

Rules of Procedure of the Parliamentary Partnership Assembly

established in accordance with Article 11 of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom, as well as on the basis of the European Parliament's resolution of 5 October 2021 and the resolutions of the House of Commons and the House of Lords of 6 December 2021 and 8 December 2021, respectively.

Role and scope

Rule 1. The Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA) is the parliamentary forum foreseen by Article 11 of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) between the European Union and the United Kingdom.

It shall meet and exchange views on issues arising within the framework of the TCA, including supplementing agreements, and any other matters of mutual interest.

Members

Rule 2. The PPA shall consist of two delegations of 35 members each, to be appointed by the European Parliament and by the Parliament of the United Kingdom, respectively.

Both the European Parliament and the Parliament of the United Kingdom delegations may from time to time contain substitute members standing in for members who cannot be present, in each case in accordance with the rules and/or practices of the respective parliaments.

The term of office of the members shall be decided in accordance with the rules and/or practices, respectively, of the European Parliament and Parliament of the United Kingdom.

The Bureau

Rule 3. The Bureau of the PPA (hereafter referred to as the Bureau) shall consist of the Chair of the delegation of the European Parliament and the Chair of the delegation of the Parliament of the United Kingdom (hereafter referred to as the Co-Chairs), and Vice-Chairs of each delegation.

The Bureau shall adopt its decisions with the consent of the Co-Chairs plus a simple majority of the Bureau members of the European Parliament, and of the Bureau members of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, respectively.

Chair-in-office

Rule 4. The PPA shall be presided over in turn by the Chair of the European Parliament delegation and the Chair of the Parliament of the United Kingdom delegation.

The Chair-in-office shall, where necessary, be replaced in all his or her functions by a Vice-Chair or a member of his or her delegation, in accordance with the rules and/or practices of their delegation.

Meetings

Rule 5. The PPA shall in principle meet twice a year, alternately as arranged by the European Parliament, in one of its usual places of work, or the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

Extraordinary sessions of the PPA shall be convened by the Bureau on its own initiative, or be considered by the Bureau upon a written request by at least one third of the members of each delegation.

The Co-Chairs may agree that a meeting of the PPA be held remotely.

The draft agenda, which shall be drawn up by the Co-Chairs jointly after each consulting their respective members of the Bureau, shall normally be sent to members ten calendar days prior to a scheduled meeting. Any member of the delegation may propose to their respective Co-Chairs that a subject be considered for inclusion in the draft agenda.

There shall be a presumption that the meetings shall be held in public.

PPA papers will be shared with all those attending its meetings.

Recommendations and votes

Rule 6. The PPA can address recommendations to the Partnership Council, to the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, and the Government of the United Kingdom.

Recommendations shall concern matters covered by the TCA, including supplementing agreements, or other matters of mutual interest.

On a proposal from the Bureau, proposals for recommendations may be put to the PPA.

Recommendations shall normally be sent to members at least 14 calendar days in advance for amendments.

A quorum of at least one third of the members of each delegation is needed to proceed to the vote.

Recommendations shall be considered adopted if they receive the support of a simple majority of the members of each delegation in attendance.

Amendments to Recommendations may be tabled in writing by individual members or on behalf of political groups of the European Parliament or of the Parliament of the United Kingdom by the deadline set by the Co-Chairs. After that deadline, the Co-Chairs may jointly propose compromise amendments. Oral amendments may be taken only if they are aimed at correcting factual or language mistakes, or in the event of urgent new circumstances.

The same rules shall apply to all votes in the plenary, with the exception of changes to the Rules of Procedure.

Requests for information

Rule 7. The PPA shall be informed of all decisions and recommendations of the Partnership Council and its Committees, which will be forwarded to the Secretariat of the PPA and relayed to both Parliaments.

The Co-Chairs on behalf of the PPA, or the PPA itself, may request relevant information regarding the implementation of the TCA and any supplementing agreement from the Partnership Council, which shall then supply the PPA with the requested information.

Guests and observers

Rule 8. To support the work of the PPA, by decision of the Co-Chairs, after each consulting with their respective members of the Bureau, members of the Partnership Council, members of the Government of the United Kingdom, members of the European Commission, members of the Council of the European Union, and any other guest may be invited to attend plenary meetings.

By decision of the Co-Chairs, elected representatives from other national and regional Parliaments and assemblies may be invited to attend the meetings of the PPA in an observer capacity.

Any member of the PPA may propose guests and observers to the Co-Chairs for consideration under this rule.

Secretariat

Rule 9. The Secretariat of the PPA shall be provided jointly by the secretariat of the European Parliament and the secretariat of the House of Commons and House of Lords of the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

Minutes

Rule 10. Minutes of each session of the PPA shall be drawn up for approval at the opening of the following meeting.

Interpretation

Rule 11. Members may address meetings of the PPA in an official language of the European Union.

Interpretation may be provided by the European Parliament, in accordance with its internal rules.

Costs

Rule 12. The travel expenses and subsistence allowances of PPA members and officials assisting them shall be paid by the Parliament that has appointed them.

Other expenses occasioned by the meetings and activities of the PPA will be met by the host Parliament, according to its own internal rules.

Interpretation and implementation of the Rules of Procedure

Rule 13. The Co-Chairs of both delegations jointly or, at their request, the Bureau shall rule on all questions relating to the interpretation and implementation of the Rules of Procedure.

Amendments to the Rules of Procedure

Rule 14. Any amendments to these Rules of Procedure which the PPA may propose shall be submitted for approval by the Bureau of the European Parliament and by any relevant authority within the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

The Rules of Procedure may be amended only by a decision of the PPA. Decisions on amendments to the Rules of Procedure may be taken only when at least one half of the members of each delegation are present, and agreed only with the support of at least two thirds of those members of each delegation in attendance. Amendments shall not come into effect retrospectively.