

Rule 10 – Duration of term of office of representatives and substitutes¹

10.1. The term of office of representatives and substitutes shall begin when their credentials are ratified.²

10.2. Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4, the term of office of representatives and substitutes shall expire at the opening of the next ordinary session.

10.3. Following parliamentary elections, the national parliament concerned or other competent authority shall make appointments to the Assembly within six months of the election. If the national parliament cannot make all such appointments in time for the opening of a new ordinary session of the Assembly, it may decide, for a period of not more than six months after the election, to be represented in the Assembly by members of the existing delegation. The credentials of the existing delegation shall expire at the opening of the first sitting of the Assembly or meeting of the Standing Committee following the appointment of the new delegation by the national parliament or competent authority or following the expiry of the six months' period after the election date.

10.4. If a seat becomes vacant through death or resignation, it may be provisionally filled in the Assembly by a substitute, and in a committee by another representative or substitute, of the same nationality, pending a new appointment by the national delegation concerned.³

1. See the Statute of the Council of Europe, Article 25.

2. See also Rules 7.4. and 8.6. above.

3. Concerning deprivation of the status of Member of the Assembly, the final decision rests with the Assembly in accordance with Article 25.b. of the Statute. See also the decision of the Bureau of 7 November 1997, approved by the Assembly on 26 January 1998 (Progress Report, Doc. 7978).