EP Rules of Procedures, Rule 51: joint committee meetings

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The Committee on Constitutional Affairs adopted the report drafted by Carlo CASINI (EPP, IT) on the amendment of Rule 51 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure on procedures with joint committee meetings.

Having regard to the letter of 11 March 2010 from the chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs and to the letter of 25 March 2010 from the chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, the committee proposes that Parliament should amend Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure as follows:

When a question of competence is referred to it pursuant to Rule 188(2), the Conference of Presidents may decide that the procedure with joint meetings of committees and a joint vote is to be applied, provided that:

- with reference to Annex VII, responsibility for the matter cannot be split between several committees; and
- it is satisfied that the matter is of major importance.

In that event, **the respective rapporteurs shall draw up a single draft report**, which shall be examined and voted on by the committees concerned, under the joint chairmanship of the committee Chairs.

At all stages of the procedure, the rights attaching to the status of committee responsible may be exercised by the committees concerned only when acting jointly. The committees involved may set up working groups to prepare the meetings and votes.

At the second-reading stage of the ordinary legislative procedure, the Council position shall be considered at a joint meeting of the committees concerned, which, should no agreement be reached between their Chairs, shall be held on the Wednesday of the first week set aside for meetings of parliamentary bodies following the communication of the Council's position to Parliament. Should no agreement be reached on the convening of a further meeting, any such meeting shall be convened by the Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs. The vote on the recommendation for second reading shall be taken at a joint meeting on the basis of a joint text drafted by the respective rapporteurs of the committees concerned or, in the absence of a joint text, on the basis of the amendments tabled in the committees concerned.

At the third-reading stage of the ordinary legislative procedure, the Chairs and rapporteurs of the committees concerned shall be ex officio members of the delegation to the Conciliation Committee.