

MODEL EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

RHETORICS/SESSION JARGON: The language of meetings

In preparation for the session as well as during committee work get accustomed to debating jargon:

To help you through all the notions and motions of an MEP session refer to MEP phraseology)

ESSENTIAL PHRASES

TO BE USED BY DELEGATES:

Beginning

I would like to begin by...

To begin with...

At the outset...

I would like to make a few remarks concerning...

Introducing a new point

I would like to comment on the point of...

I would now like to draw your attention to...

I would now like to turn briefly to the problem/question of...

The next issue I would like to focus on is...

Turning to...

I would like to mention briefly that...

Ordering

First of all, we must bear in mind...

There are a few points which should/must be borne in mind.

Firstly, ... Secondly, ... Thirdly, ...

First, ...Second, ..., Third, ...

In addition to that...

Additionally...

I might add that...

I'd like to add something here, if I may?

I'd just like to point out that...

Before we go any further, may I point out that...

If I could just say a word about...?

Furthermore...

Moreover...

As well as..., there is also...

Not only..., but also...

Giving an example

Let me give an example...

To give/name an example...

A case in point is...

To illustrate this point, let us...

Balancing

On the one hand..., but on the other hand...
Although..., we mustn't forget...
Whereas..., we have to remember...
Despite/In spite of..., I still think/believe...
Despite the fact that..., I...

Generalising

On the whole...
Generally speaking...
By and large...
All in all

Stating preferences

I'd rather..., than...
I (would) prefer to...
I tend to favour...as opposed to...
...has an advantage over... in that...
The main/principal advantage of... is that...

Agreeing

I (completely) agree.
I agree entirely with your point of view.
I'm of exactly the same opinion.
I think we are in agreement on that.
I'm fully in favour of...
This proposal has my full support.
I entirely approve of...
I think I can/could accept your position on that.
I see no objection to that.

Partial agreement

I would tend to agree with you on that, but seen from another angle...
I agree in principle/on the whole, but it could/should/must be said that...
By and large I accept your views, but if we look at it in another light...
Although I agree with most of what you have said,...
I agree to a certain extent/up to a point, but...
You have a point there, but...I see/take your point, honourable delegate,
but have you considered...?

Disagreement

I'm afraid,/With all due respect, I completely/totally disagree with you.
Frankly,/To be quite frank,/ To put it bluntly,/ With respect, I don't agree at all.
I disagree entirely.
What you are saying is just not feasible.
Under no circumstances could I agree to that.
I can't help feeling that...
I'm not totally convinced by your argument.

Proposing

I (strongly) recommend/propose/suggest that...

My proposal/suggestion is/would be that...

I advise you (most strongly) to...

In my opinion/view, the only viable solution is...

I just wonder if we shouldn't think about...

Actually, to my mind/ in my opinion...

Misunderstandings

I'm afraid there seems to have been a slight misunderstanding.

Perhaps I should make that clearer by saying...

Perhaps I haven't made myself clear.

Basically, what I'm trying to say is...

With all due respect, that is not what I said/ that isn't quite what I meant.

Asking for more information

Could you/the honourable delegate from... (please) be a little more specific/precise?

I'm sorry, but could you/the honourable delegate from... (please) explain in a little more detail?

Could you give us some details about...?

Would you care to elaborate/expand on that?

I'm afraid I'm not quite clear what you mean by that.

I'm (terribly) sorry, I didn't quite follow what you were saying about...

Would I be correct in saying that...?

Correct me if I'm wrong, but...

If I understood the honourable delegate from... correctly, he/she was saying that...

Am I correct in assuming that...?

I'm sorry, but when you say..., do you mean that...?

So, basically, what the honourable delegate was saying is...

Making time

That's a highly/very interesting/complex question/topic and...

I'm afraid I'm not in a position to comment on that just yet, but we were actually talking about...

I think we can leave the problem of...aside for a moment, the real issue/problem is...

I don't think we have enough time to consider all aspects of this broad/complex problem.

Summarising

In short...

To sum up there seems to be...

If I could just sum up the discussion...

To summarise, I think we are in agreement on...

Briefly, the main points (that have been made) are...

Concluding

Let me conclude by saying...

I'd like to conclude by saying/stating that...

Allow me to conclude by highlighting (the fact) that...

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that...

I would now like to conclude my comments by reassuring you that I/we are fully aware of the fact that...