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***AFCO committee meeting debate on “Amendments to the Rules of Procedure  
in order to ensure the functioning of Parliament in extraordinary  
circumstances”***

European Parliament, Brussels

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I would like to thank all colleagues representing their political groups in the Working Group for the way they handled this extremely difficult task while coping with the sense of urgency.

I would also like to inform you that the chair of the Working Group, Rainer Wieland is not with us here today only because he is with the Bureau of the European Parliament attending its away days. I am taking the floor as Coordinator for the EPP.

It is crucial to stress that the extraordinary measures taken so far have ensured the functioning of this Parliament and allowed to carry out its legislative, budgetary and political control functions during the crisis in accordance with the framework provided for by the Treaties

Today finalising formally the updating of the Rules of Procedure should be done as soon as possible at the AFCO level and adopted by the House immediately when the circumstances allow it.

The longer the sanitary crisis persists, the more pressing it is to revise the rules.

The value of the effort by AFCO lies also in the fact that the proposed amendments encompass the possibility of other emergency situations that might occur in the future.

With regards to the amendments, I would like to welcome the clarifications to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the draft report that have been tabled by a number of Members of the working group.

Regarding the issue of checks on the President's decisions in emergency situations, I have seen that there were amendments proposing to change the threshold to request a plenary check for revocation or confirmation of the decisions. I must say that I have a big sympathy for the idea of moving to the medium threshold in order to prevent politically motivated challenges to the President's decision.