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REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the  
Committee on the Rules of Procedure  
on Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteur: Mr W. ROTHLEY

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On 9 October 1984, the President of the European Parliament referred the amendment to Rule 33 of the Rules of Procedure tabled by Mr PETERS and others (Doc. 2-576/84) to the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions.

At its meeting of 16/17 October 1984, the committee appointed Mr ROTHLEY rapporteur on simplified procedures (including Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure).

The committee considered this matter at its meetings of 21/22 January, 20/21 February, 23/24 April and 12/13 May 1985.

At the last meeting, the committee unanimously adopted the proposed amendments to Rule 34 and the proposal for a decision<sup>1</sup>.

The following took part in the vote: Mr AMADEI, chairman; Mr ROTHLEY, rapporteur; Mr ADAM, Mr ANASTASSOPOULOS, Mr P. BEAZLEY, Mr DONNEZ, Mr HUTTON, Mr MALANGRE, Mr PATTERSON, Mr PROUT and Mr STAVROU.

The report was tabled on 20 June 1985.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be indicated in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

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<sup>1</sup> At its meeting of 18 June 1985, the committee unanimously adopted a corrigendum.

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The Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions hereby submits to the European Parliament the following amendments to the Rules of Procedure and proposal for a decision together with explanatory statement:

Rules of Procedure at present

Rule 34: Procedure without debate

1. Where the committee responsible requests that its report be adopted by Parliament without debate or where the committee has delivered an opinion on a Commission proposal without report pursuant to Rule 99(1) or in accordance with the simplified procedure pursuant to Rule 99(2), the proposal or report in question shall be placed on the agenda of the part-session following the decision by the committee.

2. The proposal and, where appropriate, the motion for a resolution contained in the report shall be put to the vote without debate unless a political group or at least ten Members of Parliament lodge a protest in advance. In the latter case the proposal shall be referred back to the committee responsible for reconsideration.

Amendments tabled by the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions

Rule 34: Procedure without debate

1. Unchanged

2. The proposal and, where appropriate, the motion for a resolution contained in the report shall be put to the vote without debate unless a political group or at least ten Members of Parliament lodge a protest in advance. In the latter case the report shall be placed on the agenda of a subsequent part-session for debate.

Where the procedure without report is applied pursuant to Rule 99(1), however, the Commission proposal shall be referred back to the committee responsible for reconsideration.

PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION

amending the rules relating to simplified procedures in the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 112(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the amendment tabled by Mr PETERS and others (Doc. 2-576/84),
- having regard to the report by the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions (Doc. A2-67/85),

1. Decides to incorporate the above amendments in its Rules of Procedure;
2. Instructs its Secretary-General to ensure that the amended texts are identical in the seven official languages;
3. Instructs its President to forward this decision, for information, to the Council and Commission of the European Communities and to the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

At their monthly meetings, the committee chairmen have often said that they find the Rules of Procedure lacking in provisions that would ease the workload in committee and in plenary.

In connection with the proposal to amend Rule 33(1), the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions has therefore considered to what extent other amendments to this Rule are necessary; consideration has also been given to the wording of Rules 34 and 99.

Rule 34

With regard to the proposed amendment to Rule 34, paragraph 2 currently lays down that, if a debate is requested, the report in question shall be referred back to committee for reconsideration; this must be seen in conjunction with paragraph 1, under which the relevant report shall be placed on the agenda of the next part-session. The intention was to prevent committees from misusing Rule 34 in order to have an item included on the agenda for the next part-session and then to request a debate.

Experience has shown that there is no danger of this. On the contrary: the present wording of Rule 34 has made committees hesitate to apply this article because of the possible risk of delays.

Therefore, in accordance with the wish expressed by the committee chairmen, the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions proposes that the provisions on referral back to committee be amended.

