

Amendments to ECREA Bylaws

Introduction

ECREA approved its Bylaws in 2012. After three years, the ECREA Executive Board launched a call for proposals for amendments for ECREA Bylaws, which closed on 30 April 2015. All the received proposals were carefully considered and integrated in the proposed amendments. This concluded Phase I of the internal consultation.

At the beginning of Phase II, the proposed amendments were sent to legal advisers in 2015, who have provided further advice and brought the Bylaws amendments in line with ECREA Statutes and Belgian NGO legislation. While the proposed amendments to the Bylaws did not conflict with the ECREA Statutes or with Belgian legislation, legal advisers at RSM alerted the Bureau that ECREA Statutes do not entirely comply with Belgian legislation and advised ECREA to bring them in line with the Belgian NGO law.

In accordance with the legal advice, ECREA Board and Bureau focused their efforts on introducing necessary amendments to the ECREA Statutes, which were confirmed by the General Assembly 20-24 June 2016 and – since the quorum was not met – follow-up General Assembly on 18 July 2016. This delayed the process of Bylaws amendments.

The process of Bylaws amendments was taken up by the new ECREA management in the beginning of 2017. The proposed amendments to Bylaws were sent for the second round of Advisory Board consultation. The AB completed its consultation on 21 May 2017. The comments were (after consideration) implemented into the current draft of the Bylaws amendments. Afterwards, the Bylaws amendments were put on the agenda of ECREA Executive Board which approved the document (with two notifications of typos in the text) on its last meeting in 19-28 June 2017.

At this point, the ECREA membership is invited to read the amendments which were proposed at various stages of consultation process in the period 2015–2017. The members of ECREA are invited to voice their opinion on the proposed modifications as well as comment on other paragraphs of the ECREA Bylaws.

Two versions of Bylaws amendments are provided. In one version, the proposed changes are indicated (highlighted in red letters) and commentaries are attached to the paragraphs which were an object of AB consultations. The second version is more reader-friendly and provides a clean text with all changes implemented and no commentaries. The comprehensive overview of the most significant changes is provided below.

Please, note that the ECREA Statutes always have priority over the ECREA Bylaws. The ECREA Bylaws offer operationalisations of the ECREA Statutes. In case of contradictions, the ECREA Statutes take precedence.

Overview of the amendments

Title I. Executive Board and General Assembly

Article 2: The restrictions to Executive Board membership are enhanced and elaborated.

Article 3: Full removal is proposed to avoid the cumulation of functions.

Article 4: The number of Sections representatives in the Executive Board is increased from one to two to secure better representation of sections. In the overall perspective, sections have more members than Networks and TWGs. (The number of Sections representatives is corrected accordingly in all articles operating with the number of Sections representatives)

New Article is proposed to stipulate the procedure of EB member resignation.

Article 9d: Forced compliance of the EB member absent from the EB meeting is changed to abstention.

Article 9g: Period for making the minutes available after the General Assembly is set to two months

Article 11b: New rule for forming the Election Committee for the EB Elections by the General Assembly is added.

Article 11s: Membership (resignation and staying in the acting capacity) of entities' representatives in the Executive Board is stipulated in more detail

Title II. The Bureau

Article 13: Regional, gender and age diversity is added as a principal of creation of The Bureau. New Article is proposed to stipulate the details of the procedure through which the Temporary Working Groups are created and dissolved.

New Article is proposed to stipulate that the Bureau reports to the Executive Board

New Article is proposed to stipulate the forced resignation of any of the members of the Executive Board.

Title III. The Advisory Board

Article 19: Duration and other conditions of the Advisory Board member and Chair are stipulated.

New article is added to stipulate the resignation of any Advisory Board member.

Title IV. Sections, Temporary Working Groups & Networks

Article 28: Numbers of panels organised at European Communication Conference by Sections, Networks and Temporary Working Groups is specified.

New Article is proposed to limit the membership in the Management Teams of the entities to one entity.

Article 34: Deadline when the Management Teams of the entities are obliged to submit their reports for the overall Annual Report is set to end of January.

Article 43: Periodicity with which the call for new Temporary Working Groups is issued is set to two years.

Article 44: Extensive stipulation of the procedure of forming, renewing and dissolving Temporary Working Groups is implemented.

Article 49: The period of 6 months is stipulated for re-activation of an entity if the entity was suspended due to its failure to form the Management Team.

Title VI. The ECREA Book Series

Article 62: Duration of the mandate of the Advisory Editorial Board is set for 8 years.

New article is proposed to prevent the conflict of interests of Executive Board members in the roles of Editorial Board members.

Article 64: The ECREA Book Series mission to promote original, previously unpublished works is specified.

Article 69: The deadline (and the exception of it if agreed with the publisher) of the decisions of the Executive Board over the book proposals is set for 1 March of the year after the year the proposals were submitted.

Article 75: Distribution of the copies of ECREA Series books is stipulated.

Article 76: Full removal is proposed because the issue depends on negotiations with the publisher.

New article is proposed to stipulate ECREA's right to launch another book series or other publications.

New Title: Ethical Codes of Conduct and Ethics Committee

All articles: new articles are added to stipulate formation and sphere of action of Ethics Committee and creation of Ethical Code of Conduct

New Title: Amendments to the Bylaws

All articles: new articles are added to stipulate the process of further amending The Bylaws

All Titles and Articles

The references to the methods of online organizational communication are replaced with the formulation "designated online tool or email" to reflect on technological change and enable development of the available communication channels.