



To: Madrid Council Delegates

From: Committee

MADRID | SPAIN | MAY 10-12 | 2013

On: Decision making process at Councils, proposal for an amendments Committee

Dear Delegates,

At Councils we often need to take many decisions in a relative short period of time. Next to our decision making process we also want to spend time to debate on issues, to exchange information in our networks and working groups and to follow a workshop or seminar on a topic of interest to us.

We need more time for discussions on plenary subjects and our resolutions and amendments. The Sunday voting session is long and at times not enough time is allocated to discuss on contentious issues. Also we have received complaints from delegates that they are not always able to follow the voting process, due to late arrivals of the documents that contain the compromise amendment session and too little time for discussion. We have been deliberating on how we can improve this process and would like to introduce to you the following proposal.

The introduction of an amendments Committee, who will prepare the voting session at the Council by the following preparatory work:

- As soon as documents to vote arrive at the EGP office the members of the amendments committee receive those documents.
- As soon as amendments arrive at the EGP office the members of the amendments committee receive the amendments.
- Ahead of the Council they will discuss and may propose compromise amendments to the authors
- There where amendments seem to be editorial, non controversial the amendments committee may propose to the Council to vote these amendments in a block vote, by this liberating time for discussion on those amendments that are more controversial and need a more elaborate discussion

We would like to ask for your endorsement of this amendments committee at the upcoming Madrid Council. We propose to work with this Committee for one year and then formalise the amendments Committee with a formal evaluation of the new working way and a proposal for changes to the Rule Book.

Who will be the members of the amendments Committee?

The Committee proposes that the amendments Committee consists of the Secretary General plus two members of the EGP Committee plus two representatives of the Member Parties. These representatives of the Member Parties should have interest and experience in formal decision-making processes. Next to this a good command of the English language is helpful as well as an open, constructive and diplomatic attitude. The members of the amendments committee will need to be available on standby in the last weeks before and during Council and be prepared to take "ownership" of certain resolutions that need more work.

The Committee proposes to work with a nominated interim amendments Committee until the Autumn Council of 2014 and to organise elections for the two non-Committee members at the Autumn Council in 2014. The Committee will make a proposal for the two non-Committee members at the Madrid Council.