



HOUSE OF LORDS

House Committee

2nd Report of Session 2008-09

**Facilities for Peers who are MEPs or
Judges**

Ordered to be printed 15 July 2009

Published by the Authority of the House of Lords

London: The Stationery Office Limited
£3.00

HL Paper 143

The House Committee

The House Committee is appointed each session to set the policy framework for the administration of the House and to provide non-executive guidance to the Management Board; to approve the House's strategic, business and financial plans; to agree the annual Estimates and Supplementary Estimates; to supervise the arrangements relating to Members' expenses; and to approve the House of Lords Annual Report.

Current membership

The members of the House Committee are:

- Lord Baker of Dorking
- Lord Brabazon of Tara
- Lord Bradley
- Lord Craig of Radley
- Baroness D'Souza
- Baroness Hayman (*Chairman*)
- Baroness Hollis of Heigham
- Lord McNally
- Baroness Royall of Blaisdon
- Lord Strathclyde
- Lord Tordoff
- Lord Wakeham

General information

General information about the House of Lords and its committees is on the internet at <http://www.parliament.uk/lords/index.cfm>

Contacts for the House Committee

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the House Committee, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW.

The telephone number for enquiries regarding the Committee's work is 020 7219 6644.

**SECOND REPORT OF SESSION 2008-09 FROM THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE**

FACILITIES FOR PEERS WHO ARE MEPS OR JUDGES

1. The Committee has considered what facilities should be offered to two new categories of peers subject to disqualification from participation in the proceedings of the House, Members of the European Parliament and judges.
2. Under the European Parliament (House of Lords Disqualification) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1647), a life peer elected as a Member of the European Parliament is disqualified, while remaining an MEP, from sitting or voting in the House or a committee of the House or a joint committee of both Houses. This provision came into effect after the European Parliament elections on 4 June. One life peer, Baroness Ludford, has been so elected and is therefore disqualified.
3. Section 137 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 similarly disqualifies a peer while holding “any disqualifying judicial office”. Under the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (Commencement No. 11) Order 2009 (SI 2009/ 1604), that provision will come into force on 1 October 2009. It will affect Justices of the Supreme Court and other peers who are judges (currently Lord Judge, Baroness Clark of Calton, Lord Hardie and Lord Mackay of Drumadoon).
4. **The Committee recommends that peers in these categories should be offered the same facilities as peers on leave of absence, as set out in paragraph 1.28 of the *Companion to the Standing Orders*. These include use of the facilities of the House outside the Chamber; and the right to sit on the steps of the Throne.**
5. **The House is invited to agree to paragraph 4.**