

Procedure for appointments to the posts of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and Clerk of the Assembly (6 December 1956) — amended text

Caption: Rules of Procedure dated 6 December 1956 concerning appointments to the posts of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and Clerk of the Assembly having the rank of Deputy Secretary-General, as amended on 20 March 1962.

Source: Procedure for appointment to the posts of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and Clerk of the Assembly having the rank of Deputy Secretary-General (amended text), = Procédure de nomination aux postes de Secrétaire général, Secrétaire général adjoint et Greffier de l'Assemblée ayant rang de Secrétaire général adjoint (texte amendé). Strasbourg: June 1962 = Juin 1962.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/procedure_for_appointments_to_the_posts_of_secretary_general_deputy_secretary_general_and_clerk_of_the_assembly_6_december_1956_amended_text-en-54d0239c-cfd1-4486-bbfe-5c3ddc35b640.html

Publication date: 14/05/2013

Procedure for appointment to the posts of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and Clerk of the Assembly having the rank of Deputy Secretary-General (Strasbourg, 6 December 1956) — amended text

Rules of procedure(1)

1. Submission of candidatures

(a) When a vacancy occurs in any of the three senior posts of the Secretariat-General, appointments to which are made by the Consultative Assembly on the recommendation of the Committee of Ministers, or in the case provided for in clause 8 (b) below, candidates may be proposed to the Committee of Ministers by :

(i) one or more Member Governments;

(ii) the Secretary-General, in respect of the posts of Deputy Secretary-General and Clerk of the Assembly.

Furthermore, when the post of Clerk of the Consultative Assembly falls vacant, or in the case provided for in clause 8 (b), proposals may be submitted to the Committee of Ministers by one or more groups of Representatives to the Consultative Assembly ; they should bear not less than five and not more than ten signatures.

The Secretary-General may only propose candidates who are already permanent or temporary members of the Secretariat-General.

Candidates from the Secretariat-General may also be sponsored by one or more Member Governments, provided that in the case of the Deputy Secretary-General or Clerk of the Consultative Assembly the Secretary-General has been previously consulted and has given his assent.

(b) Member Governments and Assembly Representatives shall send their proposals to the Secretary-General, who will forward them, together with his own, to the Committee of Ministers.

2. Criteria determining the choice of candidates

The following criteria shall determine the choice of candidates :

(a) The recruitment of persons of the highest ability and integrity and suitability for the post to be filled.

(b) The qualifications and experience of persons already employed by the Council of Europe shall be taken into consideration, so that members of the Secretariat may have reasonable prospects of promotion.

(c) The desirability of ensuring an equitable geographical allocation of appointments among nationals of the Member States subject to the overriding interests of efficiency. No office in the Secretariat shall be considered to be the prerogative of any particular Member State.

3. Preliminary examination of candidatures by the Committee of Ministers

The Committee of Ministers shall examine the list of candidates. The latter may be summoned to an interview by the Committee itself or by a Sub-Committee appointed for the purpose.

4. Consultation of the Assembly by the Committee of Ministers

Before transmitting to the Consultative Assembly a recommendation for the appointment of any one of the

three senior officials of the Secretariat-General, the Committee of Ministers shall consult the Assembly on the subject through the medium of the Joint Committee.

This consultation shall take place, unless otherwise agreed by the Joint Committee, not less than 30 days before the date of the opening of the Session during which the Assembly will be called upon to make the appointment.

5. Nomination of candidates

(a) Unless it has been otherwise agreed after discussion in the Joint Committee, the Committee of Ministers shall draw up a list containing at least two names, which shall be submitted to the Assembly.

(b) In the case of candidates for the posts of Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, the Committee of Ministers shall be free to list the names in order of preference, should it so desire.

6. Procedure in the Bureau

The proposals submitted to the Assembly by the Committee of Ministers shall be examined by the Bureau, which may summon candidates to an interview. The Bureau shall then transmit the proposals to the Assembly, indicating, if it thinks fit and where appropriate, its own order of preference and the order of preference of the Committee of Ministers with regard to the candidates.

7. Procedure in the Assembly

(a) The Assembly shall proceed to make the appointment.

(b) Voting shall be by secret ballot.

(c) An absolute majority of the votes cast shall be required at the first ballot and a relative majority at the second.

8. Term of office and possible reappointment

(a) The three senior officials shall henceforth be appointed for a period of five years.

(b) Not less than six months before the expiry of the term of any such official the procedure laid down in the preceding clauses shall be set in motion ; the official may be put forward again as a candidate in accordance with clause 1, and his term may always be renewed for a period specified in advance by agreement between the Assembly and the Committee of Ministers in the Joint Committee.

(1) These rules were adopted by the Ministers' Deputies at their 43rd meeting (3rd-6th December 1956) and amended at the 107th meeting (13th- 20th March 1962).

In a letter from the Private Office of the President, dated 18th December 1956, the Consultative Assembly communicated its approval of the rules ; and these amended rules were approved by the Standing Committee, on behalf of the Assembly, on 30th March 1962 (CM (62) 71).