



Minutes of the Executive Council

CUEC, Mexico City

2 - 6 September 2010

Present

Don Zirpola
President

Bert Beyens
VP Finance and Fundraising

Maria Dora Mourão
VP Publications & Research

Victor Valbuena
VP Training and Development

Garth Holmes
Acting Chair CARA

José Ramón Mikelajáuregui
Representative CIBA

Marc Nicolas
Chair GEECT

Excused

Stanislav Semerdjiev
VP Conferences and Festivals

Chap Freeman
Representative CNA

Da Feng Zhong
Chair CAPA

In attendance

Henry Verhasselt
Executive Secretary

The Minutes of the Alicante Executive Meeting, June 2010, were approved.

1. A New Organisation

1.1. The Executive Council

1.1.1. Composition of the Executive

The meeting was largely devoted to discussing proposals for a new composition of the Executive Council, following up on a discussion that was begun at the Alicante meeting.

It was agreed that the Council should consist of a President elected by the General Assembly and the chairs of the five regional associations of CILECT.

Implications of the Proposal for the Current Executive

The Executive agreed unanimously that the proposal "A New Organisation" (see appendix 1) be voted at the General Assembly. If endorsed it will be effective immediately.

There followed a long discussion on the implications of "effective immediately".

While it was quickly agreed that no Vice-President would continue their mandate after Barcelona – since the position of Vice-President did not exist in the new structure – there were two interpretations regarding the position of the President.

Some argued that since there was a position for "president" in the new structure and since the current president's legal mandate did not come to an end until 2012, there was no need to vote on the continuation of Don Zirpola's presidency. Others argued that for political reasons – concerning mainly the credibility of the Executive's support to the changes– the continuation of Don's mandate should be submitted to a vote of the General Assembly.

By majority vote the Executive agreed that –for above political reasons – there should be a vote on the continuation of the presidency. At the same time the Executive unanimously agreed to recommend the General Assembly that Don should remain president until the end of his legal mandate in 2012.

After the meeting the Executive agreed that a vote on the continuation of Don's presidency was not necessary.

1.1.2. Terms of Office of the Executive

The terms of office for the 6 members of the Executive cannot exceed eight years (two terms of four years).

The Regional Associations will be asked to harmonize the length of terms for their chairs with that of the CILECT Executive council.

1.2. The Secretariat

Garth Holmes will write a job description for the position of the new full-time Executive Director.

The Executive Secretary agreed to serve a maximum of 6 months after Barcelona in order for the Executive Council to be able to conduct a search for the new full time Executive Director.

The Executive Secretary will be part of the search committee.

A NEW ORGANISATION

We believe that it is crucial to the expressed needs of the membership and the future of CILECT to restructure the working of the association.

The purpose of the proposed restructuring is to facilitate a more efficient decision making in the Executive and expand the responsibilities of the Secretariat.

Why is a restructuring needed?

Under the current structure there are two problems:

A too large Executive Council

The size of the current Executive Council (ten people) makes it difficult to identify mutually acceptable meeting times. It is also difficult to make the meetings short, focused and efficient. The lack of focus frequently frustrates the reaching of consensus on important issues, as recommended in the statutes.

The costs of transportation, accommodation and subsistence consume a significant proportion of CILECT's funds and create a financial burden for the institutions who offer to host meetings

A confusion in responsibilities

The Executive Council's major responsibility is to be proactive and focus on policy making. To achieve these goals a full-time administration is required clarifying at the same time the respective responsibilities of the Executive Council and the Secretariat

The proposal

The current Executive Council consists of a President, four Vice Presidents and the chairs of the five regional associations. We propose that the Executive Council consist of a President elected by the General Assembly and the Chairs of the five Regional Associations elected by the respective regions.

The currently defined responsibilities of the Vice Presidents will be carried out by an Executive Director. The increased scope of responsibilities and tasks of the Executive Director requires a full time job (contrary to the current situation of the Executive Secretary).

Timing of implementation

According to the statutes changes are effective immediately after approval by the GA.

It will be the responsibility of the Executive Council to identify the Executive director within the next six months.

The Executive Council
4 September 2010.