



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Rules of Procedure
applying to
the Council of Europe
for its simulation during
Rhodes Model Regional Co-operation 2022**

1. General considerations

1.1. Scope

The present rules apply to the Rhodes Model Regional Co-operation Conference, and specifically to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Please note that in all committees, the Board Members (Chairpersons) are responsible for determining rules that are in order to facilitate debate and discussion. In case of conflict of interpretation, the Committee Chair has the final authority for determining the applicability of the Rules of Procedure.

Delegates may also refer to the “RhodesMRC Handbook”, which is available on our website and contains all the necessary general considerations and procedural rules of the RhodesMRC Conference” applicable to all Committees. The “RhodesMRC Handbook” serves both as a regulation and an interpreting tool, useful for the delegates’ preparation.

1.2. Language

English is the official language of RhodesMRC. A Delegate wishing to speak in an official language where simultaneous interpretation is not provided will be required to provide their own translation. Please note that time spent in translation will be counted towards total time allotted for a given speech.

1.3. Credentials

The RhodesMRC Secretariat has accepted the credentials of delegates, or observers, prior to the opening of the conference. Actions relating to the alteration of rights or credentials of any staff member, delegate, or Chairperson may exclusively be initiated by the Secretary General. Representatives must wear approved credentials all times during the conference.

1.4. Dress Code

In accordance with the delegate’s diplomatic status, a Western formal outfit is required. For male delegates, a tie is obligatory, and for female delegates, no revealing outfits are allowed. Informal clothing, such as jeans and trainers and traditional or religious outfits, are out of order. The Secretariat reserves the right to expel a delegate due to their outfit.

1.5. Diplomatic Courtesy

During committee session, delegates are expected to exercise diplomatic courtesy when addressing members of the committee, the Chairpersons, and the members of the Secretariat, when present in the chamber. Insulting, abusive, aggressive or offensive behavior during the conference is prohibited. The Members of the Secretariat and the Chairpersons have the authority to address diplomatic warnings to delegates who obviously violate the diplomatic courtesy. In case that the delegate’s conduct seriously hampers the process within the committee, the Chair reserves the right to request their expulsion from the conference room.

1.6. Statements by the Secretariat

The Secretary General or any member of the Secretariat of RhodesMRC may make verbal or written statements to a committee at any time during the Conference.

2. RhodesMRC Board

2.1. Board

The Board of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe will be composed of a Chairperson and a Secretary General. The Presidency of the Council of Europe is held by rotation, by each Member State. The Council is presided for a period of six (6) months from November to May and vice versa in accordance with a pre-established rotation.

2.2. Competence of the Board

The competence of the Board may not be questioned by delegates.

2.3. Authorities and Responsibilities of the Board

2.3.1. Authority of the Chairperson

The Chairperson shall exercise ultimate authority over their Council, proceeding in an equitable and objective manner. The Chairperson, being also a country representative, may also take the floor, given priority of any other member, and express their point of view on the topic being discussed.

2.3.2. Responsibilities of the Chairperson

The Chairperson is responsible for all procedural matters pertaining to the Council, including, but not limited to, moderating debate, determining the applicability of the rules and if necessary, clarifying on the meaning of the existing rules without approval from the Council.

2.3.3. Authority & Responsibilities of the Secretary General

The Secretary General can either take the floor, as any other delegate, in order to express their opinion or clarify the policy lines of the member states, or issue verbal and/or written statements addressed to the Council, at any time. It is within their responsibilities to assist in the policy planning of the Council. The Secretary General has the duty to make remarks when a member state is out of line at any given discussion. They shall also have a supervisory and reconciliatory role in the drafting procedure of Decisions under the scope of protecting the general interest of states while serving the mandate of the Organization. The Secretary General assists the Chairperson with all committee presiding matters and fully substitutes them, if it is expressly requested and for the time period that the latter expressly indicates.

2.4. Caucus of the Board

The Board reserves the right to halt the working process within the committee in order to take a brief caucus

3. Parliamentary procedure

3.1. Roll Call

Attendance shall be conducted by the Board by a Roll Call at the beginning of every committee session. Delegates shall establish their presence in the committee by raising their placards and declaring "Present". As soon as the procedure is complete, the Chair is obliged to announce the total number of present members and subsequently the number of votes required for simple majority.

3.2. Procedural Matters

Procedural matters are those matters relating to the structure of the committee session as defined in the RhodesMRC Rules of Procedure. They include, but are not limited to, voting on establishing a Speaker's List, establishing speaking time, motions and adjournment of the committee session, etc. All Delegates must vote on procedural matters and no Delegate may abstain. Roll Call vote is not in order for procedural matters.

3.3. Substantive Matters

Substantive matters are defined as those matters relating to the specific topic at hand. Delegates that have established their presence at the initial Roll Call shall act accordingly.

4. Majority

Unless otherwise specified, no motions are debatable, and all require a simple majority vote to pass.

4.1. Simple Majority

A procedural or substantive matter requiring a simple majority to pass implies that more than half of the quorum must vote in favor of the matter to pass. If the vote is a tie, the matter will be considered to have failed.

4.2. Two-thirds (2/3) Majority

A procedural or substantive matter requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority to pass implies that two-thirds (2/3) of the committee must vote in favor for a matter to pass. If there is at least one vote in favor or against and the remaining votes are abstentions, the subject is considered to have either passed or failed.

4.3. Unanimity

A procedural or substantive matter requiring unanimity to pass implies that every voting member must vote in favor for a matter to pass. If there is at least a vote in favor or against and the remaining votes are abstentions, the subject is considered to have either passed or failed.

5. Delegations' Rights

Each member-state is represented by a single delegate. All delegates shall have speaking and voting rights on all matters during committee sessions, except for delegates participating in the procedures of the organization having observer status. The latter are entitled the same speaking rights and voting rights on procedural matters but their voting rights on substantial matters are permanently suspended. Additionally, delegates remain responsible to ensure the progress of the debate by using options that are described below and by actively participating in the committee procedures.

5.1. Permission to Approach the Bench

Any delegate wishing to contact the Chair for a very delicate matter may ask for permission to approach the Bench. This is a last resort in case of emergency.

6. Quorum

Committee activities and debate shall start when at least two thirds (2/3) of the delegates are present which will be verified through roll-call that will be carried out by the Board. If quorum is not met thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled start time of the committee session, the committee shall start its session with the number of delegates already present, unless otherwise instructed by Secretariat. Quorum shall be assumed when committee activity begins. The total number of delegates will be determined by the attendance list from the most recent committee session. If quorum is in question in the first committee session, the list of delegations expected to attend will serve to determine the total number of delegates in attendance. Verification of the Quorum is deemed obligatory if Committee proceedings are suspended for more than 30 minutes. In any other instance the quorum remains intact as set in the beginning of the session.

6.1. Motion to Verify the Quorum

Delegates may move to the Verification of the Quorum, where the Board will proceed with quorum confirmation by initiating a Roll Call. The Board can rule the Motion dilatory without option for appeal.

6.2. Late arrival

In case a member arrives at Committee of Ministers chamber after the Roll Call is complete, they may send a note to the Chair informing that they are present; in any other case; they will be considered as absent and won't be recognized by the Board. All participants who have not informed the Chairperson of their presence until the voting procedure begins are not eligible to vote.

7. Agenda

The Agenda items are ordered randomly. This cannot be considered as binding for the order in which topics will be addressed by the Committee. The Board may entertain a motion to set the agenda immediately after setting the quorum to define which topic area takes precedent in the

debate.

7.1. Selection of Topics

Only topics set on the provisional Agenda provided by RhodesMRC Secretariat shall be considered by a committee.

7.2. Motion to set the Agenda

Granted that the Council of Europe has one topic as its agenda item this Motion shall be automatically accepted by the Board.

7.3. Alteration of the agenda

The Chair or any member of the Secretariat shall call for tabling of the debate if committee updates and news need to be considered immediately by the delegates. The committee shall return to the regular Agenda once the given updates and news have been addressed or has been instructed to do so by the Secretariat.

8. Speakers' List

8.1. Motion to Establish the Speaker's list

To establish a Speaker's List, a delegate shall raise a Motion to Establish a Speaker's List, also determining the individual speaker's time. The Motion needs to be first approved by the Board and is voted upon, requiring simple majority to pass. If there is more than one Motion to Establish a Speaker's List, suggesting a different Speaker's time, they will be voted upon, starting from the most disruptive one.

8.2. Adding a Delegation to the Speaker's List

A delegation can be added to the Speaker's List only if not already included. The delegate may either raise their placard when the Board calls for Delegates to do so or send a note to the Board stating their intention to be added to the Speaker's List. Speakers must keep their remarks germane to the subject under discussion. When the Speaker's List is exhausted, debate is automatically closed even if a motion to close debate would not normally be in order.

9. Debate

9.1. Formal Debate

A committee shall, by default, be in Formal Debate, unless otherwise advised by the Chair.

Delegates should refer to the Speaker's List for the speaking order. Once the Agenda is set, the Chair will entertain a Motion to Establish the Speaker's List.

9.2. Informal Debate

Formal debate may be interrupted by informal debate which is considered a more flexible and versatile form of discussion. The two recognized forms of informal debate are the moderated and the unmoderated caucus. When the floor is open, after the instruction of the Board, a Member of the Council can propose a motion for a Moderated caucus or a motion for an Unmoderated Caucus.

9.2.1. Moderated Caucus

A delegation, may propose a motion for a Moderated Caucus for a specific time in order to limit the discussion to a specific aspect of the topic; in this case, the Member will be asked to designate the purpose of the moderated caucus, which is mandatorily narrower than the general agenda item, its total duration and the individual speaker's time; the Chair is free to openly confer with the Member proposing a moderated caucus, in order to assist in designating the aforementioned; a moderated caucus may only be extended once, through a motion to extend a moderated caucus, and the extension shall not exceed in total duration the initial moderated caucus.

9.2.2. Unmoderated Caucus

A delegation may propose a Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus; the member is asked to designate the total duration of the unmoderated caucus and its purpose, which should mandatorily serve the best interest of the Council; the Chair is free to openly confer with the Member proposing an unmoderated caucus, in order to assist in designating the aforementioned features; an unmoderated caucus is extended only once through a motion to extend the unmoderated caucus, but its duration should not exceed that of the initial unmoderated caucus. An unmoderated Caucus is an informal procedure where the members are allowed to move around the room, discuss, lobby, negotiate and freely draft the official document of the committee; exiting the chambers of the Committee of Ministers, without permission from the Board, is prohibited.

9.3. Recognition

A Delegate may only address the committee if they have received permission from the Board.

9.4. Interruptions

A Speaker may not be interrupted by another Delegate unless the Delegate has risen a Point of Personal Privilege. Point of Order does not interrupt a speaker. Only once the Speaker has concluded and the floor is given back to the chair, a delegate may move to a Point of Order.

10. Speeches

10.1. Time limit

When a delegate goes over their allotted time, the Chair may immediately call the Speaker to order. To account for the varying levels of English proficiency among the delegates, as well as the content of the speech, the Chair has the discretion to be flexible (within reason) regarding the time limit for a delegate to complete their thought.

10.2. Relevance of Speech

A Chair may call a Delegate to order if their speech is irrelevant to the topic at hand or is not delivered with diplomatic courtesy.

11. Yields

Only during substantive formal debate, a Delegate may yield any remaining time at the end of their speech in one of the following manners:

11.1. To Questions

The Chair will use the remaining time to entertain questions for the Speaker from the committee. Delegates wishing to ask questions shall raise their placards and wait to be recognized by the Chair. The Chair shall rule questions that are rhetorical, leading or not relevant to the Speaker's speech out of order. Only the Speaker's answer shall be subtracted from the remaining speaking time.

11.2. To Another Delegate

A Speaker who wishes to give the remainder of their allotted time to another Delegate may do so. The recipient is permitted to decline the yield. A Speaker whose time has already been yielded cannot yield again.

11.3. To the Board

The Floor will automatically be given to the next speaker on the Speakers list. If a specific yield has not been established by the Speaker, the floor will automatically be given to the Board. During a Moderated Caucus the floor will also automatically be given to the Chair.

12. Points

All points listed below, except for the Point of Personal Privilege, are not allowed to interrupt a speaker. Point of Order is in order both during Formal and Informal Debate, at any given time, provided that it does not interrupt a speaker. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry and Right of Reply are in order only during Formal Debate. Points of Parliamentary Inquiry can only be entertained when the Chair has opened the floor to points or motions; The Point of Personal Privilege is raised at all times, and it can interrupt a speaker. The delegate wishing to raise a Point of Order shall express their intention verbally following the speech that they felt was insulting.

During the unmoderated caucus, all options are suspended. In case a delegate needs to bring an incident to the attention of the Board, they may request permission to approach the bench, as instructed in the Rule 5.1.

12.1. Personal Privilege

If a matter of any kind impairs a delegate's effective participation in Committee activities, the delegate may raise a Point of Personal Privilege. The Board must make every effort to address the source of the impairment. In any case, a Point of Personal Privilege may interrupt the speaker. This motion, however, should be used sparingly.

12.2. Point of Order

If a Delegate or the Board fails to properly follow a rule of procedure, a Delegate may raise a Point of Order. The Board will make an immediate decision on the point's validity. A Delegate who raises a Point of Order may not comment on the topic of the debate. A Board-ruled dilatory Point of Order may not be appealed. This point may not be used to interrupt a Speaker.

12.3. Parliamentary Inquiry

A Delegate may raise a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry to request an explanation from the Chairperson on the Rules of Procedure. The point must be stated concisely and briefly, and it must include a reference to the RhodesMRC's official rules of procedure. This point may not be used to interrupt a speaker.

12.4. Right of Reply

A Delegate whose personal or national integrity has been impugned by another Delegate's comments may raise a Right of Reply. Disagreement with the content of a Delegate's speech does not constitute sufficient justification for a Right of Reply. The Board will recognize the Right of Reply at their discretion, as well as decide on how to resolve the motion. This point may not interrupt a speaker but should be addressed the moment they have finished their speech. Should the Board rule the Right of Reply not in order, their decision cannot be appealed. No delegate may call for a Right of Reply to a Right of Reply.

13. Motions

Motions can only be entertained when the Chair has opened the floor to points or motions; a delegation may only state their motion once they have been recognized by the Chair in order to do so. After a delegate proposes a Motion, the Chair may ask for seconds, i.e. delegates agreeing with the motion. All delegates wishing to second the motion will have to raise their placards. If there are no seconds, the motion will automatically fail. If there are seconds, the Chair will ask for objections, i.e. delegates disagreeing with the proposed motion. All the delegates wishing to express their objection will raise their placards. If there are no objections, the motion will automatically pass. If there are objections, the Chair will enter voting procedure or move on receiving any other motions.

13.1. Motion for a Moderated Caucus

A Delegate may move for a Moderated Caucus, thereby suggesting a change from formal debate to moderated informal debate. A Delegate who moves for a Moderated Caucus must suggest a time length for the caucus, individual speaking time, and justification for the Motion. The Chair may suggest a more appropriate caucus length or individual speaking time or may rule the Moderated Caucus out of order without possibility of appeal. If the Motion passes, the committee will enter informal debate whereby the Chair will recognize Delegates who raise their placards to speak about the issue at hand.

13.2. Motion to Extend the Moderated Caucus

A Delegate may move to Extend the Moderated Caucus if they feel that additional time benefits committee work. The Delegate moving for an Extension of the Moderated Caucus must suggest a length for the extension, which shall not exceed the duration of the original Moderated Caucus. The Chair may suggest a more appropriate caucus length and put it to vote or may rule the Motion out of order without possibility of appeal.

13.3. Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus

A Delegate may move for an Unmoderated Caucus, thereby suggesting a change from formal to informal debate. The Delegate who makes this motion must suggest a length and justification for the Unmoderated Caucus. The Chair may suggest a more appropriate caucus length and put it to vote or may rule the Unmoderated Caucus out of order without possibility of appeal. Once the Motion has passed, the committee will depart from the Speaker's List and Delegates will carry an informal discussion on the topic specified in the Motion without leaving the conference room.

13.4. Motion to Extend the Unmoderated Caucus

A Delegate may move to extend the Unmoderated Caucus if they feel that additional time would benefit the work of the committee. The Delegate who moves for an Extension of Unmoderated Caucus must suggest a length for the extension, which shall not exceed the duration of the original Unmoderated Caucus. The Chair may suggest a more appropriate caucus length and put it to vote or may rule the Extension of the Unmoderated Caucus out of order without the possibility of appeal.

13.5. Motion to Table Debate on a Topic

A Delegate may move to Table Debate in order to end debate on a substantive issue halting all procedures on the present topic area. If the Board rules the Motion in order, one (1) Delegate shall speak in favor and one (1) Delegate shall speak against before proceeding with a vote. This Motion requires 2/3 majority in order to pass. If the Motion passes, the Board shall entertain a Motion to Establish a Speaker's list, on the new topic addressed by the Committee. After the new topic has been discussed according the Rules of Procedure, the Board shall entertain a Motion to Return to a Dismissed Topic as defined in Rule 13.6.

13.6. Motion to Return to a Dismissed Topic

If a Motion to Table the Debate passes, the Chair may entertain a Motion to go back to a Dismissed Topic. In that event, the Chair will entertain one (1) Speaker in favor and one(1) Speaker against. A two-thirds majority (2/3) vote is required for the Motion to pass. If the Motion passes, the Committee returns to the existing Speaker's List of the dismissed topic.

13.7. Motion to Close Debate on a Draft Recommendation

A Delegate may propose a Motion to Close Debate in order to end debate on a Draft Recommendation. Should there be amendments on the floor, it is highly recommended to follow the procedure regarding Amendments, as discussed in Rules 14.4 – 14.6. If the Board rules the Motion

in order, it is in their discretion to entertain one (1) speaker in favor and one (1) speaker against the Motion. This motion requires 2/3 majority.

13.8. Motion to Close Debate on the Topic Area under Discussion

A Delegate may propose a Motion to Close Debate in order to end Debate on the Topic Area under Discussion, whereby the Committee will enter immediately in voting procedure. If the Board rules the Motion in order, it is in their discretion to entertain one (1) speaker in favor and one (1) speaker against the Motion. This motion requires 2/3 majority in order to pass.

13.9. Motion to Split the Topic Area

A Delegate may move to split the Topic Area in order for the committee to come up with more than one resolution referring to the same Topic. The delegate who moves will have to provide sufficient justification for the proposed splitting of the Topic Area. A 2/3 majority vote is required to pass this motion.

13.10. Motion to Adjourn of the Meeting

A Delegate may raise a Motion for the Adjournment of the Meeting to suspend all Council activities until the next scheduled meeting. The Board may rule the Motion out of order without possibility of appeal. This motion requires Simple Majority in order to pass. This motion is in order only to be used in the end of the conference.

13.11. Motion to Adjourn the Session

A Delegate may raise a Motion for the Adjournment of the Session to cease permanently all Council activities¹. The Board may rule the Motion not in order without possibility of appeal or putting it to vote. The Motion is debatable; thus the Board will entertain one (1) speaker in favor and one (1) speaker against. This motion requires 2/3 majority in order to pass.

14. Recommendations and Amendments

14.1. Motion to Question Competence

A Motion to Question the Competence of the Council to consider a Draft Decision is in order upon introduction of the documents. The Board will recognize one (1) Speaker in favor and one (1) Speaker against the Motion. The motion requires a 2/3 majority in order to pass. If the Motion passes the document will be withdrawn and will not be allowed to be re- introduced.

14.2. Working Paper

A Working Paper is an informal document used by delegates of the Committee, to work on building a Draft Recommendation. A Working Paper will be distributed at the Board's discretion, if requested by a Delegate. A Working Paper can be presented by the Delegate, either when it is the Delegate's

turn to speak in the Speaker's List, or when a motion for an informal debate is passed, with the purpose of discussing the working paper. Working papers shall be submitted in electronic form.

14.3. Recommendations

In appropriate cases, the conclusions of the Committee may take the form of recommendations to the governments of the Members, and the Committee may request the governments of the Members to inform it of the action taken by them regarding such recommendations. Recommendations are adopted by the Committee based on the principle of unanimity (see above rule 4.3).

14.3.1. Draft Recommendation

A Working Paper submitted to the Chair under proper Recommendation format, i.e. phrasing, sponsorship and the required number of signatories will be referred to as a Draft Recommendation. Delegates may refer to a document as a "Draft Recommendation" in a speech only after it has been assigned a number by the Secretary General. If Draft Recommendations are complementary, or identical, the Board may recommend that the Sponsors of the Draft Recommendations combine the documents prior to the end of the debate. Draft Recommendations shall be submitted in electronic form.

14.3.2. Recommendation denomination

A Draft Recommendation that has been put to a vote by the committee and passes may be referred to as a "Recommendation".

14.3.3. Format

Draft Recommendations must be properly formatted according to the guidelines found in the "RhodesMRC Guidelines" document.

14.3.4. Sponsor

The sponsor is recognized as the main contributor of the Draft Recommendation. There is only one Sponsor for each Draft Recommendation. The Sponsor must be present for a Draft Recommendation to be introduced to the Committee. The Sponsor must agree to support a Draft Recommendation unless major changes have been introduced through the amendment process.

14.3.5. Signatories

Signatories are those countries wishing to see the respective Working Paper being introduced and discussed as a Draft Recommendation. Signatories are neither considered as supporters of the Draft Recommendation, nor bear any obligation towards the sponsor. Amendments to the Draft Recommendation are not required to be approved by its Signatories. A country can be a signatory to more than one Draft Recommendation on the same topic. The required number of Signatories required to discuss a Draft Recommendation will be set by the Board, being equal to at least 1/3 of the total members present at the Committee (quorum).

14.3.6. Withdrawal of Sponsorships

Sponsorship of a Draft Recommendation may be withdrawn at any time before voting on it has begun. Sponsorship of a Recommendation may be withdrawn, if the Sponsor considers that a passed amendment alters the content to such extent, that their Delegation can't support the Draft Recommendation as a whole.

14.3.7. Withdrawal of Signature

Signatories bear no responsibility towards the sponsor, or the signed document, and they are entitled to their liberty to decide during voting procedure. If a delegate wishes to withdraw their signature, they may send a written note, at any given time before voting procedure, to the Board, requesting to be excluded from the list of signatories.

14.3.8. Introduction of a Draft Recommendation

A Delegate may propose a Motion to Introduce a Draft Recommendation. Once the Draft Recommendation has been assigned a number by the Secretariat, the Board will entertain a Motion to Introduce the Draft Recommendation, requiring simple majority. Once the Motion has passed, the Board shall invite the Sponsor of the Draft Recommendation to read out only the operative clauses of the Draft Recommendation to the Committee. The Sponsor, or one of the Signatories, will then be recognized for five (5) minutes to speak in favor of the Draft Recommendation. The Speaker may yield their remaining time to Questions or to another Delegate if they wish to do so. A new debate upon this Draft Recommendation shall begin and a new Speaker's list shall be established.

14.3.9. Withdrawal of a Draft Recommendation

A draft Recommendation may be withdrawn by its sponsor any time before the Amendment procedure starts, as defined by Rules 14.4-14.4.6. This request should be submitted in written form to the Board.

14.4. Amendments

An Amendment may add, strike out or revise a part of the Draft Recommendation. The Amendment has to be first approved by the Board. It is highly recommended that there is at least one co-sponsor of the Amendment. It is in the discretion of the Board to define the allotted time, during which the floor will be open for Amendments. After receiving the Amendments, the Board shall review them, designating whether they have been accepted by the Board and subsequently assigning them with a number.

14.4.1. Motion to Introduce Amendments

A Delegate may propose a Motion to Introduce Amendments after the time for the submission of Amendments has elapsed. If the Motion passes, the Board will introduce all Amendments approved by the Board, to the committee. During this procedure, the Sponsor will be called upon to define to the Committee and the Board which Amendments are friendly and which unfriendly.

14.4.2. Amendments to Pre-Ambulatory Clauses

Amendments to Pre-Ambulatory Clauses are not in order. However, the Board may rule such an amendment in order if serious mistakes have been noticed in the Pre-Ambulatory Clauses.

14.4.3. Substantive Amendments

Amendments correcting grammar, spelling or formatting mistakes on Draft Recommendations will be automatically adopted without being voted upon by the Committee, at the discretion of the Board. Following the initial introduction of the Draft Recommendation by its Sponsor, delegates are permitted to point out any such problems to the Board.

14.4.4. Friendly Amendments

Substantive Amendments approved by the Sponsor of a Draft Recommendation will automatically be integrated in the Draft Recommendation without the need to be voted upon by the Committee. Amendments to Friendly Amendments are not in order.

14.4.5. Unfriendly Amendments

Substantive Amendments to a Draft Recommendation not approved by the Sponsor of a Draft Recommendation are considered as unfriendly. Unfriendly Amendments will be put to a vote prior to the vote on the Draft Recommendation as a whole. Amendments to Unfriendly Amendments are not in order. The Board reserves the right to entertain one (1) speaker in favor and one (1) speaker against each Unfriendly Amendment prior to the vote by the Committee.

14.5. Withdrawal of Amendments

The sponsors of an amendment may request its withdrawal jointly at their discretion, before its denomination by the sponsor as friendly or unfriendly. The sponsor(s) of an unfriendly amendment may request its withdrawal jointly at their discretion, before its adoption by the committee. In case one sponsor decides to withdraw his/her sponsorship and the designated number for the submission of an amendment as defined by the Board is not met, it is in the discretion of the Chairperson in-office to provide time for the sponsor's replacement. The Sponsors of a Friendly Amendment do not have the right to request its withdrawal.

14.6. Voting on Amendments

After all Amendments have been defined by the Sponsor as friendly or unfriendly (Rule 14.4.1), the Board will read one by one all unfriendly Amendments, entertaining one (1) speaker in favor and one (1) speaker against, at their discretion. The Committee shall vote upon each Amendment separately, after finishing debating on it. All subsequent Amendments shall be discussed and voted upon in accordance with the procedure, and in the order defined by their assigned number. If one Amendment implies the rejection of a second Amendment, the second Amendment will not be voted upon. An Amendment that has passed shall be automatically integrated into the Draft Recommendation. Once all Amendments relating to a Draft Recommendation have been voted upon, the Board shall read the operative clauses as they have been modified.

15. Voting Procedure

When the Board announces that the Committee is entering voting procedure, no entering or exiting from the room will be permitted, unless there is an emergency, or until the voting procedure has come to an end. All auxiliary personnel, such as Journalists, Observers, and Advisors, etc., are required to immediately exit the room. The Board may or may not allow the Administrative Staff to remain in the room. Note passing is suspended. At this time, Motions to Divide the Question or Roll Call Voting are in order.

15.1. Order of Voting

Draft Recommendations on the same Topic Area should be voted on according to the number they were assigned by the Secretariat of RhodesMRC.

15.2. Motion to Reorder Draft Recommendations

A Motion to Reorder Draft Recommendations will be in order immediately after entering voting procedure, and before voting has started on any draft Recommendations. The delegate proposing a Motion to Reorder Draft Recommendations will have to state the order in which they desire the Draft Recommendations to be voted upon. The motion is considered to be debatable, and it requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

15.3. Method of Voting

Each Delegate of the Committee has one vote and must demonstrate their voting intentions by raising their placard at the Board's request, unless there is a Roll Call vote (see rule 16.2). Delegates must vote "in favor" or "against" on procedural matters, and "in favor", "against" or "abstain" on substantive matters. No Delegate shall vote on behalf of another Delegate.

15.4. Roll Call Vote

Roll Call Motions are in order primarily for substantive matters. This Motion is automatically accepted unless the Board rules it not in order; the decision is not subject to appeal. The Roll Call starts from a Delegate, randomly selected by the Board.

15.5. Passing

During Roll Call, a Delegate may choose to pass. The Board will place the Delegate at the bottom of the voting list. A Delegate who has passed once during a voting sequence may not pass again, or abstain, but must ascertain their vote. A delegate who has passed cannot vote "with Rights".

15.6. Voting with Rights

A Delegate may request a right of explanation after voting, stating in favor, or against, with rights. Upon completion of voting, the Delegate will be permitted to explain the reasons as to why they

have chosen to vote a certain way. The Board may limit the speaking time at their discretion.

15.7. Motion to Divide the Question

Prior to the start of the voting procedure on a Draft Recommendation, a Delegate may raise a Motion to Divide the Question to vote on an individual operative clause, a group of operative clauses, or clause by clause. A Delegate must specify how they wish to divide the operative clauses. Should there be more than one Motion to divide the question on the floor, the Committee shall vote upon the Motions, starting from the most disruptive one. The Board shall take one (1) Speaker in favor and one (1) Speaker against the first Motion to Divide the Question for a speaking time of one (1) minute each. The Motion requires 2/3 majority in order to pass. If the Motion passes, subsequent Motions to Divide the Question will be ruled dilatory and the Committee will proceed to voting on the Draft Recommendation in the manner suggested by the Motion. If the Motion fails, the remaining Motions will be considered in accordance with the above procedure. The divided section that fails during voting will be taken out of the final Draft Recommendation; only those sections that have passed will remain. Subsequently, the Committee will proceed to vote on the new final Draft Recommendation as a whole.

15.8. Motion to Retake Vote

The Motion to Retake the Vote is in order when the result of the vote on the Recommendation ends with a difference of one (1). The Motion automatically passes, and the Committee enters informal debate for a short period of time, defined by the Board. After the caucus the vote shall be retaken and the result of the second vote shall be considered as final. No Motions to retake the vote shall be entertained.

15.9. Adoption of a Draft Recommendation

If the Draft Recommendation passes, it is then automatically named Committee of Ministers Recommendation and hereinafter constitutes an official document of the Council of Europe.