

**MEMORANDUM**

**DRAFT**

**TO:** Members of the Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure

**FROM:** Pia Christmas-Moeller  
Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,  
Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Rules of Procedure

**DATE:** 28 April 2009

**RE:** Conclusions

Dear Colleagues,

The Sub-Committee held its meeting in Lisbon on 19 April 2009 in which the following Members participated:

Pia Christmas-Moeller (Denmark), Chairperson;  
Joao Soares, President (Portugal), ex-officio Member;  
Goran Lennmarker (Sweden), President Emeritus;  
Roberto Battelli (Slovenia), Special Representative;  
Alcee L. Hastings (USA), Special Representative;  
Alexander Kozlovskiy (Russian Federation), Head of Delegation.

In the light of discussions I would like to summarize the conclusions we have arrived at on the proposals received by the Sub-Committee. Of course, it does not exclude any further ideas or considerations, which members of the Sub-Committee may have regarding the Rules.

**1. Amendment Submitted by Wolfgang Thierse (Germany) on Follow-Up (Rule 36, paragraph 4 "Powers and Duties of Committees")**

It was proposed that the follow-up reports prepared by the Vice-Chair of each General Committee shall be presented by them at the Fall Meeting of the year following the Annual Session.

Members of the Sub-Committee supported the amendment with a minor change which reads now as follows: "*These reports shall be presented by the Vice-Chairs at the next Annual Session.*" The reason behind this change was that the General Committees do not meet during the Fall Meeting of the Assembly.

**2. Proposals by the OSCE PA International Secretariat**

**Rule 21, paragraph 2 "Compromise Supplementary Items"**

Members agreed with the Secretariat's proposal, which is intended to facilitate such compromises whenever possible.

Rule 23 paragraph 1 “Compromise Amendments”

Members agreed with the Secretariat’s proposal, which is intended to provide more time for submitting a compromise amendment.

Rule 23 (a) “Validation of signatures”

Members agreed with the Secretariat’s proposal with a slight change to the original proposed text. The following text reads as follows:

*“The signatures of Members of the Assembly who signed a supplementary item or an amendment are valid provided they register for the Annual Session”*. The reason for this proposal was that some Members of Parliament signed supplementary items and amendments, without being members of the Assembly, or while being members of the Assembly they did not register for the Annual Session.

Rule 40, paragraph 2 “Budget and Finance”

Members agreed with the Secretariat’s proposal that the draft annual budget should be circulated no later than thirty days prior to the Annual Session. The reason for this proposal was that some Delegations have expressed their wish to receive the draft budget early before the Standing Committee meeting in order to have more time to examine it.

Rule 44 “Non-Governmental Organizations”

Members agreed with the proposal to add a new paragraph clarifying the process for participation of Non-Governmental Organizations. The proposal outlines that NGOs with whom the Assembly does not have ‘permanent co-operation’ may attend Assembly meetings if their participation is supported in writing by the Head of a National Delegation. The reason for this proposal was that the Secretariat does not have all of the necessary information related to NGOs in question and cannot take the responsibility for their participation in sessions.

At the same time there were different views expressed in the Sub-Committee regarding Assembly’s permanent co-operation with NGOs as it is indicated in the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph of the Rule. It was decided to discuss this paragraph at the next Sub-Committee meeting.

3. Amendment Submitted by Vice-President Tone Tingsgaard (Sweden) on Gender Equality (Rule 30 “Right to Vote”)

There were different opinions expressed in the Sub-Committee on resolving the issue of gender equality. It was decided to suggest a new wording related to the amendment adding a new paragraph 4 to Rule 1 on **Composition of the Assembly**, which would read as follows: “Each national Delegation should have both genders represented.”

The reason for this decision was that while the Committee Members fully shared Ms. Tingsgaard approach to promoting a better gender balance in the Assembly, they were against removing voting rights which could effect 16 delegations having only male

members in the Assembly. It is well known that some participating States for different reasons have been experiencing problems with recruiting women to serve on their delegations.

Meanwhile the Sub-Committee agreed to come back to this issue again in a couple of years to examine how this new rule works.

4. Amendment Submitted by Michel Voisin (France) on Vote by Proxy (Rule 30)

Members could not agree with this proposal, which would have permitted parliamentarians to appoint a proxy to vote in their place, as they identified a number of problems related to such proxy voting. Instead it was suggested to draft a new amendment enabling early voting which would give Members of the Assembly the opportunity to leave the Annual Session early to ensure their national obligations (effectively codifying current practice). It was decided to examine this new amendment at the next Sub-Committee meeting.

5. Amendment Submitted by Michel Voisin on Monitoring Procedure (Rule 31)

Members agreed with the amendment and would recommend it to the Standing Committee prior to the Annual Session in Vilnius.

6. Concluding its work the Sub-Committee decided to hold another meeting in Dublin on the sidelines of the OSCE PA Economic Conference.