

Restricted

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Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities

Follow up to the restructuring and streamlining of the Rules of Procedure: Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly: Transposition tables¹

Information Note

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1. Introduction

1. The most recent general revision of the Parliamentary Assembly's Rules of Procedure led to [Resolution 2656 \(2026\)](#) "Restructuring and streamlining of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure". [Information Note AS/Rul \(2026\) 14](#) set out the methodology and structure for that restructuring and streamlining exercise, as well as transposition tables to assist in understanding the intention and relationship between the 'old rules' and the 'new rules'. As was set out in that information note, the Committee additionally agreed to pursue, in 2026, work on the restructuring, accessibility and transparency of the complementary texts, including the modalities for the participation of Guests of the Assembly (i.e. special guests, observers, partners for democracy and other guests).

2. The complementary texts relating to the external relations of the Assembly have been consequently updated in the report "Follow up to the restructuring and streamlining of the Rules of Procedure: Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly". To ensure transparency and to assist in understanding the intention and relationship between the 'old rules' and the 'new rules' concerning the Assembly's external relations, this information note sets out the transposition tables. Appendix I shows the new rules, setting out for each rule, the former rule(s) from which they flow. Appendix II shows the old rules and sets out where each old rule can now be found.

Appendix I - Transposition table of the revised rules: Provisions specific to external relations

NEW RULES NUMBER (AND DESCRIPTION)	SOURCE
A. BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE ASSEMBLY	
III. Composition	
Article A.4 – Composition A.4.2. <i>The Assembly may grant the status of special guest, observer or partner for democracy to delegations of parliaments of non-member states of the Council of Europe under certain conditions. The Assembly may also invite other guests to participate in its work.</i>	Rules of Procedure - esp. Rules 63.1, 64.1 and 65.1
VIII. External relations	
Article A.15 - External relations A.15.1. <i>The Parliamentary Assembly's external relations with other interparliamentary assemblies, regional and national parliaments (including the European Parliament), and with other international organisations as applicable, shall be guided by the Bureau of the Assembly.</i>	Rules of Procedure - Rule 14.1 and essence of Appendix XIV (external relations of the Assembly) and Appendix XV (rules of procedure for enlarged debates of the Parliamentary Assembly on the activities of the OECD).
B. RULES ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ASSEMBLY	
II. Special guests, observers, partners for democracy and other guests	
Rule B.8 - Special guests B.8.1. <i>The Assembly, on the proposal of the Bureau, may grant special guest status to national parliaments of European non-member States which have applied for membership of the Council of Europe. Special guest status can be suspended or withdrawn.</i> B.8.2. <i>Members of special guest delegations may sit in the Assembly but without the right to vote. They shall have the right to speak with the authorisation of the President of the Assembly.</i> B.8.3. <i>The Specific Rules on special guests, observers, partners for democracy and other guests contain relevant modalities relating to the participation of special guest delegations.</i>	Rules of Procedure - Rules 63.1 and 63.9. Rules of Procedure – Rule 63.7. Rules of Procedure - Rule 63 (cross-reference to remainder of provisions).
Rule B.9 - Observers B.9.1. <i>The Assembly, on the proposal of the Bureau, may grant observer status to national parliaments of non-member States of the Council of Europe which meet the conditions set out in paragraph 1 of Statutory Resolution (93) 26 of the Committee of Ministers on observer status. Observer status can be suspended or withdrawn.</i>	Rules of Procedure - Rule 64.1 (implied and explicit) General reference to Statutory Resolution (93) 26 of the Committee of Ministers on observer status.

B.9.2. <i>Members of observer delegations may sit in the Assembly but without the right to vote. They shall have the right to speak with the authorisation of the President of the Assembly.</i> B.9.3. <i>The Specific Rules on special guests, observers, partners for democracy and other guests contain relevant modalities relating to the participation of observer delegations.</i>	Rules of Procedure – Rule 64.3. Rules of Procedure - Rule 64 (cross-reference to remainder of provisions).
Rule B.10 - Partners for democracy B.10.1. <i>The Assembly, on the proposal of the Bureau, may grant partner for democracy status to national parliaments of non-member States of the Council of Europe in neighbouring regions, which meet the conditions set out in the Specific Rules on special guests, observers, partners for democracy and other guests.</i> <i>Partner for democracy status can be suspended or withdrawn in accordance with the Specific Rules on special guests, observers, partners for democracy and other guests.</i> B.10.2. <i>Members of delegations with partner for democracy status may sit in the Assembly but without the right to vote. They shall have the right to speak with the authorisation of the President of the Assembly.</i> <i>The Assembly may decide to grant additional rights to partner for democracy delegations which have shown outstanding results in achieving the goals of the partnership and participate fully in the work of the Assembly.</i> B.10.3. <i>The Specific Rules on special guests, observers, partners for democracy and other guests contain relevant modalities relating to the participation of partner for democracy delegations.</i>	Rules of Procedure - Rules 65.1 and 65.8. Rules of Procedure - Rules 65.5 and 65.7. Rules of Procedure - Rule 65 (cross-reference to remainder of provisions).
Rule B.11 - Other guests B.11.1. <i>The President of the Assembly may invite representatives of non-member parliaments, without special guest, observer or partner for democracy status, to attend a debate in the Assembly.</i> B.11.2. <i>The Bureau of the Assembly may, subject to ratification by the Assembly, invite representatives of non-member parliaments, without special guest, observer or partner for democracy status, to participate in the work of the Assembly and its committees.</i>	Rules of Procedure - Rule 64.5. Reflects consistent practice (see the arrangements for Kosovo*, Belarussian democratic Forces etc, Appendix XIV – External relations of the Assembly) as well as Rules of Procedure - Rule 14.1. Reflects consistent practice (see the cooperation agreements concluded as set out in Appendix XIV

B.11.3. <i>In the framework of its external relations, the Assembly may, on the proposal of the Bureau, conclude cooperation agreements.</i> B.11.4. <i>The Bureau of the Assembly shall, in agreement with the relevant organ of the European Parliament (Conference of Presidents), decide the arrangements for co-operation of both institutions.</i>	– External relations of the Assembly) as well as Rules of Procedure - Rule 14.1. Rules of Procedure - Rule 67.1.
III. RULES ON THE FUNCTIONING OF COMMITTEES	
IV. Meetings of committees	
Rule C.7 - Meetings of committees Rule C.7.5. Participation of members of special guest, observer and partners for democracy delegations and other guests in committee meetings C.7.5. <i>Subject to Rule C.7.4 above and the specific provisions on special guests, observers, partners for democracy and other guests, members of such delegations may participate in meetings of thematic committees and speak if called by the committee chairperson; they shall not have the right to vote. However, a committee may decide in advance that members of such delegations may not attend a meeting or part of a meeting. Meetings of the Joint Committee and the institutional committees shall not be open to members of special guests, observers, partners for democracy and other guests.</i> C.7.6. <i>The conditions on which any person who is not covered by sub-paragraphs C.7.4.c and C.7.5 above may be heard by a committee shall be decided by that committee.</i>² <i>2 The participation of elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community in committee work is regulated in accordance with Resolution 1376 (2004) and relevant decisions of the Bureau of the Assembly. The participation of the members of the delegation of the Assembly of Kosovo* in the work of the Assembly and its committees is defined in the relevant decisions taken by the Bureau of the Assembly.</i>	Rules of Procedure - Rule 48.5. Rules of Procedure - Rule 48.6. Rules of Procedure - Rule 48.7. Rules of Procedure - Rules 48.7, footnote 3.
MODALITIES RELATING TO THE EXTERNAL AND INTERPARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY	Rules of Procedure - Rules 63.2, 63.3, 63.4, 63.5, 63.6, 63.8, 63.9, 63.10, 63.11, footnote 1 to Rule 64, 64.1, 64.2, footnote 1 to Rule 64.2, 64.4, 65.2, 65.3, 65.4, 65.6, 65.7 and 65.8.
I. General goals pursued by external relations	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly).
§1	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly), §1.
§2	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §2.

§3	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §3.
II. Scope	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly).
§4	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §4.
§5	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §5.
III. Competences	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly).
§6	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §6.
§7	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §7.
§8	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §8 [tidied up some drafting/cross-references].
§9	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §9 (first two bullets) [slight redrafting to reflect that OECD and EBRD reports are now the responsibility of MIG].
§10	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §10 [tidied up drafting/language to reflect the current OHCHR and HRC mechanisms and terminology].
§11	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §11 and 12.
§12	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §9 (last bullet – and amended to reflect the current terms of reference for MIG and POL).
§13	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §13.
§14	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §14.
IV. Relations with national parliaments of non-member States	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly).
§15	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §15 [drafting slightly tidied].
§16	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §16.
V. Special guests	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly).
§17	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §17 (first three bullets). Appendix XIV, point II (Recommendation 1247 (1994) on the enlargement of the Council of Europe) §2 (first sentence).
§18	R 63.2 and Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §17 (4 th bullet).
§19	R.63.3 and aligned with modern practice.

§20	R. 63.4 – Drafting clarified and aligned with modern practice. The final sentence would specify the number of members of a special guest delegation were the Assembly to have one.
§21	R. 63.5 [slight redraft].
§22	First and third sentence: R. 63.6 (language clarified in line with general Rules of Procedure redraft language). Second sentence is introduced to clarify the application of the Assembly's ethical framework. Fourth sentence: Footnote (previous RUL interpretation to apply provisions by analogy) and clarification of text.
§23	R 63.6, 3 rd and 4 th sentences (clarification of text updated in light of modern practice for the challenge to credentials). Final sentence: Footnote (previous RUL interpretation to apply provisions by analogy) and clarification of text.
§24	R. 63.8(language clarified).
§25	R. 63.10 (updated to reflect modern standards and practices for a challenge to credentials). R. 63.11 second sentence.
VI. Partner for democracy	
§26	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §18 (first three bullets).
§27	Rule 65.2 and Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §18 (fourth bullet, 1 st sentence).
§28	Rule 65.3. Footnote 1 to Rule 65.3 is incorporated into the text for clarity.
§29	Rule 65.4. Second sentence is introduced to clarify the application of the Assembly's ethical framework.
§30	Rule 65.6. (slight clarification of the text and the details about the webpages are omitted from the Rules text as this is more operational)
§31	Rule 65.7. Clarification on the application of the Assembly's ethical framework in case of member of a partner for democracy delegation with enhanced rights is appointed rapporteur.
§32	Rule 65.8 and Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §18 (fourth bullet, 2 nd and 3 rd sentences).
VII. Observer	
§33	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §19 (first three bullets).
§34	First sentence - specifies the formal procedure (from practice) – for clarity. Second sentence - Rule 64.1.
§35	Rule 64.2. Footnote 3 to Rule 64.2.
§36	First sentence - Rule 64.2.

	Second sentence – is introduced to clarify the application of the Assembly's ethical rules to guest delegations (declaration about Council of Europe values). Third sentence - Rule 64.2 (including a clarification relating to bicameral parliaments). Fourth sentence - Rule 64.2.
§37	Rule 64.4 (clarificatory wording in relation to the exceptions in the third paragraph).
§38	Specifies the procedure that would be implied and applied (by analogy, in accordance with prior interpretations of the rules when the text is silent for guest delegations, and through implied powers).
VIII. Other guests	
§39	Reflects consistent practice as well as Resolutions 2094 (2016), 1113 (1997), 1376 (2004), and 2530 (2024).
§40	Clarification of current practice; as well as the addition inserted by this report clarifying the application of the Assembly's ethical rules to guest delegations (declaration about Council of Europe values).
IX. Cooperation agreements	
§41	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §20.
X. Relations with parliamentary organisations/assemblies	
§42	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §21
§43	Appendix XIV, point IV (Special rules governing relations between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the parliamentary and inter-parliamentary assemblies of non-member states) §1-5.
XI. Relations with international organisations	
§44	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §22.
XII. The European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments	
§45	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §23.
§46	Appendix XIV, point I (Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly) §24.

Appendix II - Transposition table from the current (old) rules: Provisions on external relations

Items in italics require further action (e.g. hyperlinks, verification, or an implementation project for the complementary texts).

CURRENT RULE NUMBER (AND DESCRIPTION)	PROPOSED LOCATION IN THE REVISED RULES
RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ASSEMBLY	
III Bureau, Presidential Committee and Standing Committee	
Rule 14 - Bureau of the Assembly and Presidential Committee	
14.1.	Rule B.18.2. As concerns external relations, also Rule A.15.1, B.11.2 and B.11.3.
Footnote 2	Delete – unnecessary.
X Committees	
Rule 48 - Meetings of committees	
48.5.	Rule C.7.5 <i>Include hyperlink to Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly.</i>
48.6.	Rule C.7.5 (in part implied through the drafting).
48.7.	Rule C.7.6.
Footnote 3	Footnote 1 to Rule C.7.6. <i>Add hyperlinks in footnote to modalities.</i>
XIV Special Guests, Observers, Partners for Democracy and Other Guests	
Footnote 1	Delete footnote. The text on guest speakers is redrafted and included in Point XII of the rules on guests of the Assembly.
Rule 63 - Special Guests	Reflected in Article A.4.2 and B.8.3.
63.1.	Rule B.8.1 (and reflects the reality/practice that decisions of the Bureau are ratified by the Assembly).
63.2.	Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §18.
63.3.	Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §19 (and reflects the reality/practice that decisions of the Bureau are ratified by the Assembly).
63.4.	Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §20 (some of the language is clarified).
63.5.	Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §21 (some of the language is clarified).
63.6.	Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §22 and 23 (text is updated and clarified in light of modern practice relating to challenges to credentials and the analogy interpretation).
Footnote 2	<i>To include in compilation of RUL interpretations.</i> This is also incorporated into the redraft for clarity,

	to apply the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure, by analogy, to special guests (e.g. §23).
63.7.	Rules of the Assembly - Rule B.8.2.
Footnote 3	Delete as unnecessary.
63.8.	Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §24 (some of the language is clarified).
63.9.	In part reflected in the Rules of the Assembly - Rule B.8.1 and Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §25 (the process is updated to reflect current practices and to align with the normal procedure for other guests).
63.10.	Deleted - current practice has roles for Committee and Assembly.
63.11.	Rules of the Assembly - Rule B.8.1. Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §25 (some of the language is clarified and/or not repeated where this is not necessary).
Rule 64 - Observers	Reflected in Article A.4.2 and Rule B.9.3.
Footnote 1	Delete as unnecessary – <i>The documents in Appendix XIV (external relations) will be available henceforth on the external relations webpage.</i>
64.1.	Rule B.9.1 Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §34 (updated to reflect current practice, akin to the process for partner for democracy requests).
Footnote 2	Delete as unnecessary. <i>Include the Statutory Resolution and the COM/Inf (99) 50 criteria on the External Relations webpage.</i>
64.2.	Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §35 and 36.
Footnote 3	Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §35 (incorporated into the text).
64.3.	Rule B.9.2
64.4.	Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §37.
64.5.	Rule B.11.1 (drafting is clarified).
Rule 65 - Partners for democracy	Reflected in Article A.4.2 and Rule B.10.3.
65.1.	Rule B.10.1.
65.2.	Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §27.
65.3.	Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §28.
Footnote 1	Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §28 (the footnote is incorporated into the text).

65.4.	Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §29.
65.5.	Rule B.10.2.
65.6.	Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §30.
65.7.	Rule B.10.2 and Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §31.
65.8.	Rule B.10.1 and Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §32.
Rule 66 - Representatives of national or international organisations	
66.	Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - §44.
Rule 67 - Co-operation with the European Parliament	
Footnote 1	<i>Hyperlink to relevant text on the external relations webpage.</i>
67.1.	Rule B.11.4
67.2.	Delete as unnecessary
Appendix XIV – External relations of the Assembly	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>
i. Guidelines on external relations of the Parliamentary Assembly	Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - § 1-17, 26-27, 33-34, 41-42, 44-46.
ii. Recommendation 1247 (1994) on the enlargement of the Council of Europe§	This need not be retained in the Modalities as it is outdated and no longer particularly pertinent. If necessary, it could feature as a useful historical document on the webpage on external relations.
iii. Draft Agreement on co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Parliament of a non-member state	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage</i>
iv. Special rules governing relations between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the parliamentary and inter-parliamentary assemblies of non-member states	Modalities relating to the external and interparliamentary relations of the Assembly - § 43.
v. Relations with the consultative interparliamentary Council of Benelux (Exchange of letters, 1988)	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>
vi. Relations with the Nordic Council (exchange of letters, 1989)	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>
vii. Relations with the Inter-parliamentary Union (Memorandum, 1993)	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>
viii. Relations between the parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and the OSCE (agreements, 1995)	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>
ix. Agreement on cooperation between PACE and the interparliamentary	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage (if still relevant).</i>

	Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (1997)	
x.	Co-operation agreement between PAC and the Pan African Parliament of the African Union (2005)	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>
xi.	Cooperation agreement between PACE and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (2005)	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>
xii.	Agreement on the strengthening of co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Europea Parliament	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>
xiii.	Agreement on strengthening co-operation between the PACE and the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (2008)	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>
xiv.	Co-operation agreement between PACE and the Latin American Parliament (2008)	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>
xv.	Agreement on co-operation between PACE and the parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2004)	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>
xvi.	Cooperation agreement between the Council of Europe and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) (1992)	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>
xvii.	Cooperation agreement between PACE and the International Committee of the Red Cross (1995)	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>
xviii.	Co-operation agreement between PACE and the European Committee for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) (2004)	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>
xix.	Co-operation agreement between PACE and the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre) (2005)	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>
xx.	Cooperation agreement concluded between PACE and the European Roma and Travellers Forum (2011)	<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>
Appendix XV – Rules of Procedure for Enlarged Debates of the Parliamentary Assembly on the Activities of OECD		<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>
Appendix XVI – Memorandum of understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union		<i>External relations documents - Complementary text available on webpage.</i>