential troika are

- the Bundesrat
- the House of Lords
- the Belgian Chambre des Représentants, provided that the President of the Institutional Committee of the European Parliament is consulted
- the Belgian Senate, provided that the possible suggestions made by different Committees are taken into account.

c) In favour of the drawing up of the agenda by the Presidents of the European Affairs Committees during a preparatory meeting are

- Denmark
- Greece
- Ireland
- the Italian Chambre des Députés
- the House of Lords.

Spain also favours this option but grants the President of the European Affairs Committee of the host Parliament the right of proposal.

XVIII

8. PREPARATION OF THE MEETINGS

In favour of a written contribution of the national delegations are

- the Belgian Senate
- Spain
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- Ireland
- the Italian Senate
- Luxembourg
- the House of Lords.

The Belgian Chambre des Députés proposes the following preparation of meetings:

In order to stipulate the procedure of meetings participants should first of all agree on their subjects.

The following procedure could be taken into consideration.

- 1) The troika (+ President of the European Parliament Committee) proposes at the beginning of the semester one or several subjects drawn from the working programme of the Council of Ministers.
- 2) The national delegation of the Member State holding the next Presidency establishes the report(s).
- 3) This or these rapporteur(s) may request for the drawing up of his (their) report(s) the contributions of the other delegations.
- 4) The participating Parliaments will receive the reports (in French or in English and in the language of the author) at the end of March and September. They will assure themselves the translation into their national language.

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In favour of a written contribution in French or in English are

- Luxembourg
- the House of Lords.

In favour of a written contribution in both languages are

- the Belgian Senate
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece.

The Belgian Senate expresses the view that the oral as well as written use of all the languages of the European Communities should be permitted.

a) The French Assemblée Nationale, the French Senate and the Italian Chambre des Députés express the view that this decision should be taken by the President of the European Affairs Committee of the host Member State.

b) The Chambre des Représentants and the Bundesrat are in favour of a decision taken by the presidential troika.

c) In favour of a decision taken by the Presidents of the European Affairs Committees during a preparatory meeting are

- the Belgian Senate
- Denmark
- Greece
- Spain
- Ireland
- Luxembourg.

SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION OF DEBATES

In favour of a simultaneous translation into the 9 languages of the Communities are

- the Belgian Chambre des Représentants
- the Belgian Senate
- the Bundesrat
- Denmark
- Spain
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece
- Ireland
- the Italian Senate
- the Italian Chambre des Députés.

The House of Lords expresses the view that a translation into French and English is sufficient but that the written speeches could be translated into the 9 languages.

10. ROLE OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE MEETINGS

a) All the Parliaments favour the preparation of meeting documents by the Secretariat(s) of the host Parliament(s).

b) All the delegations are in favour of the opening of the debate by the President(s) of the European Affairs Committee of the host Parliament.

c) The proposition concerning the progress of the meeting and the fixing of time for speech by the President of the European Affairs Committee of the host Parliament is favoured by

- the Bundesrat
- Denmark
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece
- the Italian Senate
- Luxembourg
- the House of Commons.

In favour of a common decision by the presidential troika and the European Parliament are

- the Belgian Chambre des Représentants
- the Belgian Senate
- Ireland
- the House of Lords.

d) In favour of an optional drawing up of brief meeting minutes by the Secretariat of the host Parliament are

- Denmark
- the House of Commons.

All the other Parliaments are in favour of a compulsory drawing up of brief meeting minutes.

e) In favour of a presentation of a conclusion draft are

- the Belgian Senate
- the Bundesrat
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- the Italian Chambre des Députés
- the House of Lords.

XXIII

The Belgian Chambre des Représentants has opted for the presentation of a resolution draft.

The Belgian Senate and the House of Lords accept this proposition as a subsidiary solution.

Denmark, Greece and Spain are in favour of the presentation of a final report draft.

The Belgian Senate agrees with this proposition as a subsidiary and the House of Commons is in favour of the presentation of a draft communiqué.

In favour of the drawing up of a final document by the President of the European Affairs Committee of the host Parliament are

- the Bundesrat
- Denmark
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece.

In favour of the drawing up of this document by the presidential troika are

- the Belgian Senate
- Spain
- Ireland
- the Italian Senate
- the Italian Chambre des Députés
- Luxembourg
- the House of Commons
- the House of Lords.

The Belgian Chambre des Représentants favours the drawing up of a resolution draft by the rapporteur(s).

11. DEBATE CONCLUSIONS

In favour of the presentation of the final document by the President of the European Affairs Committee of the host Parliament are

- the Belgian Senate
- the Bundesrat
- Denmark
- the French Senate
- Greece.

In favour of the presentation of this document by the President of the European Affairs Committee of the host Parliament after consulting his colleagues from the troika are

- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the Italian Chambre des Députés
- Luxembourg.

The Belgian Chambre des Représentants proposes the adoption of a resolution draft presented by the rapporteur(s).

In favour of an adoption by consensus are

- the Bundesrat
- Denmark
- Spain
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece
- the House of Commons.

In favour of the final document being voted by a simple majority of the delegates present are

- the Belgian Chambre des Représentants
- the Belgian Senate
- the Italian Chambre des Députés
- the House of Lords.

Ireland proposes a vote by a balanced majority.

12. RECIPIENTS OF CONCLUSIONS, RESOLUTIONS OR REPORTS

a) In favour of the transmission to the 12 Parliaments and the European Parliament are

- the Belgian Chambre des Représentants
- the Belgian Senate
- the Bundesrat
- Denmark
- Spain
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece
- Ireland
- the Italian Chambre des Députés
- Luxembourg
- the House of Commons
- the House of Lords.

b) In favour of the transmission to the 12 Governments are

- the Belgian Chambre des Représentants
- the Bundesrat
- Denmark
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece
- Ireland
- Luxembourg.

c) In favour of the transmission to the EC Commission are

- the Belgian Chambre des Représentants
- the Bundesrat
- Denmark
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece
- Ireland
- Luxembourg.

The House of Commons expresses the view that the final document should be published as in the past.

The Belgian Chambre des Représentants adds to the list of recipients the Council of Ministers, the transmission being ensured by the host Committee. The Chambre des Représentants expresses also the view that the European Affairs Committees may put the conclusions to the vote of their Parliaments. The resolutions adopted by the national Parliaments should then be transmitted to the respective Governments and the resolutions adopted by the European Parliament to the Commission.

13. RULES REVISION

A) In favour of a written proposition from one or several delegations of one or several Parliaments addressed to all national Parliaments of the Member States and to the European Parliament at least one month before the meeting of the European Affairs Committees are

- the Belgian Senate
- the Bundesrat
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece
- the Italian Chambre des Députés
- Luxembourg
- the House of Lords.

b) In favour of the inscription on the agenda of the first meeting of the European Affairs Committees following the presentation of the application are

- the Belgian Senate
- the Bundesrat
- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece
- Luxembourg
- the House of Lords.

c) - Denmark is in favour of a vote by a qualified majority of 3/4 of the delegates present at the meeting.

- In favour of a vote by a qualified majority of 3/4 of the Presidents of the delegations are

- the Belgian Senate
- the Bundesrat
- Spain
- Ireland
- the Italian Chambre des Députés
- the House of Lords.

For a vote by a simple majority of the Presidents of the delegations are

- the French Assemblée Nationale
- the French Senate
- Greece
- Luxembourg.

XXIX

The Belgian Chambre des Représentants proposes to modify the rules adopted by the Conference following the propositions of the Presidents of the European Affairs Committees addressed to the President of the host Committee. The modification must be adopted by the Conference on the basis of a report of the troika and the European Parliament.

The House of Lords grants the host Committee the initiative right. These revision propositions should be transmitted to the other European Affairs Committees at least 6 weeks before the next Conference. Each Committee must have the right to suggest amendments. These amendments should be transmitted to all the Committees by the host Committee, 2 weeks before their discussion. The final decision would be taken by the Presidents of the Committees by a qualified majority of 3/4.

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The rules are to be adopted according to the mode of voting chosen for the adoption of its revision.