**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 ojection 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 form… 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…