



THESSISMUN 2008

THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament



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THESSALONIKI, GREECE

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CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

The Political Groups

Members do not sit in their national delegations but according to their political affinities. The political groups hold three sessions during ThessISMUN 2008. The European political parties are important in that they form a European awareness and express the political view of the citizens of the Union.

Legislative Procedure

In ThessISMUN 2008 both topics fall under the intergovernmental procedure and require the formation of a 'Communication of the Parliament'.

ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Political Party Groups

The first two sessions of the European Parliament will be under Political Party Groups formation. The parties try to reconcile on the common view regarding the topics on the agenda whose order was determined during the plenary session.

The objective of these sessions is not only to establish a common attitude on the subjects which all members of the same political affinity are compelled to follow during the committee sessions, but also to let members of the same political affinity who will be working in the same committee to get to know each other.

During the sessions, each political party will try to determine the main principles of their policy regarding each subject to be discussed during the committee sessions. These principles shall be pronounced by a written declaration whose format is similar to that of a Working Paper and thus informal.

By the end of the second session each political party must adopt its own "Common Policy Guidelines". The adoption of this document requires a simple majority to pass.

During this meeting, each political party will meet in separate rooms. Each meeting will be presided by a chair, who will also serve as the president of the political party. The chair will have the sole and final power to open and close the session, recognize speakers, place limits on floor timers, control discussion and debate. Doing this, he is bound with the General Rules of Procedure for the European Parliament.

Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament



Parliament Committee Sessions

The meeting held by the political groups is followed by a sequence of committee sessions.

The President of the committee to which a Commission proposal has been referred shall propose the committee which one of the legislation procedures shall be followed.

In ThessISMUN 2008, in all two cases the committee prepares a Committee Report. This draft intergovernmental decision is adopted by **unanimity**.

PLENARY SESSION

All political parties re-gather in order to discuss the agenda drawn up by the president of the European Parliament. The agenda consists of the draft intergovernmental decisions that the committees have adopted during the Committee sessions. The order in which the draft Committee Reports will be taken into consideration is determined by the President.

The President of the European Parliament recognizes speakers who want to speak for and against the draft Committee Report. Doing this the President tries to hear as many speakers as possible from different political affinities.

Each political party is required to make a closing statement of 2 minutes on each of the draft 'Resolutions of the Parliament'.

Members shall cast their votes individually and in person. The decision is taken by **absolute majority**.



1. General considerations

1.1. Scope.

The following rules apply to the ThessIS Model United Nations Conference. Please note that in all committees, the board is responsible for determining rules that are in order to facilitate debate and discussion. In case of conflict of interpretation, the Committee President has 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. Credentials.

The ThessIS MUN secretariat has accepted the credentials of delegates or observers prior to the opening of the conference. Representatives must wear approved credentials all times during the conference.

1.4. Dress Code.

In accordance with the delegate's diplomatic status a formal dress code is required. For male delegates a tie is obligatory and for female no revealing outfits are allowed. Informal clothing, such as jeans and trainers, also traditional or religious outfits are out of order. The secretariat reserves the right to expel a delegate due to his or her dress code.

1.5. Diplomatic Courtesy.

During committee session, delegates are expected to exercise diplomatic courtesy when addressing members of the committee and the Board. The President 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 committee, the President reserves the right to request his expulsion from the conference room.

1.6. Statements by the Secretariat.

Any member of the Secretariat may make verbal or written statements to a committee at any time during the Conference.



2. ThessISMUN Board

2.1. Chairpersons.

The Board of the European Parliament Committees shall be composed of a President, a vice-President and a member of the European Commission. The Board of the European Parliament shall be composed of the President of the European Parliament and a member of the European Commission.

2.2. Competence of the Board.

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

2.3. Chairpersons: Authorities and Responsibilities.

2.3.1. Authority of the President.

The President shall exercise ultimate authority over his/ her respective committee proceeding in an equitable and objective manner. They also reserve the right to propose a motion at any given time which should be seconded by a delegate and given that there are no objections.

2.3.2. Responsibilities of the President.

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

2.3.3. Authority of the vice- President.

The vice- President shall have authority over all committee support staff and ensure that delegates are accurately representing the position of their countries with respect to substantive issues and topics.

2.3.4. Responsibilities of the vice- President.

The vice- President shall also be responsible for ensuring relevancy of the content and format of the resolutions before their submission for verification. The vice- President shall also assist the President with all committee proceeding matters.

2.3.5. Authority of the Commissioner.

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

Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament



2.3.6. Responsibilities of the Commissioner.

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

2.4. Caucus of the Board.

The Chairpersons reserve the right to halt the working process within the committee in order to take 30 seconds of Caucus.

3. Parliamentary procedure

3.1. Roll Call.

Attendance shall be conducted by the Board by a Roll Call at the beginning of every committee session. Delegates shall establish their presence in the committee by raising their placards and declaring ‘*Present*’.

3.2. Procedural Matters.

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

3.3. 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 Roll Call shall act accordingly. Roll Call vote on substantive matters is in order following voting procedure.

3.4.1. Decision Making Process- Intergovernmental Decision

In ThessISMUN 2008 both issues pertain to the second pillar of the EU, therefore the intergovernmental decision making process will be followed. The European Parliament Committees have to follow the process of Unanimity.



4. Delegations' Rights

4.1. Permission to Approach the Bench.

Any delegate wishing to contact the Board for a very delicate matter may ask for permission to approach the Bench. This is a last resort in case of *emergency*.

5. Quorum

Committee activities and debate shall start when at least one quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the delegates are present which will be verified through roll-call that will be carried out by the Board. If quorum is not met thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled start time of the committee session, the committee shall start its session with the number of delegates already present, unless otherwise instructed by ThessISMUN Secretariat. Quorum shall be assumed when committee activity begins. The total number of delegates will be determined by the attendance list from the most recent committee session. If quorum is in question in the first committee session, the list of delegations expected to attend will serve to determine the total number of delegates in attendance.

5.1. Verification of Quorum.

Delegates may move to Verification of Quorum, where the Board 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. Absolute Majority.

A procedural or substantive matter requiring a simple majority to pass implies that fifty percent plus one vote ($50\% + 1$) of the Committee 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 ($\frac{2}{3}$) Majority.

A procedural or substantive matter requiring a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority to pass implies that two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the Committee must vote in favour for a matter to pass.



6.3. Unanimity

Unanimity is needed in order to reach decisions in intergovernmental matters (e.g. Common Foreign and Security Policy). Each delegate 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 Parliament Committees. 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

7.3. Recognition.

A Delegate may only address the Committee 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.

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.

8.2. Relevance of Speech.

The President may call a Delegate to order if his/her speech is not relevant to the subject matter being discussed.



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 committee activities. The Board shall try to effectively address the source of impairment. This point may interrupt a Speaker only due to inability.

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 not interrupt a Speaker.

9.3. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry.

A Delegate may rise to a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry requesting an explanation from the President on the Rules of Procedure. 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 as well as decide on how to resolve the motion. This point may not interrupt a speaker but should be addressed the moment he/she will has finished his/her speech. Should the President rule the Right of Reply out of order, his/her decision cannot be appealed. No delegate may call for a Right of Reply on 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 committee 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 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 committee will carry an informal discussion on the topic specified in the Motion without leaving the conference room.

10.3. 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 committee. 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.

10.4. Motion to Close Debate on a draft Committee Report.

A Delegate may move to Close Debate in order to end debate on a draft Committee Report whereby the committee will enter immediate voting procedure on all amendments on the floor. If the President rules the Motion in order, there will be only one (1) Delegate speaking against the Motion. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote is required to pass the Motion to close debate.

10.5. 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 committee will enter voting procedure on all Draft Committee Reports on the floor. If the President rules the Motion in order, there will be only one (1) Delegate speaking against the Motion. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote is required to pass the Motion to close debate.



11. Draft Committee Report and Amendments

11.1. Working Paper.

A Working Paper is an informal document used by Committee Delegates to work on building a draft Committee Report. A Working Paper will be distributed at the President's discretion if requested by a Delegate.

11.2. Committee Report and Resolution of the Parliament

11.2.1. Format.

Committee Reports and Resolutions of the Parliament must be properly formatted according to the guidelines found in the "ThessISMUN Resolution Writing Guidelines" paper.

11.2.2. Sponsor.

The main writer of the draft Committee Report is recognized as the Sponsor. The Sponsor must be present for a draft Committee Report to be introduced to the floor. The Sponsor must agree to support a Committee Report, unless major changes have been introduced through the amendment process.

11.2.3. Introduction of a Draft Committee Report.

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

11.3. Amendments.

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

No amendments to the Committee Reports shall be made during the Closing Session.

11.3.1. Non Substantive Amendements.

Amendments correcting grammatical, spelling or formatting mistakes will be automatically adopted without vote from the Committee, at the discretion of the President. Following the



initial reading of the draft Committee Report 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 Committee Report as a whole. Amendments to Amendments are out of order.

Due to the nature of the Intergovernmental Decision making process 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 Committee.

12. Voting Procedure

12.1. Unanimity

The Committees reaches decisions unanimously.

For the decision process demanding Unanimity, refer to rule 6.3. above.

12.1.1. Closing Session

At the closing session an absolute majority is needed in order for a Committee Report to pass and adopt a 'Resolution of the Parliament'.

12.2. Procedure

When the President announces that the Committee 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 Committee 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. 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 Committee Reports.

Draft Committee Reports 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 the above sections. (Unanimity).

13.5. Voting on Amendments.

All Amendments shall be voted on in the order in which they were proposed before the Committee closes debate on the Committee Report 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 Committee Report. Once all the Amendments relating to a Committee Report have been voted on, the Committee shall vote on the Committee Report 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.

Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament



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	No
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
10.1. Motion to Adjourn Meeting	Adjourn until next scheduled meeting	No	Simple Majority	No
10.2. 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
10.5. Motion to Close Debate on the Topic Area under Discussion	Close debate on the Topic Area	Yes (2-)	2/3 Majority	No
10.4. Motion to Close Debate on a Committee Report	Close the separate debate on a Common Position	Yes (2-)	2/3 Majority	No
11.2.3. Motion to introduce a draft Committee Report	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