Basic information

2007/2128(REG) REG - Parliament's Rules of Procedure	Procedure completed
EP Rules of Procedure, Rule 99 and Annex XVI b: approval of the Commission **Subject** 8.40.01.08 Business of Parliament, procedure, sittings, rules of procedure 8.40.03 European Commission	

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFCO Constitutional Affairs	DUFF Andrew (ALDE)	01/03/2007

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/04/2008	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
27/05/2008	Vote in committee		Summary
29/05/2008	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0198/2008	
08/07/2008	Decision by Parliament	T6-0328/2008	Summary
08/07/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
08/07/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2007/2128(REG)
Procedure type	REG - Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Procedure subtype	Rules
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 243-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFCO/6/49998

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE402.881	13/03/2008	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE405.895	25/04/2008	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0198/2008	29/05/2008	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0328/2008	08/07/2008	Summary

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

EP Rules of Procedure, Rule 99 and Annex XVI b: approval of the Commission

2007/2128(REG) - 08/07/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 617 votes to 31, with 34 abstentions, a decision on amendment of its Rules of Procedure with respect to the approval of the Commission.

The report had been tabled for consideration in plenary by Andrew **DUFF** (ALDE, UK), on behalf of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs.

The amendments, which codify the existing practice, will enter into force on the first day of the next part-session.

The purpose of this essentially technical amendment is to provide a detailed proposal on the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure for hearings, evaluations and votes to approve or reject any new European Commission or in the event of a change in the composition of the college of the Commission.

It is also provided that each committee shall invite the Commissioner-designate to make a statement and answer questions. The hearings shall be organised in such a way as to enable Commissioners-designate to disclose to Parliament all relevant information (including their financial interests). Provisions relating to the organisation of the hearings shall be laid down in an annex to the Rules of Procedure. This annex comprises all the guidelines for the approval of the Commission, such as the principles, criteria and arrangements governing the procedure by which the Parliament approves the entire college of the Commission. The guidelines also set out the voting rules, without which no Commissioner can take office.

- **Hearings on the competence, commitment and independence of the Commissioner-designate**: the Parliament shall evaluate Commissioners-designate on the basis of their general competence, European commitment and personal independence. It shall assess knowledge of their prospective portfolio and their communication skills. The Parliament shall have particular regard to gender balance and may express itself on the allocation of portfolio responsibilities. The new Rules also enable candidates to enjoy an equal and fair opportunity to present their opinions. In this context, the Parliament sets out the rules to be observed by MEPs for public hearings of Commissioners, whether before one or several committees;
- **Evaluation**: the Parliament also establishes a set of specific rules on the evaluation phase of Commissioners and the debate that follows the appointment of a college of the Commission. A video recording of the hearings shall be made available for the public record within twenty-four hours. The committees shall meet without delay after the hearing to evaluate the individual Commissioners-designate. The President-elect of the Commission shall present the whole college of Commissioners-designate at a sitting of Parliament to enable an exchange of views and a debate on a motion for resolution that may be tabled by a political group or at least forty Members. Following the vote on the motion for resolution, Parliament shall vote on whether or not to give its consent to the appointment of the Commission;
- **Change in the composition of the college of Commissioners during its term of office**: in the event of a change in the composition of the college of Commissioners or a substantial portfolio change during its term of office, the new Commissioners-designate or those invited to take on another portfolio shall be subject to the same procedure. The only difference concerns the vote during the appointment of a single Commissioner (including in the event of a replacement): in this case, the vote shall be by secret ballot (instead of by roll call).