

**RESOLUTION (72) 35**

**ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND  
INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS  
RULES FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 October 1972  
at the 214th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

Recalling that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its Members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their economic and social progress;

Having regard to its resolution on relations with international organisations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, adopted at its 8th Session in May 1951, whereby "The Committee of Ministers may on behalf of the Council of Europe, make suitable arrangements for consultation with international non-governmental organisations which deal with matters that are within the competence of the Council of Europe";

Having regard to the rules on relations between the Council of Europe and international non-governmental organisations adopted at the 90th meeting of the Committee of Ministers at Deputy level in October 1960;

Considering Recommendation 670 of the Consultative Assembly;

Considering that it is expedient to amend the said rules particularly with regard to the granting of consultative status with the Council of Europe, in order both to simplify the procedure and to extend the range and depth of co-operation between the Council of Europe and international non-governmental organisations,

Adopts the following rules on relations between the Council of Europe and international non-governmental organisations, which will enter into force on 1 January 1973 and replace the rules adopted at the 90th meeting of the Committee of Ministers at Deputy level :

1. The Council of Europe may establish working relations with international non-governmental organisations by granting them consultative status.

2. For this purpose the Council of Europe shall draw up a list of international non-governmental organisations which are particularly representative in the field of their competence and, by their work in a given sector, are capable of contributing to the achievement of that closer unity mentioned in Article 1 of the Statute as the assigned aim of the member States.
3. The organisations concerned shall undertake to :
  - (a) give the maximum publicity to the initiatives or achievements of the Council of Europe in their own field of competence;
  - (b) inform the Secretariat General of those of their activities likely to be of interest to the Council of Europe;
  - (c) furnish information, documents or opinions relating to their own field of competence as requested by the Secretary General;
  - (d) report periodically to the Secretary General on the fulfilment of the obligation set out in sub-paragraph (a) above;
  - (e) acquaint the Secretary General with their diary of meetings and admit an observer from the Secretariat to such meetings when so requested by the Secretary General.
4. The committees of the Assembly, the committees of governmental experts and other bodies of the Committee of Ministers, and the Secretary General may consult the organisations on questions of mutual interest.
5. The organisations :
  - (a) may submit memoranda to the Secretary General who, if he sees fit, shall transmit them to a committee of the Consultative Assembly or a committee of governmental experts;
  - (b) may be invited by an Assembly committee to express their views orally or in writing on a question included in that committee's agenda;
  - (c) shall receive the agenda and public documents of the Assembly and be invited to send observers - without the right to speak - to public sittings of the Assembly.
6. The Secretary General shall keep a list of organisations enjoying consultative status with the Council of Europe.
7. Any organisation wishing to be entered on this list shall send to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe an application accompanied by thirty copies of a file (in French or English) containing its Statute, a list of its member organisations, a report on its recent activities and a declaration to the effect that it accepts the principles set out in the Preamble and Article 1 of the Statute of the Council of Europe.<sup>1</sup>

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1. Preamble and Article 1 of the Statute of the Council of Europe :

"The Governments of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of Denmark, the French Republic, the Irish Republic, the Italian Republic, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

Convinced that the pursuit of peace based upon justice and international co-operation is vital for the preservation of human society and civilisation;

8. Any organisation already on the list may be removed from it by the Secretary General if, in his opinion, it has failed to comply with its obligations under the rules set out in paragraphs 2, 3 and 7 above, or if it is represented twice as a result of affiliation to a larger organisation which is itself on the list. However, the Secretary General shall first inform the organisation in question of his intention to remove it from the list, in order to give it an opportunity to present its observations.

9. Every six months the Secretary General shall inform the Committee of Ministers and the Consultative Assembly of the names of the organisations which he is considering adding to the list or removing from it, together with those items of the relevant files which are necessary for the assessment of each case and his reasons for suggesting they be added to the list or removed from it, having regard to the rules laid down in paragraphs 2, 3 and 7 above; the Secretary General's memorandum concerning the removal of any organisation from the list shall also include any comments submitted by that organisation on the Secretary General's intention. In the absence of any objection as described in paragraph 10 below, the names of organisations that have thus been communicated shall be added to the list or removed from it, as the case may be, six months later.

10. During the six-month period, a member of the Committee of Ministers or three members of the Assembly of at least two different nationalities may request that an examination be made of the file of each organisation whose name has been communicated. In the former case, the examination shall be made and the decision to add the name to the list or to remove it from the list shall be taken by the Committee of Ministers. In the latter case, the Assembly, acting on a report from its competent committee, shall address a recommendation to the Committee of Ministers, which shall take a final decision. If an examination of the file of an organisation is requested both by a member of the Committee of Ministers and by three members of the Assembly of at least two nationalities, the Committee of Ministers shall defer its decision until it has received a recommendation from the Assembly.

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Reaffirming their devotion to the spiritual and moral values which are the common heritage of their peoples and the true source of individual freedom, political liberty and the rule of law, principles which form the basis of all genuine democracy;

Believing that, for the maintenance and further realisation of these ideals and in the interests of economic and social progress, there is need of a closer unity between all like-minded countries of Europe;

Considering that, to respond to this need and to the expressed aspirations of their peoples in this regard, it is necessary forthwith to create an organisation which will bring European States into closer association,

Have, in consequence, decided to set up a Council of Europe consisting of a Committee of Representatives of Governments and of a Consultative Assembly, and have for this purpose adopted the following Statute :

#### **Chapter 1 - Aim of the Council of Europe**

##### **Article 1**

(a) The aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its Members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their economic and social progress.

(b) This aim shall be pursued through the organs of the Council by discussion of questions of common concern and by agreements and common action in economic, social, cultural, scientific, legal and administrative matters and in the maintenance and further realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

(c) Participation in the Council of Europe shall not affect the collaboration of its Members in the work of the United Nations and of other international organisations or unions to which they are parties.

(d) Matters relating to National Defence do not fall within the scope of the Council of Europe."

11 The procedure described above shall not restrict the right of the Committee of Ministers or of the Assembly to initiate any action concerning other non-governmental organisations in pursuance of their respective Rules of Procedure.

12 An organisation whose application has been refused or which has been removed from the list may not submit a fresh application until three years have expired after the decision in question has been taken.

13 The organisations enjoying consultative status with the Council of Europe on the date of the entry into force of these rules shall be entered on the new list of organisations granted consultative status with the Council of Europe referred to in paragraph 2 above, but may be subsequently removed from this list in accordance with these rules.