

RULES OF PROCEDURE REGULATING THE OPERATION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Rule 1: Quorum

Quorum of this committee requires the physical presence of a majority of the members of the Council of the European Union in order to enable the Council the vote. Since the Council of the European Union will consist of 28 ministers, the majority for Council to enable the vote is the presence of 15 ministers.

Rule 2: Proposals

In this committee, the delegates will be working on the proposals, which are the documents submitted by the European Commission to the Council, rather than writing a firsthand document as the Council of the EU.

There is one proposal for each topic explained in the Study guide that needs to be discussed.

The delegates will work on the proposals by changing the articles via amendments, using the amendment procedure of MUNIST'17. In order to move on the voting procedure of the amendments, the opinion of the European Commission must be heard.

Also, the delegates may include topics that are not in the proposals, if they are in the scope of the agenda of the committee, by submitting proposal drafts to the European Commission. In order to submit the proposal drafts, the delegates will have to deliver their drafts to their Board Members.

After the Commission gives an approval regarding a proposal draft, the amendment procedure will be applied in the committee to add the confirmed text into the proposal.

The heading of the proposal must include every topic touched upon in the text. In case a new topic to be added through a proposal draft procedure, an amendment must be given to change the title of the proposal in a way to cover that topic as well.

Last but not least, during the discussions in the committee, the delegates must follow their country policy strictly since the decision of the member states may have a direct effect on the adoption of the proposal.

Rule 3: Voting

a) On the amendments

As mentioned above the opinion of the Commission is an obligatory step in the amendment procedure. In addition, the opinion will change the quantity of votes required to adopt an amendment as well.

If the Commission does not agree on the amendment;

The unanimity of member states is required in order to change the proposal against the wishes of the Commission.

Abstention does not prevent a decision from being taken. If a member state abstains, it is not obliged to apply the decision; however it has to accept that the decision taken by the Council.

If the Commission agrees on the amendment;

Even though the unanimity is preferred when the ministers cannot meet on a common ground, the Council will use the qualified majority voting in order to pass the amendment.

Under this procedure, when the Council votes on a proposal by the Commission, a qualified majority is reached if two conditions are met:

- 55% of member states vote in favor - in practice this means 16 out of 28
- The proposal is supported by member states representing at least 65% of the total EU population

This new procedure is also known as the 'double majority' rule.

In cases where not all Member States participate in voting, the qualified majority is calculated only on the basis of the participating Member States.

A member state may ask for the confirmation that the votes in favor represent at least 65% of the total EU population. If this is found not to be the case, the decision will not be adopted.

If a confirmation is not asked, even though the Board members will be calculating, the outcome will not be announced in detail on the subject. A confirmation may be asked through a motion raised.

Abstention under qualified majority voting is counted as a vote against.

b) On the amendments regarding the proposal drafts:

For the proposal drafts, the drafts need to be approved by the Commission. After the approval, the amendment regarding a proposal draft will be adopted if:

- At least 72% of Council members vote in favor; and
- They represent at least 65% of the EU population.

Rule 4 : The Scope

On the matters that have not been covered in this rule of procedure, the rules of procedure of MUNIST'17 will be applied.