



THESSISMUN 2007

THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Rules of Procedure of the Council of Ministers of the European Union



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1. General considerations

1.1. Scope.

The following rules apply to the ThessIS Model United Nations Conference. Please note that the Board is responsible for determining the rules that are in order to facilitate debate and discussion. In case of conflict of interpretation, the President is the final authority for determining the applicability of the Rules of Procedure.

1.2. Language.

English is the official language of ThessIS MUN. A Delegate wishing to speak in an official language where simultaneous interpretation is not provided will be required to provide his or her own translation. Please note that time spent in translation will be counted towards total time allotted for a given speech.

1.3. Diplomatic Courtesy.

During Council sessions, delegates are expected to exercise diplomatic courtesy when addressing members of the Council and the Board. The Board has the authority to address diplomatic warnings to delegates who obviously violate the diplomatic courtesy. In case that the delegate's conduct seriously hampers the process within the council, the President reserves the right to request his expulsion from the conference room.

1.4. Statements by the Secretariat.

Any member of the ThessIS MUN Secretariat may issue verbal or written statements to the Council at any time during the Conference.

2. The Board of the Council

2.1. Composition.

The Board of the Council of Ministers of the European Union will be composed of the President of the Council, a member of the European Commission and the Secretary General of the Council.

2.2. Presidency

The Presidency of the Council of the European Union is held in rotate by each member state. The Council is presided for a period of six months (from January to June, and from July to December) by each member state in turn, in accordance with a pre-established rota.

From January to July 2007 the Presidency of the European Union is held by Germany.



2.3. Competence of the Board.

The competence of the Board may not be questioned by the delegates.

2.3. Authorities and Responsibilities.

2.3.1. Authority of the President.

The President shall exercise ultimate authority over his/her Council proceeding in an equitable and objective manner.

2.3.2. Responsibilities of the President.

The President is responsible for all procedural matters pertaining to the council, including, but not limited to, moderating debate, determining the applicability of the rules and if necessary, clarifying on the meaning of the existing rules without approval from the council.

2.3.3. Authority of the Commissioner.

The Commissioner shall have the authority to express the Commission's view on the issue under discussion by the Council. He/she reserves the right to express his/her view by verbal or written statements, whenever this is deemed necessary.

2.3.4. Responsibilities of the Commissioner.

The Commissioner has the responsibility to help the Council by issuing proposals for the matter under discussion. He/she is responsible for facilitating the debate procedure, in full cooperation with the President of the Council.

2.3.5. Authority of the Secretary General

The Secretary General can either take the floor, as any other delegate, in order to promote his/her opinion or clarify the policy lines of the member states, or issue verbal and/or written statements addressed to the Council, at any time.

2.3.6. Responsibilities of the Secretary General

The Secretary General of the Council is, at the same time, the High Representative of the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union. It is within his/her responsibilities to assist in the policy planning of the Union. The Secretary General has the duty to make remarks when a member state is out of line at any given discussion.

2.4. Caucus of the Board.



The Board reserves the right to halt the working process within the Council in order to take 30 seconds of Caucus.

3. Delegations

3.1. Members

The ministers of the member states meet within the Council of the European Union. Depending on the issue on the agenda, each country will be represented by the minister responsible for that subject (foreign affairs, finance, social affairs, transport, agriculture, etc.).

3.2. Non-Council Members

When an issue before the Council involves a non-E.U. state or observer, the Chairpersons reserve the right to invite the delegation to be present during Council sessions in which the issue is being discussed.

3.2.1. Debating Privileges

A non-Council member is given debating rights. This will allow the delegation to be recognized by the President during debate, to submit draft resolutions or amendments, but not to move these to the floor or vote at any time.

4. Parliamentary procedure

4.1. Roll Call.

Attendance shall be conducted by the President by a Roll Call at the beginning of every session. Delegates shall establish their presence in the Council by raising their placards and declaring "*Present*".

4.2. Procedural Matters.

Procedural matters are those matters relating to the structure of the Council session as defined in the Rules of Procedure of the ThessIS MUN. They include, but are not limited to, establishing speaking time, motions and adjournment of the council session. All delegates must vote on procedural matters and no delegate may abstain. Roll Call vote is not in order for procedural matters.

4.3. Substantive Matters.



Substantive matters are defined as those matters relating to the specific topic at hand. Delegates that have established their presence at the initial Role Call shall act accordingly. Roll Call vote on substantive matters is in order following voting procedure as set in section 13.1.

4.3.1. Decision Making Process

There are two forms of resolutions in the Council of Ministers: the Common Position and the Intergovernmental Decision.

4.3.1.1. Common Position

If the issue under discussion pertains to the First Pillar of the E.U.¹, the Council has to reach a Common Position through the process of the Q.M.V. (section 6.3.). The Common Position is drafted by the European Commission.

4.3.1.2. Intergovernmental Decision

If the issue under discussion pertains to the Second and the Third Pillar of the E.U., the Council has to reach a Common Position through the process of Unanimity (section 6.4.).

5. Quorum

Council activities and debate shall start when at least twenty (22) of the 27 member states are present. If quorum is not met thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled start time of the Council

¹ The Treaty of Maastricht which established the European Union, divided EU policies into three main areas, called **pillars**:

1. The first or "Community" pillar concerns economic, social and environmental policies.
2. The second or "Common Foreign and Security Policy" (CFSP) pillar concerns foreign policy and military matters.
3. The third or "Police and Judicial Co-operation in Criminal Matters" (PJCC) pillar concerns co-operation in the fight against crime. This pillar was originally named "Justice and Home Affairs".

Within each pillar, a different balance is struck between the supranational and intergovernmental principles.

Supranationalism is strongest in the first pillar. Its function generally corresponded at first to the three European Communities (European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), European Economic Community (EEC) and Euratom) whose organizational structure had already been unified in the 1960s through the Merger Treaty. Later, through the Treaty of Maastricht the word "Economic" was removed from the EEC, so it became simply the EC. Then with the Treaty of Amsterdam additional areas would be transferred from the third pillar to the first. In 2002, the ECSC ceased to exist because the treaty which established it, the Treaty of Paris, had expired.

In the CFSP and PJCC pillars the powers of the European Parliament, the Commission and the European Court of Justice with respect to the Council are significantly limited, without however being altogether eliminated. The balance struck in the first pillar is frequently referred to as the "community method", since it is that used by the European Community.



session, the Council shall start its session with the number of delegates already present, unless otherwise instructed by ThessIS MUN Secretariat. Quorum shall be assumed when Council activity begins.

5.1. Verification of Quorum.

Delegates may move to the Verification of Quorum, where the President will proceed with Quorum confirmation by initiating a Roll Call. The President can rule the Motion dilatory without option for appeal.

6. Majority

Unless otherwise specified, no motions are debatable and all require a simple majority vote to pass.

6.1. Simple Majority.

A procedural or substantive matter requiring a simple majority to pass implies that fifty percent plus one vote (50% + 1) of the Council must vote in favour of the matter to pass. If the vote is a tie, the matter will be considered to have failed.

6.2. Two-thirds (2/3) Majority.

A procedural or substantive matter requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority to pass implies that two-thirds (2/3) of the Council (18) must vote in favour for a matter to pass.

6.3. Qualified Majority Vote (QMV)

Qualified Majority Vote is the process of adopting a Common Position. A qualified majority shall be reached if the following three conditions are met:

- A. If a minimum of 255 (out of 345) votes is cast in favour of the proposal (73,9% of the total),
- B. If the majority of the member states (50% +1, that is 14 member – states) support the Common Position, and
- C. In addition, a member state may ask for confirmation that the votes in favour represent at least 62% of the total population of the Union.

If those are found not to be the case, the decision will not be adopted.

6.4. Unanimity

Unanimity is needed in order to reach decisions in intergovernmental matters (e.g. Common Foreign and Security Policy). Each member state has one vote. Abstentions are permissible and do not count against unanimity.



7. Debate

7.1. Form of Debate

Unless the President decides otherwise, **moderated caucus** will be the form of debate during all sessions of the European Council. Any delegate wishing to speak should raise his/her placard and be recognized by the President.

7.2. Informal Debate.

During formal debate a motion can be made by any delegate for an Unmoderated Caucus, which constitutes informal debate. Informal debate can only occur on substantive issues and is out of order once a motion to close debate has passed. Motion to enter informal debate is in order, following the procedures outlined in sections 10.3 and 10.4.

7.3. Recognition.

A Delegate may only address the Council if he/she has received permission from the President.

7.4. Interruptions.

A Speaker may not be interrupted by another delegate, unless the delegate has risen to a Point of Personal Privilege or a Point of Order.

8. Speeches

8.1. Motion to Set Speaking Time.

A Delegate may move to set a time limit on speeches. The President may either rule the Motion dilatory at his/her discretion or put it to vote. A Delegate exceeding the allotted time for a speech may be called to order by the President.

9. Points

9.1. Point of Personal Privilege.

A Delegate may rise to a Point of Personal Privilege if a matter impairs him/her from participating fully in Council activities. The President shall try to effectively address the source of impairment. This point may interrupt a Speaker.

9.2. Point of Order.



A Delegate may rise to a Point of Order if a rule of procedure is not properly observed by a Delegate or by the Board. The President will rule on the validity of the point. A Delegate rising to a Point of Order may not comment on the topic of discussion. A Point of Order ruled dilatory by the President may not be appealed. This point may interrupt a Speaker.

9.3. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry.

A Delegate may rise to a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry to request an explanation on the Rules of Procedure by the President. This point may not interrupt a Speaker.

9.4. Right of Reply.

A Delegate whose personal or national integrity has been impugned by another Delegate's comments may rise to a Right of Reply. Disagreement with the content of a Delegate's speech is not grounds for a Right of Reply. The President will recognize the Right of Reply at his/her discretion. Should the President rule the Right of Reply out of order, his/her decision cannot be appealed. The President might choose to set a time limit for a Right of Reply.

10. Motions

10.1. Motion for the Adjournment of the Meeting.

A Delegate may move for the Adjournment of the meeting to suspend all Council activities until the next scheduled meeting time. The President may rule the Motion out of order without possibility of appeal or put it to vote.

10.2. Motion for the Adjournment of the Session.

A Delegate may move for the Adjournment of the Session to suspend all Council activities for the duration of the conference. The President may rule the Motion out of order without possibility of appeal or put it to vote. In the event that the President approves this, there should be two (2) speakers for and two (2) speakers against and the motion will require a two-thirds (2/3) majority to pass.

10.3. Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus.

A Delegate may move for an Unmoderated Caucus, thereby suggesting a change from formal to informal debate. The Delegate who makes this motion must suggest a length and justification for the Unmoderated Caucus. The President may suggest a more appropriate caucus length and put it to vote or may rule the Unmoderated Caucus out of order without possibility of appeal. Once the Motion has passed, the Delegates will carry an informal discussion on the topic specified in the Motion without leaving the conference room.



10.4. Motion to Extend the Unmoderated Caucus.

A Delegate may move to extend the Unmoderated Caucus if he/she feels that additional time would benefit the work of the Council. The Delegate who moves for an extension of Unmoderated Caucus must suggest a length for the extension, which shall not exceed the duration of the original Unmoderated Caucus. The President may suggest a more appropriate caucus length and put it to vote or may rule the Extension of the Unmoderated Caucus out of order without the possibility of appeal.

10.5. Motion to Table Debate on a Topic.

A Delegate may move to Table Debate in order to end debate on a substantive issue without voting any Draft Common Positions that may be on the floor. If the President rules the Motion in order, two (2) Delegates shall speak in favour and two (2) Delegates shall speak against before proceeding with a vote. A 2/3 majority is needed in order to table the debate.

10.6. Motion to Close Debate on a Draft Common Position or Intergovernmental Decision

A Delegate may move to Close Debate in order to end debate on a draft Common Position or Intergovernmental Decision, whereby the Council will enter voting procedure on all amendments on the floor. If the President rules the Motion in order, there will be only two (2) Delegates speaking against the Motion. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote is required to pass the Motion to close debate.

10.7. Motion to Close Debate on the Topic Area under Discussion.

A Delegate may move to Close Debate in order to end Debate on the Topic Area under Discussion whereby the Council will enter voting procedure on all Draft Resolutions on the floor. If the President rules the Motion in order, there will be only two (2) Delegates speaking against the Motion. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote is required to pass the Motion to close debate.

11. Common Position or Intergovernmental Decision and Amendments

11.1. Working Paper.

A Working Paper is an informal document used by Council Delegates to work on building a draft Common Position or Intergovernmental Decision. A Working Paper will be distributed at the President's discretion if requested by a Delegate.



11.2. Common Position or Intergovernmental Decision

11.2.1. Format.

Draft Common Positions or Intergovernmental Decisions must be properly formatted according to the guidelines found in the “ThessISMUN Common Position or Intergovernmental Decision Writing Guidelines” paper.

11.2.2. Sponsor.

The main writer of the draft Common Position is the European Commission. The main writer of the draft Intergovernmental Decision is recognized as the Sponsor. The Sponsor must be present for a draft Intergovernmental Decision to be introduced to the floor. The Sponsor must agree to support an Intergovernmental Decision, unless major changes have been introduced through the amendment process.

11.2.3. Introduction of a Draft Common Position or Intergovernmental Decision.

The Commissioner may move to introduce a Draft Common Position. Delegates may move to introduce an Intergovernmental Decision once it has been approved and assigned a number by the President and distributed to the Council. The introduction of an Intergovernmental Decision shall be procedural in nature. The content of the introduction shall be limited to the reading of the draft Common Position or Intergovernmental Decision as a whole where upon the Commissioner / Sponsor of the Draft Common Position / Intergovernmental Decision shall be granted the floor for the allotted time limit.

11.3. Amendments.

During Debate on a draft Common Position or Intergovernmental Decision, a Delegate may move to introduce an Amendment, which will add to, strike out from or modify a part of the draft Common Position or Intergovernmental Decision. The Amendment has to be first approved by the President.

11.3.1. Non Substantive Amendments.

Amendments correcting grammatical, spelling or formatting mistakes will be automatically adopted without vote from the Council, at the discretion of the President. Following the initial reading of the draft Common Position by the Commissioner or the draft Intergovernmental Decision by its sponsor, delegates are permitted to point out any such problems to the President.

11.3.2. Substantive Amendments.



All Amendments require approval from the President to be introduced. Amendments will be put to a vote prior to the vote on the Common Position or Intergovernmental Decision as a whole. Amendments to Amendments are out of order.

The President reserves the right to assign one (1) speaker for and one (1) speaker against an Amendment on a Common Position.

Due to the nature of the Intergovernmental Decision all amendments to it must be unanimously voted.

11.4. Withdrawal.

The Signatories of an Amendment may request its withdrawal at their discretion, before its adoption by the Council.

12. Voting Procedure

12.1. General

The Council usually reaches decisions by allowing discussions to continue until a consensus is reached. In the event of a stalemate, the Council may make use of a *tour de table* (see rule 12.2. below). If a voting procedure is deemed necessary, it shall take one of the two following formats.

12.1.1. Unanimity

For the decision process demanding Unanimity, refer to rule 6.4. above.

12.1.2. Qualified Majority Vote (Q.M.V.)

For the decision process demanding Q.M.V., refer to rule 6.3. above.

12.2. Tour de table

Tour de Table shall be conducted at the discretion of the President. The President requests each delegate to give a short summary of his/her thinking on the matter under discussion, thus ensuring that every member state is able to outline his or her position and allowing the President to determine whether a compromise is possible.

12.3. Procedure



When the President announces that the Council is entering voting procedure, no entering or exiting from the room will be permitted, unless there is an emergency or until voting procedure has come to an end. At this time, Motion for a Roll Call Vote is in order.

13. Method of Voting

Each Delegate of the Council has one vote and must demonstrate his/her voting intentions by raising his/her placard at the President's request unless there is a Roll Call Vote (see rule 13.1). Delegates must vote in favour, against or abstain.

13.1. Roll Call Vote.

Roll Call Vote may only be in order for substantive matters. This Motion is automatically accepted unless the President rules it out of order; the decision is not subject to appeal. The Roll Call starts from a delegate randomly selected by the President.

13.2. Passing.

During Roll Call, a Delegate may choose to pass. The President will place the Delegate at the bottom of the voting list. A Delegate who has passed once during a voting sequence may not pass again but must ascertain his vote.

13.3. Voting with Rights.

A Delegate may request a right of explanation after voting. Upon completion of voting, the Delegate will be permitted to explain the reasons as to why he/she has chosen to vote a certain way. The President may limit the speaking time at his/her discretion.

13.4. Voting on Draft Common Positions or Intergovernmental Decisions.

Draft Common Positions or Intergovernmental Decisions will be voted on, in the order that they were numbered by the President. The result of the voting procedure is defined by the process outlined in sections 6.4. (Unanimity) and 6.3. (Q.M.V.).

13.5. Voting on Amendments.

All Amendments shall be voted on in the order in which they were proposed before the Council closes debate on the Common Position or Intergovernmental Decision that they concern. If one Amendment implies the rejection of a second Amendment, the second Amendment will not be voted upon. A passed Amendment shall be automatically included in the Common Position or Intergovernmental Decision. Once all the Amendments relating to



a Common Position or Intergovernmental Decision have been voted on, the Council shall vote on the Common Position or Intergovernmental Decision as a whole after Closure of the Debate on the Topic Area under Discussion.

14. Precedence Motions shall be considered in the following decreasing order.

Rule	Description	Debatable	Votes Required	Interrupt Speaker
9.1. Point of Personal Privilege	Feeling discomfort	No	No	Yes
9.2. Point of Order	To point out a misuse of rules	No	No	Yes
9.4. Right of Reply	Reply to an insult	No	No	No
9.3. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry	Clarify the rules	No	No	No
Motion to Set Speaking Time	Define speaking time limit	No	Simple Majority	No
10.2. Motion to Adjourn Session	Adjourn until next year	Yes (2+/2-)	2/3 Majority	No
10.1. Motion to Adjourn Meeting	Adjourn until next scheduled meeting	No	Simple Majority	No
10.3. Motion for Unmoderated Caucus	Proceed to an Unmoderated Caucus	No	Simple Majority	No
5.1. Motion for the Verification of Quorum	Seeking to verify the presence of delegates	No	No	No
10.7. Motion to Close Debate on the Topic Area under Discussion	Close debate on the Topic Area	Yes (2-)	2/3 Majority	No
10.6. Motion to Close Debate on a Common Position or Intergovernmental Decision	Close the separate debate on a Common Position	Yes (2-)	2/3 Majority	No
10.5. Motion to Table Debate	Postpone debate	Yes (2+/2-)	2/3 Majority	No
11.2.3. Motion to introduce a draft Common Position or Intergovernmental Decision	Introduction of a draft Common Position	No	Simple Majority	No
11.3. Motion to Introduce an Amendment	Introduction of an Amendment	No	Simple Majority	No