

CDDH(2017)17

30/11/2017

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (CDDH)

Procedure for elections within the CDDH

Introduction

1. At its 88th meeting (5-7 December 2017) the CDDH is called to proceed to elections concerning its Bureau, the Chairperson of the DH-SYSC and the Chairpersons of the various CDDH drafting Groups. The CDDH is also called to confirm the Chairperson of the DH-BIO.
2. The table reflecting the current state of the mandates appears in the report of the November 2017 meeting of the Bureau, CDDH-BU(2017)R98, Appendix V.
3. In view of these elections, which will take place on Wednesday 6 December at 11:15, the present document recalls the rules of procedure adopted by the CDDH en 2013.

*(Extracts of the report of the 79th CDDH meeting,
26-29 November 2013, CDDH(2013)R79, item 8, §§ 29-30)*

ITEM 8 : ELECTIONS

Resolution (2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods	CM/Res(2011)24
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[...]

29. In order to ensure transparency and consistency in its election procedure, the Committee recalled Committee of Ministers' Resolution CM/Res(2013)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods, in particular Appendix I on 'rules of procedure for Council of Europe intergovernmental committees', and Articles 11 (Voting) and 12 (Chair) of it. On that basis, it clarified that the following arrangements would apply to elections held within the Steering Committee for the posts of Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, member of the Bureau and Chairperson of a subordinate body:¹

- i. Elections will be by secret ballot, even if the number of candidates is equal to that of posts to be filled.
- ii. Should the number of candidates be equal to that of posts to be filled, the ballot slip will allow votes to be cast for or against. Should there be more candidates than posts to be filled, the ballot slip will only allow votes to be cast for.
- iii. Those entitled to vote in a ballot may cast up to as many votes as there are posts to be filled.
- iv. A ballot slip on which more votes have been cast than there are posts to be filled will be void.
- v. Election of a candidate in the first ballot requires a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, i.e. the first whole number above two-thirds of the number of votes cast.
- vi. 'Votes cast' means valid votes cast for or against; abstentions and void ballot slips do not count.
- vii. If no candidate obtains a two-thirds majority in the first ballot, there will be a second ballot.
- viii. Election of a candidate in the second ballot requires a simple majority of the votes cast, i.e. the first whole number above 50% of the number of votes cast.
- ix. If no candidate obtains a simple majority in the second ballot, there will be a third ballot under the same conditions as the second.
- x. This process will continue until a candidate obtains a simple majority of the votes cast.

30. Noting that, at the present meeting, four ballots were required to elect members of its Bureau, the CDDH considers that the Committee of Ministers might examine the possibility of amending the rules on elections in intergovernmental committees so as to avoid such time-consuming processes in future. For example, a rule could be introduced to the effect that where no candidate is elected in a second ballot, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes in that ballot be automatically excluded from the third ballot, and so on as necessary.

¹ These rules apply also for elections in and to subordinate bodies of the CDDH, with the following exception: for subordinate bodies, election is by show of hands unless a member requests a secret ballot.