

HOUSE OF LORDS

House Committee

4th Report of Session 2008-09

**PARLIAMENTARY PASSES FOR
UK MEMBERS OF THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

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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.

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

**PARLIAMENTARY PASSES FOR UK MEMBERS OF THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

1. United Kingdom Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are currently entitled to access Peers' Lobby, the Galleries of the House, the Committee Corridor, the offices of the European Union Committee and the Guest Room. Similar access rights have been granted by the House of Commons.
2. This entitlement was approved by the House of Lords on 31 March 1980, following a recommendation from the Offices Committee, except in relation to the Guest Room, to which access was extended in July 1991. In March 1989, the Committee further agreed that UK MEPs should show a Parliamentary photographic security pass when exercising their access rights.
3. On 20 October 2009, following a recommendation from the Administration Committee, the House of Commons agreed to remove the access rights of UK MEPs, and therefore their entitlement to a Parliamentary photographic security pass.
4. The decision of the House of Commons in practice cannot take effect without the assent of this House since photographic security passes grant access to the whole Parliamentary Estate.
5. **We accordingly recommend that the rights of access granted by the House to UK MEPs be rescinded.**