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ANNIVERSARY

**CONGRESS**  
BERLIN 23-26 MAY 2023

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

ADOPTED BY THE ETUC 15<sup>TH</sup> STATUTORY CONGRESS  
(BERLIN, 23-26 MAY 2023)



TOGETHER FOR A  
**FAIR DEAL**  
FOR WORKERS

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY CONGRESS



## Constitutional amendments and decisions adopted by Congress

### 1. Introduction of a quota of young people in the delegations to the Congress (Article 9)

Amendment to enter into force after Congress

Article 9, a new paragraph after “Gender balance” paragraph:

#### “Youth balance

All organisations<sup>1</sup> entitled to send representatives to the Congress shall ensure that their delegations include members younger than or aged 35.

In any event, every fourth delegate per delegation must be younger than or aged 35. If a delegation with four or more delegates does not fulfil this criterion, its voting rights should be reduced proportionally.”

### 2. Deletion of “Vice-Presidents” in the last sentence concerning the right to be “ex officio” member in Article 10

Amendment to enter into force after Congress

“The President, ~~Vice-Presidents~~ and the members of the Secretariat are ex-officio members of the Congress, the Executive Committee and the Steering Committee.”

Article 21 will be amended by adding the following sentence:

“The Vice-Presidents who are not members of the Steering Committee, shall be permanent observers.”

### 3. Deletion of the second paragraph on the rotation principle and the third paragraph on the election of an additional Vice-President and inclusion of additional sentences in Article 15

Amendment to enter into force after Congress

~~“The Executive Committee can introduce rotation among the President and Vice-Presidents, between two Congresses.”~~

~~“The Executive Committee will elect an additional Vice-President, among the members of the Steering Committee, in representation of the European Trade Union Federations. Such Vice President will not participate in possible rotation of the President’s position.”~~

The group of Vice-Presidents shall be composed of Executive Committee members representing national trade union confederations and European trade union federations.

The number of the Vice-Presidents shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

<sup>1</sup>With the exception of FERPA

Transitory provisions

The Executive Committee after the Congress will elect the Vice-President in representation of the ETUFs. If the AMs on Article 15 are adopted, the requirement for such a Vice-President to be a member of the Steering Committee will not apply. Such Vice-President will have the same status as the other Vice-Presidents.

**4. Deletion of the second sentence in Article 20:**

Amendment to enter into force after Congress

~~“The Steering Committee shall be responsible for overseeing negotiations with employers’ organisations and representations made to the European institutions.”~~

**5. Clarification of the current practice of election by an absolute majority of the votes cast of the Secretariat, President, Vice-Presidents and Auditors**

Amendment to enter into force after Congress

If yes, Article 10 will begin with the sentence:

“The President, Vice-Presidents, members of the Secretariat and Auditors shall be elected by the Congress by absolute majority of the votes cast”.

**6. Extension of the written procedure** (currently foreseen for Social Dialogue decisions, art 13) **to any other decisions of the Executive Committee, if needed**

Amendment to enter into force after Congress

The respective sentence will be moved to the article 19.

**7. Change in the Preamble in the § 1, second bullet point, after “human and trade union rights” by adding “and notably freedom of association, the right to organise, the right to collective bargaining and the right to strike”**

Amendment to enter into force after Congress

**8. Change in the quorum referred to in Article 19 of the Constitution to refer to the need for at least 2/3 of the Executive Committee members to be present or represented**

Amendment to enter into force after Congress

**Article 19:**

[...] The deliberations of the Executive Committee can only be valid if at least ~~3/4~~ 2/3 of the full members are present or represented.

**9. Vice-Presidents number - Article 8**

Amendment to enter into force immediately after adoption

**Article 8:**

[...]

It [Congress] has the following tasks in particular:

[...]

- To elect the President, ~~the up to four~~ Vice-Presidents, the members of the Secretariat and the Auditors;

## Decisions adopted by Congress

The Congress decides that a Constitutional Committee be established after Congress to prepare proposals for Constitutional changes for the 2025 Mid-Term Conference.

The Constitutional Committee will examine and make recommendations for – amongst others – the following issues:

- Number of votes and delegates in the Executive Committee (number of votes in the Executive Committee and of delegates at Congress for organisations with less than 10.000 members);
- Consideration of abstentions when calculating the 2/3 majority rule on votes;
- Proposal by NFS to establish an ETUC Nominating Committee to replace the General Secretary in the process of making proposals for the Secretariat composition;
- The role of the Presidency;
- Preamble of the ETUC Constitution and consideration of the need to adapt the references to fundamental ETUC values on the basis of the ETUC Charter of Values; [a possible amendment if the Executive Committee chooses to include a reference in the Constitution could be: “The ETUC adopted a Charter of Values at its 15th Congress which further elaborates these principles”.]
- Ferpa voting rights in the Executive Committee (including a study).