

# **ECSU OPEN MEETING—STANDING ORDERS**

## **Motions**

1. Motions to be presented to an Open Meeting shall be submitted in accordance with Article 33 of the Constitution.
2. After the Agenda has been read to the meeting, the person chairing the meeting shall rule which, if any, of the motions are out of order. Their ruling may be challenged under Standing Order 18(ii).
3. Amendments, signed by the proposer and seconder, may be submitted in the course of the debate on the motion, or before the meeting.
4.
  - i. When an amendment is received before the meeting, the person in the chair shall allow one speech for the motion before asking the proposer if he or she wishes to accept the amendment.
  - ii. When an amendment is passed to the chair during the course of the debate on the motion, he or she shall, at the end of the speech being made, ask the proposer of the original motion whether he or she wishes to accept the amendment.
  - iii. If in either 4(i) or 4(ii) the proposer does not wish to accept the amendment into the original motion, the Chair shall allow a speech by the proposer of the amendment. Then the chair opens up the debate on the amendment. The proposer of the amendment has the right of reply immediately before the vote on the amendment is taken, save that no new subject matter may be introduced in such replies.
5. If the amendment is carried, the motion as amended then becomes the substantive motion to which further amendments then stand.
6.
  - i. The time limit for speeches on motions shall be five minutes for the proposer, and three minutes for the seconder and every other member participating in the debate.
  - ii. The time limit for submission of reports on activity shall be 10 minutes.
  - iii. The person in the chair can propose, before any motion is discussed, a reduction or extension of the time limit for speeches in a debate, subject to Standing Order 18(ii).
7. The proposer of the motion shall have the right of reply immediately before the vote is taken, save that no new subject matter may be introduced in such replies.

## **C.U.S.U. Motions**

8.
  - i. The decisions of the Executive on C.U.S.U. Council motions may be challenged at the Open Meeting. If more than 5 members support this challenge then the motion shall be discussed.
  - ii. All C.U.S.U. Motions brought to the Open Meeting for discussion and any raised under Standing Order 8(i) shall have one speaker for the motion and one against before the debate is opened to other members, subject to Standing Orders 6(i), 6(iii), 17(i) and 17(ii).
  - iii. The ECSU Representative shall be mandated by a vote of the Open Meeting to either vote for the CUSU Motion, vote against it, or abstain, a simple majority being sufficient. The President shall be mandated in the same way.

## **The Agenda**

9. The order of items on the agenda for the Open Meeting shall be decided by the Secretary of ECSU. The ECSU External Officer shall submit to the Secretary a summary of the content of the CUSU motions and how the Executive voted on them. This shall be included in the Open Meeting agenda.
10. At the beginning of the Open Meeting, the person in the chair shall read out the agenda for the meeting. If there is a challenge to the order in which the agenda proposes the items be taken, there shall be one speech for the proposed new arrangement, one speech again, and an immediate vote. Challenges to the order of items on the agenda shall require a simple majority to be passed, and shall only be made immediately after the Chair's ruling on motions and the reading out of the agenda.
11. If a topic for discussion is duly publicised on the agenda for the meeting, motions on that topic may be introduced as and when the Chair deems appropriate.

## **The Chair**

12. The Chair shall be taken at all stages of the meeting by the President of ECSU or his or her nominee.
13. The Chair shall not participate in the debate.
14. It shall be the duty of the person in the chair during speeches to see that the meeting is in order and that remarks are relevant to the matter under debate.
15. Each speaker shall address his or her remarks solely through the Chair.

## **Procedural Motions**

16. All procedural motions shall be put during the intervals between the end of one speech and the calling of the next speaker.

17. The following procedural motions on the motion or amendment under discussion may be moved by any member, providing that there has been one speech for and one speech against (or the opportunity for such to be made) that motion:
  - i. that the matter now be put;
  - ii. that the matter be referred back to the Executive, Proposer or a Committee;
  - iii. that the matter be voted on in parts;
  - iv. that the matter be voted on as a whole.
18. The following procedural motions may be made on points of order:
  - i. a request for a ruling from the Chair;
  - ii. a challenge to a ruling from the Chair;
  - iii. a motion that the present occupant of the Chair leave the chair for the rest of the meeting.
19. The procedural motions in Standing Order 17 shall be voted on immediately, without further discussion, and shall require a simple majority to be passed.
20. The procedural motions in 18(ii) and 18(iii) shall require the support of a simple majority of members in order to be considered by the meeting.
21. In the case of 18(ii) there shall be one speech for, a reply by the Chair, and an immediate vote. 18(ii) shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting to be passed.
22. In the case of 18(iii) the Chair shall have the right of reply to the debate immediately prior to the vote. 18(iii) shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting to be passed. If it be passed, the meeting shall thereupon elect a new person to the Chair for the rest of the meeting.
23. A motion to adjourn the meeting may be moved by any member, and shall be voted upon immediately without further discussion. It shall require a simple majority of those members present.

## **Standing Orders**

24. Standing Orders may be amended in accordance with Article 36(3) of the Constitution.
25. Standing Orders shall be interpreted only by a resolution of the Executive.

## **General**

26. Points of Order shall take precedence over other business. They shall relate specifically to the conduct of the debate at the time, or to the procedure of a vote. They shall not relate to the subject matter of the debate.
27. If the result of a vote is not challenged immediately by a minimum of 15 members, it shall be declared final. If it is so challenged, a new vote shall be taken without debate. The new vote shall be final.

## **ATTACHMENT TO STANDING ORDERS**

The Executive shall hold a pre-Open Meeting Executive Meeting. Decisions will be made at these meetings by agreement between at least nine members of the Executive on each issue and on who will represent the Executive views to the Open Meeting. In the case of a split Executive, the Executive will limit themselves to two (or possibly four) speakers to represent those views.

This does not preclude an individual member of the Executive speaking in the case of the introduction of a new piece of information. Neither does this prevent the Executive from changing its mind in the light of a new piece of information, or a new point of view; it merely ensures that the Executive thinks systematically about the issues and the arguments for each side of the case.

The Executive should keep in mind the danger of making members of ECSU feel like observers rather than participants and act accordingly.