

**RHETORICS/SESSION JARGON**  
**The language of meetings**

PARIS M A E P STRASBOURG

2019

50th

INTERNATIONAL SESSION



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...