



## Report of the Credentials Committee

1. The Credentials Committee, which was appointed by the Meeting at its first sitting, met on 15, 16 and 17 February 2005, to examine, in conformity with article 9 of the Rules for Regional Meetings, the credentials of the delegates and technical advisers accredited to the Meeting, as well as one objection and two complaints pertaining to the credentials of three countries. The Committee was composed as follows:

Mr. Eli Ben-Tura (Government delegate, Israel), Chairperson;

Ms. Lucia Sasso Mazzufferi (Employers' delegate, Italy);

Mr. John Svenningsen (Workers' substitute delegate and adviser, Denmark).

2. Credentials in the form of official instruments, official letters or official facsimiles had been received in respect of the members of the delegations as shown in the annex to this report. The Committee draws the attention of the governments to the importance of respecting article 9, paragraph 1, of the abovementioned Rules, according to which credentials must be deposited at least 15 days before the opening of a meeting (i.e. 31 January 2005 for this Meeting). The Committee is concerned that credentials from 16 Members were not received within that time limit.

## Composition of the Meeting

3. At the time of the adoption of this report, of the 50 member States invited to attend the Meeting, 46 Members had sent credentials. The Meeting was composed of 91 Government delegates, 45 Employers' delegates and 46 Workers' delegates, i.e. 182 delegates in all. In addition, there were nominated 94 Government advisers, 62 Employers' advisers and 104 Workers' advisers, i.e. a total of 260 advisers. Persons appointed as both substitute delegates and advisers have been included among the advisers. The total number of nominated delegates and advisers was thus 442.
4. With respect to the delegates and the advisers registered, the number of Government delegates was 85; there were 44 Employers' delegates and 43 Workers' delegates, that is to say, a total of 172 delegates. Total advisers were 228, of those 82 were Government advisers, 55 were Employers' advisers and 91 were Workers' advisers. The annex to this report contains more detailed information as to the number of accredited and registered delegates to the Meeting.
5. One delegation was incomplete, as it did not comprise the Employers' delegate.
6. The Committee noted that 27 per cent of the delegates accredited and 32 per cent of the advisers accredited were women, as compared with 21 per cent and 29 per cent

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respectively at the last European Regional Meeting. Four Prime Ministers and 28 Ministers or Vice-Ministers of 27 member States of the region attended the Meeting.

7. Four Members of the Meeting were not represented while seven Members of the region were not present at the last European Regional Meeting. In this connection, the Committee hoped that all member States would in future be in a position to participate in regional meetings and that appropriate steps would be taken to this effect.

## **Observers**

8. On the basis of a standing invitation, the Holy See appointed an observer delegation.
9. The Republic of Korea, which will host the Fourteenth Asian Regional Meeting, was invited at its request by the Governing Body to be represented at the Meeting and appointed an observer delegation.

## **Representatives of official international organizations**

10. Of the official international organizations invited to attend the Meeting, in accordance with the relevant agreements or decisions of the Governing Body, the following were represented:

- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
- United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo;
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
- International Organization for Migration;
- European Union;
- Council of Europe;
- Executive Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States;
- Danube Commission.

## **Representatives of non-governmental international organizations**

11. The non-governmental international organizations invited to participate at the Meeting in conformity with article 1, paragraph 7, of the Rules that were represented were:

- International Confederation of Free Trade Unions;
- World Confederation of Labour;
- World Federation of Trade Unions;
- International Organisation of Employers;
- International Social Security Association;
- European Trade Union Confederation;
- General Confederation of Trade Unions.

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## Objections

12. The Credentials Committee received three objections, concerning respectively the delegations of Albania, Belarus and Serbia and Montenegro, the latter two of which were late.

### ***Objection concerning the nomination of the Employers' delegate of Albania***

13. The Committee had before it an objection lodged by the Employers' group of the Meeting concerning the nomination of the Employers' delegate from Albania.
14. The Employers' group submitted that the nomination of the Employers' delegation of that country did not fulfil the requirements of article 1, paragraph 4, of the Rules for Regional Meetings, as the delegate, Mr. Vladimir Koka, was not nominated in agreement with the Council of Employers' Organizations (KOP), which was and had always been the most representative employers' organization in Albania. According to the Employers' group, Mr. Koka had been dismissed from the position of Chairman of the Regional Council of Employers' Organizations of the Tirana Region (KOP-Tirana) by decision of 5 March 2004 by the governing body of KOP-Tirana; he could therefore no longer represent KOP or KOP-Tirana. This issue had also been the subject in 2004 of a complaint to the Committee on Freedom of Association (Case No. 2345) concerning the use of the name of KOP by Mr. Koka. In its recommendations, the Committee on Freedom of Association requested the Government to refrain from any action which could give rise to interference with the independence of the employers' organization of Albania.
15. The Employers' group requested the Committee to call upon the Government to provide clear explanations with regard to their alleged failure to consult KOP as the most representative employers' organization and to give the reasons for nominating Mr. Koka as the Employers' delegate to the Meeting; to refrain from further interfering with the activities of Employers' organizations; and to comply with article 1 of the Rules at all future ILO European Regional Meetings.
16. In a letter dated 15 February 2005, the Committee invited the Government to comment on the substance of the objection and to provide precise information on a number of points relating thereto. The letter was delivered on 15 February 2005 around noon by hand to the Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of Albania attending the Meeting. Copy was sent by fax to the Permanent Mission of Albania in Geneva on the same day. The Committee deplores that the Government has not responded to this invitation to submit comments, except for an informal telephone call by the Permanent Representative of Albania in Geneva to the Legal Adviser of the Meeting.
17. Under these circumstances, the Committee warns that for want of an official reply by the Government or sufficient justification for its absence, the Committee can decide to examine an objection on the basis of the information provided to it by the sole objecting organization. Having said that, the Committee notes on the one hand that, according to the objection, Mr. Koka was dismissed from the position of Chairman of KOP-Tirana by that organization's governing body on 5 March 2004. On the other hand, in its report on Case No. 2345, referenced in the objection, the Committee on Freedom of Association found, on the basis of information submitted to it after that date, respectively by the Council of Employers' Organizations (KOP) and the Government, that the case was one of conflict between two rival executive committees of the same organization; in this connection it requested the Government to refrain from any action that could give rise to interference in the framework of the resolution of the question of KOP leadership.

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18. While the Credentials Committee was therefore not put in a position to reach conclusions concerning the objection, it wishes to stress that the nomination of the non-governmental members of the tripartite delegations has to be made after the widest consultations with all the representative organizations of employers and workers and that the relevant deliberations of the said organizations should not suffer any interference by governments. It hopes that the Government of Albania will in the future be in a position to show that it has respected those principles.

### ***Late objections***

19. The Committee received a communication dated 15 February from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) concerning the nomination of the Workers' delegate of Belarus, which was delivered to the Committee's secretariat on 16 February 2005, the second day of the Meeting, at 10.50 a.m. Pursuant to article 9, paragraph 4(a), of the Rules for Regional Meetings, an objection is not receivable if it is not lodged with the secretariat of the Meeting by 11 a.m. on the first day of the Meeting, unless the Committee considers that there were valid reasons why the time limit could not be respected. Since the communication did not state any such reasons, the Committee considered that in so far as it constituted an objection, the communication was not receivable in accordance with the abovementioned provision of the Rules.
20. The Committee received a communication dated 15 February from the ICFTU concerning the consultation procedure used by the Government in order to nominate the Workers' delegate of Serbia and Montenegro, which was delivered to the Committee's secretariat on 16 February 2005 at 10.50 a.m. Since the communication did not state any reasons why it was submitted only on the second day of the Meeting, the Committee considered that, in so far as it constituted an objection, the communication was not receivable in accordance with article 9, paragraph 4(a), of the Rules for Regional Meetings.

### **Complaints**

21. The Committee received two complaints concerning the obligation of Members, in accordance with article 1, paragraph 1, of the Rules for Regional Meetings, to pay travel and subsistence expenses of their tripartite delegations.

#### ***Complaint concerning non-payment of the travel and subsistence expenses of the Workers' delegate of Georgia***

22. The Committee had before it a complaint, submitted by the ICFTU, concerning the non-payment of the travel and subsistence expenses of Mr. Irakli Tugushi, Chairperson of the Trade Union of Georgia and Workers' delegate to this Regional Meeting.
23. The complaint alleged that the Government of Georgia had not honoured its commitment to pay the expenses to the Georgian Workers' delegate for his participation in the Regional Meeting.
24. Mr. Levan Peradze, Director of the Social Assistance and Employment State Agency, orally stated before the Committee that the relevant payment, as it was the case for the Employers' delegate, was simply delayed, due to technical reasons linked to a recent change in Georgia's financial regulations. He gave assurances to the Committee that both the Employers' and Workers' delegates would receive appropriate payment soon after they returned home.

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25. The Committee takes note of the Government's good will to cope with its obligation under article 1, paragraph 1, of the Rules for ILO Regional Meetings to at least cover the expenses of a complete tripartite delegation so as to enable its members to participate in the Meeting until the end of its work.
26. The Committee stresses, however, that the timely fulfilment of this obligation plays an important role in ensuring the actual presence of a tripartite delegation at regional meetings. The Committee hopes that the Government will in future abide by this obligation in a timely manner.

***Complaint concerning non-payment of the travel and subsistence expenses of the Workers' delegate of Azerbaijan***

27. The Committee had before it a complaint, submitted by the ICFTU, concerning the non-payment of the travel and subsistence expenses of Ms. Jamila Sattarova, Member of the Executive Committee of the Trade Unions Confederation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, affiliated to the ICFTU, and Workers' delegate to this Regional Meeting.
28. The complaint alleged that while originally the union had put forward another delegate to the Regional Meeting, proper information was channelled to both the Government and the ILO about the change; therefore the Government should honour its commitment to pay the expenses to the Azerbaijani Workers' delegate for the participation in the Regional Meeting.
29. By letter received by the Committee on Wednesday 16 February 2005, the ICFTU notified the Committee that, having received the assurance, from the representative of the Government, that the issue would be settled as soon as the delegation was back in Baku and expecting that in future every delegate would be paid in advance as per the rules of the ILO, it accepted to withdraw its complaint.
30. The Committee took note of the withdrawal of the complaint.

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31. The Credentials Committee unanimously adopted this report and recommends that the Meeting include it amongst the documents that the Office is to bring to the attention of the Governing Body, in conformity with article 9, paragraph 5, of the Rules for Regional Meetings.

Budapest, 17 February 2005.

*(Signed)* Mr. Eli Ben-Tura,  
Chairperson.  
Ms. Lucia Sasso Mazzufferi.  
Mr. John Svenningsen.

## Annex

### Accredited delegates and advisers

(Updated as of 4pm on 17.02.2005)

	Government Delegates	Government Advisers	Employers' Delegates	Employers' Advisers	Workers' Delegates	Workers' Advisers
Albania	2	-	1	-	1	-
Armenia	2	-	1	-	1	-
Austria	2	3	1	-	1	-
Azerbaijan	2	1	1	-	1	-
Belarus	2	1	1	1	1	-
Belgium	2	6	1	-	1	6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	-	1	-	1	-
Bulgaria	2	2	1	1	1	4
Croatia	2	2	1	1	1	1
Cyprus	2	-	1	1	1	1
Czech Republic	2	-	1	1	1	1
Denmark	2	-	1	-	1	2
Estonia	2	-	1	-	1	-
Finland	2	-	1	1	1	1
France	2	5	1	5	1	8
Georgia	2	-	1	2	1	-
Germany	2	1	1	1	1	2
Greece	2	-	1	1	1	2
Hungary	2	20	1	13	1	21
Iceland	2	-	1	-	1	-
Ireland	2	3	1	1	1	1
Israel	2	-	1	-	1	-
Italy	2	7	1	1	1	15
Kazakhstan	2	1	1	-	1	-
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Latvia	2	-	1	-	1	-
Lithuania	2	-	1	-	1	-
Luxembourg	2	6	1	2	1	2
Malta	2	-	1	-	1	-
Republic of Moldova	2	1	1	1	1	1
Netherlands	2	3	1	2	1	1
Norway	2	1	1	1	1	2
Poland	2	1	1	2	1	4
Portugal	2	2	1	3	1	1
Romania	2	5	1	5	1	4
Russian Federation	2	6	1	1	1	4
San Marino	2	-	1	1	1	1
Serbia and Montenegro	2	4	1	2	1	1
Slovakia	2	1	1	1	1	1
Slovenia	2	2	1	-	1	-
Spain	2	2	1	2	1	2
Sweden	1	-	1	1	1	2
Switzerland	2	3	1	2	1	2
Tajikistan	2	-	-	-	1	-
The Former Yugos. Rep. of Macedonia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey	2	-	1	5	1	6
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ukraine	2	-	1	-	1	3
United Kingdom	2	5	1	1	1	2
Uzbekistan	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>104</b>

## Registered delegates and advisers

(Updated as of 4pm on 17.02.2005)

	Government Delegates	Government Advisers	Employers' Delegates	Employers' Advisers	Workers' Delegates	Workers' Advisers
Albania	2	-	1	-	1	-
Armenia	2	-	1	-	1	-
Austria	2	3	1	-	1	-
Azerbaijan	2	1	1	-	1	-
Belarus	2	1	-	-	1	-
Belgium	2	6	1	-	1	5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	-	1	-	1	-
Bulgaria	2	1	1	1	1	3
Croatia	2	2	1	-	1	1
Cyprus	1	-	1	1	1	1
Czech Republic	2	-	1	1	1	1
Denmark	1	-	1	-	1	2
Estonia	2	-	1	-	1	-
Finland	2	-	1	1	1	1
France	2	4	1	5	1	8
Georgia	1	-	1	1	1	-
Germany	2	-	1	1	1	2
Greece	2	-	1	1	1	2
Hungary	2	15	1	10	1	18
Iceland	1	-	1	-	1	-
Ireland	2	3	1	1	1	1
Israel	2	-	1	-	1	-
Italy	2	6	1	-	1	12
Kazakhstan	2	1	1	-	1	-
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Latvia	2	-	1	-	1	-
Lithuania	2	-	1	-	1	-
Luxembourg	2	3	1	2	-	2
Malta	2	-	1	-	1	-
Republic of Moldova	2	1	1	1	1	1
Netherlands	2	3	1	2	1	1
Norway	2	1	1	1	1	2
Poland	2	1	1	2	1	4
Portugal	2	2	1	3	1	1
Romania	2	5	1	5	1	3
Russian Federation	2	6	1	1	1	3
San Marino	2	-	1	1	1	1
Serbia and Montenegro	2	4	1	2	1	1
Slovakia	2	1	1	1	1	1
Slovenia	2	2	1	-	1	-
Spain	2	2	1	2	-	2
Sweden	1	-	1	1	-	2
Switzerland	2	3	1	2	1	2
Tajikistan	2	-	-	-	1	-
The Former Yugos. Rep. of Macedonia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey	2	-	1	5	1	4
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ukraine	1	-	1	-	1	2
United Kingdom	2	5	1	1	1	2
Uzbekistan	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>91</b>