



Ninth European Regional Meeting

Oslo, Norway, 8–11 April 2013

ERM.9/D.2

Information note

Composition of delegations and presentation of credentials

The powers, functions and procedures of the *Ninth European Regional Meeting* will be governed by the *Rules for Regional Meetings* (2008), a copy of which is attached. Governments' attention is drawn in particular to articles 1 and 9 of the *Rules*, which deal respectively with the tripartite composition of delegations and with the submission of credentials. The *Rules* stipulate that the attached form for the presentation of credentials must be filled in and returned to the Office of the Legal Adviser of the International Labour Office in Geneva at least 15 days before the date fixed for the opening of the Meeting. In the instance of the Ninth European Regional Meeting this means **before Monday, 25 March 2013**, though earlier submission of credentials is strongly recommended. The two articles in question read as follows:

Rules for Regional Meetings¹

ARTICLE 1

Composition of Regional Meetings

1. Each Regional Meeting shall be composed of two Government delegates, one Employers' delegate, and one Workers' delegate for each State or territory invited by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to be represented at it. Acceptance by a State or territory of an invitation to be represented at a Regional Meeting implies that it assumes responsibility for the travel and subsistence expenses of its tripartite delegation.
2. Employers' and Workers' delegates and advisers shall be chosen in agreement with the industrial organizations, if such organizations exist, which are most representative of the employers or workers² as the case may be in the State or territory concerned.
3. The credentials of delegates and their advisers at Regional Meetings shall be deposited with the International Labour Office at least fifteen (15) days before the date fixed for the opening of the Meeting.
4. (1) Delegates may be accompanied by advisers and by such additional advisers as may be appointed by a State as representatives of non-metropolitan territories for whose international relations the State is responsible.

¹ The ILO is committed to promoting gender equality. Amendments to this effect were adopted at the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference (Geneva, 2008).

² As used in these Rules, the term "workers" is interpreted consistently with the meaning of "workpeople" in article 3 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organization.

(2) Any delegate may by notice in writing addressed to the Chairperson appoint one of his or her advisers to act as his or her substitute.

(3) An adviser who is acting as substitute for his/her delegate may speak and vote under the same conditions as the delegate who is being replaced.

5. Eminent public figures, including ministers from States or territories represented at the Meeting or from constituent States or provinces thereof whose departments deal with the questions discussed by the Meeting and who are not delegates or advisers may also attend the Meeting.

6. Any Member of the International Labour Organization from a different region and any State which is not a Member of the International Labour Organization which has been invited by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office may be represented at the Meeting by an observer delegation.

7. Liberation movements recognized by the African Union or the League of Arab States which have been invited by the Governing Body may be represented at the Meeting by an observer delegation.

8. Representatives of official universal or regional international organizations and of non-governmental universal or regional international organizations which have been invited by the Governing Body, either individually or as a result of a standing arrangement, to be represented at the Meeting may attend it as observers.

9. Officers of the Governing Body who are not delegates accredited to the Regional Meeting may attend the Meeting.

ARTICLE 9

Credentials

1. The Credentials Committee shall consist of one Government delegate, one Employers' delegate and one Workers' delegate.

2. The Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of delegates and their advisers and any objection alleging that an Employers' or Workers' delegate or adviser has not been nominated in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of article 1 of these Rules. The Committee may also, time permitting, consider any complaint alleging that a Member has failed to carry out its responsibility in accordance with article 1, paragraph 1, to pay travel and subsistence expenses of the tripartite delegation. The Committee may also receive and examine communications.

3. An objection or a complaint shall be receivable in the following cases:

- (a) it has been lodged with the secretariat of the Meeting within two hours after the scheduled time for the opening of the Meeting, unless the Committee considers that there were valid reasons why the time limit could not be respected;
- (b) the authors of the objection or the complaint do not remain anonymous;
- (c) the objection or the complaint is not based upon facts or allegations identical to those which the International Labour Conference or an earlier Regional Meeting has already discussed and recognized to be irrelevant or devoid of substance.

4. The Credentials Committee shall promptly submit its report to the Meeting, which shall request the Office to bring the report to the attention of the Governing Body.

Gender equality at ILO meetings

The ILO is committed to promoting gender equality and appeals to Governments of States Members, as well as to national organizations of employers and of workers, to make every effort to ensure that women comprise at least **30 per cent** of the delegation, while working towards the ultimate aim of parity. The Credentials Committee of the Eighth European Regional Meeting (Lisbon, 9–13 February 2009) noted with pleasure that this goal had been achieved and that women represented 34.3 per cent of the total delegates and advisers accredited to that Meeting, though the Committee was concerned that seven delegations contained no women delegates or advisers at all. In its report to the Meeting, it called on constituents to strive to increase even more representation of women in delegations to future ILO meetings.