



Appellate Committee
Appellate@ingo-coe.org

Meeting by video conference
12 May 2021, 14h-15h30

Decisions

The Appellate Committee, whose members were appointed at the General Assembly of the Conference of INGOs on 27 April 2021, met on 12 May 2021 at 2 p.m. by video conference.

Present: Daniel GUERY, Kékéli KPOGNON, Jean-Jacques KUSTER, Marie-José SCHMITT, Aycke SMOOK.

Jane CROZIER for the secretariat

1. Election of the President

No other member having presented his candidature, Jean-Jacques KUSTER stood for election. He was elected unanimously. He thanked the members for the confidence they had placed in him and would do his best to fulfil the task.

2. Functioning of the Committee

The Committee's operating rules are laid down in Articles 87 to 98 of the Rules of Procedure and Articles 27 to 30 of the Code of Conduct of the Conference of INGOs.

As these are recently adopted texts, the Committee discussed its mode of operation, as the rules laid down in the Rules of Procedure and the Code of Conduct are not very precise, are not always clear and contain differences between the English version and the French translation. The Appellate Committee is an appeals body against the findings and/or recommendations of the Verification and Dispute Committee regarding breaches of the Code of Conduct. It should contribute to the proper functioning of the conference and the respect of the values of the Council of Europe. Many points remain to be clarified as to its mode of operation and in particular the assessment of the time limit within which the committee is seized, the examination of documents relating to disputes, the expression of the participant concerned before the committee (in writing, orally), the place of the committee's meeting and the members' travel expenses. The question of the time limit for processing disputes submitted to the Appellate Committee was also raised. The Committee members, after discussion, agreed that a time limit should be given to the persons concerned on the expected duration of the examination of the appeal.

Given the current health situation, future meetings will be held by video-conference.

The Committee proposes, after discussion, and as invited by the President of the Conference, to draw up rules of procedure. Jean-Jacques Kuster will draw up a draft and submit it to the other members of the committee for comments and amendments, before sending the final version to the secretariat.

Marie José Schmitt said that the Committee might be called upon to make appeals in the near future, as the Verification and Dispute Committee had submitted its conclusions and recommendations on 28 April 2021, and that the deadline for appeals had not yet expired.

Jane Crozier said that a common email address would be set up to enable committee members to communicate with each other without using their personal email addresses.

The meeting was closed at 3.30 pm.