
Resolution or Statute? What is a Better Form for the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure?

— Mikołaj Wolanin —



Fundusze Europejskie
dla Rozwoju Społecznego



Rzeczpospolita
Polska

Dofinansowane przez
Unię Europejską



Rules of Procedure of a parliament

This act, among others:

- sets the rules for the parliamentary operation;
- regulates the details of the legislative procedure in the chamber;
- establishes at least some of the internal bodies like the committees, as well as the procedures of appointing people to them



Fundusze Europejskie
dla Rozwoju Społecznego



Rzeczpospolita
Polska

Dofinansowane przez
Unię Europejską



Form of the Rules of Procedure of a parliament

a statute

Examples: Iceland, Estonia,
Slovakia

a resolution

Common approach;
a lot of examples



Fundusze Europejskie
dla Rozwoju Społecznego



Rzeczpospolita
Polska

Dofinansowane przez
Unię Europejską



The statute way

Iceland

Art. 58: “The rules of procedure of Althingi shall be determined by law.” (*Pingsköp Alþingis skulu sett með lögum*)

Estonia

§ 69: “From among its members the Riigikogu elects a president and two vice-presidents who preside over the work of the Riigikogu pursuant to the Riigikogu Rules of Procedure Act and the Riigikogu Standing Orders Act.”

Slovakia

Art. 92(2): “A law shall provide the procedures governing the debates in the National Council of the Slovak Republic and its Committees.”



Fundusze Europejskie
dla Rozwoju Społecznego



Rzeczpospolita
Polska

Dofinansowane przez
Unię Europejską



Which one is better?

a statute

- second chamber involved, if exists;
- risk of the presidential veto or similar instrument

a resolution

- the autonomy of a parliament is better preserved;
- the separation of powers is in favour of this approach;
- it is faster



Fundusze Europejskie
dla Rozwoju Społecznego



Rzeczpospolita
Polska

Dofinansowane przez
Unię Europejską



Why do some states use the statute path?

The reasons are, as it seems, historical. We can also observe some geographical pattern in terms of Iceland and Estonia as two states of the northern Europe, however in other neighbouring states a resolution as a form of the parliamentary rules of procedure are present.



Fundusze Europejskie
dla Rozwoju Społecznego



Rzeczpospolita
Polska

Dofinansowane przez
Unię Europejską

