

Rules for the European Region of the International Ombudsman Institute

(approved 13 June 2006)

Foreword

Article 19 (c) of the Institute's By-laws provides that "each regional constituency shall, as soon as practicable after its establishment, adopt a set of rules to guide its operations and shall proceed, within a reasonable timeframe, to organise its operations."

In 1996, the Institute constituted the European region as a regional constituency of the Institute and the voting members of the Region elected a Regional Vice-President from among the Regional Directors. With the adoption of these Rules, the Rules for the European Region of the International Ombudsman Institute as approved 1 November 2000, are repealed.

Article 7(c)(1) of the By-laws provides that "The Term of a Director shall not exceed four years, unless the Director is re-elected according to rules adopted by the region."

Article 7(c)(2) provides that "any vacancy occurring in a region shall be filled by that region without delay accordingly to rules adopted by the region."

Article 19 (f) provides that "Each regional Vice-President shall in collaboration with the members of the Board of Directors of that region and such region's voting members, and within a reasonable time, set up a procedure whereby the regional members of the Board are elected democratically."

Article 10(e) empowers the Executive Committee of the Institute to allocate a member in one region to a different region when such location is justified by political, cultural, linguistic, or particular geographical considerations.

In accordance with these by-laws this document sets out in the following Clauses rules and procedures governing the operation of the regional constituency and the election of four Directors including a regional Vice-President of the Institute.

Rules and Procedures

1. The members of the Region shall be those institutions or individuals located in the Region or allocated to the Region which have been admitted to membership of the International Ombudsman Institute and have maintained their membership in good standing. The voting members of the Region shall be those members entitled to vote under the Institute's by-laws.
2. The organisation of the Region's affairs shall be the responsibility of the Directors of the Institute elected by the voting members to represent the Region from time to time. The Directors shall by agreement between them determine their own procedures. The Director elected as the Regional Vice-President under clause 6 shall act as Chairperson of the Directors.
3. The Regional Vice-President shall act as Chairperson of meetings of members of the Region dealing with Institute matters.
4. The Directors may determine what regional initiatives should be undertaken subject to their ascertaining the views of members of the Region by such means as the Directors consider to be most appropriate in the circumstances.

5. The Directors shall arrange a biennial meeting of voting members of the Region to be held on a basis of fair rotation between members willing and able to host such a meeting. When the Institute's World conference is being held, the regional meeting of members shall be held as part of the Institute's Conference. The regional meeting shall also be held in conjunction with any meeting or conference for all members of the Institute as appropriate.
6. The following arrangements shall apply to the election of the Regional Directors and the Regional Vice-President:
 - (a) Not later than 3 months before the opening of the Institute's World Conference, nominations will be sought by the Returning Officer who shall be the Regional Vice-President, or if the Vice-President is seeking re-election as Regional Director, by a Regional Director not seeking re-election. Nominations must be made in writing and with the consent of the nominee and must be received by the Returning Officer by the date specified in the request for nominations. A nominee must be a voting member of the Institute and must be proposed by a voting member and seconded by another voting member.
 - (b) If the number of nominations received is greater than 4, the Returning Office shall arrange for an election at the regional meeting held as part of the Institute's World Conference. The election shall be chaired and supervised by the Returning Officer.
 - (c) The method of election shall be on the basis of one member one vote of those present at the meeting and voting i.e. where the voting member is an Office of the Ombudsman, there shall be only one vote by that Office. Each voting member may vote for up to four candidates with the four candidates receiving the highest number of votes being declared elected. Where a tie occurs which requires a further vote, the vote shall be restricted to those candidates tied on the same vote. Any member whose annual fees to the Institute are in arrears before the meeting shall be ineligible to vote.
 - (d) Following the election of the 4 Directors, the meeting shall elect one of them as Regional Vice-President.
 - (e) There shall be no provision for voting by proxy. However a voting member in good standing who is unable to attend the regional meeting may, not later than 1 month before the regional meeting, send his/her vote by post, facsimile or e-mail to the Returning Officer.
 - (f) Any vacancies arising between regional meetings caused by the death, resignation or retirement of a Director shall be filled at the next regional meeting or if no such meeting is scheduled to take place within a period of 3 months, by a postal ballot organised by the Regional Vice-President. The term of a director elected under this sub-paragraph shall not exceed the term of the other Directors.
7. A Director shall resign his/her office as a Director on vacating office as an Ombudsman. A Director who vacates office during a regional meeting shall remain a Director until the adjournment of that meeting.
8. The Directors may make such rules as are necessary to ensure the smooth functioning and operation of the Region as are not inconsistent with any of the preceding rules or any By-laws of the Institute.
9. Subject to the By-laws of the Institute, a majority of the voting members in the region may alter, amend or add to these rules at any time or from time to time. A resolution setting out the amendment or addition must be notified at least 1 month in advance of any vote to all voting members of the region and the resolution shall be voted on either at the next regional meeting or by post, facsimile or e-mail.