



ECOWAS PARLIAMENT
PROTOCOLS, DECISIONS AND REGULATION
(2006)

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

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**ECOWAS PARLIAMENT
PROTOCOLS, DECISIONS AND REGULATION**

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**PROTOCOL A/P.2/8/94
RELATING TO THE COMMUNITY PARLIAMENT**

THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES:

Mindful of Article 7 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

Mindful of the provisions of Article 6 Paragraph 1 and of Article 13 of the Revised Treaty relating to the establishment of the Community Parliament;

Aware that the integration of Member States into a viable regional community requires, for the settlement of issues, the will of Member States to take all necessary measures for the success of such an enterprise;

Convinced that the Community Parliament as a forum for dialogue, consultation and consensus for representatives of the peoples of the Community, can effectively promote integration;

Recalling the ECOWAS Declaration of Political Principles adopted by the Authority of Heads of State and Government at its fourteenth ordinary session held in Abuja from 4 to 6 July, 1991 ;

Desirous of concluding a Protocol defining the structure, composition, competence, and other matters relating to the Community Parliament;

HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

**ARTICLE 1
DEFINITIONS**

In this Protocol, the following expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them hereunder:

“Authority” means Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Community referred to under Article 7 of the Revised Treaty;

“Bureau” means officers of the Parliament elected into a body in accordance with Articles 14 and 18 of this Protocol;

“Chairman of the Authority” means the current Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States;

“Community” means the Economic Community of West African States referred to under Article 2 of the Revised Treaty;

“Community Citizen” or **“Community Citizens”** means any person who is a national of a Member State in accordance with the conditions stipulated in Protocol A/P3/5/82 relating to the defining of Community Citizens.

“Council” means the Council of Ministers of the Community referred to under Article 10 of the Revised Treaty;

“Executive Secretary” means the Executive Secretary of the Community appointed in accordance with Article 18 of the Revised Treaty;

“Executive Secretariat” means the Executive Secretariat referred to under Article 17 of the Revised Treaty;

“Member State” or **“Member States”** means a Member State or Member States of the Community;

“Member of Parliament” or **“Members of Parliament”** means one or more representatives elected in accordance with Article 7 of this Protocol;

“Parliament” means the Community Parliament established in accordance with Article 13 of the Revised Treaty;

“Representative” or **“Representatives”** is the title of a member or members of the Community Parliament;

“Speaker” means the member of the Community Parliament elected to conduct its business in accordance with Article 15 of this Protocol;

“Treaty” means the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States signed in Cotonou on 24 July, 1993 and includes Protocols and Conventions relating thereto.

**ARTICLE 2
STRUCTURE**

1. The Parliament shall be the Assembly of the peoples of the Community.
2. Members of the Parliament shall be deemed to represent all the peoples of the Community. They shall be known as "Representatives".

**ARTICLE 3
DESIGNATION**

The House of Representatives of the Peoples of the Community shall be designated:

"Community Parliament"

**ARTICLE 4
SEAT OF THE PARLIAMENT**

The Seat of the Parliament shall be determined by the Authority.

**ARTICLE 5
COMPOSITION**

The Parliament shall be composed of one hundred and twenty (120) seats.

Each Member State shall have a guaranteed minimum of five (5) seats.

The remaining forty (40) seats shall be shared on the basis of population.

Representation for each Member State shall be as follows:

Benin	-	five (5)	seats
Burkina Faso	-	six (6)	seats
Cape Verde	-	five (5)	seats
Côte d'Ivoire	-	seven (7)	seats
Gambia	-	five (5)	seats
Ghana	-	eight (8)	seats
Guinea	-	six (6)	seats
Guinea Bissau	-	five (5)	seats
Liberia	-	five (5)	seats

Mali	-	six (6)	seats
Mauritania	-	five (5)	seats
Niger	-	six (6)	seats
Nigeria	-	thirty-five(35)	seats
Senegal	-	six (6)	seats
Sierra Leone	-	five (5)	seats
Togo	-	five (5)	seats

Whenever necessary, the number and distribution of seats shall be reviewed by the Authority on its own initiative or on the recommendation of the Parliament.

ARTICLE 6 COMPETENCE

1. The Parliament may consider any matter concerning the Community, in particular issues relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedom and make recommendations to the Institutions and Organs of the Community.
2. The Parliament may be consulted for its opinion on matters concerning the Community.

The opinion of the Parliament shall be sought in the following areas:

- (a) inter-connection of the communications links between Member States so as to make free movement of persons and goods effective;
- (b) inter-connection of telecommunications Systems to form an effective Community network with the maximum possible number of extensions to the rural areas to make them more accessible;
- (c) inter-connection of energy networks;
- (d) increased cooperation in the area of radio, television and other media links within the Community and between the Community and the rest of the world, development of national communications Systems to form an integrated, effective Community System with its own programmes;
- (e) public health policies for the Community;

- (f) common educational policy through harmonisation of existing Systems and specialisation of existing universities; adjustment of education within the Community to international standards;
- (g) youth and sports;
- (h) scientific and technological research;
- (i) Community policy on environment;
- (j) Treaty review;
- (k) Community citizenship;
- (l) social integration;
- (m) respect for human rights and fundamental freedom in all their plenitude.

ARTICLE 7
ELECTION, TERMS OF OFFICE AND VACANCIES

1. ELECTION

- (i) Representatives and their alternates shall be elected by direct universal suffrage by citizens of Member States;
- (ii) Pending the time Members of Parliament are elected by direct universal suffrage, the National Assemblies of Member States or their equivalent institutions or organs shall elect such Members from amongst themselves.

The duration of the transitional period shall be determined by the Authority.

- (iii) The Executive Secretary shall be notified of the election of Representatives and their alternates;
- (iv) Representatives and their alternates shall be eligible for re-election;
- (v) Parliament shall verify the credentials of its Members.

2. TERMS OF OFFICE

- (i) Representatives shall be elected for a period of five years from the day of swearing-in. Their mandate shall, without any exception, end on the last day of the legislature.
- (ii) For the duration of the transition period Representatives who are not re-elected at the national level shall remain in office until the new Representatives from their respective Member States take up their positions.

3. VACANCIES

Any vacant seat shall be filled by the first non-elected candidate registered on the same list containing the name of the out-going Member of Parliament.

ARTICLE 8 WRITTEN DECLARATION

1. Members of the Community Parliament shall, before assuming duty, sign the following written declaration: *"I declare on my honour that I will faithfully serve the interest of the peoples of the Community and that I will not submit to any direct or indirect pressure from any Member State or group"*.

This declaration which shall be (in writing and) signed by every Representative shall be recorded in the proceedings of the Parliament and may be referred to as and when necessary.

ARTICLE 9 IMMUNITY

1. Representatives shall enjoy Parliamentary immunity in all the Member States of the Community. Therefore, no Representative may be prosecuted, summoned, arrested, detained or sentenced on account of opinions expressed or vote cast by him in the exercise of his duty.
2. While Parliament is in session, and except in case of flagrante delicto, no Member can be prosecuted or arrested for criminal or penal action without clearance from the Parliament.
3. While Parliament is on recess, and except in a case of flagrante delicto, duly established, suits or confirmed sentence, no Member of Parliament can be prosecuted or arrested without clearance from the Bureau of the Parliament.

4. The Parliament can, through a two-thirds majority vote, request from the competent authority the suspension of a detention order on or a suit against a Member of Parliament.

ARTICLE 10 ALLOWANCE

Representatives shall be paid a parliamentary allowance which shall be fixed by the Authority.

ARTICLE 11 VOTING

1. Members of Parliament shall vote personally and on their own conviction. They shall not be bound by any instructions or mandate.
2. The Rules of Procedure of the Parliament shall exceptionally authorize the delegation of vote. Where this is done, no one shall be allowed to be delegated for more than one mandate.

ARTICLE 12 INCOMPATIBILITY

The post of the Member of the Community Parliament shall not be held concurrently with the following:

- members of government, the constitutional council, the supreme court of a Member State;
- members of Courts and Tribunals of the Member States;
- judge, lawyers or registrar in the Community Court of Justice and the Community Court of Arbitration;
- member of any institution created in application of the Revised Treaty, to administer the Community's funds or a permanent task directly connected with a serving officer in the ECOWAS Institutions, or any other post in an International Organisation;
- all other civil and public servants in Member States.

ARTICLE 13
SESSIONS OF THE PARLIAMENT

1. ORDINARY SESSIONS

- (a) Sessions shall cover a maximum period of three months during which the Parliament shall sit. Parliament shall meet at least twice a year in Ordinary Session. Sessions shall be convened by the Bureau, subject to the provisions of Article 14 of this Protocol.
- (b) Conduct of Ordinary Sessions of Parliament shall be governed by the Rules of Procedure.

2. EXTRAORDINARY SESSIONS

- (a) Parliament may also meet in Extraordinary Session to discuss a specific agenda:
 - either at the initiative of the current Chairman of the Authority;
 - or at the express request in writing of an absolute majority of Members addressed to the Speaker.
 - (b) Conduct of Extra-ordinary Session of Parliament shall be governed by the Rules of Procedure. These sessions shall end once the agenda is exhausted.
3. The Executive Secretary shall attend or ensure that he is represented at all meetings of Parliament.

ARTICLE 14
FIRST SESSION

1. CONVENING OF PARLIAMENT

- (a) The first meeting of the Parliament shall be convened by the current Chairman of Authority upon the recommendations of the Executive Secretary.
- (b) The Executive Secretary shall, upon the entry into force of the Revised Treaty establishing the Parliament, request Member States to take action in accordance with Article 7 of this Protocol.

- (c) The Executive Secretary shall, upon receiving the names of at least three quarters of the Members of Parliament forwarded by the States convene the constituent meeting of the Parliament upon consultations with the current Chairman of Authority.

2. FIRST MEETING

- (a) The first meeting of the Parliament shall be chaired by the oldest Member. The youngest Member shall act as Secretary.
- (b) The Chairman of the meeting shall instruct that a roll-call of the meeting be taken.
- (c) The Chairman of the meeting shall call on the Parliament to elect its Speaker.
- (d) Nominations shall be called for in plenary session and voting shall take place by secret ballot.
- (e) The Speaker of Parliament shall be elected by a two-thirds majority of Members of Parliament at the first round of voting, by an absolute majority of voting Members at the following rounds at which only the two candidates who obtained the highest number of votes can be presented.
- (f) The Speaker shall be elected for the life of the Parliament.
- (g) The Chairman of the meeting shall thereafter call on the elected member to take his seat as the Speaker and preside over the deliberations.
- (h) Parliament shall adopt its rules of procedure by a two-thirds majority.
- (i) The Speaker shall then initiate the election of other officers of the Bureau.

ARTICLE 15 THE SPEAKER

The Speaker shall direct the business of the Parliament and its organs. He presides over meetings and conducts the debates in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure.

**ARTICLE 16
BUREAU**

1. COMPOSITION

- (a) The Bureau shall comprise a Speaker, Deputy Speakers, Treasurers and Parliamentary Secretaries. The number of Deputy Speakers, Treasurers and Parliamentary Secretaries shall be determined in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. The General Secretary shall be nominated by the Speaker after consultation with the Bureau.
- (b) With the exception of the Speaker, members of the Bureau shall be elected for a period of one year. They shall be eligible for re-election.

2. ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

The order of precedence for Members of the Bureau shall be determined in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

**ARTICLE 17
PUBLIC ATTENDANCE**

Debates in the Parliament shall be open to the public unless otherwise directed by the Speaker. Verbatim reports of the proceedings shall be published in the Official Journal of the Community. Summary reports of the proceedings shall also be published in the National Gazette of each Member State.

**ARTICLE 18
BUDGET OF THE PARLIAMENT**

1. Parliament shall have financial autonomy.
2. The preparation and execution of its budget shall be in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Manual of Accounting Procedure of the Community.

**ARTICLE 19
RULES OF PROCEDURE**

All matters not provided for in this Protocol shall be determined by the Rules of Procedure.

**ARTICLE 20
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

The official and working languages of the Parliament shall be those specified in the ECOWAS Treaty.

**ARTICLE 21
AMENDMENTS**

1. Any Member State or the Speaker may, after consultation with the Bureau, submit proposals for amendment of this Protocol.
2. All proposals shall be transmitted to the Executive Secretary who shall forward them to the Member States and the Speaker within forty-five (45) days of receipt.
3. Such amendments shall be examined by the Authority on the expiration of forty-five (45) days notice given to Member States.

**ARTICLE 22
ENTRY INTO FORCE**

1. This Protocol shall enter into force upon ratification by at least nine (9) signatory States in accordance with the constitutional regulations in force in each signatory State.
2. This Protocol and all its instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Executive Secretariat of the Community which shall transmit certified true copies of the Protocol to all Member States, notify them of the date of deposit of the instruments of ratification and register the Protocol with the Organisation of African Unity, the United Nations and any other Organisation which may be determined by Council.
3. This Protocol is annexed to the Treaty and shall form an integral part thereof.

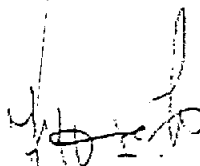
**IN FAITH WHEREOF, WE THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES HAVE
SIGNED THIS PROTOCOL.**

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 6TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1994.

**IN SINGLE ORIGINAL IN ENGLISH, FRENCH AND PORTUGUESE
LANGUAGES, ALL TEXTS BEING EQUALLY AUTHENTIC.**

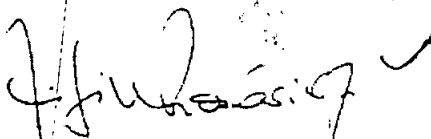


H. E. Nicéphore Dieudonné SOGLO,
President of the Republic of **BENIN**



Hon. Hermann YAMEOGO,
Minister of State for African Integration
and Solidarity for and on behalf of the
President of **BURKINA FASO**

Hon. Amara ESSY,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, for and on behalf of the
President of the Republic of **COTE D'IVOIRE**



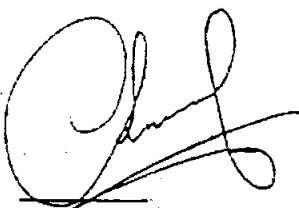
Hon. Joao Higinio de Rosario SILVA,
Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce,
for and on behalf of the Prime Minister of the
Republic of **CAPE VERDE**



H. E. Lt. Sana B. SABALLY,
Vice Chairman of the Armed Forces
Provisional Ruling Council
of The **GAMBIA**

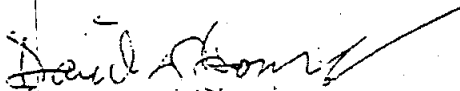


H. E. Flt.-Lt. Jerry John RAWLINGS,
President of the Republic of **GHANA**

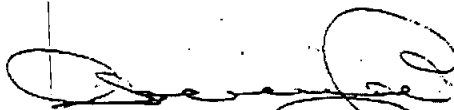


H. E. Lansana CONTE,
Head of State, President of the Republic of **GUINEA**

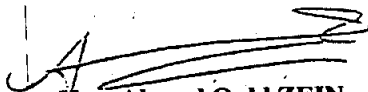
H. E. General Joao Bernardo VIEIRA,
President of the Council of State of the
Republic of **GUINEA BISSAU**



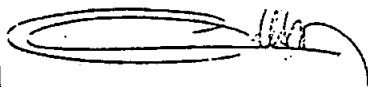
H. E. David KPOMAKPOR,
Chairman of the Council of State,
Liberian National Transitional Government (LNTG)
Republic of **LIBERIA**



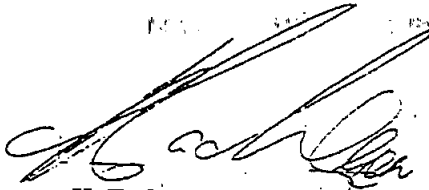
Hon. Mrs. Sy Kadiatou SOW,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of
Malians Resident Abroad and of African Integration,
for and on behalf of the President of the Republic of **MALI**



Hon. Ahmed Ould ZEIN,
Minister, Secretary-General of the Presidency, for and on
behalf of the Head of State of the Islamic Republic of **MAURITANIA**



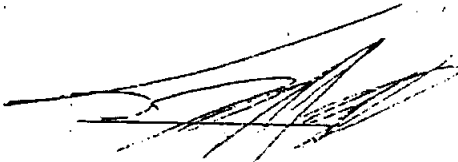
H. E. Mahamane OUSMANE,
President of the Republic of **NIGER**



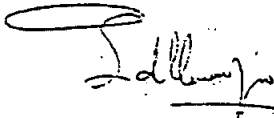
H. E. General Sani ABACHA,
Head of State, Commander-in-Chief of the
Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of **NIGERIA**



Hon. Magatte THIAM,
Minister of African Economic Integration,
for and on behalf of the President of the
Republic of **SENEGAL**



H. E. Captain Valentine E. M. STRASSER,
Chairman, National Provisional Ruling Council
and Head of State of the Republic of **SIERRA LEONE**



H. E. Edem KODJO,
Prime Minister of the Republic of **TOGO,**
for and on behalf of the President of the Togolese Republic.

**SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL A/SP.3/06/06
AMENDING PROTOCOL A/P.2/8/94 RELATING TO
THE COMMUNITY PARLIAMENT**

HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Articles 6 and 13 of the said Treaty relating to the Institutions of the Community and the establishment of the Community Parliament respectively;

MINDFUL of Protocol A/P2/8/94 relating to the Community Parliament;

MINDFUL of Decision A/DEC.6/01/06 adopted by the 2901 session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government relating to modalities for the effective implementation of Article 6 of Protocol A/P2/8/94 relating to the Community Parliament;

MINDFUL of Regulation C/REG.20/01/05, giving directives for the restructuring of the Community Parliament to permit its effective participation in the ECOWAS decision-making process and to create the necessary synergy and cooperation between it, the Parliament of Member States and the Institutions of the Community; with a view to complementing efforts at accelerating the process of integration;

RECALLING that the above mentioned directives were aimed at establishing a restructured Parliament with a distinct Political arm and an administrative wing adequately staffed by competent professional and administrative personnel that will provide the necessary administrative services for the work of the members of the Parliament;

DESIROUS of enhancing the performance of the Community Parliament and progressively transforming its mandate from advisory to co-decision, upon the election of its members by direct universal suffrage;

DESIROUS of establishing greater harmony between the activities of the Parliament and Community Programmes;

DESIROUS of amending relevant provisions of Protocol A/P2/8/94 relating to the Community Parliament to achieve the above stated objectives.

HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**ARTICLE 1**

All references to "*Executive Secretariat*" and "*Executive Secretary*" in Protocol A/P2/8/94 are hereby deleted and substituted respectively with "Commission" and "President".

ARTICLE 2

The following terms shall be added to those enumerated in Article 1 of Protocol A/P2/8/94 and shall be defined as follows:

"*Protocol*" means Protocol A/P2/8/94 and its amendments as contained in this Supplementary Protocol amending Protocol A/P.2/8/94 relating to the Community Parliament and other amendments as may be made from time to time; "

"*Conference of Bureaux*" means the Conference of Bureaux referred to under Article 16 of this Supplementary Protocol;

"*Committee of Selection*" means the Committee constituted at the beginning of any legislature by the Plenary to assist the Bureau in composing members of each Standing Committee;

"*Standing Committees of Parliament*" means Parliamentary Committees established to reflect the areas of competence covered by the ECOWAS Technical Commissions established by the ECOWAS Treaty;

"*The Secretariat of the Parliament*" means the General Secretariat of Parliament referred to under Article 16 of this Supplementary Protocol;

"*Secretary General*" means the officer appointed in accordance with Article 16 of this Supplementary Protocol;

ARTICLE 3

Articles 3, 4, 6, 7-2(1), 14-1(3), 14-1 (b), 14-1(c); 15, 16, 19 and 21 are deleted and replaced as follows:

New Article 3

Designation

The House of Representatives of the Peoples of the Community shall be designated:

“ECOWAS PARLIAMENT”

New Article 4

The Life of the Legislature

The life span of the Legislature shall be four (4) years from the date of its inauguration by the Chairman of the Authority;

Article 7 - 2 (1)

Terms of Office

“Representatives shall be elected for a period of four (4) years from the day of swearing-in. Their mandate shall, without any exception, end on the last day of the legislature.”

New Article 14 - 1(a)

The first Session of each new legislature shall be convened by the current Chairman of the Authority upon the recommendation of the President of the Commission.

New Article 14 - 1(b)

The President of the Commission shall, three (3) months prior to the end of each legislature request Member States to elect their Parliamentarians to the Community Parliament in accordance with Article 15(6) of this Protocol.

New Article 14 - 1(c)

The President of the Commission shall, upon receiving the names of at least three-quarter of the Members of Parliament forwarded by the States, inform the Chairman of Authority accordingly who shall take necessary measures to convene the Parliament.

New Article 15**ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER**

1. The Speaker is elected for the life of the Legislature.
2. The position of Speaker shall be allocated to Member States by the Authority in line with an established rotational System based on an alphabetical order of States.
3. All Members of Parliament from the Member State to which the position has been allocated will be eligible to contest the position.
4. The modalities for the election of the Speaker shall be as defined in the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament.

FUNCTIONS OF THE SPEAKER

4. The Speaker shall:
 - a) Preside over all proceedings of Plenary, Bureau and Conference of Bureaux and in his absence; a Deputy Speaker in the order of their precedence takes over.
 - b) Be the Chief authorizing officer of the budget of the Parliament and may designate financial management to the Secretary General in line with the financial regulations of the Community. However, at the expiration of the life of the legislature, the outgoing Speaker loses his powers as the Chief Authorizing Officer of the Parliament. Notwithstanding the provisions of articles 7-2(1) above, the Speaker continues to carry out ceremonial duties until the election of a new Speaker.
 - c) Open, suspend or close the sitting of Parliament.
 - d) Determine the admissibility or otherwise of papers brought to the Parliament.
 - e) Follow up on the implementation of the decisions of the Bureau and Parliament.

- f) Represent Parliament in relations with other ECOWAS Institutions and third parties.
 - g) Appoint on the recommendation of the Secretary-General, locally recruited personnel in conformity with the ECOWAS Staff Regulations.
 - h) Perform any other duties incidental to these functions. (Political, diplomatic, protocol and ceremonial).
5. For the duration of the transitional period of the Parliament and pending election of its Representatives by direct universal suffrage, the Speaker shall not be resident at the Seat of Parliament.
6. ECOWAS Parliamentarians shall be elected by the national assemblies of Member States and their names shall be communicated to the President of the Commission at least one month before the end of the legislature to ensure the timely installation of the next legislature.

New Article 16

STRUCTURE OF THE PARLIAMENT

1. The Parliament shall have political and administrative wings.
2. The structures of the political wing are as follows:
 - The Plenary
 - Bureau of Parliament
 - The Conference of Bureaux

The Plenary

3. The Plenary shall be the highest body and its decisions shall be binding on other structures of the Parliament. As an advisory Parliament, the Plenary adopts all Resolutions of Parliament which are to be forwarded to the decision-making bodies of the Community. The Plenary shall however be guided by the provisions of the Treaty and all other legal text of general application to Community Institutions.

The Bureau

4. The Bureau shall be the governing organ of the Parliament. Its decisions shall be in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty and all other legal texts of general application to Community Institutions.
5. The Bureau shall comprise the Speaker, the first Deputy Speaker, the Second Deputy Speaker, the Third Deputy Speaker and the Fourth Deputy Speaker.
6. The tenure of all Deputy Speakers shall be the same as the Speaker, and their elections shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament.
7. In the absence of the Speaker the Deputy Speakers shall preside in their order of precedence.
8. The Bureau shall have the following functions:
 - a. Determine with the Conference of Committees Bureaux and, the Speaker, the draft agenda and all programmes or business of the session, taking into account the approved Community programmes.
 - b. Authorize meetings, hearings, fact finding and study tours of Committees away from the headquarters.
 - c. Determine with the assistance of the Selection Committee the composition of the Standing Committees. In carrying out this assignment, due regard shall be given to linguistic, gender balance and nationality.
 - d. Subject to the provisions of the Treaty regarding the mandate of the Council, the Bureau shall:
 - i. Maintain at all times a structure that clearly enhances the synergy between the political and the administrative wings of Parliament
 - ii. Issue general guidelines and policy directions for the management and administration of the affairs and facilities of the Parliament and its organs, in accordance with Community rules.

- iii. Regulate the procedures relating to the internal organization of the Parliament and its organs in accordance with Community rules.
- iv. Be responsible for prescribing guidelines for the annual budgets within the limits set out by the President of the Commission.
- v. Consider the draft budget and present it to the appropriate committee.
- vi. Appoint the Secretary-General and the Directors and approve the appointment of professional staff on the recommendation of the relevant Advisory Committee on recruitment.
- vii. Undertake any other function as may be prescribed by the Plenary and consistent with Community texts.

The Conference of Committees' Bureaux

9. The Conference of Committees' Bureaux shall be composed of the Speaker, Chairmen or Deputy Chairmen and the Rapporteur of each of the Standing Committees.
10. The Conference shall:
 - i. be the organ of Parliament that shall represent all committees collectively.
 - ii. work with the Bureau of the Parliament to prepare the draft annual work-plan of the Parliament taking into account the priority Community programs and work-plans of other Community Institutions. The Speaker shall be the convener and the Chairman of all such joint-Committees.
 - iii. collaborate with the Bureau to organize the work-plans of the Standing Committees in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and the terms of reference of the Committees.
 - iv. work in close collaboration with National and other Regional Parliaments.

- v. be chaired by the Speaker who shall convene all meetings of the said conference.
11. (a) There is hereby established a General Secretariat of Parliament.
 - (b) The administrative wing of the Parliament shall comprise The General Secretariat of the Parliament headed by the Secretary General who will be assisted by Directors. The position of the Secretary-General shall be of the professional category.
 12. (i) The recruitment of the Secretary General, and the Directors shall be guided by the Staff Regulations of the Community;
 - (ii) The appointment of other categories of Staff shall also be in accordance with the laid down procedure of the Community.
 13. The Secretary-General is the head of the Administration of the Parliament under the authority of the Speaker and his or her functions shall be defined in a Council Regulation.
 14. At the expiration of the life of each legislature and before the inauguration of a new legislature and consequent election of a Speaker, the Secretary General shall continue to carry out the day to day administration of Parliament.

New Article 19

RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Parliament shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure which shall conform to the Treaty and all other legal texts of general application to Community Institutions.

New Article 21

1. Any Member State, the Parliament and other Institutions of the Community may submit proposals for the amendment or revision of the Protocol.
2. Any such proposal shall be submitted to the President of the Commission who shall notify other Member States thereof not later than (30) days after the receipt of such proposal. Amendments or revisions shall not be considered by the Authority unless Member States shall be given at least three months notice thereof.

3. Such amendments shall be examined by the Authority in accordance with the provisions of Article 9 of the Treaty.

ARTICLE 4

Article 6 of Protocol A/P2/8/94 relating to the Parliament of the Community is reformulated as follows:

1. The Parliament may consider any matter concerning the Community, in particular issues relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and make recommendations to the Institutions and Organs of the Community.
2. The powers of the ECOWAS Parliament shall be progressively enhanced from advisory to co-decision making and subsequently to a law making role in areas to be defined by the Authority.
3. Pending the election of the Parliamentarians by direct universal suffrage, the Parliament may be consulted for its opinion on matters concerning the Community. The opinion of the Parliament shall be sought in the following areas:
 - a. interconnection of the communications links between Member States so as to make free movement of persons and goods effective;
 - b. interconnection of telecommunications Systems to form an effective Community network with the maximum possible number of extensions to the rural areas to make them more accessible;
 - c. interconnection of energy networks;
 - d. increased cooperation in the area of radio, television and other media links within the Community and between the Community and the rest of the world, development of national communications systems to form an integrated, effective Community System with its own programmes;
 - e. public health policies for the Community;
 - f. common educational policy through harmonization of existing Systems and specialization of existing universities; adjustment of education within the Community to international standards;

- g. youth and sports;
- h. scientific and technological research;
- i. Community policy on environment;
- j. Treaty review;
- k. Community citizenship;
- l. Social integration;
- m. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in all their plenitude.

ARTICLE 5

In view of the creation of a new Article 4 of Protocol A/P2/8/94 by the provisions contained herein, the old Article 4 is therefore renumbered Article 5 with all subsequent Articles being numbered thereafter serially.

ARTICLE 6

All provisions of Protocol A/P2/8/94 contrary to the provisions herein contained are hereby abrogated.

ARTICLE 7

1. This Supplementary Protocol shall come into force provisionally upon its signature by the Heads of States and Government. Consequently, signatory Member States, Parliament and the Commission undertake to commence implementation of its provisions.
2. This Supplementary Protocol shall come into force definitively upon its ratification by at least nine (9) signatory States, in accordance with the Constitution of each Member State.

ARTICLE 8

This Supplementary Protocol and all its instruments of ratification shall be deposited at the Commission which shall transmit certified copies of this Supplementary

Protocol to all Member States, notify them of the date of deposit of the instruments of ratification and register this Supplementary Protocol with the African Union, United Nations Organisation and any other organization as may be declared by Council.

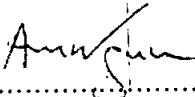
IN WITNESS WHEREOF WE, THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES, HAVE SIGNED THIS SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 14TH DAY OF JUNE, 2006

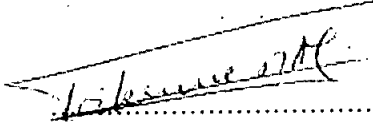
IN SINGLE ORIGINAL, IN FRENCH, ENGLISH AND PORTUGUESE, THE THREE (3) TEXTS BEING EQUALLY AUTHENTIC.

.....
H. E. Thomas-Boni YAYI
President of the Republic of BENIN
President of FASO

.....
Republic of CAPE VERDE


.....
H. E. ALIEUNGUM
Minister of Trade, Industry and
Employment, Representing the
President of the Republic of
The GAMBIA

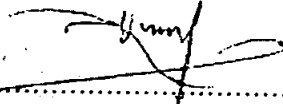

.....
H. E. Blaise COMPAORE
Chairman of the Council of Ministers


.....
**S. E. DR. ALBERT MABRI
TOIKEUSSE**
Minister for African Integration
Representing the President of the
Republic of CÔTE D'IVOIRE

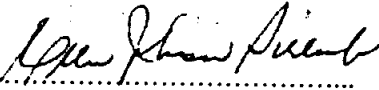

.....
H. E. John Agyekum KUFUOR
President of the Republic of GHANA



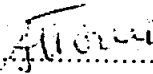
.....
H. E. Fatoumata Kaba SIDIBE
Minister for International Cooperation
Representing the President of the
Republic of **GUINEA**



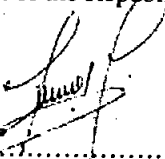
.....
H. E. DE SOUSA - RUI DIA
Minister, Presidency of Council of
Ministers on Social Communication
and Affairs; Representing the
President of the Republic of
GUINEE BISSAU



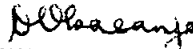
.....
H. E. ELLEN JOHNSON-SIRLEAF
President of the Republic of **LIBERIA**



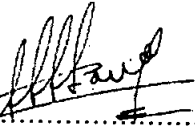
.....
H. E. Amadou Toumani TOURE
President of the Republic of **MALI**



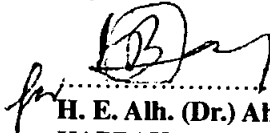
.....
H. E. Mamadou TANDJA
President of the Republic of **NIGER**



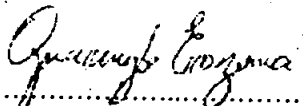
.....
H. E. Olusegun OBASANJO, GCFR
President and Commander-in-Chief
of the Armed Forces of the Federal
Republic of **NIGERIA**



.....
H. E. ABDOU AZIZ SOW
Minister for NEPAD, Economic
Integration in Africa & Good
Governance Policy
Representing the President of the
Republic of **SENEGAL**



.....
**H. E. Alh. (Dr.) Ahmad Tejan
KABBAH**
President of the Republic of **SIERRA
LEONE**



.....
H. E. Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBE
President of the **TOGOLESE** Republic

**DECISION A/DEC. 6/01/06
RELATING TO MODALITIES FOR THE
EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF
ARTICLE 6 OF PROTOCOL A/P.2/8/94 RELATING
TO THE COMMUNITY PARLIAMENT**

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 13 of the said Treaty relating to the Community Parliament;

MINDFUL of Protocol A/P.2/8/94 relating to the Community Parliament which defines the composition, mode of election of Members, functions and powers of the Parliament;

CONSIDERING the need for the Community Parliament to participate effectively in the ECOWAS decision-making process;

NOTING that modalities for facilitating the implementation of Article 6 of the Protocol relating to the ECOWAS Parliament have not been defined;

DETERMINED to consolidate the achievements recorded by the Community, with a view to realising its set objectives and, to this end, to promote and facilitate the effective exercise by the Parliament of the powers granted to it in Article 6 of Protocol A/P.2/8/94;

DESIRING therefore to adopt modalities defining procedures to be followed in the process of consulting the Community Parliament, and fixing deadlines for the formulation and communication of recommendations made by the Parliament and the opinions sought by the other Institutions of the Community;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the fifty-fifth session of the Council of Ministers held in Niamey on 7th, 8th and 11th January, 2006;

DECIDES

Article 1: Competence

1. In accordance with Article 6 of the Protocol relating to the Community Parliament, the Parliament may consider any matter concerning the Community, in particular issues relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and make recommendations to the Institutions and Organs of the Community.
2. The Parliament may be consulted for its opinion on matters concerning the Community.
3. The opinion of the Parliament shall be sought in the areas enumerated in Article 6 paragraph 2 of Protocol A/P.2/8/94 dated 6th August 1994.

Article 2: Procedure for referral to the Community Parliament

1. Where, in accordance with Article 6 paragraph 1 of Protocol A/P.2/8/94, the Community Parliament deems it necessary to consider any matter concerning the Community, the procedure to be followed shall be as follows:
 - a) The Parliament shall forward a draft Recommendation, Regulation or Decision on the matter to the Executive Secretariat, accompanied by the report of the meeting of the competent Committee of the Parliament that considered the issue.
 - b) The Executive Secretariat shall consult the Institutions and Member States concerned by the proposal and submit the proposal as well as the report of the Parliamentary Committee to the competent specialised Technical Commission.
 - c) The Executive Secretariat shall communicate to the Community Parliament whatever amendments may be proposed by the specialised Technical Commission.
 - d) The Community Parliament shall communicate to the Executive Secretariat the observations it may have on the amendments proposed by the Technical Commission.

- e) On the basis of the observations by the Parliament, the Institutions and Organs concerned and the Executive Secretariat shall, where they deem it necessary, amend the proposal before submitting it for adoption. They shall inform the Parliament if necessary. In all cases, the Executive Secretariat shall inform the Community Parliament of the proposal submitted for adoption.
2. Where the Institutions and Organs of the Community choose to consult the Parliament for its opinion or in cases where the Parliament must be consulted for its opinion, the Institutions and Organs shall proceed as follows:
 - a) The Institutions and Organs concerned shall prepare a draft Recommendation, Regulation, or Decision;
 - b) They shall submit the draft text to the relevant authorities for onward transmission to the competent specialised Technical Commission for consideration.
 - c) They shall communicate the draft text as amended by the specialised Technical Commission to the Community Parliament, accompanied by the report of the meeting of the Commission.
 - d) After examining the draft text in line with its internal procedures, the Parliament shall communicate its opinion accompanied by the necessary justifications, to the Institution or Organ concerned and to the Council of Ministers, through the Executive Secretariat.

Article 3:

Deadline for consultation and formulation of opinion

1. The Institutions and Organs of the Community concerned shall communicate to the Parliament through the Executive Secretariat, the draft texts concerning the matters on which the opinion of the Parliament may or has to be sought at least thirty (30) days before the start of the ordinary session during which the drafts are to be considered.
2. The draft texts received within the time frame fixed above shall be included in the agenda of the ordinary session of Parliament referred to in paragraph 1 above.
3. The Parliament shall give its opinion during the same session or in an extraordinary session.

**Article 4:
Deadlines for Communication of Opinion**

1. In both cases where a consultation is optional or compulsory, the Parliament of the Community gives an advisory opinion and communicates it to the Council of Ministers through the Executive Secretariat, latest, ninety (90) days from the date of the receipt of the draft to the Parliament.
2. Where the Parliament on its own decides to consider any matter concerning the Community:
 - a) The opinion shall be communicated without delay to the Council of Ministers through the Executive Secretariat.
 - b) The Executive Secretariat has a deadline of ninety (90) days from the date of the receipt of the opinion of the Community Parliament that is submitted to it to proceed on necessary consultations, convening a meeting of the competent specialised Technical Commission and inform the Parliament of the observations made by the Commission.
 - c) The Community Parliament shall forward its observations on the amendments proposed by the specialised Technical Commission to the Executive Secretariat not later than seven (7) days after the end of the next ordinary or extraordinary session of the Parliament.

**Article 5
Rendering Opinions in Emergency Procedures**

1. The time frames defined in Article 4 of the present Decision shall be reduced where necessary.
2. The Parliament may, in line with paragraph 1 of this Article, meet in extraordinary session, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Protocol A/P.2/8/94 and the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament.

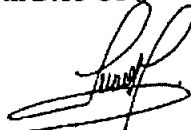
**Article 6:
Failure to render an opinion and opinions rendered
outside the fixed deadlines**

1. The opinion shall be deemed not to have been given if it is received outside the deadline by the Institutions and Organs concerned as well as by the Executive Secretariat.
2. The procedure for the adoption of the Community texts shall continue if the Parliament has not given an opinion or if the opinion was not received by the Institution, the Organs concerned and the Executive Secretariat, before the deadline prescribed by the present Decision.
3. If, at the expiration of the time frame provided for in Article 4, paragraph 2 (b), the Executive Secretariat has not proceeded as indicated in the paragraph, the Speaker of the Community Parliament shall draw the attention of the Executive Secretariat to the non-observance of the time-frames.
4. The Executive Secretariat shall therefore undertake to communicate the opinion of the specialised Technical Commission to the Speaker of the Community Parliament, in any event within a period not exceeding two (2) months.

**Article 7
Publication and entry into force**

This Decision shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government. It shall also be published in the National Gazette of each Member State within the same time frame.

**DONE AT NIAMEY,
THIS 12th DAY OF JANUARY 2006**



**H. E. MAMADOU TANDJA
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY**

**DECISION A/DEC.6/06/06
ALLOCATING THE POST OF SPEAKER
OF THE COMMUNITY PARLIAMENT TO THE
REPUBLIC OF NIGER**

THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,

CONSIDERING Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and duties;

CONSIDERING the provisions of Articles 6 and 13 of the Treaty relating to Community institutions and the establishment of the Community Parliament;

CONSIDERING Protocol A/P2/8/94 on the Community Parliament;

CONSIDERING Supplementary Protocol A/SP3/06/06 amending Protocol A/P2/8/94 relating to the Community Parliament, in particular its new Article 15 on election of the Speaker of Parliament;

CONCERNED to institute a procedure for the election of Speaker of Parliament that would give all member States a chance to occupy this important post as quickly as possible, in accordance with the Community policy of allocating important posts to member States;

CONVINCED of the need to allocate the post of Speaker of the Community Parliament according to an alphabetical order of rotation which would afford every member State an opportunity to occupy the position in turn, and at the same time takes due account of the application of the Community Levy by member States;

NOTING that the Republic of Mali occupied the position of Speaker of the Community Parliament during the just-ended first legislature;

DESIROUS to give the member State following Mali, in alphabetical order, the post of Speaker of Community Parliament, for the second legislature of the Parliament;

DECIDES

ARTICLE 1

The post of Speaker of the Community Parliament is hereby allocated to the Republic of Niger, for the second legislature of the Parliament.

ARTICLE 2

All nationals of the Republic of Niger, who are members of the Community Parliament in the second legislature, shall be eligible to run for the position of Speaker of Parliament.

ARTICLE 3

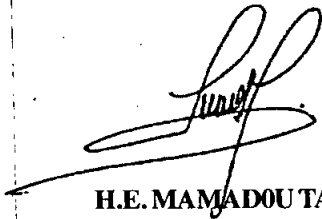
The Speaker of the Community Parliament shall be elected by all members of the Parliament, from among the eligible candidates, in accordance with Article 2 of this Decision.

ARTICLE 4

The Executive Secretariat shall publish this decision in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of the date on which it is signed by the Chairman of Authority. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Journal within the same time frame.

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 14 DAY OF JUNE 2006**

**FOR THE AUTHORITY,
THE CHAIRMAN,**



H.E. MAMADOU TANDJA

**REGULATION C/REG.3/06/06
RELATING TO THE OPERATIONS, STRUCTURE,
ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY
PARLIAMENT**

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,

MINDFUL of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Articles 6 and 13 of the said Treaty relating to the Institutions of the Community and the establishment of the Community Parliament, respectively;

MINDFUL of the provisions of Articles 10 (3) (f) and 69 (2) of the Treaty granting the Council power to approve Organizational structures of the Institutions and vesting other powers of an administrative and financial nature over the Institutions of the Community on the Council of Ministers;

RECALLING, in particular, Regulation C/REG.20/01/05 directing the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Financial Controller of the Community and the existing secretariat of the Community Parliament to carry out measures that would improve the functioning, as well as the administrative and financial management of the Parliament;

HAVING also set up an ad-hoc Ministerial Committee on Restructuring to consider the proposals from the Executive Secretary and other collaborators in the process of discharging the duties given to them on the restructuring of the Parliament;

DESIROUS of establishing a Parliament with sustainable structures and administrative and financial management Systems that would enable it carry out its mandate efficiently and thus contribute to the attainment of our Community objectives;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the Ad-hoc Ministerial Committee on Restructuring of the Community Parliament that met in Abuja from 20th - 21st February 2006;

ENACTS

ARTICLE 1

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE PARLIAMENT

1. There is hereby established an Administrative Secretariat for the ECOWAS Parliament.
2. The Secretariat shall provide all administrative, technical and financial services that would facilitate the work of the Members of Parliament and ensure the efficient functioning of this Institution.

ARTICLE 2

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE PARLIAMENT

1. The Administrative Secretariat of the Parliament shall be headed by a Secretary-General, who shall be the Chief Adviser of the Speaker on all matters of administration and procedure.
2. The Secretary General shall manage the day to day running of the Secretariat of the Parliament and be the channel of communication between the Speaker, other members of Parliament and the Secretariat which he/she heads.
3. The Secretary General shall amongst other duties, oversee the preparation of minutes and reports of all the proceedings of Parliament, Bureau and the Committees, ensure their publication and safe custody, and also deploy staff from the Secretariat to service the Plenary, Bureau, Standing Committees and Ad - hoc Committees.
4. He/she shall be responsible for all procedures for the recruitment of professional staff of the Parliament in accordance with the ECOWAS staff regulations and shall chair the Advisory Committee in charge of recruitment of professional staff, except the appointment of Directors, P6 and P5 managerial positions.
5. The Secretary General shall be assisted by Directors one of whom shall act as the Secretary General in the absence of and upon designation by the Secretary General.

6. The Secretary-General shall be classified under the Professional category of staff Members as Director grade 2 (D2). The grade of the Secretary-General as professional officer D2 becomes at the expiration of the tenure of the officer encumbering the position.
7. Other administrative duties of the Secretary General shall be provided under the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament.

ARTICLE 3 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE PARLIAMENT

1. The Speaker shall be the Chief Authorizing Officer of the budget of the Parliament and shall designate financial management to the Secretary General in line with the Financial Regulations of the Community.
2. The Secretary-General shall be the Accounting Officer of the Parliament and shall submit to the Bureau through the Speaker quarterly financial statements.
3. The Secretary General shall also prepare the annual draft Budget of the Parliament based on the general guidelines provided by the Bureau and work programme of the Parliament.
4. The Parliament shall ensure recruitment of competent staff in the Accounts and Audit Units of the Secretariat as provided under the approved organogram referred to under Article 3 of this Regulation. It shall also ensure full computerization of its accounting System to facilitate efficient financial management.
5. The financial operations and procurement procedures of the Parliament shall be guided by the Community financial Regulations, the Tender code, and all other Community procurement procedures that are of general application to the Community Institutions.

ARTICLE 4 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

1. The attached Organizational Chart which is in conformity with contemporary Parliamentary structures is hereby adopted for the ECOWAS Parliament.

2. The Organizational Chart shall guide all staff recruitment for the Parliament.
3. Without prejudice to already existing personnel within the Parliament, recruitment of staff based on this organogram shall be spread over a three-year period in conformity with the attached recruitment plan which is also hereby adopted for the Parliament.

ARTICLE 5 PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

1. In order to create greater synergy in the operations of Parliament particularly in its working relationships with other institutions of the Community, the Parliament shall maintain or re-constitute Parliamentary standing Committees that reflect the areas of competence covered by the ECOWAS Technical Commissions established by the Treaty.
2. The Parliament shall establish other ad-hoc Committees to address specific subject matter and shall also establish standing Committees that are peculiar to its function or nature as a Parliamentary Institution.

ARTICLE 6 RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. The Rules of Procedure of the Parliament shall primarily deal with issues relating to the ordinary business of the Parliament as prescribed by Protocol A/P2/8/94 relating to the Community Parliament.
2. All provisions contained in the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament shall be consistent with provisions of the legal texts and policies of the Community

ARTICLE 7 RESIDENCY OF THE SPEAKER

1. (Within the current transitional period of Parliament and pending the election of Parliamentarians by direct-universal suffrage, the Speaker shall not be resident at the Seat of the Parliament).
2. The Speaker or any member of the Bureau of Parliament designated by the Speaker may travel to the Seat of Parliament to give political direction to the affairs of Parliament whenever necessary.

**ARTICLE 8
ENTRY INTO FORCE**

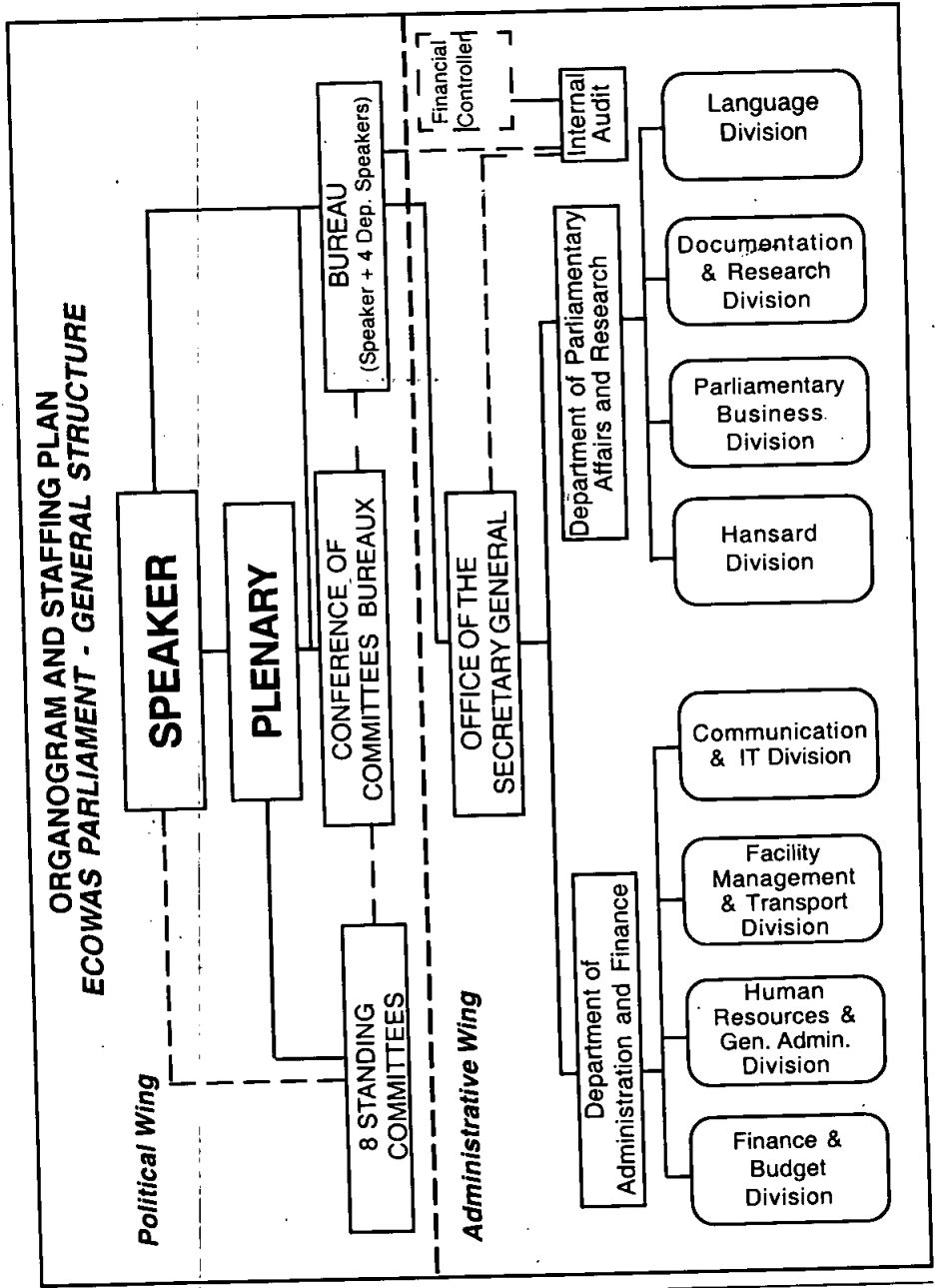
This Regulation shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days of its signature by the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Journal within the same time frame.

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 13TH DAY OF JUNE, 2006**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Mindaoudou', enclosed within a large, stylized circular flourish.

**HON. AICHATOUMINDA OUDOU
CHAIRPERSON,**

FOR THE COUNCIL



**THE COMMUNITY PARLIAMENT
RECRUITMENT PLAN FOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

2006

No	Position	Grade
1.	Bureau Manager	P5
2	Principal Legal Counsel	P5
3	Principal Protocol Officer	P5
4	Chief Accountant	P5
5	Principal Administrative Officer	P5
6	HOD Parliamentary Business (PB)	P5
7	Internal Auditor	P5
8	Principal Interpreter	P5
9	Committee Officer (1)	P4
10	Committee Officer (2)	P4
11	Committee Officer (3)	P4
12	Committee Officer (4)	P4
13	Committee Officer (5)	P4
14	Translator (French)	P4
15	Facility Management & Transport Officer	P4

2007

No	Position	Grade
1	Sergeant-At-Arms	P5
2	Editor of Debates	P5
3	Principal Librarian/Document Officer	P5
4	Principal Research Officer	P3
5	Human Resources Officer	P3
6	Administrative Officer	P3
7	Procurement Officer	P3
8	Conference Officer	P3
9	Budget Officer	P4
10	Translator (Portuguese)	P3
11	Programmer/Webmaster	P3

2008

No	Position	Grade
1	Interpreter	P5
2	Interpreter	P5
3	Revisor	P5
4	Legal Counsel	P4
5	Research Officer	P3
6	Deputy Editor of Debates	P3

