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The Interparliamentary European Security and Defence Assembly**

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**FIFTY-FIRST SESSION**

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Implementation of Decision 27 and Order 120:  
voting rights in committees for parliamentary delegations of  
permanent observer and affiliate permanent observer countries

**REPORT**

submitted on behalf of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges  
by Jean-Guy Branger, Chairman and Rapporteur (France, Federated Group)

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*Implementation of Decision 27 and Order 120: voting rights in committees  
for parliamentary delegations of permanent observer and affiliate permanent observer countries*

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted unanimously by the Committee on 12 May 2005.

## DECISION 29<sup>1</sup>

### *Implementation of Decision 27 and Order 120: voting rights in committees for parliamentary delegations of permanent observer and affiliate permanent observer countries*

The Assembly,

- (i) Considering Assembly Decision 27 on the European Security and Defence Policy following EU and NATO enlargement;
- (ii) Considering Assembly Decision 28 on the implementation of Decision 27: adoption of a set of provisional rules for the affiliate members and affiliate associate members of the Assembly;
- (iii) Considering Order 120 on European security policy fifty years after the signing of the modified Brussels Treaty - reply to the annual report of the Council,

#### DECIDES

Provisionally to suspend the application of Rule 17, paragraph 1 of the Rules of the Assembly and to include the following amendments in the set of Provisional Rules for the Affiliate Members and Affiliate Associate Members of the Assembly:

(a) to alter the title of the Provisional Rules to read: “Provisional Rules for the Affiliate Members, Affiliate Associate Members, Permanent Observer Members and Affiliate Permanent Observer Members of the Assembly;

(b) to add a new paragraph A.5 headed “Permanent observer members and Affiliate permanent observer members” to read:

“(i) Those EU member states which in accordance with the Maastricht Declaration of 10 December 1991 have chosen to become observers in WEU or which should have been given the chance to do so shall be represented at sessions of the Assembly by a delegation from their national parliaments whose number shall be equal to that provided for in Article 26 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, i.e.:

Austria	6
Cyprus (affiliate)	2
Denmark	5
Finland	5
Ireland	4
Malta (affiliate)	2
Sweden	6

These representatives shall be called “permanent observer members or affiliate permanent observer members” of the WEU Assembly.

(ii) Paragraphs (i) (a) to (e) and (ii) of Rule A2 shall also apply to the delegations of permanent observer members and affiliate permanent observer members.”

(c) to renumber all subsequent Articles;

(d) to reword old Article A.7 (iv) to read:

“(iv) Delegations of associate members, affiliate associate members, permanent observer members and affiliate permanent observer members shall participate without voting rights in the enlarged Standing Committee provided for in Rule 14 in accordance with the prerogatives deriving from their status. The number of seats allocated to associate

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted by the Assembly on 13 June 2005 at the 1<sup>st</sup> sitting.

members, affiliate associate members, permanent observer members and affiliate permanent observer members shall be as follows:

Austria	2
Bulgaria	2
Cyprus	1
Denmark	2
Finland	2
Iceland	1
Ireland	1
Malta	1
Norway	2
Romania	3
Sweden	2
Turkey	3”

(e) to reword old Article A.8 (iii) to read:

“(iii) The first and second of the committees shall be composed of 75 members with voting rights divided as follows: Austria (2); Belgium (3); Bulgaria (2); Cyprus (1); Czech Republic (3); Denmark (2); Estonia (1); Finland (2); France (5); Germany (5); Greece (3); Hungary (3); Iceland (1); Ireland (1); Italy (5); Latvia (1); Lithuania (1); Luxembourg (1); Malta (1); the Netherlands (3); Norway (2); Poland (4); Portugal (3); Romania (3); Slovak Republic (1); Slovenia (1); Spain (4); Sweden (2); Turkey (4); the United Kingdom (5), and of the President of the Assembly. The third, fourth, fifth and sixth committees shall be composed of 61 members with voting rights divided as follows: Austria (2); Belgium (2); Bulgaria (2); Cyprus (1); Czech Republic (2); Denmark (2); Estonia (1); Finland (2); France (4); Germany (4); Greece (2); Hungary (2); Iceland (1); Ireland (1); Italy (4); Latvia (1); Lithuania (1); Luxembourg (1); Malta (1); the Netherlands (2); Norway (2); Poland (3); Portugal (2); Romania (2); Slovak Republic (1); Slovenia (1); Spain (3); Sweden (2); Turkey (3); the United Kingdom (4), and of the President of the Assembly. The enlarged Presidential Committee may, during the periods between sessions or part-sessions, provisionally fill the seats which have fallen vacant in committees with representatives or substitutes. These appointments must be ratified at the first session of the Assembly. The secretaries of national delegations and of political groups shall take part in meetings of the Committee for Parliamentary and Public Relations without the right to vote.”

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

*submitted by Jean-Guy Branger, Chairman and Rapporteur (France, Federated Group)*

1. In Document [A/1872](#) entitled “Implementation of Decision 27: adoption of a set of provisional rules for the affiliate members and affiliate associate members of the Assembly” your Chairman and Rapporteur presented a series of measures designed to enhance the inclusive nature of the Assembly with respect to those countries which had recently joined the European Union and/or NATO.
2. These measures were voted unanimously as Decision 28 of the Assembly which adopted a set of provisional rules for the affiliate members and affiliate associate members of the Assembly.
3. Decision 27 (see Appendix I) also made reference to the possibility of granting voting rights in committees to parliamentary delegations of permanent observer countries.
4. Order 120 (see Appendix II) invited the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges “to draw up the necessary arrangements for granting the parliamentary delegations of Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Malta and Sweden voting rights in committees”.
5. In the explanatory memorandum to Document [A/1872](#), your Chairman and Rapporteur drew attention to the paradox whereby the governmental representatives of EU member states meet on an equal footing in an intergovernmental forum to address CFSP and ESDP issues while the same states do little to encourage their national parliamentarians to form an interparliamentary forum for the same issues.
6. In the few short months since the Assembly adopted Decisions 27, 28 and Order 120, a number of the Permanent Representatives who make up the Political and Security Committee in EU and who are double-hatted as members also of the WEU Permanent Council have expressed their doubts as to whether or not public opinion is able to keep up with the new and exciting developments which are now occurring at breakneck speed where ESDP is concerned. There is a growing awareness that the national parliamentarian is a key part of the information process: the representatives of certain of our countries are now going out of their way to be more than helpful to the Assembly’s Rapporteurs, for example, and have no reluctance to make sure that all the necessary information is made available in a timely fashion.
7. Amongst the Assembly’s delegations are five delegations whose countries decided in between 1992 and 1995 to become WEU Observers: Austria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland and Sweden.
8. Over the years parliamentarians from all five countries have taken part very assiduously in the work of the Assembly and its Committees. With the growing emphasis on “Petersberg tasks” firstly in WEU and now in the EU – tasks analogous to what this group of countries pioneered in a United Nations context – these states and their parliamentarians have brought a great deal of added value to the theory and practice of CFSP and ESDP.
9. In addition, with Denmark a full NATO member and the four others all members of NATO’s Partnership for Peace, very essential links between the EU and NATO have been developed in a positive direction.
10. In more recent years, because of the internal “national compromise”, Denmark has had to opt out of European defence structures and new initiatives, such as the European Defence Agency (in spite of being a founder member and first Chairman-in-Office of the Western European Armaments Group). Danish government representatives are however still present in bodies such as the Political and Security Committee, but Danish parliamentarians no longer participate regularly in any interparliamentary body dealing exclusively with European security and defence issues.
11. The President of the Assembly has assured the Speaker of the Folketing that whenever Denmark’s internal situation permits, Danish parliamentarians will be welcomed back to Paris with open arms.
12. Fortunately, the same situation does not apply to the other EU members in this category, whose parliamentary delegations contribute very positively to the ongoing debates on CFSP and ESDP.

13. Your Chairman and Rapporteur is therefore delighted to propose via the present draft decision that rules be established to formalise the opportunities for Austria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland and Sweden to establish full Observer delegations to the Assembly and to allow members of Observer delegations to vote in committee, ensuring that their views are more formally taken into account in the ongoing CFSP/ESDP debate.

14. In recent years, parliamentarians from both Cyprus and Malta have been regular participants in the activities of the Assembly. With the accession of Cyprus and Malta to the European Union it is more than timely to grant them affiliate observer status in the Assembly so that their parliamentarians may enjoy similar rights and privileges to those enjoyed by the other EU observer members.

15. Colleagues are urged to re-read Document [A/1872](#) and its appendices in this context and to lend their support to this present initiative which will further enhance the inclusive and transparent nature of the Assembly.

## APPENDIX I

### *Decision 27<sup>2</sup>*

#### *on the European Security and Defence Policy following EU and NATO enlargement*

The Assembly,

- (i) Recalling that eight of the new EU member states now fulfil the criteria laid down under the Maastricht Declaration, adopted by the WEU member states on 10 December 1991, for being invited to join WEU, with two meeting the criteria for becoming WEU observer countries and two of the new NATO member countries for becoming WEU associate members;
- (ii) Recalling the Council's reply of 1 October 2003 to Written Question 383, in which it confirms the full validity of the aforementioned Maastricht Declaration;
- (iii) Recalling that that Declaration is binding on WEU as a whole, and consequently also on the WEU Assembly;
- (iv) Desirous that the delegations of the national parliaments of the countries referred to should be allowed to benefit as quickly as possible from certain prerogatives that derive from the application of the principles of the WEU Declaration of 10 December 1991 in respect of their status in the Assembly, pending an initiative from the Council to implement the Declaration in respect of the countries concerned;
- (v) Recalling the wish expressed by certain parliamentary delegations of the countries concerned to take advantage of voting rights in the Assembly,

#### I. DECIDES:

1. To grant the parliamentary delegations of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia prerogatives in regard to voting rights similar to those of WEU member states;
2. To grant the parliamentary delegations of Bulgaria and Romania prerogatives in regard to voting rights similar to those of WEU associate member states;
3. To grant the parliamentary delegations of Cyprus and Malta prerogatives similar to those of the delegations benefiting from permanent observer status;
4. To study the possibility of granting voting rights in committees to parliamentary delegations of permanent observer countries;
5. To grant the parliamentary delegation of Croatia prerogatives similar to those of the delegations benefiting from associate partner status,

#### II. INVITES:

6. (a) its Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges to examine the effects of the present Decision on the Assembly's Charter and Rules of Procedure  
(b) its Committee on Budgetary Affairs and Administration to examine the budget and administrative implications of the present Decision

so that it can enter into force at the latest by the second part of the fiftieth session.

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<sup>2</sup> Adopted unanimously by the Assembly on 4 June 2004 (5<sup>th</sup> sitting).



**APPENDIX II*****Order 120<sup>3</sup>******on European security policy fifty years after the signing of the modified Brussels Treaty – reply to the annual report of the Council***

The Assembly,

- (i) Recalling Decision 27 to study the possibility of granting voting rights in committees to parliamentary delegations of observer countries;
- (ii) Considering that when the Amsterdam Treaty was signed, the WEU member states undertook, in their Declaration of 22 July 1997, to develop the rights of observer countries like Austria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland and Sweden so as to enable them to participate fully and on an equal footing in WEU planning and decision-taking for operations to which they contributed and to strengthen their participation in WEU's activities;
- (iii) Recalling that since the entry into force of the Nice Treaty, all the abovementioned WEU observer countries except Denmark have been participating fully in all ESDP activities that the EU inherited from WEU;
- (iv) Considering that since 1 May 2004, Cyprus and Malta have been members of the European Union and that with Decision 27, the Assembly granted the parliamentary delegations of those two countries prerogatives similar to those of delegations with a permanent observer status;
- (v) Recalling that with the exception of Denmark, none of the abovementioned countries is a member of the Atlantic Alliance and hence able to participate in the collective defence efforts;
- (vi) Convinced that it is desirable to strengthen the possibilities for participation by the parliamentary delegations of the countries concerned in the Assembly's activities in all areas of the ESDP;
- (vii) Considering that granting those delegations voting rights in committees is an essential and appropriate way of taking better account of their views in the Assembly's work,

**INVITES THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES**

To draw up the necessary arrangements for granting the parliamentary delegations of Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Malta and Sweden voting rights in committees.

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<sup>3</sup> Adopted unanimously by the Assembly on 29 November 2004 (6<sup>th</sup> sitting).



