

22nd European Scout Conference

Document 1b

Proposals for Constitutional Change



Proposals for constitutional change submitted by the European Scout Committee and by National Scout Organisations. February 2016

In compliance with the Constitution of the European Scout Region, and following consultation through 22nd European Scout Conference Circular 3, please find below a compilation of proposals for constitutional change, the first 3 proposed by the European Scout Committee and the other 2 proposed and seconded by NSOs from the Region.

You are reminded that these proposals will be voted upon during relevant session where Resolutions are considered by the European Scout Conference in June 2016 and the successful proposals, securing a two thirds majority of those present and voting, will come into effect only when approved by the World Scout Committee at its next meeting following the European Scout Conference.

Proposal 1 Made by the European Scout Committee

To add an additional bullet point to Article II: Purpose and Principles

- c) In particular, the European Region values transparency in all its operations, reporting regularly and comprehensively to the member organizations, opening up committee and other meetings to participation on request, while respecting the confidentiality required by a membership organization.

Rationale: this reflects the desire of the European Scout Committee to be open and transparent in its operation and to reflect this in the governing document of the Region – the Constitution.

Proposal 2 Made by the European Scout Committee

To add additional points Article IV: European Scout Committee, paragraph 2, section d):

- On election, and following discussion with fellow committee members, all elected members must declare any possible conflicts of interest arising from positions held in their own or other Scout associations, which would lead to permanent conflicts of interest concerning their perceived impartiality. Positions on the national board, including that of International Commissioner if that position is a member of the board, would automatically be conflicts of interest, and such positions would require to be resigned within 4 months of election.
- A conflict of interest register will be established so that members may declare, at any time, issues and interests they may have institutionally and personally that impact on their contribution to decision making or influence by the Committee.

Rationale: this is in keeping with the desire to control conflicts of interest that may arise for elected committee members in the execution of their responsibilities. Currently there is no guidance given in the Regional Constitution and so to assist new committee members, these points are offered to assist the members of the committee by removing one possible, and major, conflict of interest, if they remain as members of their own national boards (or equivalent). A period of 4 months given to carry out this requirement from the time of election means that NSO/NSAs are not deprived immediately of the services of members.

The compilation of a register of conflicts of interest is a matter of NGO best practice and follows the example of the World Scout Committee.

Proposal 3 Made by the European Scout Committee

To add two additional sentences to Article IV: European Scout Committee paragraph 3, Organisation of the Committee, section c):

- c) The European Committee shall meet at such time and places as it may decide. The European Committee adopts its own rules of procedure and other operating processes which are contained in the Standing Orders of the European Committee which are adopted or amended by each new incoming committee at its first meeting. These Standing Orders shall be made available to members.

These sentences replace a simple set of rules of procedure which have been found to be inadequate in this age of greater electronic mobility. This follows the example of the World Scout Committee in developing Standing Orders which are accessible to all NSOs. The Standing Orders of the European Scout Committee are being developed and will be operational when the constitutional changes proposed are approved at the first available meeting of the World Scout Committee.

Proposal 4 Made by Guidisme et Scoutisme en Belgique / Gidsen en Scoutsbeveging in België and seconded by Lietuvos Skautija, Cercetasii României and Scouterna

- propose to increase the number of committee members with one additional member allowing for a stronger European Scout Committee giving the opportunity for a better division of tasks and a better balance of work within the committee, by changing the word 6 to the word 7 in Article IV: European Scout Committee, paragraph 2, Composition: section a):

- a) The European Committee shall consist of seven members who shall consider the interests of the Movement as a whole and shall neither consider themselves nor be considered as representing any particular member organization.

Rationale:

- recognising the need for the European Scout Committee to have the necessary human resources to carry out its core tasks appropriately
- considering the proliferation of countries in the European Scout Region since the early 1990s
- taking into account the growing number of tasks, increasing internal and

- external demands and escalating expectations towards the ESC
- further recognising the need for an environment allowing for a better balance between a person's volunteer, work and private life
- and having considered the financial implications.

Proposal 5 Made by Scouterna and seconded by Guidisme et Scoutisme en Belgique / Gidsen en Scoutsbeweging in België

- propose to qualify the length of service offered by anyone standing for election by adding a sentence to Article IV: European Scout Committee, paragraph 2, Composition: section c):

- b) At any ordinary meeting of the Conference, the members shall be elected for a period of three years. A retiring member shall only be eligible for re-election for one further period of three years.
- c) The European Committee shall have power to accept resignations and to fill vacancies in its membership until the next meeting of the Conference. In order to fill a vacancy on the Committee, the candidate for election with the highest number of votes who was not elected (and who has not subsequently already been co-opted) shall be co-opted as a member of the Committee. A co-opted member shall only be eligible for election for one further period of three years.

Rationale:

- Considering the general agreed rule reflected in the constitution article IV.2.b allowing for ESC members to have a maximum of two terms of three years.
- Recognising that in order to maintain good governance of the region, this rule should also apply to ESC members, which were not elected but co-opted into the committee.
- Noting that the lack of term limits for co-opted members can - and has in the past - easily result in committee members who are part of the committee for 7, 8 or even close to 9 years.
- Taking into account the changed conditions for the candidates of the 22 European Scout Conference, the change should be only be effective after the closing of the conference and hence being effective for those being co-opted in the term following the 23rd European Scout Conference.

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