

**STANDING  
COMMITTEE**

209 SC 05 E  
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**NATO Parliamentary Assembly**

**THE DURATION OF THE MANDATES OF  
ASSEMBLY OFFICERS**

1. In preparation for the addition of seven new member delegations, the Assembly updated and modified its Rules of Procedure 2004. One aspect of the changes was to increase the number of elected positions within the Assembly. The number of Vice-Chairmen on Committees and the Mediterranean Special Group was increased from two to three, and the number of Assembly Vice-Presidents was increased from four to five.

2. It is also relevant to note that the updating of the Rules included harmonizing the mandates for officers of the Mediterranean Special Group with those of the mandates of the officers of the Committees and Sub-Committees. The mandates of the officers of the Mediterranean Special Group were renewable only once while those of Committee and Sub-Committee officers were renewable three times. The Rules were harmonized by making the mandates of the officers of the Mediterranean Special Group renewable three times.

3. Thus, the current situation regarding mandates is as follows:

- The Assembly's President and five Vice-Presidents have one-year mandates which can be renewed once.
- The Assembly's Treasurer has a two-year mandate which is renewable twice.
- Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, and Rapporteurs of Committees, Sub-Committees and the Mediterranean Special Group have one-year mandates which are renewable three times.

4. During the Standing Committee meeting in Ljubljana in May 2005, the duration of mandates was debated, and several members put forward proposals for changes which they felt might achieve a better balance between continuity and rotation among the Assembly's elected officers. However, in some cases, the members concerned indicated that their first preference would be to maintain the current arrangements. It was decided to defer further discussion until a subsequent meeting.

5. Before summarizing the various proposals that were put forward, a few observations are in order and these might assist the Standing Committee's discussions.

6. There was a consensus that the Treasurer's mandate should be considered separately from those of the other members of the Bureau: the President and the five Presidents. There was a clear feeling that the Treasurer's position required the type of continuity which is currently specified in the Rules. Thus, in the summaries presented on page 2 of this document, the term "Bureau" does not include the Treasurer. Furthermore, there was no suggestion that the mandates of the officers of the Mediterranean Special Group should be different from those of the officers of the Committees and Sub-Committees, nor that a distinction should be drawn between the mandates of Committee officers and Sub-Committee officers. Consequently, in the summaries on page 2 of this document, the term "Committees" is used to represent the Committees, Sub-Committees and the Mediterranean Special Group.

7. Obviously, there are no procedural obstacles to changing the Rules to adjust the duration of mandates if that were the wish of the Assembly's membership. The question of whether to make such a change depends on whether members are content with the balance between continuity and change in the officers of Committees, Sub-Committees and the Mediterranean Special Group, or whether it is felt that the turnover should be more rapid for the Committees, and less rapid for the members of the Bureau (excluding the Treasurer).

8. That said, any change in the duration of mandates would raise questions about practical implementation. For instance, would the duration of mandates apply retroactively, or would the new durations apply only to newly elected officers?

### Summary of Proposals Raised in May 2005

- Proposal 1 No change for either the Bureau or the Committee officers' mandates
- Proposal 2 No change for the Bureau's mandates. The mandates for Committee officers should be for one year, renewable twice.
- Proposal 3 The mandates for the Bureau would be for one year, renewable twice. The mandates for Committee officers should be for one year, renewable twice.
- Proposal 4 The mandates for the Bureau would be for two years and not renewable. The mandates for Committee officers would be for two years and not renewable.

**Table 1: Summary of Proposals on Mandates**

		Mandate duration (Years)	No. of times renewable	Maximum Duration of Tenure (Years)
<b>Proposal 1</b> <i>(No change)</i>	Bureau	1	1	2
	Committees	1	3	4
<b>Proposal 2</b>	Bureau	1	1	2
	Committees	1	2	3
<b>Proposal 3</b>	Bureau	1	2	3
	Committees	1	2	3
<b>Proposal 4</b>	Bureau	2	0	2
	Committees	2	0	2

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