

## Committee on Rules of Procedure

### List of issues studied during the period from November 2010 to June 2011

Item	Issue	Relevant rule(s)	Progress/remarks
1	<b>Display of objects by Members during Council meetings</b>	Rule 45 of the Rules of Procedure	The Committee is generally of the view that it is not necessary to amend the Rules of Procedure to regulate the kinds of objects which should not be allowed to be brought into the Chamber. The Committee generally agrees to the principle that Members are permitted to use visual aids to illustrate points made in their speeches, provided that the aids do not cause inconvenience to other Members or obstruct the proceedings of the Council. In addition, the aids must be removed at the end of the speech. A letter was sent by the Chairman of the Committee to the President on 30 May 2011 and suggested to him to draw reference from the aforesaid principle in the event that he needs to rule on the use of any object which may cause inconvenience to other Members or obstruct the proceedings of the Council.
2	<b>Sanctions against Members for repeated or persistent disorderly conduct at Council meetings</b>	Rules 44 and 45 of the Rules of Procedure	The Committee is of the view that it is not necessary to amend the Rules of Procedure to impose sanctions to deal with Members' disorderly conduct at Council meetings. The Committee will further study at its meeting in July 2011 the relevant rules and practices of selected overseas legislatures dealing with violent acts, in particular the throwing of objects, committed by Members during sittings of the Parliament or committee meetings.

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3	<b>Procedure for dealing with interdependent amendments to a bill during the Committee stage</b>	Rule 58(2) of the Rules of Procedure	The amendment to Rule 58(2) received the support of the House Committee and was approved by the Council on 30 March 2011. The provision was amended accordingly.
4	<b>Procedure for the election of the President of the Legislative Council</b>	Schedule of the Rules of Procedure	The Committee concludes that since the majority of views expressed by members indicated a wish to maintain the current system, there was no need to make any change to the Rules of Procedure. The Committee agrees that the issue could be re-visited in the future if and when necessary.
5	<b>Order at committee meetings</b>	Rules 44 and 45 of the Rules of Procedure	The recommendations by the Committee on the amendments to Rules 44 and 45 of the Rules of Procedure were considered by the House Committee on 15 April 2011. The Council approved the amendments to Rules 44 and 45(2) at the meeting of 11 May 2011 and the relevant provisions were amended accordingly.
6	<b>Procedure for amending published reports of committees of the Legislative Council</b>	--	The Committee has requested the Secretariat to conduct a study of the relevant rules and practices of other legislatures. The Committee will discuss the issue at its meeting in July 2011.
7	<b>Procedure for handling minutes of closed meetings of committees which had been dissolved</b>	--	The Committee has requested the Secretariat to conduct a study of the relevant rules and practices of other legislatures. The Committee will discuss the issue at its meeting in July 2011.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Relevant rule(s)</b>	<b>Progress/remarks</b>
8	<b>Procedural arrangements for the implementation of Article 73(9) of the Basic Law on impeachment of the Chief Executive</b>	Article 73(9) of Basic Law	The Committee notes that the Administration is still in the process of consolidating its views and would revert to the Committee as soon as it is in a position to do so. The Committee will continue its deliberations when the Administration's reply is received.