

Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum Preliminary Rules of Procedure

I. **Membership**

Members of National Parliaments¹ of the Contracting Parties

1. Members of the Plenum shall be Members of their National Parliaments.
2. Members of the Plenum shall be appointed by their National Parliaments or its respective body. National Parliaments may appoint two representatives. National delegations should be composed so as to ensure a fair representation of the political parties in their parliaments. Preferably one Member should be from the governing political spectrum and one from the opposition.
3. Parliaments may also appoint two alternative Members, who may take the place of a Member who is unable to attend a Meeting when the Secretariat has been duly informed.
4. A Member standing for re-election to a National Parliament will be considered a Member of that Parliament until the election is decided and may continue to be a Member of the Plenum until his or her successor has been designated, provided he or she is still a Member of the National Parliament.

Members of European Parliament

5. The European Parliament may appoint an equal number of representatives as members from the Energy Community Contracting Parties.

Observers

6. National Parliaments whose country has been granted observer status under the Energy Community Treaty may appoint two representatives who may attend the Parliamentary Plenum Meetings as non-voting observers.

II. **Responsibilities**

¹ The term National Parliament refers to the Parliaments of the Contracting Parties, which have the competence to ratify the Energy Community Treaty.

1. The Parliamentary Plenum shall:
 - a. Assess the implementation of the Energy Community Treaty.
 - b. Take actions to support the implementation of the Energy Community Treaty and the attainment of its objectives.
 - c. Work towards the strengthening of the democratic legitimacy and transparency of the Energy Community process.

III. ***President, Vice-Presidents and Bureau***

1. The Presidency of the Parliamentary Plenum shall be rotating and shall be held by the National Parliament whose country currently presides over the Energy Community Ministerial Council.
2. Out of the two Members of the Parliamentary Plenum of the Contracting Party holding the Presidency,
 - a) The President of the Parliamentary Plenum shall be the Chairperson of the principle Committee in charge of energy issues.
 - b) In case one of the two appointed Members of the Parliamentary Plenum is not a Committee Chairperson, then the most senior Member, in terms of mandates served in National Parliament, will be President.
 - c) In case of disagreement, the President shall be decided by draw.
3. The President calls for, proposes an agenda and chairs the meetings of the Plenum; ensures observance of the Rules of Procedure; ascertains whether a quorum exists, puts questions to vote and announces the results of votes. The President shall represent the Parliamentary Plenum at the Energy Community Ministerial Council.
4. The President shall continue to act as President until a new President of the Parliamentary Plenum has been appointed.
5. The Parliamentary Plenum will have three Vice-Presidents, one from the incoming and one from the outgoing Presidency of the Energy Community and one from the European Parliament. Vice-Presidents may take over the responsibilities of the President if requested by him or her or in the President's absence.

6. The same procedure will apply for appointment of the Vice-Presidents from the National Parliaments of the Contracting Parties as for the President of the Parliamentary Plenum. The European Parliament will designate the Vice-President according to its own procedure.
7. The Bureau shall consist of the President and the 3 Vice-Presidents. The Bureau shall assist the President in the discharge of his duties and provide guidance to the Secretariat in the preparation of the Parliamentary Plenum's work. The Bureau is convened upon request by one of its members and chaired by the President. It shall take decisions by consensus. In case consensus cannot be reached the Bureau decides by simple majority whereby the President has a casting vote in case of a draw. The Bureau can deliberate also with means of telecommunication and electronic communication in case a physical meeting cannot be organised.

IV. **Meetings**

1. The Parliamentary Plenum Meetings shall be organized two times a year. The dates, duration and location of the meetings and the draft agenda will be decided by the Bureau in consultation with the Energy Community Secretariat. The meeting details shall be communicated by the Secretariat at least two months prior to the meeting.
2. Decisions of the Parliamentary Plenum can only be taken when at least 11 Members from 6 Delegations are present. The quorum will be determined by the Chair.
3. The meetings of the Parliamentary Plenum are public, unless the Plenum decides otherwise.
4. The official language of the Parliamentary Plenum is English.
5. Any Member wishing to use a language other than English shall be responsible for arranging translation and simultaneous interpretation from and into English.
6. The meetings of the Parliamentary Plenum shall be administered by the Secretariat. Among its duties, the Secretariat will write minutes of the meeting, recording attendance and decisions reached. Upon completion, the minutes will be sent to all Members and subsequently published.

V. **Questions**

1. The Parliamentary Plenum may pose questions to the institutions of the Energy Community, including the Ministerial Council.
2. When a representative of the Contracting Party holding the Presidency of the Energy Community is invited to attend the Plenum, there will be a time limited question and answer session the length of which is to be determined by the President.

3. Any member may submit, through the Energy Community Secretariat, one written question a year in total to the Ministerial Council or other bodies.

VI. **Resolutions and Reports**

1. The Plenum may adopt reports and resolutions expressing its views and opinions on all matters falling within the scope of the Energy Community Treaty, with the exception of dispute settlement under Articles 90-93 of the Treaty. In particular, the plenum may prepare a report on the annual progress report prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with Article 67(b) of the Treaty, to be submitted to the Ministerial Council.
2. The Plenum shall elect, by the majority of votes cast, a Rapporteur, who shall be responsible for the preparation of a draft report and its presentation to the Plenum. The Rapporteur will be a Member of the Parliament of one of the Energy Community Contracting Parties. A Co-Rapporteur may be appointed from the delegation of the European Parliament.
3. The Rapportuer shall make available his or her report at least one month before the Meeting where the report will be put to vote.
4. The theme of the reports will be decided by the Bureau in consultation with the Energy Community Secretariat. National delegations may submit proposals for consideration by the Bureau.
5. Any Member may table a motion for a resolution providing he or she has the support of two Members of at least two other delegations. The Member shall make available his or her resolution at least one month before the Meeting where the report will be put to vote.
6. Each Member shall have one vote. A simple majority of the votes cast is required to adopt a report and a resolution.
7. The reports and resolutions adopted by the Parliamentary Plenum shall be transmitted to the Ministerial Council and the delegations' Parliaments via the Secretariat.

VII. **Costs**

1. The travel expenses of Members and officially designated alternates of Contracting Party Parliaments, in total a maximum of two representatives per Contracting Party, shall be borne by the Energy Community Budget in line with the applicable travel reimbursement rules. Members of the host Parliament and the European Parliament are not eligible.

2. Other expenses related to the meetings or other activities of the Parliamentary Plenum will be met by the host Parliament.
3. The costs for interpretation and translation shall be borne by the respective Parliaments.

VIII. ***Amendments to the Rules of Procedure***

1. Only national delegations, a qualified majority of the European Parliament delegation and the institutions of the Energy Community can submit a proposal for revision of the rules of procedure. These proposals shall be submitted in writing in due time at least one month before the Parliamentary Plenum meeting.
2. Proposals for a revision shall be put for decision on the agenda of the first meeting following the presentation of the proposal.
3. Adoption of the proposal requires a quorum of two thirds of the members and delegations present. Each delegation has one vote.