EP Rules of Procedure: adapt the internal procedures to the cases of simplification of Community legislation

2005/2238(REG) - 10/05/2007 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Marie-Line **REYNAUD** (PES, FR) on changes to be made to Parliament's Rules of Procedure to bring internal procedures into line with the requirements of simplification of Community legislation in the framework of the 'Better Lawmaking' initiative. The resolution was adopted by 434 votes in favour to 5 against with 10 abstentions.

Parliament amended Rule 80 to adopt new procedures for the codification of Community legislation. Although no amendments can be made to the text of a Commission proposal for codification of Community legislation when it is submitted to Parliament, the rule now states that, at the rapporteur's request, the chairman of the committee responsible for legal affairs may submit for the latter's approval, amendments relating to technical adaptations, provided that those adaptations are necessary in order to ensure that the proposal complies with the codification rules and do not involve any substantive change to the proposal. If the committee responsible for legal affairs concludes that the proposal does not entail any substantive change, it shall refer it to Parliament for approval.

If the committee takes the view that the proposal entails a substantive change to Community legislation, it shall propose that Parliament reject the proposal. In either case, Parliament shall take a decision by means of a single vote, without amendments or debate.

Parliament also inserted a new Rule 80a on the recasting of Community legislation (which was previously not covered by the Rules of Procedure). The new rule contains similar provisions to the modified Rule 80. However, it also stipulates that amendments to the provisions which remain unchanged in the recasting proposal may be admitted as a special dispensation and on a case-by-case basis by the chairman of the committee responsible if he considers this necessary for pressing reasons relating to the internal logic of the text or because the amendments are inextricably linked to other admissible amendments. Such reasons must be stated in a written justification to the amendments. Moreover, if, as provided for in Rule 80, the Legal Affairs Committee proposes that Parliament should reject the proposal on the grounds that it entails substantive changes other than those identified as such in the proposal, the President of Parliament shall call on the Commission to withdraw its proposal. If the Commission does so, the President shall hold the procedure to be superfluous and shall inform the Council accordingly. If the Commission does not withdraw its proposal, Parliament shall refer the matter back to the committee responsible for the subject matter, which shall consider it in accordance with the normal procedure.