

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF DIALOGUE COMMITTEE IN THE SECTOR OF ELECTRICITY

Preamble

In the framework of the European Commission Decision of 20 May 1998 annexed to its Communication entitled "Adapting and promoting the social dialogue at Community level" COM(1998) 322, the European organisations of the following social partners, EURELECTRIC, EPSU and EMCEF, have submitted a request, on 17 December 1999 to the European Commission, with the view to establishing a Social Dialogue Committee in the sector of Electricity.

In accordance with article 5§1 of the aforementioned Commission Decision, the Internal Rules of the Committee are set out below.

Clause 1

The Committee's objectives are as follows:

- To give opinions to the Commission on initiatives in the field of social policy and on the evolution of European policy having a social repercussions in the Electricity sector.
- To promote and develop the social dialogue in the electricity sector, in order to contribute to the development of employment and to the improvement of the living and working conditions of employees in this sector

Clause 2

In order to achieve these objectives, the Committee shall:

- Fix, once a year, its work programme.
- Organise the work to be carried out on subjects identified jointly and propose, if necessary, the establishment of working groups to carry out such work.
- Discuss the result of this work and its consequences at the appropriate levels.
- Propose to the Commission to invite experts in order to assist it in its work.
- Transmit the results of its work, once approved by the organisations referred to in the preamble, to the Commission and to the authorities concerned.

Clause 3

1. The organisations quoted in the preamble designate by mutual agreement every year a Chairman and two vice-chairmen, chosen by the employers' delegation and by the workers' delegation. The employers' delegation shall have the presidency every second year. As for the workers' delegation, the presidency shall rotate between the two organisations so that each organisation holds the presidency every fourth year.
2. The Chairman and the vice-Chairmen whose mandate is expired remain in function until a replacement has been identified. In the event of premature suspension of the Chairman's and the vice-Chairmen's mandate, a successor will be appointed for the term of the mandate still to run according to the procedure in paragraph 1 at suggestion of their respective organisation.

Clause 4

1. The Committee shall entrust a select Group with the preparation and co-ordination of its work in liaison with the Commission's services. This select Group shall be composed of members appointed by the organisations referred to in the preamble.

2. The Commission services will act as Secretariat for the Committee and of the select Group.
3. The organisations referred to in the preamble shall invite their delegates to the meetings of the Committee.

Clause 5

1. Committee meetings may include a maximum of 40 delegates, made up of:
 - 20 delegates for the organisations representing employees
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2. The organisations referred to in the preamble shall appoint their delegates to the different meetings and activities of the Committee.
3. No remuneration shall be paid in respect of the functions exercised and in respect of participation in meetings.
4. Accommodation and travel expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with Article 5 § 3 of the Commission decision mentioned in the preamble.

Clause 6

The Committee shall meet at least once a year.

Clause 7

Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 214 of the Treaty, every time that the Commission informs participants that the opinion requested relates to a subject that is confidential, the participants undertake not to disclose the information of which they may become aware through the work of the Committee, of the ad hoc Working Parties or of the select Group.

Clause 8

These Internal Rules shall enter into force on 23 February 2000.
