

Speeches in the General Assembly

In MEP the delegates have a lot of possibilities to express their thoughts in the debate and to prove themselves. On top a lot of speeches will be held with which they can profile themselves. These speeches will be presented here in chronological order as they appear in the debates, defined and their importance explained, so that everyone knows what to expect.

Reading of the OCs of the Resolution (Member of the Committee)

The reading of the OCs in the Resolution is not a real speech, but as the name says a reading loud and clear of the OCs by *a member of the Committee*, with which all delegates are focused on the Committee.

Remark: Personal additions or comments to the Resolution are not allowed. Only by the Presidency possible redactional changes are done, but they are presented at the very start of this Resolution at the GA.

Answering to the Factual Questions (Member of the Committee)

Answering of the factual questions as well is not a speech in the real sense of the word. *A member of the Committee* answers to questions about words, abbreviations, dates, technical idiom and facts by a delegate from the GA. The member of the Committee can show his expertise on the matter.

Remark: Because here no criticism on the resolution is allowed, but just factual questions the appointed member of the Committee can really get himself in the picture by preparing for it and making notes. This possibility should be used by preparing precise, to-the-point answers.

Amendment speech (*delegate from GA*)

(2 Minutes)

In this speech the delegate from the GA explains his motives for his wish to change an OC (additions or strikes). He had handed in the amendment form in advance with the Presidency.

Remark: The delegate is really in the spotlights for some time, because he has his motivation speech plus he needs to answer questions from both the Committee and the GA. A well-prepared amendment speech is an incredible enrichment for any debate and one of the best possibilities to influence constructively an already finished resolution.

Speech reacting to an Amendment (Member of the Committee) (2 Minutes)

With this speech the member of the Committee reacts directly to an Amendment. This member can react on behalf of the Committee in favour or against the amendment. He must improvise the major part of his speech, as he couldn't predict the coming or the content of the amendment. So he should know very well certain OCs and their function in the order of the resolution.

Remark: This member of the Committee should have a view on how the Committee would „vote“ on the amendment quickly before going to the microphone to present his speech (hands in favour or against). As this could be a strategically very important decision for the further debate on the resolution, he shouldn't make a decision on his own accord.

Speech in favour of the Resolution (Member of the Committee) (2 Minutes)

This speech in favour of the resolution is made by a member of the Committee in the beginning of the Open Debate on the resolution. It stresses the importance of the issue in the Resolution by underlining what makes the resolution so strong. This can be the foundation of the mood in the Open Debate. Therefore it is necessary not to just rush through some OCs, but the whole picture and the strategy of the resolution must be emphasized.

Remark: Advantage of the speech in favour is that it can be written before the GA. But that can also backfire if it is read out too quickly and rigidly just reading from a paper without eye contact with the floor works negative.

Speech to erase an entire OC (Delegate from the GA) (2 Minutes)

At the end of the Open Debate a delegate from the GA has the opportunity to request to strike an entire OC. In his speech he motivates why he thinks striking the OC does improve the resolution. This speech shouldn't be ready before the debate on the resolution, because earlier a request for a partial change could have been made. Goal of this speech is rather to strike the OC that in the Open Debate had suffered most criticism, and this can prevent the entire resolution from being voted against massively just because of this one OC. So, because one can only see in the Open Debate which OC is too critical or controversial, that this is rather a spontaneous improvised speech.

Remark: To prevent delegates from the floor requesting to strike any senseless and trivial OC, that have no intention of improving the resolution, but just to have another opportunity to have the word, this request can only be allowed by the Presidency on the following conditions: 1 the OC was indeed dealt with in the Open Debate and 2 was already clearly controversial at that time.

Speech in Reaktion of speech from the GA to erase the entire OC **(Member of the Committee)** *(2 Minutes)*

With this spontaneous, quickly improvised speech the member of the Committee reacts directly on the request to strike the OC. In this speech he can agree or disagree with the striking request on behalf of the entire Committee. Since this member of the Committee doesn't know in advance what criticism he must counter-attack, he must be good at improvising and know the OCs well.

Remark: Also before this speech he should find out quickly if the Committee would vote in favour or against the request (putting up hands).

Speech against the Resolution (*Delegate from the GA*) *(3 Minutes)*

Any delegate can write a speech against any resolution except against his own Committee. The speech against the resolution points at faults in that resolution that are so serious in his eyes, that it is unacceptable. It can pinpoint one or several OCs. Criticism mustn't refer to the ICs or the Issue. Besides criticism this speech can also bring constructive suggestions what the Committee could have mentioned to improve the quality of the solution to the issue.

Remark: With this speech the delegate makes himself a self appointed speaker for the opposition against the resolution, so this speech must be prepared well. It is a great opportunity to show how good one can argue and know a lot about other resolutions. A good self criticism is very necessary, because the opponent comes from a certainly well prepared end speaker, who has been very well documented on the issue. Precisely in this speech mutual respect and a well mannered attitude is a must. Personal and verbal attacks on the Committee or delegates don't belong here!

Final Speech (*Member of the Committee*) *(3 Minutes)*

The final speech is the last speech to be held in the GA. The member of the Committee has been given the opportunity to react directly on the given criticism on the resolution. It

comes down on enfeebling the arguments of the previous speaker from the GA and to highlight the strong points of the resolution for a last time. Since one cannot know which arguments in the speech against will be given, the major part of this speech must be improvised. But during the previous speech one has the time to make short notes about what to say. To be able to make this speech, one must know the resolution very thoroughly to understand all context of the proposed measures.

Remark: In preparation for the speech it will help to come together with the committee after completion of the resolution and before the GA to exchange thought on the contexts among the OCs and find possible weaknesses in the resolution. Often attacks from the GA on single OCs are seen as ineffective, which can be countered by the Committee in showing the OCs in the context of the whole resolution strategy. With this speech it is often crucial to keep a respectful attitude. Verbal attacks against the speech against must be avoided!

Final remark:

The following speeches are always made: reading of the OCs, answering to factual questions, introductory speech and the final speech.

The speeches to react on amendments (striking an OC or just a minor change) will only be held if such an amendment is presented by the GA. It would be welcomed to have an attack speech at all times. The delegates from the GA never know when or if they will be invited to deliver such a speech. That's what the Presidency decides. The defence speeches were already prepared by the members of the Committee. This assignment of the speeches should always run in the same order: 1. Final Speech, 2. Speech in reaction to an amendment for a change, 3. Introductory Speech, 4. Speech in reaction to an amendment to strike an OC, 5. Answering the Factual Questions, 6. Reading of the OCs, This order shows in increasing order the importance and the difficulty of the speeches.