

Confédération Européenne des Syndicats

European Trade Union
Confederation



Den Europeiske Faglige
Samorganisasjon

Europäischer Gewerkschaftsbund

CRITERIA TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DECISIONS ON THE
AFFILIATION OF NEW ORGANISATIONS TO THE EUROPEAN TRADE
UNION CONFEDERATION

laid down by the Executive Committee on 29/30 November 1979

1. The content of the criteria is to be placed in the context of the provisions of the Constitution, the decisions of the third statutory congress (Munich, May 1979), and the first discussion which the Executive Committee held on the applications for affiliation.
2. Article 2 of the Constitution is the only article laying down such provisions. It stipulates that
"Applications for membership made by democratic trade union confederations will be considered by the Executive Committee.
"Its decisions will be subject to ratification by Congress."

The Constitution thus leaves the decision entirely to the discretion of the Executive Committee.
3. On the proposal of the Executive Committee, the third statutory congress (Munich, May 1979) unanimously decided
 1. not to discuss these applications for affiliation at Congress;
 2. to instruct the Executive Committee to establish criteria as soon as possible according to which the various applications for affiliation would be considered;
 3. to authorise the Executive Committee to take a valid decision on the applications received to date within a year.
4. The objective of European trade union policy has been and will continue to be to develop the ETUC into a strong and representative European umbrella organisation, which acts as one body. Freedom of action, organisational strength, and the ability to arrive at a consensus are absolutely essential preconditions for achieving this goal. Any enlargement of the ETUC to include new member organisations must be in keeping with the general objectives described above.

5. As expressed in the Constitution and action programme of the ETUC, the Confederation is a union of free, independent and democratic, representative national and European trade union confederations.
New member organisations of the ETUC must comply with these characteristics.
6. The decisions on the applications for affiliation which have been received to date should be taken on the basis of criteria which can be checked objectively on the one hand and which also make a political assessment possible. These applications must be the subject of extensive discussion, for which, however, a time limit must be set.
7. The affiliated confederations should have maximum information on the nature, activities, political attitudes and objectives of the applicant organisations.

These criteria should serve as a guideline for the Secretariat in its efforts to obtain this information and should enable the Executive Committee to take decisions as objectively and logically as possible. However, these criteria must on no account lead to automatic decision-making.

8. In addition to these considerations, the Executive Committee hereby lays down :

8.1. Fundamental criteria

- 8.1.1. The affiliated organisations of the ETUC must be trade union organisations with democratic constitutions.
- 8.1.2. The affiliated organisations of the ETUC are trade union organisations, which are independent of governments and parties in the determination of their policies.
- 8.1.3. Trade union organisations whose membership in international trade union organisations does not contradict the principles of free, democratic and independent trade union work to which the ETUC subscribes may become ETUC affiliates.

8.2. Organisational criteria

- 8.2.1. ETUC affiliates are of representative significance in their own countries.
- 8.2.2. ETUC affiliates represent the workers of various categories and operate in several branches of activity and/or sectors of the economy.
- 8.2.3. ETUC affiliates are supra-regional organisations which operate at the national level.

8.3. Geographical criterion

8.3.1. Confederations in the member countries of any of the intergovernmental organisations in Western Europe (EEC, EFTA, Council of Europe) may become affiliated to the ETUC.

8.4. General criteria

8.4.1. The applicant organisation subscribes to the Constitution and programmes of the ETUC and and supports the Confederation in its fight to achieve those objectives.

The applicant organisation accepts the political practice of the ETUC and makes a constructive contribution to the ETUC decision-making process and to the efficacy of ETUC action.

8.4.2. When several confederations from the same country are affiliated to the ETUC they must be prepared to collaborate at the European level.

8.4.3. Particular importance must be attached to the opinion of ETUC member organisations on applications for affiliation which have been submitted by organisations in their particular countries.

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Brussels, 7th December 1979
Mth/AS/CL