

PROPOSAL 14

Submitted by the following Member States:

Germany (Federal Republic of), Austria, Bulgaria (Republic of), Spain, Estonia (Republic of), Finland, France, Liechtenstein (Principality of), Norway, Poland (Republic of), the Slovak Republic, Slovenia (Republic of), the Czech Republic, Romania, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Switzerland (Confederation of)

Appointment rather than election of the Directors of the Bureaux

The large number of elected officials in ITU, in contrast to most UN agencies, adds complexity to the management of the Union and compromises its efficiency. The existing arrangement of five elected officials politicizes the management of the organization, and creates a lack of clarity as to who is accountable for resolving problems of concern to Member States.

In common with other UN agencies, the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General should be the only elected officials of the Union and as a consequence the Directors of the Bureaux should be appointed. Appointments should be made on the basis of fair tendering for jobs with candidates selected on merit and taking into account the desirability of equitable geographic representation. Many advantages would result from this arrangement including clarification of the responsibilities of the Secretary-General regarding the management of the Union. An additional benefit would be the reduction of time spent on elections at PPs, leaving more time for the conference to consider its other business.

However, moving to an appointment process generates a number of ancillary questions including methods of selection, duration of tenure, limitations in respect of other posts, the maintenance of geographical balance and other matters. Moreover, it will be necessary to consider possible transitional measures given that the end of the tenure for each elected official may not align with the beginning of tenure for an appointed position.

Proposal

Europe considers that the Directors of the Bureaux should be appointed according to usual UN practice. Consequently the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General should be the only officials elected.

It is therefore proposed that a resolution be adopted by PP-06 with the aim to establish a Council working group to consider the process by which the Directors of the Bureaux could be appointed – see proposed resolution in the annex.

ANNEX

EUR/12/46
ADD

DRAFT RESOLUTION [EUR-3] (Antalya, 2006)

On the appointment rather than election of the Directors of the Bureaux

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Antalya, 2006),

considering

- a) that the large number of elected officials in ITU complicates the management of the Union and thus affects its efficiency;
- b) that most UN agencies elect only the executive head and, in some instances, the deputy executive head;
- c) that it would be possible to appoint rather than elect the Directors of the ITU Bureaux, in order to follow the common practice in most UN agencies,

considering further

- a) that a management team composed of an overall responsible Secretary-General, supported by Sector Directors which are appointed may provide more efficient and improved cooperation between those in the official posts;
- b) that moving to an appointment process generates a number of ancillary questions including methods of selection, duration of tenure, limitations in respect of other posts, possible transitional measures, and other matters;
- c) that the time spent on elections at plenipotentiary conferences could therefore be streamlined thus increasing the time available for ITU core issues,

resolves to instruct the extraordinary session of the Council to be held during this conference

to establish a group of Member States and Sector Members to

- a) consider:
 - i) the processes by which the Directors of the Bureaux could be selected and appointed;
 - ii) the duration of tenure, limitations in respect of other posts, geographical considerations, and other matters as necessary;
 - iii) any transitional measures that may be necessary in the stepped process between the election approach and the appointment approach;
- b) report on progress to the Council on an annual basis with a final report to the penultimate regular session of the Council before the next plenipotentiary conference. The final report should contain in particular draft texts of the related modifications to

the Constitution and the Convention that may be used by Member States in preparing their proposals to the next plenipotentiary conference,

instructs the Secretary-General

to distribute the final report of the group to Member States so that it may be used by Member States in preparing their proposals to the next plenipotentiary conference.