

**RULES GOVERNING PATRONAGE  
BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

**BUREAU DECISION**

**OF 9 JUNE 1997<sup>1</sup>**

*Article 1*

*General principles*

1. Patronage is a way for Parliament to associate itself with a selected number of events which satisfy the conditions for eligibility in order to increase public interest in, and visibility of, its activities and those of the European Union among citizens, the media and civil society.
2. Patronage is a form of moral support. No financial undertaking nor material obligation are linked to the granting of patronage.
3. Patronage is granted by decision of the President of the Parliament to events that meet the conditions laid down in these rules. In making this decision, the President shall have a margin of discretion, notably to ensure that Parliament's dignity and image are properly safeguarded and promoted. The decision of the President shall be final.
4. Requests for representation of the President or Parliament on a committee of honour shall be dealt with by analogy with these rules.

*Article 2*

*Substantive conditions for eligibility*

1. Patronage of Parliament shall only be granted to specific and confirmed events.
2. Events for which patronage is sought shall:
  - have a clear European dimension, in particular by highlighting the Institution's or the Union's role and contribution to, or priorities in, the field concerned;
  - be of sufficiently high quality, and
  - have a significant outreach, i.e. be adequately publicised and have positive effects extending far beyond the organisers.
3. Particular attention shall be given to events that include one or more of the following characteristics:
  - raising awareness of European parliamentary democracy and fostering active European citizenship;
  - promoting fundamental rights, gender equality and non-discrimination;
  - promoting social inclusion;
  - organised by, or aimed at, the youth community;
  - counting a fair gender diversity in panels and among speakers;

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<sup>1</sup> Consolidated by the Bureau on 3 May 2004 and 17 April 2012 and amended on 15 April 2013, 11 June 2018 and 26 April 2021.

- supported by Members of the Parliament.

4. Patronage is granted to an individual event and only for the duration of the event. In case of repetitive events (e.g. every year), the organiser(s) shall submit a separate request for patronage for each event.

Without prejudice to the previous paragraph, a single request for patronage can be presented in case of a series of similar events organised within a single initiative by the same organiser(s) in the same or in different locations and taking place simultaneously or within a short interval. All the events have to have the same format and objectives, and the supporting information listed in article 3.2 for each one of the events shall be included in the request. Each event shall meet all the conditions of eligibility laid down in these rules.

5. An event shall not be eligible for patronage if:
  - its organisers or the event itself undermine the basic democratic values, principles and rights set out in the Treaties or in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, or undermine the dignity of the European Parliament;
  - it has a commercial nature or purpose and aims at advertising or promoting brands and/or commercial activities, be it immediate or expected, direct or indirect, e.g. by charging excessive fees for participating in the event or by displaying of prices or of commercial logos;
  - it is of a party-political nature, including fundraising for political purposes, or includes routine or internal activities of trade unions or political parties, or
  - it has a religious nature or purpose related to the practice of a particular religion or belief<sup>2</sup>.
6. If the conditions of eligibility are no longer met by an event for which patronage has been granted by Parliament under the present rules, the President may withdraw, at any moment, the decision to grant patronage to an event.

In this case, the organisers would not be allowed to use the Institution's specific logo for patronage or any mention of the Parliament as a patron for this event, and would be asked to immediately remove the logo and the mention from existing material.

In case of non-compliance with the withdrawal decision, the President can ban the organisers from further patronage.

### *Article 3* *Procedural conditions for eligibility*

1. Requests for patronage shall be submitted to the President preferably through the web form or by email or by post. Requests shall be received by the President at least two months before the event is to start.
2. Requests shall contain the following supporting information:

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<sup>2</sup> Without prejudice to Article 17 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union.

- general information on the organiser<sup>3</sup>, i.e.: title, last name, first name, email address, organisation (if applicable) address, postcode, town/city, country of residence, telephone, website (if applicable);
- information on the event(s), i.e.: title, start date, end date, location(s), target audience and geographical range of participants, objective and description of the project, a detailed programme including confirmed names of the speakers, event(s) webpage (if any);
- communication activities concerning the event and visibility of the European Parliament's patronage;
- the details of any putative or confirmed partners and/or patrons (if applicable),
- any other relevant information supporting the request for patronage, and
- the express agreement to comply with the applicable provisions laid down under the rules governing patronage.

#### *Article 4*

##### *Obligations relating to events having received patronage*

1. Events benefitting from patronage shall adequately highlight this fact and give visibility to Parliament by using the Institution's logo specifically designed for patronage, in accordance with Parliament's Graphics Guide, and by mentioning in their communication that the event takes place under the patronage of Parliament.

The obligation to display the Institution logo does not confer on the organiser a right of use outside the framework of the event that has received the patronage.

2. Events benefitting from patronage taking place during the 12 months before the European election shall include in the communication material a reference to the European election and its date. Relevant visual elements shall be included, in accordance with Parliament's graphics guidelines.

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<sup>3</sup> All personal data will be processed in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39-98).