

Suggested rule change

Restore Conference's right to take policy decisions

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

Amendment

In Clause C

Lines 2-4: Delete 'Contemporary issue...to Conference' and insert 'motion on a matter of concern.'

Lines 4-7: Delete 'The CAC...Conference' and insert 'The CAC shall submit all motions received to a priorities ballot at the start of Conference.'

Lines 14-18: Delete 'Issues must...prioritised' and insert 'motions must be in writing and on one subject only.'

Line 20: Delete 'issues' and insert 'motions'.

In Clause F

Line 2: Delete 'issues' and insert 'motions'.

In Clause G

Line 5: Replace 'and' with ','

Line 6: Delete 'issues or' and insert 'motions and'.

Supporting Arguments

At a time when it was generally believed that a general election was imminent, the 2007 Party Conference was persuaded to replace contemporary motions with contemporary issues. Whereas motions could be properly debated and voted on, thereby maintaining Conference's precious right to take decisions on Party policy, 'issues' could merely be debated and referred to the National Policy Forum without any votes to indicate Conference's views.

This serious weakening of the Party's democracy in 2007 was accepted on the undertaking that it would be reviewed in two years' time.

So now is the time for CLPs and affiliates to ask for their democratic rights to be restored.

Closing date for constitutional amendments: 30 July 2010