



Tenth European Regional Meeting

Istanbul, Turkey, 2–5 October 2017

ERM.10/D.9(Rev.)

Report of the Credentials Committee

1. The Credentials Committee was appointed by the Tenth European Regional Meeting at its first sitting and met on 2 and 3 October 2017, in conformity with article 9 of the ILO *Rules for Regional Meetings* (2008), to examine the credentials of the delegates and their advisers attending the Meeting, as well as any objections to credentials, complaints concerning the non-payment of travel and subsistence expenses of delegations, and other communications. The Committee was composed as follows:

Chairperson: Mr Claude Marsh (Government delegate, Malta)
Mr Flemming Dreesen (Employers' delegate, Denmark)
Mr Jahangir Aliyev (Workers' adviser,¹ Azerbaijan)

2. Credentials in respect of the members of the delegations have been submitted in the form of instruments using primarily the recommended ILO form transmitted in most cases as scanned documents through electronic mail. The generalized use of electronic means for the transmission of credentials has facilitated processing of the relevant information. The Committee reiterates the recommendation of the Credentials Committee at the 13th African Regional Meeting (Addis Ababa, 2015) concerning the use of a password-protected online accreditation system, such as the one implemented at the International Labour Conference and considers that improvements are indeed possible in this area.
3. The Committee draws the attention of the governments to the importance of respecting article 1, paragraph 3, of the abovementioned *Rules*, according to which credentials must be deposited at least 15 days before the opening of the Meeting. The Committee notes that credentials from 23 of the 42 Members that were represented at the Meeting had been received by the deadline for deposit of 18 September 2017. One Member submitted credentials after the opening of the Meeting, so that its delegation did not appear on the *Provisional list of participants* which was made available online on 1 October 2017. Since this list provides advance information that serves as the basis for possible objections to the credentials of delegates or their advisers, such late submission of credentials by this Member is noted with concern by the Committee.

¹ Mr Aliyev was appointed Workers' substitute delegate by communication of the Government of Azerbaijan dated 4 October 2017.

Composition of the Meeting

4. By the time of the adoption of this report, and as reflected in the table in Appendix A, out of the 51 member States invited to attend the Meeting, 42 Members had sent credentials in due form.
5. The Meeting was composed of 74 Government delegates, 32 Employers' delegates and seven Workers' delegates, i.e. 113 delegates in all. In addition, the Meeting comprised 52 Government advisers, 36 Employers' advisers and 21 Workers' advisers, amounting to a total of 109 advisers. Persons appointed as both substitute delegates and advisers have been included among the advisers. The total number of accredited delegates and advisers thus amounted to 222. By comparison, the total number of accredited delegates and advisers was 372 in 2013, 373 in 2009, 442 in 2005, and 398 in 2000.
6. Regarding the number of registered delegates and advisers, there were 69 Government delegates, 30 Employers' delegates and five Workers' delegates, for a total of 104 delegates. The total number of advisers amounted to 90, of whom 47 were Government advisers, 29 Employers' advisers and 14 Workers' advisers. Appendix B to this report contains more detailed information on the number of delegates and advisers registered at the Meeting, amounting to a total of 194.
7. The Committee notes that the delegations of 37 member States accredited to the Meeting were incomplete. Among those, eight were exclusively governmental, 27 included an Employers' delegate but no Workers' delegate, and two included a Workers' delegate but no Employers' delegate. The Committee considers, as also evidenced by indications provided by some governments when submitting their credentials, that the high number of incomplete delegations is due to the call made by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) to their affiliate organizations not to participate in the Tenth European Regional Meeting. The Committee thus wishes to highlight that the statistics on participation contained in its report should be read in light of this context and the reported refusal of a number of workers' organizations to be part of tripartite national delegations.
8. While noting the special circumstances in which Members had to designate their delegations and in particular the fact that many workers' organizations declined to participate in the Regional Meeting, the Committee emphasizes that under article 1, paragraph 1, of the *Rules*, the acceptance by a member State of an invitation to be represented at a Meeting implies the obligation to appoint a complete delegation so as to ensure a balanced representation of employers and workers at the Meeting. This balance was unfortunately not achieved at the Tenth European Regional Meeting despite the reported efforts of governments to honour their obligations.
9. The Committee must stress the importance of full tripartite participation in Regional Meetings to ensure a balanced and mutually beneficial outcome. As regards the accreditation of exclusively governmental delegations, the Committee reiterates that it is a matter of concern and recalls that depriving employers and workers from participation undermines tripartism which lies at the heart of the International Labour Organization governance structure.
10. With regard to the resolutions concerning the participation of women in ILO meetings, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 60th, 67th, 78th and 98th Sessions (June 1975, June 1981, June 1991 and June 2009), the Committee notes that 78 of the 222 delegates and advisers that were accredited to the Meeting were women. Women therefore represented 35.1 per cent of the total delegates and advisers at the present Meeting as compared to 41.4 per cent in 2013. The corresponding women's representation rates by

group are 44.4 per cent for governments, 25 per cent for Employers and 17.9 per cent for Workers. The Committee encourages governments as well as social partners to continue their efforts in order to meet the target set by the United Nations of increasing the proportion of women to at least 30 per cent, especially in leadership positions – and beyond that target – to gender parity, as called for by the Director-General in his letter of invitation to the Meeting.

11. The Meeting was attended by 16 Ministers or Vice-Ministers of member States of the region.
12. Nine member States belonging to the region were not accredited, which is the same as in 2013. The Committee stresses that failure to respond to the Director-General's invitation to attend the Regional Meeting prevents employers and workers of the member States concerned from fully engaging in the work of the Organization and drawing benefit from its meetings. The Committee also recalls, in this respect, the resolution concerning the strengthening of tripartism in the overall activities of the ILO, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 56th Session (1971) according to which sending tripartite delegations to the Conference and Regional Meetings is not only a right of member States but also an obligation laid upon them. The Committee therefore considers that member States, particularly those which have repeatedly not participated in Regional Meetings, should be requested to provide full explanations to the Director-General's inquiries under the 1971 resolution, and make every effort to ensure participation in the future.
13. The Committee notes the participation of ten official international organizations in the Meeting, as compared to seven in 2013, and of two international non-governmental organizations, as detailed below.

Representatives of official international organizations

14. Of the official international organizations – universal or regional – invited to attend the Meeting, in accordance with the relevant agreements or decisions of the Governing Body, the following were accredited:
 - United Nations Children's Fund;
 - United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;
 - World Bank Group;
 - International Monetary Fund;
 - United Nations Industrial Development Organization;
 - European Union;
 - European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions;
 - European Investment Bank;
 - Commonwealth of Independent States;
 - Eurasian Economic Commission.

Representatives of international non-governmental organizations

15. The international non-governmental organizations that were invited to participate at the Meeting, in conformity with article 1, paragraph 8, of the *Rules*, and were represented, were:

- International Organisation of Employers;
- General Confederation of Trade Unions.

Objections, complaints and communications

16. The Committee received no objections, complaints or communications.

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17. The Committee adopts this report unanimously. It recommends that the Meeting request the Office to bring it to the attention of the Governing Body, in conformity with article 9, paragraph 4, of the *Rules for Regional Meetings*.

Istanbul, 4 October 2017

(signed) Mr Claude Marsh
Chairperson
(Government delegate, Malta)

Mr Flemming Dreesen
(Employers' delegate, Denmark)

Mr Jahangir Aliyev
(Workers' adviser, Azerbaijan)

Appendix A

Accredited delegates and advisers (updated as of 5 p.m. on 4 October 2017)

	Government delegates	Employers' delegates	Workers' delegates	Government advisers	Employers' advisers	Workers' advisers
Albania	2	–	1	1	–	2
Armenia	–	–	–	–	–	–
Austria	2	–	–	–	–	–
Azerbaijan	2	1	1	2	3	6
Belarus	2	1	1	–	2	2
Belgium	1	1	–	–	1	–
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	1	–	–	–	–
Bulgaria	2	1	–	3	–	–
Croatia	2	1	–	–	–	–
Cyprus	1	–	–	–	–	–
Czech Republic	2	1	–	–	–	–
Denmark	2	1	–	–	–	–
Estonia	2	1	–	7	–	–
Finland	2	–	–	–	–	–
France	2	1	–	1	1	–
Georgia	–	–	–	–	–	–
Germany	2	1	–	–	2	–
Greece	1	1	–	–	–	–
Hungary	1	1	–	–	–	–
Iceland	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ireland	1	–	–	–	–	–
Israel	1	1	–	–	–	–
Italy	1	1	–	–	2	–
Kazakhstan	2	–	1	–	–	1
Kyrgyzstan	–	–	–	–	–	–
Latvia	–	–	–	–	–	–
Lithuania	2	1	–	–	–	–
Luxembourg	1	–	–	–	–	–
Malta	2	1	–	–	1	–
Republic of Moldova	1	1	–	–	–	–
Montenegro	2	1	–	–	–	–
Netherlands	2	1	–	–	–	–
Norway	2	1	–	–	1	–
Poland	2	–	–	1	–	–
Portugal	2	1	–	1	1	–

	Government delegates	Employers' delegates	Workers' delegates	Government advisers	Employers' advisers	Workers' advisers
Romania	2	1	–	–	2	–
Russian Federation	2	1	1	–	3	1
San Marino	–	–	–	–	–	–
Serbia	2	1	–	2	–	–
Slovakia	–	–	–	–	–	–
Slovenia	2	1	–	1	–	–
Spain	2	1	–	–	1	–
Sweden	2	–	–	–	–	–
Switzerland	2	1	–	–	1	–
Tajikistan	–	–	–	–	–	–
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2	1	1	1	–	1
Turkey	2	1	1	29	14	8
Turkmenistan	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ukraine	2	1	–	1	1	–
United Kingdom	1	1	–	1	–	–
Uzbekistan	2	–	–	1	–	–
Total	74	32	7	52	36	21

Appendix B

Registered delegates and advisers (updated as of 5 p.m. on 4 October 2017)

	Government delegates	Employers' delegates	Workers' delegates	Government advisers	Employers' advisers	Workers' advisers
Albania	1	–	1	–	–	1
Armenia	–	–	–	–	–	–
Austria	2	–	–	–	–	–
Azerbaijan	2	1	–	2	2	2
Belarus	1	1	1	–	1	1
Belgium	1	1	–	–	–	–
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	1	–	–	–	–
Bulgaria	2	1	–	2	–	–
Croatia	2	1	–	–	–	–
Cyprus	1	–	–	–	–	–
Czech Republic	2	1	–	–	–	–
Denmark	2	1	–	–	–	–
Estonia	2	1	–	5	–	–
Finland	2	–	–	–	–	–
France	1	1	–	1	1	–
Georgia	–	–	–	–	–	–
Germany	2	1	–	–	2	–
Greece	1	–	–	–	–	–
Hungary	1	1	–	–	–	–
Iceland	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ireland	1	–	–	–	–	–
Israel	1	1	–	–	–	–
Italy	1	–	–	–	–	–
Kazakhstan	1	–	1	–	–	1
Kyrgyzstan	–	–	–	–	–	–
Latvia	–	–	–	–	–	–
Lithuania	2	1	–	–	–	–
Luxembourg	1	–	–	–	–	–
Malta	2	1	–	–	1	–
Republic of Moldova	1	1	–	–	–	–
Montenegro	2	1	–	–	–	–
Netherlands	2	1	–	–	–	–
Norway	2	1	–	–	1	–
Poland	2	–	–	1	–	–
Portugal	2	1	–	1	1	–

	Government delegates	Employers' delegates	Workers' delegates	Government advisers	Employers' advisers	Workers' advisers
Romania	2	1	–	–	2	–
Russian Federation	2	1	1	–	3	1
San Marino	–	–	–	–	–	–
Serbia	2	1	–	2	–	–
Slovakia	–	–	–	–	–	–
Slovenia	2	1	–	1	–	–
Spain	2	1	–	–	1	–
Sweden	2	–	–	–	–	–
Switzerland	2	1	–	–	1	–
Tajikistan	–	–	–	–	–	–
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2	1	–	1	–	–
Turkey	2	1	1	29	12	8
Turkmenistan	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ukraine	1	1	–	1	1	–
United Kingdom	1	1	–	–	–	–
Uzbekistan	2	–	–	1	–	–
Total	69	30	5	47	29	14