

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING.Amendments to the Rules of Procedure

Commissioners will recall that at the Second Meeting of the Commission at St. Andrews, the question arose as to whether it would not be desirable to amend the Rules of Procedure, so as to secure a little more uniformity.

The then Acting Chairman discussed the matter with certain other Commissioners who constituted a panel (vide Chairman's Report, Second Annual Meeting, 11) for the purpose, and as a result, the following amendments are suggested for consideration by the Commission at its Third Meeting in 1953.

It will be understood that the Rules of Procedure may be amended from time to time by a two thirds majority of the votes of all Contracting Governments, provided they are not inconsistent with the provisions of the Convention. But any amendment requires at least 60 days notice to be given in advance of the meeting at which the amendment is to be discussed.

I. Amendments proposed to Rules of Procedure for the Commission
(Report of the First Annual Meeting pp.30-33)

(1) Rule 3

For "may be represented" substitute the words "may be invited to be represented".

(2) Rule 4

Line 4. After "advisers may" insert "be invited to".

(3) Rule 8 (f)

Omit the first 8 words and substitute the words "to secure the appointment of the members of Committees established".

(4) Rule 13

Omit the words "and amend" and at end insert the words "and may amend them from time to time as it thinks fit".

(5) Rule 14

Omit the words "For the time being" and for "Canada" read "North America" (As in Convention).

(6) Rule 16 (b)

Line 2 after "consisting of" omit the words "one" down to "which" in line 5 both inclusive and insert the following: "the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission and three other Commissioners appointed by the Commission. The Committee shall choose its own Chairman who shall be elected annually at the last meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee held in connection with the Annual Meeting. The three Commissioners aforesaid shall hold office for two years and shall be eligible for re-appointment, but not for a succeeding term. The Committee"

Line 9. Omit the words "The Committee shall choose its own Chairman".

(7) Rule 16 (c)

After the "Chairman" in the penultimate paragraph insert the words "who shall be elected annually by the Committee at its last meeting held in connection with the Annual Meeting, and shall hold office until the last meeting of the Committee held in connection with the next Annual Meeting of the Commission".

(8) Rule 20

After "doing so" in the fourth line insert the words "at meetings", and after the word "interpreters" in line 6 the words "and when submitting reports will provide translations in English".

(9) Rule 23 (a)

At end add the words "as well as the Chairman's Report of the Annual Meeting" [see Rule 8 (g)].

II. Amendment of Rules of Procedure for the Panels
(Report of the First Annual Meeting pp. 34-35)

(1) Rule 3

Omit the words "Prior to attendance" in line 5.

(2) Rule 4

Penultimate line after "may" insert "be invited to".

(3) Rule 8 (e)

Omit and substitute the following:- "to determine after consultation with the Commissioners of the Governments participating in the Panel the provisional order of business for every meeting and to submit it to the Commission for transmission to all Contracting Governments and Commissioners by the Executive Secretary not less than 60 days in advance of an ordinary meeting of the Panel held between Meetings of the Commission".

(4) Rule 14

After "doing so" in fourth line insert "at meetings".

After "interpreters" insert the words "and when submitting reports will provide translations in English".

A.T.A. Dobson
Vice Chairman

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

Amendments to the Rules of Procedure

In distributing this Document the Executive Secretary has wished to attach the following explanatory notes to it:

ad Amendments I (1 and 2) and II (2):

These amendments mean a great restriction in the rights of Governments not a party of the Convention, or other International Organizations, and of observers, experts, and advisers attending the Commission's meetings, as far as the initiative to take part (not merely "attend" i.e. be present) no longer will be with the persons attending but with those who are "to invite them" to take part. As to Governments and other International Organizations (FAO and ICES) such a restriction may be in accordance with the wording of our Agreements (vide Chairman's Report of the First Annual Meeting): "In each case the members of each body are free to attend the meetings of the other". It should be duly considered if it is not more in accordance with the sense of these agreements if the representatives sent to our meetings were allowed to address the meetings when and as they should wish to.

As to observers, experts, and advisers either from other Bodies or chosen by the Commissioners or Governments within the Commission it should be borne in mind that these are chosen just on account of their being especially well versed in the matters to be dealt with. Therefore it should be duly considered if these persons, once called upon to attend the meetings, should not be allowed to address the meetings when they wish to do so.

ad Amendment I (6)

With the proposed amendments the complete wording of the Rule 16 (b) will be as follows:

"There shall be a Standing Committee on Finance and Administration consisting of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission and three other Commissioners appointed by the Commission. The Committee shall choose its own Chairman who shall be elected annually at the last meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee held in connection with the Annual Meeting. The three Commissioners aforesaid shall hold office for two years and shall be eligible for re-appointment, but not for a succeeding term. The Committee shall advise the Commission on matters relating to the Executive Secretary and his staff, on the budget of the Commission, on the time and place of meetings of the Commission, and on publications of the Commission. The Executive Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of this Committee without vote."

The proposed amendments mean a great change as to the mode to be used in the formation of this important Committee, as far as the principle now in force and providing an even representation of all Contracting Governments will be abandoned. Further the amendments will involve that the members of the Committee will no longer have the opportunity of being assisted during the Committee meetings by advisers or experts.

The amendments are very important ones, offering advantages as well as disadvantages, and thus call for the most careful considerations.



Erik M. Poulsen,
Executive Secretary.

EMP/JW