

Energy Community Parliamentary Plenum meetings Rules of Procedure

I. Participation

Members of National Parliaments¹ of the Contracting Parties

1. Participants in the Parliamentary Plenum meetings shall be members of their national parliaments.
2. Participants in the Parliamentary Plenum meetings shall be appointed by their national parliaments or its respective body. National parliaments may appoint two representatives. Participants should be appointed so as to ensure a fair representation of the political parties in their parliaments. Preferably one participant should be from the governing political spectrum and one from the opposition.
3. National parliaments may also appoint two alternative participants, who may take the place of a participant who is unable to attend a meeting when the Secretariat has been duly informed.
4. A participant 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 participant in the Parliamentary Plenum meetings 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 send an equal number of representatives as representatives from the Energy Community Contracting Parties.²

II. Chair and Vice-Chairs

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

² These are currently up to 18 representatives following the accession of Georgia to the Energy Community Treaty.

1. The chairmanship of the Parliamentary Plenum meetings shall be rotating and shall be held by the member of the National Parliament of the Contracting Party holding the Presidency of the Energy Community Ministerial Council.
2. Out of the two participants in the Parliamentary Plenum meetings of the Contracting Party holding the Presidency,
 - a) The Chair of the Parliamentary Plenum meetings shall be the Chairperson of the principle Committee in charge of energy issues in his or her National Parliament.
 - b) In case neither of the two appointed participants of the Parliamentary Plenum meetings is a Committee Chairperson, then the most senior participant, in terms of mandates served in national parliament, will be Chairperson.
 - c) In case of disagreement, the Chair shall be decided by draw.
3. The Chair calls for, proposes an agenda and chairs the meetings of the Parliamentary Plenum; ensures observance of the Rules of Procedure; ascertains whether a quorum exists, puts questions to vote and announces the results of votes. The chairperson of the Parliamentary Plenum meetings is invited before the Energy Community Ministerial Council.
4. The chairperson shall continue to act as Chair until a new chairperson of the Parliamentary Plenum meetings has taken up his or her duties.
5. The Parliamentary Plenum meetings may have three Vice- Chairs, one from the incoming and one from the outgoing Presidency of the Energy Community Ministerial Council and one from the European Parliament. Vice-Chairs may take over the responsibilities of the Chair if requested by him or her or in the chairperson's absence.
6. The same procedure will apply for appointment of the Vice-Chairs from the national parliaments of the Contracting Parties as for the Chair of the Parliamentary Plenum meetings. The European Parliament will designate the Vice-Chair according to its own arrangements.

III. Meetings

1. The Parliamentary Plenum meetings shall be organized up to two times a year. The dates, duration and location of the meetings and the draft agenda will be established by the Chair in consultation with the Energy Community Secretariat. The meeting details shall be communicated by the Energy Community Secretariat at least two months prior to the meeting.

2. Reports and resolutions expressing the views and opinions of the participants in the Parliamentary Plenum meetings can only be adopted when at least 11 participants from 6 parliaments are present. The quorum will be determined by the Chair.
3. The meetings of the Parliamentary Plenum are public, unless the participants in the Parliamentary Plenum meetings decide otherwise.
4. The official language of the Parliamentary Plenum meetings is English.
5. Any participant 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 Energy Community Secretariat. Among its duties, the Energy Community Secretariat will write minutes of the meeting, recording attendance and reports and resolutions reached. Upon completion, the minutes will be sent to all participants and subsequently published, subject to point 3 of this Section.

IV. Questions

1. The participants in the Parliamentary Plenum meetings 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 meetings of the Parliamentary Plenum, there will be a time limited question and answer session the length of which is to be determined by the Chair.
3. Any participant in the Parliamentary Plenum meetings may submit, through the Energy Community Secretariat, one written question a year in total to the institutions of the Energy Community.

V. Resolutions and Reports

1. The participants in the Parliamentary Plenum meetings may adopt reports or resolutions expressing their 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.
2. The participants in the Parliamentary Plenum meetings may 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 participants in the Parliamentary Plenum meetings. A Co-Rapporteur from another parliamentary body may be appointed.

3. The Rapporteur shall make available his or her report at least one month before the Parliamentary Plenum meeting where the report will be put to vote.
4. The theme of the reports should be decided by the Chair in consultation with the Vice-Chairs and the Energy Community Secretariat. Participants may submit proposals for consideration by the Chair.
5. Any participant in the Parliamentary Plenum meetings may table a motion for a resolution providing he or she has the support of two representatives of at least two other parliaments. The participant shall make available his or her resolution at least one month before the meeting where the report will be put to vote.
6. Each participant in the Parliamentary Plenum meeting 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 in the Parliamentary Plenum meetings shall be transmitted to the Ministerial Council and the parliaments via the Energy Community Secretariat.

VI. Costs

1. The travel expenses of representatives and officially designated alternative representatives 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. This provision does not apply to members of the host Parliament and to members of the European Parliament.
2. Other expenses related to the meetings or other activities of the Parliamentary Plenum meetings will be met by the host Parliament.
3. The costs for interpretation and translation shall be borne by the participant requesting such interpretation and translation in accordance with Section III/5 above.

VII. Amendments to the Rules of Procedure

1. Without prejudice to the rights of proposal under the Treaty establishing the Energy Community, participants in the Parliamentary Plenum meetings may make suggestions for revision of the Rules of Procedures. They may be assisted by the Energy Community Secretariat that may present drafts for such suggestions.
2. Suggestions for a revision shall be put for voting on the agenda of the first Parliamentary Plenum meeting following the presentation of the proposal.

3. Adoption of the suggestions requires a quorum of two thirds of the participants and respective parliaments present. Each participant has one vote.

Done at Skopje, on 29 November 2018

For the Ministerial Council:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "M. ...".

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Presidency