

Suggested rule change

Policy reports: end the choice between all or nothing Allow conference to vote in parts

The Labour Party Rule Book 2010, Section B, Chapter 3 Party Conference, 3C Procedural rules for party conference, Conference rule 2 - Agenda. 2G reads as follows:

'Conference shall consider policy reports and draft reports as part of the rolling programme, the NPF report, the NEC annual report, NEC statements and development strategy, constitutional amendments and contemporary issues or emergency resolutions submitted and accepted. It shall not consider any business unless recommended by the NEC or the CAC. At any special session of party conference, the NEC shall determine the business to be conducted.'

Amendment

After 'strategy' end the sentence and insert: 'Conference has the right to refer back part of any policy document, NPF report, annual report or other statement without rejecting it as a whole. Conference shall also consider'

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Supporting Arguments

Conference has always had the right to refer back any section of the NEC Report. But the platform has always refused to extend this right to NEC policy statements (except in 1974 when Tony Benn chaired the Conference). When Partnership in Power was introduced in 1997 delegates were led to believe that National Policy Forum reports would be voted on in parts if Conference so wished. But in practice this has not happened. Conference has to vote for the whole document on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. This means that documents are always passed, although delegates may be unhappy with one or more particular section. This proposed rule would allow Conference to have a separate vote on any part of a policy document. It is a simple democratic procedure that is long overdue.

Closing date for constitutional amendments: 30 July 2010