



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

## **1. General considerations**

### **1.1. Scope**

The following rules apply to the Rhodes Model Regional Co-operation (RhodesMRC) conference for the simulation of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council (EYCS), Council of the European Union (CoEU). In case of conflict of interpretation, the President 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 his or her own translation. 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 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 of the conference. Representatives must wear approved credentials all times during the conference.

### **1.4. Dress Code**

In accordance with the delegate’s diplomatic status a formal dress code is required. For male delegates a tie is obligatory and for female no revealing outfits are allowed. Informal clothing, such as jeans and trainers, also traditional or religious outfit is not in order. The secretariat reserves the right to expel a delegate due to his or her dress code.

### **1.5. Diplomatic Courtesy**

During committee session, delegates are expected to exercise diplomatic courtesy when addressing members of the Council, the Chairpersons and the members of the RhodesMRC Secretariat, the Staff and the Organizing Committee. Insulting, abusive, aggressive or offensive behavior during the conference is prohibited. 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 his/her expulsion from the conference room or suspend his/her voting and speaking rights.

### **1.6. Statements by the RhodesMRC Secretariat.**

The Secretary General or any member of the RhodesMRC Secretariat may issue verbal or written

statements to the Council at any time during the Conference.

## **2. The Board**

### **2.1. Chairpersons**

The Board of the EYCS Council will be composed of a President- a Minister of the Country holding the rotating EU Presidency (hereinafter referred to as President) - and a Commissioner for Education, Youth, Culture and Sport (hereinafter referred to as Commissioner). The presidency of the Council of the European Union works on a rotation basis. Each member state holds the presidency for a period of six months. To ensure continuity in the work of the Council, the presidency is held by a group of three member-states, known as a trio, for a period of 18 months. The trio prepares and implements a common agenda. Czech Republic is a part of the trio France-Czech Republic-Sweden and holds over the presidency from France since July 2022.

### **2.2. Competence of the Chairpersons**

The competence of the Chairpersons may not be questioned by delegates, at any time for whatever reason.

### **2.3. Authority of the President**

The President shall exercise ultimate authority over his/her Council proceeding in an equitable and objective manner. The President also reserves the right to entertain a motion at any given time, which will help the work and procedures of the Committee move forward and should be taken seriously into account by the Council. In case of dilatory or disruptive behavior the President reserves the right to take any appropriate measure to address the misconduct. The President, being also a country representative, may also take the floor, given priority of any other member, and express his/ her point of view on the topic being discussed.

### **2.4. Responsibilities of the President**

The President 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. The President also holds the right to vote on all matters, both on procedural and substantial matters and is entitled to express the presiding state's policy on the topic at hand.

### **2.5. Authority and responsibility of the Commissioner**

The Commissioner shall have authority over all Council support operations. The Commissioner will have as his/her responsibility to ensure that delegates are accurately representing the position of their countries with respect to substantive issues and topics. The Commissioner reserves the right to take appropriate actions to ensure the proper representation of country-policies by the delegates. The Commissioner shall also be responsible for ensuring relevance of the content and format of the

Working Papers before their submission for verification by the Secretariat. The Commissioner shall also assist the President with all Committee presiding matters. The Commissioner can either take the floor, as any other delegate, in order to express his/her opinion or clarify the policy lines of the member states, or issue verbal and/or written statements addressed to the Council, at any time.

### **2.7. Planning of the Council**

The Commissioner has the duty to make remarks when a member state is out of line at any given discussion. She/he shall also have a supervisory and reconciliatory role in the drafting procedure of Conclusions under the scope of protecting the general interest of states while serving the mandate of the EU. The Commissioner assists the President with all committee presiding matters and fully substitutes him/her, if it is expressly requested and for the time period that latter expressly indicates.

### **2.8. Caucus of the Board**

The Chairpersons reserve the right to halt the working process within the committee in order to take 30 seconds of Caucus.

## **3. Parliamentary procedure**

### **3.1. Roll Call**

Attendance shall be conducted by the Chairpersons by a Roll Call at the beginning of every committee session. Delegates shall establish their presence in the Council by raising their placards and declaring "Present". As soon as the aforementioned 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, motions and adjournment of the committee session. All Delegates must vote on procedural matters and no Delegate may abstain.

### **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. Delegation's 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 organisation 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.

#### **4.1. Permission to Approach the Bench**

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

### **5. Quorum**

Committee activities and debate shall start when at least two thirds (2/3) of the delegates participating are present which will be verified through roll-call carried out by the Board following rule 5.1. If quorum is not met thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled start time of the committee session, the Council shall start its session with the number of delegates already present, unless otherwise instructed by the RhodesMRC Secretariat. Quorum shall be assumed when Council 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.

#### **5.1. Motion to Verify the Quorum**

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

#### **5.2. Late arrival**

In case a member arrives at the CoEU 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 President of their presence until voting procedure begins are not eligible to vote.

### **6. Decision-making process**

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

#### **6.1. Simple Majority**

A procedural or substantive matter requiring a simple majority to pass implies that more than half of the quorum must vote in favour of the matter to pass.

#### **6.2. 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 favour for a matter to pass. If there is at least one vote in favour or against and the remaining votes are abstentions subject is considered to have either passed or failed, unless it is a substantial matter and there has been a motion to retake the vote.

### **6.3. Consensus**

A procedural or substantive matter requiring consensus to pass implies that no delegate shall disagree with the outcome of the debate. If there is at least a vote against the matter is considered to have failed.

## **7. Debate & Speeches**

### **7.1. Formal Debate**

A committee shall by default be in Formal Debate. Open Debate considered the appropriate form of Formal Debate. Once the Agenda is set (automatically since the agenda is consisted of a single topic), the Board will entertain a Motion to Launch Open Debate on the discussed Topic Area.

#### **7.1.1 Yields**

While **only** in open (formal) debate, a delegation is entitled to give their speaking time either the remaining or the whole, to questions, to another delegation or to the Board as defined below:

##### ***a) To Questions***

The Board 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 irrelevant to the Speaker's speech not in order. Only the Speaker's answer shall be subtracted from the remaining speaking time.

##### ***b) To another Delegate***

A Speaker wishing to give the remaining time allotted to his/her speech to another Delegate can do so. The designated speaker is asked by the Board whether he/she accepts the yield. A Speaker that has been yielded to cannot yield his or her time again.

##### ***c) To the Board***

Speakers that do not wish to yield their time either to questions or another delegate may yield the floor to the Board. It is in the discretion of the President to either give the floor to another speaker or open the floor for points or motions. The Floor will automatically be given to the next speaker that will be recognized by the Board. If a specific yield has not been established by the Speaker, the floor will automatically be given to the Board.

### **7.2. 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 **moderated** and **unmoderated** caucus. When the floor is open after the instruction of the Board, the member of the Council can propose a motion for a Moderated Caucus or a motion for an Unmoderated Caucus.

### **7.3. Recognition**

A Delegate may only address the committee if he/she has been recognized by the Board.

### **7.4. 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 Board, a delegate may move to a Point of Order.

### **7.5 Time limit**

When a delegate exceeds his/her allotted time, the Board may call the Speaker to order without delay. However, the Board has the discretion to be flexible (within reason) about the time limit to allow a Delegate to finish his/her thought in order to account for the varying fluency of English among the Delegates.

### **7.6 Relevance of Speech**

The Board may call a Delegate to order if his/her speech is not relevant to the subject matter being discussed or is not delivered according to diplomatic courtesy.

## **7. DEBATE & MOTIONS**

The Debate is opened following a Motion to Launch Open Debate from a delegate and a delegate wishing to receive the floor may either raise his/her placard when the Chairpersons call for Delegates to do so or send a note to the Board. A delegate may address the Council only after he/she has been recognized by the Chairpersons and for an allotted speaking time that has been predefined. Speakers must deliver their remarks in a timely manner, in relation to the subject under discussion and delegates are obliged to address their correspondents always according to diplomatic courtesy.

Motions can only be entertained when the Board has opened the floor to points or motions; a delegation may only state their motion once they have been recognized by the Board in order to do so. After a delegate proposes a Motion, the Chairpersons 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 Board 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 Board will enter voting procedure.



### i. Motion to Launch Open Debate

In order for the Council to enter formal debate there should be a Motion to Launch Open Debate on the discussed Topic Area. The motion requires **simple majority** to pass. While in Open Debate any participating member wishing to speak -upon the topic under discussion- should raise their placard, upon request of the Board and be recognized by it. The Delegate has the floor for the time being set at the beginning of each session. The person that proposes this motion shall specify the duration of individual speaker's time.

### ii. Motion for a Moderated Caucus

A delegation, may propose a motion for a Moderated Caucus for a specific time in order to limit the discussion in 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 **individual speaker's time**; the Board 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**, and the extension shall not exceed in total duration the initial moderated caucus, through a motion to extend a moderated caucus.

### iii. Motion to Extend the Moderated Caucus

A Delegate may propose a Motion to Extend the Moderated Caucus if he/she feels that additional time benefits the work of the Council. The Delegate proposing an Extension of the Moderated Caucus must suggest **duration** for the extension, not exceeding the initial Moderated Caucus. The individual speaker's time and the purpose of the Caucus remain the same. The Board may suggest a more appropriate total duration and put it to vote or may rule the Motion out of order without possibility of appeal. Only one extension of the Moderated Caucus is allowed. Purpose and speaking time shall remain intact.

### iv. Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus

When a Delegate proposes a motion for an unmoderated caucus, he/she is asked to specify the **total duration** of the un-moderated caucus and its **purpose** which should mandatorily serve the best interest of the Council; the Board is free to openly confer with the Member proposing an un-moderated caucus, in order to assist in designating the aforementioned features. An unmoderated caucus is **extended only once** through a motion to extend the un-moderated caucus, but its duration should not exceed that of the initial of the un-moderated 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 Council, without permission from the Board is prohibited.

### v. Motion to Extend the Unmoderated Caucus



A Delegate may move to extend the Unmoderated Caucus if he/she feels that additional time would benefit the work of the Council. The Delegate proposing a Motion to Extend the Unmoderated Caucus must suggest **duration** for the extension, not exceeding the initial Unmoderated Caucus. The Board may suggest more appropriate caucus duration and put it to vote or may rule the Extension of the Unmoderated Caucus not in order without the possibility of appeal. Only one extension of the Unmoderated Caucus is allowed. Purpose of the Un-moderated caucus shall remain intact.

#### **vi. Motion to Introduce the Draft Conclusion**

Once the Working Paper submitted in proper format has been approved and assigned a number by the Secretariat (*Rule 9.2*), the Board will entertain a Motion to Introduce the Draft Conclusion, requiring **simple majority**. Once the Motion has passed, the Board shall invite the Sponsor of the Draft Conclusion to read out only the operative clauses of the Draft Conclusion to the Council. The Sponsor or one of the Signatories will then be recognized for five (5) minutes to speak in favor of the Draft Conclusion. The Speaker may yield his/her remaining time to Questions or to another Delegate if he/she wishes to do so. A new debate upon this Draft Conclusion shall begin and a new Open Debate shall be established.

#### **vii. 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 to the Council all Amendments approved by the Chairpersons. During this procedure, the Sponsor will be called upon to define to the Council and the Board which Amendments are friendly and which unfriendly (*Rules 10.1.-10.7.*).

#### **viii. Motion to Close Debate on a Draft Conclusion**

A Delegate may propose a Motion to Close Debate in order to end debate on a Draft Conclusion. Should there be amendments on the floor, it is highly recommended to follow the procedure regarding Amendments, as discussed in Rules 9.1.-9.3.6. 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**.

#### **ix. Motion to Close Debate on the Topic Area under Discussion**

A Delegate may propose a Motion to Close Debate to end Debate on the Topic Area under Discussion, whereby the Committee will enter immediately voting procedure of the Draft Conclusion. 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.

#### **x. Motion to Adjourn of the Meeting**

A Delegate may rise to 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.

#### **xi. Motion to Adjourn the Session**

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

## **8. Points**

All points listed below, can be raised during the Formal Debate or the moderated caucus (informal debate). During an unmoderated caucus all aforementioned options are suspended. In case a delegate needs to bring an incident to the attention of the Board he/she may request permission to approach the bench.

### **8.1. Point of Personal Privilege**

A delegate may rise a Point of Personal Privilege if a matter of any nature impairs the delegate's effective participation in Committee activities. The Chairpersons shall try to effectively address the source of impairment. A Point of Personal Privilege **can interrupt** the speaker in any case. However, this motion should be used with the utmost discretion.

### **8.2. Point of Order**

A Delegate may rise to a Point of Order if a Rule of Procedure is not properly observed by a Delegate or by the Chairpersons. The Board will rule on the validity of the point immediately. A Delegate rising to a Point of Order may not comment on the topic of the discussion. A Point of Order ruled dilatory by the President may not be appealed. This point **may not** interrupt a Speaker.

### **8.3. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry**

A Delegate may rise to a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry requesting an explanation from the Board on the Rules of Procedure. The point shall be concisely and briefly stated and shall contain a reference to the official rules of procedure of RhodesMRC. This point may not interrupt a Speaker and can be raised only during the Formal Debate.

### **8.4. Right of Reply**

A Delegate whose personal or national integrity has been impugned by another Delegate's comments may rise to 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 his/her discretion as well as decide on how to resolve the motion. This point may not interrupt a speaker but should be addressed the moment he/she has finished his/her speech. Should the Board rule the Right of Reply not in order, his/her decision cannot be appealed. No delegate may call for a Right of Reply to a Right of Reply. This point can also be raised only during the Formal Debate.

## **9. Council's Conclusions**

### **9.1. Motion to Question Competence**

A Motion to Question the Competence of the Council to consider a Draft Conclusion is in order upon introduction of the documents. The President will recognise one (1) Speaker in favour 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.

### **9.2. Working Paper**

A Working Paper is an informal document used by Council Delegates to work on building a Draft Conclusion. 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, after been recognized by the Chairpersons during Open Debate 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.

### **9.3. Draft Conclusion**

A Working Paper submitted to the Board under proper Conclusion format, meaning, phrasing, sponsorship and the required number of signatories will be referred to as a Draft Conclusion. Delegates may refer to a document as a "Draft Conclusion" in a speech only after it has been assigned a number by the Secretariat. If Draft Conclusions are complementary or fairly identical, the Board may recommend that the Sponsor of the Draft Conclusions combine the documents prior to the end of the debate. Draft Conclusions shall be submitted in electronic form.

#### **9.3.1. Council's Conclusion Denomination**

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

#### **9.3.2 Sponsor**

The sponsor is recognized as the main contributor of the Draft Conclusion. There is only one

Sponsor for each Draft Conclusion. The Sponsor must be present for a Draft Recommendation to be introduced to the Council. The Sponsor must agree to support a Draft Conclusion unless major changes have been introduced through the amendment process.

### **9.3.3. Signatories**

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

### **9.3.4. Withdrawal of Sponsorships**

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

### **9.3.5. Withdrawal of Signature**

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

### **9.3.6. Withdrawal of a Draft Conclusion**

A Draft Conclusion may be withdrawn by its sponsor any time before the Amendment procedure starts, as defined by Rules 10.1.-10.7.7. This request should be submitted in written form to the Board. After that point the sponsor may submit his/her request in a written form signed by all signatories of the Draft Conclusion.

## **10. Amendments**

An Amendment may **add**, **strike out** or **revise** a part of the Draft Conclusion. 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 and subsequently assigned them with a number.

### **10.1. Introduction of Amendments**

After the time for the submission of Amendments has elapsed, the motion to Introduce Amendments shall be proposed (*Rule 7vii*). If the Motion passes, the Board will present to the committee all Amendments that have been approved by them. During this procedure, the Sponsor will be called upon to characterize which Amendments are friendly and which unfriendly.

### **10.2. 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.

### **10.3. Non-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 Chairpersons.

### **10.4. Friendly Amendments.**

Substantive Amendments that are characterized as “friendly” entail that they have been approved by the Sponsor of a Draft Conclusion and will automatically be integrated in the Draft Conclusion without the need to be voted upon by the Council. Amendments to Friendly Amendments are not in order.

### **10.5. Unfriendly Amendments**

Substantive Amendments to a Draft Conclusion not approved by the Sponsor of a Draft Conclusion are considered as unfriendly. Unfriendly Amendments will be put to a vote prior to the vote on the Draft Conclusion 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 Council.

### **10.6. 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 Sponsors 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 Board to provide time for the sponsor’s replacement. The Sponsors of a Friendly Amendment do not have the right to request its withdrawal.

### **10.7. Voting on Amendments**

After all Amendments have been defined by the Sponsor as friendly or unfriendly (*Rule 10.4. – 10.5.*), the President will read one by one all unfriendly Amendments, entertaining one (1) speaker in favor and one (1) speaker against, at his/her discretion. The Council shall vote upon each

Amendment separately, after finishing debating on it. All subsequent Amendments shall be discussed and voted upon in accordance with the aforementioned 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 Conclusion. Once all Amendments relating to a Draft Conclusion have been voted upon, the Board shall read the operative clauses as they have been modified.

## **11. Voting Procedure**

When the Board announces that the Council 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 Split the House, Divide the Question or Roll Call Voting are in order.

### **11.1. Order of Voting**

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

### **11.2. Motion to Reorder Draft Conclusions**

A Motion to Reorder Draft Conclusions will be in order immediately after entering voting procedure, and before voting has started on any Draft Conclusions. The delegate proposing a Motion to Reorder Draft Conclusions will have to state the order in which he/she desires the Draft Conclusions to be voted upon. The motion is considered to be debatable and it requires **2/3 majority** to pass.

### **11.3. Method of Voting**

Each Delegate of the Council has one vote and must demonstrate his/her voting intentions by raising his/her placard at the Board request unless there is a Roll Call vote (see rule 11.4.). Delegates must vote “in favour” or “against” on procedural matters and “in favour”, “against” or “abstain” on substantive matters. No Delegate shall vote on behalf of another Delegate.

### **11.4. 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. Roll Call Voting is only in order for voting a draft Communication as a whole and not for voting on clauses if division of the question exists. Through a roll call vote, the delegates have the option to vote in favor, in favor with rights, against, against with rights, abstain & pass. The Roll Call voting procedure is conducted in alphabetical order.



### **11.5 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 his/her vote. A delegate who has passed cannot vote “with Rights”.

### **11.6. Voting with Rights**

A Delegate may request a right of explanation after voting, stating in favour/against/abstain with rights. Upon completion of voting, the Delegate will be permitted to explain the reasons as to why he/she has chosen to vote a certain way. The Chair may limit the speaking time at his/her discretion.

### **11.7. Motion to Divide the Question**

Prior to the start of the voting procedure on a Draft Conclusion, a Delegate may rise to a Motion to Divide the Question in order to vote a) on an individual operative clause, b) a group of operative clauses or c) clause by clause. A Delegate must specify how he/she wishes to divide the operative clauses. Should there be more than one Motion to divide the question on the floor, Council shall vote upon the Motions, starting from the most disruptive one. The Board shall take one (1) Speaker in favour 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 Council will proceed to voting on the Draft Conclusions 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 Conclusion; only those sections that have passed will remain. Subsequently, the Council will proceed to vote on the new final Draft Conclusion as a whole.

### **11.8. Motion to Split the House**

The Motion to Split the House is in order when the Delegate proposing this Motion wishes to exclude abstention from the voting options during the final vote on the Draft Recommendation. This Motion has to be proposed immediately after the Council Closes Debate and enters Voting Procedure. The motion requires **2/3 majority** in order to pass. Once the Motion passes, delegations shall not be allowed to abstain during the voting of the Conclusion.

### **11.9. Consensus**

Conclusions of the Council shall be adopted by consensus. Consensus shall be understood to mean the absence of any objection expressed by a participating State to the adoption of the Conclusion in question. Even one vote against means that consensus has not been reached. Abstentions are not counted in favor nor do they lead to a failure of the consensus.

### **11.10. Qualified Majority**

From 1 November 2014 a new procedure for qualified majority voting applies in the Council. Under this procedure, when the Council votes on a proposal by the Commission or the High Representative



of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, a qualified majority is reached if two conditions are met:

- 55% of members states vote in favor – in practice this means 15 out of 27
- 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<sup>1</sup>.

### **11.11. Motion to Retake Vote**

The Motion to Retake the Vote is in order when the result of the vote on the Conclusion ends with a difference of one (1) or a tie. The Motion **automatically** passes and the Council 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. All motions described in the section of the voting procedure are in order, but no Motions to retake the vote shall be entertained. Should the second vote end in tie the results of the previous vote shall be considered final and shall not be subject to another motion to retake vote. In case the initial vote is a tie as well the matter is considered to have failed.

### **11.12. Adoption of a Draft Conclusion**

If the Draft Conclusion passes, it is then automatically named CoEU Conclusion and hereinafter constitutes an official document of the CoEU.

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<sup>1</sup> Consilium.Europa.Eu, Qualified Majority, <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/templates/content.aspx/?id=1305> [Access 08/02/2018]