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Procedure for examining requests for consultative status with the Council of Europe

Report

Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs

Rapporteur: Mr Hendric Dudley OAKSHOTT, United Kingdom



A. Explanatory Memorandum

1.

Having consulted the Assembly on the question of relations between the Council of Europe and non-governmental organisations (Opinion No. C of the Assembly of 24th September, 1953), the Ministers' Deputies, during their Eighteenth Meeting (February, 1954), laid down the conditions and procedure for granting consultative status with the Council of Europe to such organisations, and defined three categories of status.¹

In accordance with the Opinion of the Assembly, the Committee of Ministers has decided that the files concerning requests for consultative status shall be transmitted: simultaneously to the Committee of Ministers and to the Assembly.² The Assembly, upon receiving a report from the appropriate Committee or Committees, makes a Recommendation to the Committee of Ministers proposing either the refusal or the acceptance of the request for consultative status and stating, in the case of acceptance, the category of status to be granted. In the event of disagreement between the Assembly and the Committee of Ministers, the question is referred to the Joint Committee.

In view of the variety of non-governmental organisations which request consultative status, and the fact that three categories of status have been provided for, Your Committee consider it important that the Assembly should examine such requests in accordance with a systematic and uniform procedure for determining the status to be granted. They consider that this could best be achieved by the appointment of a single committee to examine all requests. If the requests were referred to existing Committees leaving them to report back individually to the Assembly, the desired uniformity of views would not be obtained.

To meet this difficulty, Your Committee have unanimously agreed to recommend to the Assembly the following procedure. The requests for consultative status should be referred to a Committee consisting of the Chairmen of the Committees under the Chairmanship of the President of the Assembly. Any Chairman who was prevented from attending could depute a Vice-Chairman to replace him. The Committee would appoint a rapporteur to present its conclusions to the Assembly.

The following draft Order was unanimously adopted by the Committee for submission to the Assembly.

1. These categories are described at length in an official Council of Europe publication entitled Relations between the Council of Europe and international non-governmental organisations (pp. 6-10).

2. These files would not be tabled as Assembly documents but would be available at the Distribution Office to any Representative asking for them.

B. Draft Order of the Assembly

The Assembly resolves :

1. That the Bureau do refer all requests for consultative status f r om international nongovernmental organisations to a Committee consisting of the Chairmen of Committees under the Chairmanship of the President of the Assembly.
2. That any Chairman who is prevented f r om attending the Committee be empowered to delegate a Vice-Chairman.
3. That the Committee do appoint a rapporteur to present its report to the Assembly containing a d r a f t recommendation to the Committee of Ministers.