



Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010

2010 CHAPTER 25

PART 2

RATIFICATION OF TREATIES

20 Treaties to be laid before Parliament before ratification

- (1) Subject to what follows, a treaty is not to be ratified unless—
 - (a) a Minister of the Crown has laid before Parliament a copy of the treaty,
 - (b) the treaty has been published in a way that a Minister of the Crown thinks appropriate, and
 - (c) period A has expired without either House having resolved, within period A, that the treaty should not be ratified.
- (2) Period A is the period of 21 sitting days beginning with the first sitting day after the date on which the requirement in subsection (1)(a) is met.
- (3) Subsections (4) to (6) apply if the House of Commons resolved as mentioned in subsection (1)(c) (whether or not the House of Lords also did so).
- (4) The treaty may be ratified if—
 - (a) a Minister of the Crown has laid before Parliament a statement indicating that the Minister is of the opinion that the treaty should nevertheless be ratified and explaining why, and
 - (b) period B has expired without the House of Commons having resolved, within period B, that the treaty should not be ratified.
- (5) Period B is the period of 21 sitting days beginning with the first sitting day after the date on which the requirement in subsection (4)(a) is met.
- (6) A statement may be laid under subsection (4)(a) in relation to the treaty on more than one occasion.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (7) Subsection (8) applies if—
 - (a) the House of Lords resolved as mentioned in subsection (1)(c), but
 - (b) the House of Commons did not.
- (8) The treaty may be ratified if a Minister of the Crown has laid before Parliament a statement indicating that the Minister is of the opinion that the treaty should nevertheless be ratified and explaining why.
- (9) “Sitting day” means a day on which both Houses of Parliament sit.