EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Rules of Procedure

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the International Co-ordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), adopted on 15 April 2000 in Rabat, accredited European National Institutions adopt the following Regional Rules of Procedure:

1. Membership

The European National Institutions accredited to the ICC as well as those admitted as observers to the ICC are members of the European Regional Group.

2. Decision Making

(1) The search for consensus shall be a priority in the making of any decision. In case voting is necessary, decisions shall be taken by a majority. Only National Institutions that are present at the beginning of the vote shall participate in such vote.
(2) Each duly accredited National Institution shall have one vote.
(3) National Institutions admitted as observers contribute to the debate without the right to vote.

3. Guiding Principles for Activities

The activities of the European Regional Group are conducted in a collegial manner;
   a) In the planning and carrying out of any activity, a balance shall be sought between European sub-regions, as well as between different legal systems and the various types of National Institutions;
   b) The European Regional Group shall conduct its activities in close cooperation with the Council of Europe and other European organisations active in the field of human rights;
   c) The activities of the European Regional Group shall benefit from the contributions of non-governmental organisations as well as from civil society in general.

4. Regional Meetings

(1) European Regional Group meetings shall be organized every two years, in coordination with the Council of Europe.
(2) Moreover, regional meetings shall take place on the occasion of international meetings, in particular international conferences of National Institutions and meetings of the ICC.
5. Representation in the ICC

(1) In compliance with the Rules of Procedure of the ICC (points 4(d) and 5(c)), the four European National Institutions which shall represent the European Regional Group to the ICC are appointed at each biennial meeting of the Regional Group.

(2) Upon the ICC’s appointment of members of the Accreditation Sub-Committee, or other committees, the European Regional Group nominates the European National Institution which shall represent the Group to this Sub-Committee or to other committees.

6. Functioning of the European Co-ordinating Committee

(1) The European Co-ordinating Committee, constituted of the four National Institutions members of the ICC, shall be the collegial executive of the European Regional Group.

(2) In this capacity, the European Co-ordinating Committee shall:
   a) prepare the various regional meetings and determine their agenda;
   b) be in charge of relations with the Council of Europe and other European institutions;
   c) promote the dissemination of information to all members as well as to non-governmental organisations and European and international organisations. To this end, it shall make full use of the means provided by the Internet;
   d) take any appropriate initiative for the cooperation and development of European National Institutions.

7. Presidency of the European Co-ordinating Committee

(1) One of the National Institutions of the European Co-ordinating Committee shall assume the Presidency thereof.

(2) The National Institution holding the Presidency of the European Co-ordinating Committee:
   a) shall be responsible, in a broadly cooperative spirit, for the respect of the principles and rules as established in the present Rules of Procedure;
   b) shall convene the meetings envisaged in the present Rules of Procedure, and organise, if necessary, the meetings of the European Co-ordinating Committee;
   c) shall be a center for the collection of information emanating from European organisations and shall disseminate such information to the European Co-ordinating Committee.

(3) When the National Institution holding the Presidency is prevented from fulfilling its task, its predecessor shall act as alternate.

8. Principles of Representation

(1) A general principle of rotation shall apply to the nominations and positions within the European Regional Group and its Co-ordinating Committee.

(2) Appointment of European National Institutions to the ICC (cf. Article 5(1)) shall take account, on the one hand, of the need for a balanced representation of sub-
regions, and, on the other, of the need for rotation, so that all accredited National Institutions shall accede, in turn, to this responsibility.

(3) In order for the principle of rotation mentioned in the above paragraphs (1) and (2) to be fully applied, normally, the term of the President of the European Co-ordinating Committee as well as the term of the representatives of the European Regional Group to the ICC and other committees of the ICC are two-year terms that may only be renewed one time.

9. Modification of the rules of procedure

(1) Modification of these rules of procedure may be made upon a proposal by any voting member.
(2) Proposals for modification may be made in advance of a meeting of the European Co-ordinating Committee by submission to the Presidency in writing or upon a motion of any voting member during a meeting.
(3) Modifications to the rules of procedure receiving the agreement of a two-third majority of the voting members present shall take immediate effect, unless otherwise stipulated.

Adopted in Dublin on 16 November 2002