



**RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE CEI PARLIAMENTARY DIMENSION**

(as of April 27, 2010)

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**RULE 1.
General Provisions**

In accordance with Articles 10 and 12 of the Guidelines and Rules of Procedure of the Central European Initiative as amended by the Heads of Government of the Central European Initiative on 15 November 2002 the work of the Parliamentary Dimension is regulated by these Rules of Procedure, which replace the former Document on Working Procedures of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension.

**RULE 2.
Objectives**

The Parliamentary Dimension pursues the following aims:

- a) contributing to the accomplishment of the objectives of the Central European Initiative, in agreement and in close co-ordination with the Governments and the other bodies of the Initiative;
- b) strengthening multilateral co-operation among CEI Member States at parliamentary level;
- c) establishing and deepening partnership structures based on the principles of parliamentary democracy and the respect for human rights, in accordance with the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the OSCE Process;
- d) strengthening the participation of all Member States in the process of European integration;
- e) promoting economic co-operation as well as promoting environment protection in compliance with the principle of sustainable development.

**RULE 3.
Membership and Composition**

1. Members of the Parliamentary Dimension shall be appointed by their national Parliaments.
2. Members of the Parliamentary Dimension shall be members of their national Parliaments. If they cease to be so they may continue to be members of the Parliamentary Dimension until a successor has been designated or, in the absence of such designation, for a period not exceeding six months.
3. Membership of the Parliamentary Dimension shall be restricted to the CEI Member States having democratically elected Parliaments. The standard to be applied shall be the same as for membership to the Council of Europe.
4. Each national delegation shall be entitled to at least three seats in the Parliamentary Assembly. The number of seats is based on the population of the Member States: three members for a population of up to five million inhabitants, five members for a population between five and twelve million inhabitants and seven members for a population of more than twelve million inhabitants (see Appendix I).
5. Parliaments may also, in addition to members as provided by Rule 3 (2), appoint substitute members whose numbers shall not exceed the number of the members. A substitute member may take the place of a member who is unable to

attend the Parliamentary Assembly and when the Secretariat has been duly informed of this by the chairperson of that national delegation.

RULE 4.
Bodies of the Parliamentary Dimension

The bodies of the Parliamentary Dimension shall be:

- the Parliamentary Assembly,
- the Parliamentary Committee,
- the Standing Committee,
- the three General Committees and
- Sub-Committees of the three General Committees if established.

RULE 5.
The Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Parliamentary Assembly shall meet at least once a year for an autumn session.
2. The Parliamentary Assembly shall meet in the country holding the Presidency of the Central European Initiative for that year. The host country shall provide all necessary arrangements for the organisation of meetings.
3. The Parliamentary Assembly may adopt decisions on all issues pertaining to its activities.
4. The Parliamentary Assembly may adopt decisions if the majority of the National Delegations is present. The President shall determine the presence of a quorum.
5. A special session of the Parliamentary Assembly may be convened by the President at the request of at least one third of the national delegations.
6. Sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly are public unless the President of the Parliamentary Assembly decides otherwise.
7. The date and duration of every session shall be determined by the President.

RULE 6
The Parliamentary Committee

1. The Parliamentary Committee shall meet once a year for a spring session in the country holding the Presidency of the Central European Initiative for that year. The host country shall provide all necessary arrangements for the organisation of meetings.
2. Each delegation shall send two delegates to the meeting of the Parliamentary Committee, one of them being the Chairperson of the national delegation. In the absence of its Chairperson a national delegation may designate a substitute from among its members.

3. Procedure in the Parliamentary Committee shall follow that of the Parliamentary Assembly.

RULE 7.
The President of the Parliamentary Dimension

1. The Chairperson of the national delegation of the country holding the CEI presidency shall be the President of the Parliamentary Dimension.

2. The President shall convene, preside over and guide debates of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Standing Committee; ensure compliance with the Rules of Procedure; maintain order; invite speakers to take the floor; open and close debates; ascertain whether a quorum exists; put questions to the vote and announce the results of the votes. Decisions of the President on procedural issues may not be overruled.

3. When chairing meetings the President shall not speak in the debate. If the President wishes to participate in a debate he or she shall leave the Chair of the meeting until that debate is over.

4. Being the highest representative of the Parliamentary Dimension the President may establish contacts and participate in international meetings in order to promote the aims of the Parliamentary Dimension.

5. The President shall rule a Sub-Committee in charge with the relation with the international and regional parliamentary organizations. The Sub-Committee shall consist in five members elected by the Standing Committee.

RULE 8.
The Vice-Presidents of the Parliamentary Dimension

1. The Chairpersons of the national delegations of the countries holding the proceeding and the succeeding Chairmanship shall be Vice-Presidents of the Parliamentary Dimension.

2. When chairing a meeting a Vice-President shall perform the same duties as the President.

RULE 9.
The Standing Committee

1. The Standing Committee shall consist of the President and the two Vice Presidents of the Parliamentary Dimension, the Chairpersons of the General Committees and the Chairpersons of national delegations.

2. The Standing Committee shall ensure the continuity and the efficient functioning of the Parliamentary Dimension between sessions.

3. In the absence of its Chairperson a national delegation may designate a substitute from among its members.

4. The Standing Committee may be convened between sessions on the proposal of the President of the Parliamentary Dimension whenever this is deemed useful.
5. The Standing Committee may adopt decisions if the majority of its members is present.
6. Decisions of the Standing Committee shall be taken according to the principle of *consensus-minus-one*. Ballots shall be held by show of hands.
7. If a member of the Standing Committee participates in the meeting as Chairperson of a General Committee and also as Head of a national delegation a duly designated member of the same national delegation shall replace him/her as member of the Standing Committee.

RULE 10. **The General Committees**

1. The following three General Committees shall be established:
 - a) General Committee on Political and Home Affairs, having competence on political matters of mutual interest, combating organised crime and terrorism, civil protection, migration, minorities, human dimension.
 - b) General Committee on Economic Affairs, having competence on agriculture, small and medium sized enterprises, transport and telecommunication, interregional and cross-border co-operation, reconstruction and development, environment and landscape protection, energy, tourism.
 - c) General Committee on Cultural Affairs, having competence on culture and education, science and technology, youth affairs, human resources development and training, information and media.
2. Members of General Committees shall be appointed by national delegations. Each Committee shall be composed by one third of the members of the Assembly. Each National Delegation shall have at least a member in every Committee.
3. National Delegations shall submit candidates for the function of Chairpersons of a General Committee to the President of the Parliamentary Dimension.
4. The Chairpersons and the Vice Chairpersons of each General Committee are elected by a simple majority of delegations in a secret ballot. If there is only one candidate running for an office this candidate shall be declared elected by acclamation. In the event of a vacancy arising during the term a substitute shall be elected by the appropriate General Committee. The term of office of the Chairpersons and the Vice Chairpersons of each General Committee lasts one year and is renewable twice. The constituent meeting of each General Committee shall be chaired by the President or the Vice Chairperson of the Parliamentary Dimension until the election of the Chairperson.

5. A General Committee shall be convened by its Chairperson at least 30 days before its reunion, except unexpected well-motivated situations when it may be convened as soon as possible.

6. Each General Committee shall hold a meeting at least 35 days before the Parliamentary Assembly. The documents adopted on this occasion shall be distributed by the Secretariat to all National Delegations, at least 30 days before the Parliamentary Assembly.

7. Each General Committee may examine reports which shall be forwarded to the Parliamentary Assembly before each session of the Parliamentary Assembly. A General Committee shall appoint a rapporteur for each subject, who shall be responsibly for the preparation of the report of the General Committee and for presenting it to the Parliamentary Assembly.

8. A General Committee may conduct joint meetings with the Governmental Focal Point Networks, in order to exchange information and enhance co-ordination of the parliamentary and governmental sides of the Initiative.

9. A General Committee may adopt decisions if one third of its delegations is present.

10. As a rule, General Committee decisions are taken by majority of the delegations present and ballots shall be held by show of hands.

11. General Committee meetings shall not be public, unless otherwise decided.

12. A substitute member, as provided by Rule 3 (5), may take the place of its respective member who is unable to attend the meeting of a General Committee and when the Secretariat has been duly informed of this by the chairperson of that national delegation.

13. In case of a vacancy in a General Committee the national delegation holding that seat shall designate a substitute.

14. Each General Committee, for the matters falling within its terms of reference, may establish sub-committees which shall mirror the Governmental Focal Point Networks. The Chairpersons and the Vice Chairpersons of a Sub-Committee are elected by a simple majority of members of the respective General Committee in a secret ballot. If there is only one candidate running for an office, such candidate shall be declared elected by acclamation. In the event of a vacancy arising during the term, a substitute shall be elected by the Sub-Committee. The term of office of the Chairpersons and the Vice Chairpersons of a sub-committee is one year and is renewable twice.

RULE 11. Urgent items

1. The agenda of Parliamentary Assembly sessions may be supplemented by an urgent item on any matter within the competence of the CEI.

2. An urgent item may be introduced on request of at least five national Delegations.

**RULE 12.
Right to speak**

1. Members wishing to take the floor in a debate during a session shall enter their names in a speakers' registration list. The speakers' registration list is the responsibility of the President.
2. No member may take the floor unless invited to do so by the President.
3. If a speaker departs from the subject the President shall call such member to order and if the speaker persists withdraw his right to speak.
4. The President may decide to allow a member to make a personal statement. There shall be no debate on such statement.

**RULE 13.
Final Declarations of the Parliamentary Assembly**

1. At each session the Parliamentary Assembly shall adopt a Final Declaration. The majority required for the adoption of the Final Declaration is two thirds of the votes cast provided that at least the majority of its members is present.
2. The Final Declaration shall be sent to the attention of the meetings of Foreign Affairs Ministers and Heads of Government of the CEI.

**RULE 14.
Methods of voting**

1. As a general rule, each delegation has a single vote.
2. Nobody may be called to speak during a vote.

**RULE 15.
Minutes**

1. The Minutes of proceedings of the meetings of the Parliamentary Dimension shall be prepared by the secretary of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly and distributed to National Delegations.

**RULE 16.
Relations with other bodies of the CEI**

1. The Parliamentary Dimension aims to co-operate closely and permanently with the Governmental Dimension of the CEI through a close working relationship among General Committees, the CEI Governmental Focal Point Networks and CEI National Co-ordinators.
2. The President of the Parliamentary Dimension shall take part in all high level meetings organised by the CEI and shall be entitled to participate in debates and express the opinion of the Parliamentary Dimension.

**RULE 17.
Observers**

1. Representatives of the following organisations may be invited by the President of the Parliamentary Dimension to sessions and other meetings of the Dimension: European Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Baltic Assembly, PABSEC, Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS, Parliamentary Dimension of the SEECP, WEU Assembly.
2. Such invited representatives shall be granted observer status and shall be entitled to speak but not to vote.

**RULE 18.
Guests**

1. Representatives of other international Assemblies and the National Parliaments of non-CEI member countries, government officers, non-governmental organisations, representatives of the business community and experts may be invited by the President of the Parliamentary Dimension with prior information of the national delegations. They may speak if authorised by the President.

**RULE 19.
Revision of the Rules of Procedure**

1. Amendments to the Rules of Procedure may be proposed by any national delegations. The majority required for amendments to these Rules of Procedure is consensus minus one, provided that the majority of National Delegations is present.

**RULE 20.
Language of the Parliamentary Assembly**

1. The official language of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension shall be English.
2. Documents and correspondence of the Parliamentary Dimension shall be drafted in English.
3. A National Delegation wishing to use another language shall provide interpretation from such language into English.

APPENDIX I

COUNTRY	POPULATION	SEATS IN THE ASSEMBLY
MONTENEGRO	0,6	3
SLOVENIA	1,9	3
MACEDONIA	2,1	3
ALBANIA	3,5	3
BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA	3,9	3
CROATIA	4,3	3
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	4,4	3
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	5,4	5
BULGARIA	7,6	5
AUSTRIA	8,1	5
HUNGARY	10,1	5
CZECH REPUBLIC	10,2	5
BELARUS	10,3	5
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	10,2	5
ROMANIA	22,3	7
POLAND	38,6	7
UKRAINE	48,3	7
ITALY	57,7	7
TOTAL		84