## Basic information

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| **2011/2266(REG)**<br><br>REG - Parliament's Rules of Procedure | Procedure completed |
| EP Rules of Procedure: changes in Parliament's relationship with the European Council and the Eurogroup following entry in force of the Lisbon Treaty<br><br>**Subject**<br><br>8.40.01.08 Business of Parliament, procedure, sittings, rules of procedure | |

## Key players

European Parliament

| Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| AFCO Constitutional Affairs | LAMASSOURE Alain (PPE) | 07/04/2011 |
| | Shadow rapporteur<br><br>GURMAI Zita (S&D)<br><br>DUFF Andrew (ALDE)<br><br>SCHOLZ Helmut (GUE/NGL)<br><br>MESSERSCHMIDT Morten (EFD) | |

## Key events

| Date | Event | Reference | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| 02/02/2012 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |
| 28/02/2012 | Vote in committee | | |
| 01/03/2012 | Committee report tabled for plenary | A7-0039/2012 | Summary |
| 29/03/2012 | Decision by Parliament | T7-0111/2012 | Summary |
| 29/03/2012 | Results of vote in Parliament | | |
| 29/03/2012 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |

## Technical information

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| **Procedure reference** | 2011/2266(REG) |
| **Procedure type** | REG - Parliament's Rules of Procedure |
| **Procedure subtype** | Rules |

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| **Legal basis** | Rules of Procedure EP 243-p1 |
| **Other legal basis** | Rules of Procedure EP 165 |
| **Stage reached in procedure** | Procedure completed |
| **Committee dossier** | AFCO/7/05799 |

| Documentation gateway | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **European Parliament** | | | | |
| **Document type** | **Committee** | **Reference** | **Date** | **Summary** |
| Committee draft report | | PE478.365 | 16/12/2011 | |
| Amendments tabled in committee | | PE480.840 | 08/02/2012 | |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | | A7-0039/2012 | 01/03/2012 | Summary |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading | | T7-0111/2012 | 29/03/2012 | Summary |

| Additional information | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Source** | **Document** | **Date** |
| European Commission | EUR-Lex | |

# EP Rules of Procedure: changes in Parliament's relationship with the European Council and the Eurogroup following entry in force of the Lisbon Treaty

2011/2266(REG) - 01/03/2012 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs adopted the report drafted by Alain LAMASSOURE (EPP, FR) on amending the Rules of Procedure to take into account the changing relationships between the European Parliament and the institutions representing the national governments following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

By letter of 4 March 2011, the President of the European Parliament referred to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs a proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure following discussions held in the Conference of Presidents on 17 February 2011.

During those discussions, the Conference of Presidents pointed out that, following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, Parliament had become a co-legislator in the EU and that its powers were on a par with those of the Council in the ordinary legislative procedure and in the budget procedure. Given this new balance between the institutions, the Conference of Presidents took the view that there was no longer any need for Council Question Time to be included on the agenda every part-session, as is the case at the moment. The Conference of Presidents does, however, take the view that question hours with the President of the Commission, the Vice-President/High Representative and the President of the Eurogroup should continue to be an option.

Abolishing Council Question Time in its present form would reflect the shift in the institutional balance referred to by the Conference of Presidents. For the reasons set out above, however, it would be sensible to retain the option of putting questions to the Council – during a specific question hour – on matters relating to responsibilities other than those linked to the exercise of its legislative and budgetary functions.

Given these considerations, the Constitutional Affairs Committee proposes that Parliament should amend **Article 116 of its Rules** in the following way:

- Parliament and the Council have equal powers in the ordinary legislative procedure and in the budget procedure. Given the new balance between the institutions, **there is no longer any reason for the agenda to continue to include Council Question Time in its present form**.
- In view of the Council's other responsibilities, in particular its policy-making, coordinating and implementing functions, it ought to be possible for **specific question hours to be held with the Council**.

# EP Rules of Procedure: changes in Parliament’s relationship with the European Council and the Eurogroup following entry in force of the Lisbon Treaty

2011/2266(REG) - 29/03/2012 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a decision amending the Rules of Procedure to take into account the changing relationships between the European Parliament and the institutions representing the national governments following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon.

Parliament decided to amend Article 116 of its Rules of Procedure in the following way:

- Parliament and the Council have equal powers in the ordinary legislative procedure and in the budget procedure. Given the new balance between the institutions, there is no longer any reason for the agenda to continue to include Council Question Time in its present form.
- On the other hand, the amended Regulation retains the option of putting questions to the Council, **during a specific question hour**, on matters relating to responsibilities other than those linked to the exercise of its legislative and budgetary functions. These questions may relate to the exercise of its functions in defining, coordinating and implementing Union policies, or concern its powers relating to appointment procedures or the operation of the institutions, agencies and bodies of the European Union or a revision of the Treaties.