

RULES OF PROCEDURE

2008 EUROPEAN SUMMIT

Rule 1. Language. English is the official language of the 2008 European Summit. If another language is used in speech or writing, an English translation must be provided.

Rule 2. Attire. Delegates are required to wear Western business attire during all meetings.

Rule 3. Conduct. Delegates must show courtesy and respect to all staff and delegates. Delegates must be attentive to those who hold the floor and must maintain decorum during all sessions of the European Summit, including refraining from the use of vulgarity during all meetings. The Chair shall immediately call to order all delegates who fail to comply with this rule.

Rule 4. Summit. This is a meeting of the European Council, which gathers the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the European Union and the President of the European Commission. Each Member State is represented by a double delegation composed of the leader of the country and the foreign minister. Each member state delegation has one vote. The President of the European Commission has no right to vote.

The European Council has no formal or legislative powers, but its decisions are important in defining general political guidelines and policy agenda of the European Union. The European Council has the power to amend Treaties, act in crisis situations and resolve disagreements between Member States.

Rule 5. Committee Chair. For the purposes of this simulation, the Chair of the European Summit is the non-voting President of the European Commission. Accordingly, the Member State currently holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union does not chair this European Summit, nor does he or she gain any special privileges in voting or setting the agenda as a result of the Presidency.

The Chair shall open and close each session, direct debate, grant the right to speak, put questions, announce decisions on points of order, and ensure and enforce observance of these rules of procedure.

Rule 6. Time Scale. Unless otherwise specified each actual hour of the committee is equivalent to an hour for the crisis. Each night between committee sessions is equivalent to a week for the crisis.

Rule 7. Quorum. The European Summit session may begin when at least half of the delegations are present. The presence of a quorum shall be assumed unless specifically challenged. Any delegation may call for quorum if its presence is in doubt, at which point a placard count of delegations is taken. A roll call is required to determine the presence of a quorum.

Rule 8. Roll Call. At the beginning of the session the Chair will take a roll call of all delegations. Delegates arriving late should send a written note to the Chair.

Rule 9. Agenda. The European Summit has no set agenda. Thus there will be no debate on setting the agenda. Discussion may flow freely between topics without a formal vote.

Rule 10. Debate. The European Summit will run as a continuous moderated caucus. Delegates who raise their placards will be selected to speak at the discretion of the Chair following standard moderated caucus procedure. There will be no yields or comments. The Dais will maintain a speaking list at an as-needed basis.

Rule 11. Speaking Time. The Chair will make the final determination of speaking time. The Chair may set no limit on speaking time or a limit as low as thirty seconds, at her discretion.

Rule 12. Unmoderated Caucus. If a delegate believes that a break from formal debate is necessary, he or she may motion for an unmoderated caucus of a specific length of time, during which regular debate will be suspended. Unmoderated caucuses are held at the discretion of the Chair, but she will keep in mind the interest of the European Council members. Computers may be used in the room during unmoderated caucus, but the delegates are asked to shut down their computers and concentrate on the proceedings during formal debate.

Rule 13. Committee Documents. There are several documents that facilitate action by the European Council to define the policy agenda of the European Union. The European Council may issue guidelines, declarations, resolutions and presidency conclusions.

- a) **Resolutions** express the views of the Heads of State or Government on a specific point and are not legally binding. These documents must have at least five sponsors and shall be passed by a simple majority voting. Although these documents are not legally binding, they are thought to express the views of the European Council and will immediately be released to the public. As the Council consists of the Heads of State of the European Union, the view it expresses is indubitably influential on the European public.
- b) **Presidency conclusions** are passed at the end of the European Summit and contain binding decisions agreed upon by the entire European Council. Presidency conclusions are also made in resolution format.
- c) **Introducing a Document:** All documents must be first submitted to the dais for approval. If approved, the Chair will read the document aloud to the committee, or if the document is too long for that to be feasible, a few copies will be printed for the delegates' perusal. The committee will then vote on whether it wishes to introduce the document into debate. Executive Directives require a simple majority to be discussed. If a directive does not receive a simple majority, then the document will be returned to the authors
- d) **Motion to Vote:** After the Chair deems that sufficient discussion has taken place concerning an amendment (see Rule 14) or a resolution, the Chair will entertain a motion to vote on said directive. The Chair will then call on two speakers for and two speakers against enacting the directive. After these speakers, the delegates will vote by raising their placards unless otherwise requested. All delegates present are required to vote. Votes allowed include yes, no or abstain. Presidency conclusions are not voted on during formal debate (see Rule 13e and 13f below).
- e) **Motion to Close Debate:** As the European Summit draws to a close, the chair will entertain a motion to close debate and move into voting procedure. At this time, the chair

will entertain two speakers against closing debate. Once debate has been closed, the doors are barred, and the committee has formally moved into voting procedure on the Presidency Conclusions on the table.

- f) **Voting on Presidency Conclusions:** Presidency Conclusions will be voted on in the order that they were introduced, unless a **Motion to Reorder the Conclusions** is made. This Motion should be stated clearly and succinctly, and requires a simple majority to pass. Presidency Conclusions cannot be further amended in voting procedure, but there may be a **Motion to Divide the Question** to vote on separate parts of the Conclusions separately. This motion will only be entertained at the discretion of the Chair, and will require a two-thirds majority to pass. All other motions will be ruled dilatory during voting procedure, but the usual points (see Rule 16) will still be entertained. For the purpose of this simulation formal votes will be taken and binding decisions will not be made through consensus. However, as the decisions made by the European Council are binding, Presidency Conclusions will require a two-thirds majority of the Council to vote in favor. Votes will be made by roll call in alphabetical order by Member State. Member States can vote one of three ways: “Yes,” “No,” or “Abstain.” Members who are unable to fully support the Conclusions may abstain from a final vote.

Rule 13. Amendments. Presidency Conclusions may be amended at the discretion of the members of the European Council. All substantive amendments will be treated as unfriendly and must be made in writing to the chair. They must be first submitted in writing and introduced to the committee (see Rule 13c). Amendments will be voted on separately from the Presidency Conclusions with a Motion to Vote (see Rule 13d).

Non-substantive changes are not considered amendments, but must be made in writing to the dais. If these changes, comply with the general sensibilities of American English grammar and/or parliamentary procedure, they will be announced by the chair without a vote and at her discretion, so as not to disturb the flow of debate.

Other committee documents, i.e. resolutions, will not require a formal amendment process, and will be considered amended if the document has not yet been voted on and a note has been passed up to the dais with the signature of all the sponsors of the amendment. The chair will similarly announce these amendments at her own discretion.

Rule 15. Executive Directives: As Heads of State, the delegates are allowed to directly implement an executive action or change in policy in their country. These executive directives will be taken via messages to the home governments, which must be sent in writing to the dais, who will forward the messages to the appropriate department. For the purposes of this simulation, however, such actions will be undertaken with the following three qualifications:

- 1) All representatives of a state present at the summit must approve an action before it is made. In other words, the signature of both the leader of the state and the state’s foreign minister (if both are present) must be on an executive directive before it is sent to the dais.
- 2) All actions must be approved by the appropriate department before executed. The department has the final word over whether or not an action will go through, and the delegates may not appeal that decision under any circumstances.
- 3) No matter how large or small an action is, it will require at least two (2) committee hours to implement due the limited efficiency of the European bureaucracy. The results of the

action, as it would be known to the European political community, will be announced to the committee in that time. More extensive actions may require a full simulation-week (or overnight in committee time) to be fully implemented. The home government will provide due warning of how much time it will take to implement each executive directive.

A word of warning: The delegates are, of course, only allowed to propose actions, and thus, have no control over what the reaction or the result of their actions may be.

Final note: If several countries wish to pass the same directive as a regional action and wish to save trees, they are allowed to submit the action together on the same note with all the necessary signatures attached. However, bear in mind that the action will still be treated as separate directives and will be responded to accordingly.

Rule 16. Points. With the exception of a point of order and a point of personal privilege, points cannot interrupt a speech, but must be made either before or after a speech. Unlike motions, points are not voted on, and the requests made in the points will be addressed solely at the discretion of the Chair.

- a) **Point of Order.** A point of order is an appeal directed to the Chair to correct a procedural error. If a delegate raises a point of order the Chair will rule immediately. This decision cannot be appealed. A point of order may interrupt a speech only if the point refers to a procedural violation by the speaker.
- b) **Point of Personal Privilege.** If at any time delegates experience personal discomfort that impairs their ability to participate in the proceedings of the European Summit, they may raise a point of personal privilege to request that the discomfort be corrected. A point of personal privilege may interrupt a speech.
- c) **Point of Parliamentary Inquiry.** If a delegate has a question concerning the procedures of the Committee, he or she may raise to a point of inquiry. If the delegate would like to request a change in speaker's time, a speaker's list, or other accoutrements of parliamentary procedure, it should occur as a point of inquiry. Such requests will be entertained at the discretion of the chair.
- d) **Point of Information.** If a delegate has a brief, substantive question whose answer would be of interest to the entire Committee, he or she may raise a point of information addressed to the Chair. Questions specific to a delegate or requiring a lengthy reply should be addressed as notes. Such points cannot interrupt a speech.

Rule 17. Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus. The motion for an unmoderated caucus requires a majority vote by the delegates. In general, during the unmoderated caucus delegates are required to stay inside the European Summit committee room, unless given special permission by the Chair.

Rule 18. Right of Reply. A delegate whose personal integrity has been impugned by another delegate may request a right of reply in writing to the Chair. Once granted by the Chair, rights of reply shall last 30 seconds. A right of reply must be sent in writing and cannot interrupt a speech.

Rule 19. Appealing the Decision of the Chair. Any decision the Chair makes may be appealed. However, for the appeal to pass, the Committee must vote unanimously against the Chair. The sole exception to this rule is the suspension of debate, which cannot be appealed.

Rule 20. Suspension of Debate. If the floor is open and there are less than thirty minutes left in the current session, a delegate may move for suspension of debate until the next session. This motion ends all European Council functions until the beginning of the next session. The Chair reserves the right to rule absolutely on this question.