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REPORT OF THE E.C.C. ELECTORAL COMMISSION

The mandate of the commission, which was constituted by the executive, was to suggest a satisfactory proposal for executive elections. After considering various options from evidence received, the commission decided to present two proposals for discussion by ECC sub-committees and front organisations. These represent two options based on two differing perceptions of the role and accountability of the executive.

We suggest that the following process be followed for the discussion of the two proposals:

- that the proposals be discussed by sub-committees and front organisations.
- that the proposals are presented at the next General Body as a policy decision and that a vote is taken according to the accepted policy making mechanism. (i.e. one vote per sub-committee and one vote per organisation)

ELECTORAL PROCESS

It would be the responsibility of the Secretary General to implement the electoral process. The two proposals would both be prefaced by the following procedures:

1. Nominations:

Sub-committees and Front organisations are invited to make nominations for the positions of Chair; Vice-chair; Secretary General; Publicity Secretary and Treasurer.

2. Presentation of Nominations at General Body:

Nominations are presented with a motivation.

3. Discussion of Nominations:

Nominations are to be discussed by sub-committees and front organisations. All Front organisations are to be advised of the nominations in writing.

4. Election of the executive at the A.G.M.:

Two proposals are offered:

PROPOSAL A

The election of an executive would be seen to be an organisational matter with the front organisations thus not having a very important part to play in that process. Such an election would be seen as a purely internal matter

and as such, ECC the organisation would be required to make the decision.

Therefore:

1. A straw vote would be taken at the A.G.M. with all sub-committee members and front organisation representatives being entitled to the same vote. Effectively this would mean that front organisations would exercise very little say in the election of a new executive.
2. If any Front organisation (or sub-committee) had a problem with the new executive, they would have the power, within a week of such an election, to institute the policy making mechanism of ECC. Thus at a subsequent meeting each Front organisation and each sub-committee would be entitled to one mandated vote which could be used to veto the election of any office bearer and to elect a new person to that position.

In this proposal the Front organisations are able to influence ECC by being able to veto a decision that has been made by ECC the "organisation".

PROPOSAL B

In contrast to the previous proposal, the emphasis in Proposal B is on the constitution of ECC as a front of various organisations. It is thought that the Front should not be used purely to give ECC legitimacy, but should be reflected in each organisation having a real say both in policy decisions and in how ECC is presented publicly. The office bearers of ECC are thus seen not merely as administrators of the organisation but as public representatives of ECC, and thus of all of ECC's constituent organisations. It is therefore considered crucial that these organisations have, and should be seen to be having, an effective and positive role in the election of the executive.

Therefore:

1. the election of the executive should follow the same procedures adopted for any policy decision, viz: each organisation rep. having one mandated vote, and each sub-committee rep. having one mandated vote.

It is thought that the situation of one vote per organisation and one vote per sub-committee, adequately reflects ECC's form as organisation and front. 4 or 5 executive members

are elected directly by the sub-committees and it is therefore considered appropriate that the front has a dominant say in electing the other 5 executive members.

2. The main problem that has been raised with regard to this proposal is that the organisations may not have sufficient knowledge of the nominees to warrant them having so weighty a say in the election process. The answer posited to this problem is that those organisational representatives who would attend and vote at an A.G.M. are likely to have as good a knowledge and understanding of ECC as many people in the sub-committees. In addition the organisational representatives would be in the best position to reflect the feelings of ECC's broader constituency in their voting.

In the event of a particular organisation having no knowledge of the various nominees, the option of an abstention vote will be emphasised.

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