

Pan-European Structure Review Committee

Report to Bureau

The Structure Review Committee has met on a total of 7 occasions since starting its work.

On 11 December 2007, a consultation document was issued to all affiliates, inviting responses by 25 January 2008. This document set out the historical background and a possible revised set of aims and objectives. It also outlined 3 principal options and invited respondents to focus their responses on their preferred option.

The Review Committee met in Brussels on 5 February 2008 to consider the next steps in the light of responses received.

A total of 44 affiliates (31%) made submissions – some on an individual basis, others as part of a group response. Responses were received from affiliates in 22 out of 46 countries.

While some respondents expressed a clear preference for one particular option, others were equivocal and others made observations without any indication of preference for any of the options.

The Review Committee agreed that no option appeared to be attracting the level of support which would be needed to secure constitutional change at a Conference/General Assembly. Following extensive discussion, the Review Committee agreed to make the following recommendations to the Bureau:-

1. That all affiliates be given access to all the responses to the consultation which had been received (preferably on the website).
2. That the extraordinary Conference/General Assembly planned for June 2008 be CANCELLED.
3. That an analysis of the responses be produced to inform the further work of the Review Committee which will meet again on 17 June 2008.
4. That time be provided for a (non-decisionmaking) consultative session in December 2008, to which representatives of all organisations would be invited, as an extension of the ETUCE Council meeting planned for that time.

5. That the Pan European committee should authorise the preparation at an appropriate time of formal proposals for constitutional change for consideration by the next scheduled Conference/General Assembly, in December 2009.

6. That the EI and ETUCE Secretariats should forthwith begin discussions on steps to improve coordination and cooperation without prejudice to the development of proposals for constitutional change.

In view of the urgency of certain of these recommendations, it was agreed to contact Bureau members by telephone to seek approval, in particular for the cancellation of the June 2008 Extraordinary Conference/General Assembly.

Ronnie Smith,
President,
Pan-European Structure