



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Plenary sitting

08.09.2014

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF PARLIAMENT'S RULES OF PROCEDURE

pursuant to Rule 227 of the Rules of Procedure

Amendment of Rule 117 (Election of Commission President) and Annex XVI
(Guidelines for the approval of the Commission)

Kazimierz Michal Ujazdowski

Amendment of Rules 117 (Election of Commission President)

Amendment 1

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 117 - paragraph 2

Present text

Parliament shall elect the President of the Commission by a majority of its component Members.

The vote shall be taken by secret ballot.

Amendment

Parliament shall elect the President of the Commission by a majority of its component Members.

The vote shall be taken by roll-call vote.

Or. en

Amendment 2

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Annex XVI - paragraph 2, Fifth subparagraph

Present text

By way of derogation from the procedure laid down in paragraph 1(c), eighth subparagraph, *when the vote in plenary concerns the appointment of a single Commissioner, the vote shall be by secret ballot.*

Amendment

When the vote in plenary concerns the appointment of a single Commissioner, the vote shall be by roll-call vote.

Justification

In order to promote good governance the European Parliament shall conduct its work as openly as possible. It has to be remarked that according to the Article 10 paragraph 3 of the Treaty on European Union: "Decisions shall be taken as openly and as closely as possible to the citizen". Matters such as the election of the President of the Commission are fundamental events in the democratic life of the European Union, and as such should benefit from appropriate attention and be subject to a level of rigour and commitment commensurate with such a

decision. In order to allow the citizens to acquaint themselves with the political orientations expressed, such matters should proceed in a public forum, without recourse to secrecy.

An open ballot guarantees the necessary respect for transparency and full responsibility towards our electorate. Conversely, a secret ballot allows elected representatives to avoid this responsibility, contrary to the expectations of the European citizens. Democracy is about taking public responsibility; and transparency as to the voting practices within European Parliament can only help with achieving that aim.

The proposal for amendment of the Parliament Rules of Procedure implements greater transparency and resolves an internal contradiction of the Parliament Rules of Procedure. At the moment the election of the Commission President is taken by a secret ballot and the approval of the Commission by a roll-call vote. According to the amendment in question, all the important decisions: the election of the Commission President, the approval of the Commission and the appointment of a single Commissioner would be taken by a roll-call vote.