

Alliance of Independent Press Councils in Europe (AIPCE) D R A F T

1.) About AIPCE

AIPCE is a network of independent Press and Media Councils in Europe to enhance cooperation and exchange of information.

2.) General Assembly

- (1) The General Assembly consists of representatives of all Press or Media Councils that are Members of the AIPCE. Every Press or Media Council represented has one vote in the General Assembly.
- (2) The General Assembly is held at the annual conference.
- (3) The General Assembly
 - a.) decides which Member hosts the annual conference,
 - b.) elects a third Member of the Coordination Committee (see heading 3. Coordination Committee),
 - c.) decides on appeals against decisions of the Coordination Committee about new applications for becoming a Member or an Observer,
 - d.) decides on all issues concerning the AIPCE as long as it is not assigned to the Coordination Committee.
- (4) The General Assembly decides with a two-third majority, if not stated otherwise.

3.) Coordination Committee

- (1) The Coordination Committee consists of three Members:
 - a.) a representative of the former host of the annual conference,
 - b.) a representative of the current host of the annual conference and
 - c.) a third Member elected for a term of one year by the General Assembly.
- (2) The Coordination Committee decides on applications for membership and on applications as Observer. An appeal against this decision to the General Assembly is possible.
- (3) The Coordination Committee liaises with European and International organizations.
- (4) The Coordination Committee decides with a two-thirds majority, if not stated otherwise.

4.) Membership

In order to become a Member of AIPCE, a Press or Media Council has to be recognized by as well as representative for the media in a country which is geographically located in Europe or a Member state of the Council of Europe.

5.) Procedure to Become a Member

In order to register as a Member of the AIPCE, a Press or Media Council should comply with the following procedure:

- a.) File a written application to the Coordination Committee. The application should be signed by an authorized representative of the Press or Media Council and has to outline how the Membership criteria (heading 4, Membership) are satisfied. The request has to be written in English.
- b.) The Coordination Committee decides on the application within two months. To accept a new Member, the decision must be unanimous.
- c.) Where the Coordination Committee accepts a new Member, the existing Members can appeal the decision within one month of the Coordination Committee informing them of the decision. In the event of an appeal, the final decision will be that of the General Assembly.
- d.) Where the Coordination Committee declines the application, the affected Press or Media Council has the right to appeal to the General Assembly within one month of the refusal.
- e.) If the General Assembly is to decide on an application or appeal, the affected Press or Media Council has the right to be heard by the General Assembly.
- f.) The decision of the General Assembly on membership is final.

6.) Rights and Responsibilities of Members

- (1) Members should uphold the ethics of journalism and free access to and distribution of information as well as promote freedom of expression.
- (2) Each Member has one vote in the General Assembly.
- (3) Members have the right to participate in the annual conference.
- (4) Members have the right to choose who hosts the annual conference.
- (5) Members have the right to participate in elections to be a Member of the Coordination Committee.
- (6) Members have the right to participate in the internal communication of the AIPCE.
- (7) Members are expected to contribute their expertise and knowledge in the network in favour of the AIPCE.

7.) Observers

The Coordination Committee and the General Assembly can accept organizations from the Media sector and/or dealing with Media policies as Observers. The procedure for applications as an Observer is the same as for applications for Membership.

8.) Rights and Responsibilities of Observers

- (1) Observers should uphold the ethics of journalism and free access to and distribution of information as well as promote freedom of expression.
- (2) Observers have the right to participate in AIPCE annual conferences.
- (3) Observers are expected to contribute with their expertise and knowledge in the network in favour of the AIPCE.

9.) Ending of membership

If a Member or an Observer resigns or is dissolved, its Membership to the AIPCE ends. If a Member or an Observer harms the good standing of the AIPCE or no longer fulfils the criteria for being a Member or an Observer, the General Assembly is able to expel the Member or Observer.

Vienna, 9th of October 2015.

Annex I – Member organizations (as of 2015-10-09):

- **Armenia** – Yerevan Press Club – Media Ethics Observatory
- **Austria** – Österreichischer Presserat, Austrian Press Council
- **Azerbaijan** – Press Council
- **Belgium (Flanders)** – Raad voor de Journalistiek
- **Belgium (Wallonia)** – Conseil de Deontologie journalistique
- **Bosnia & Herzegovina** – Press Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Cyprus** – Cyprus Media Complaints Commission
- **Denmark** – Press Council
- **Estonia** – Press Council
- **Finland** – Mass Media Council for Finland
- **Georgia** – Georgian Charter of Journalistic Ethics
- **Germany** – Deutscher Presserat, German Press Council

- **Hungary** – Foszerkesztok Foruma (Editors' Forum)
- **Ireland** – Press Ombudsman and Press Council
- **Kosovo** – Press Council
- **Luxembourg** – Press Council
- **Macedonia** – Council of Media Ethics
- **Moldova** – Press Council
- **Montenegro** – Media Council for self-regulation
- **Netherlands** – Raad voor de Journalistiek
- **Norway** – Press Complaints Commission, Norwegian Press Association
- **Russia** – Public Collegium for Press Complaints
- **Serbia** – Press Council
- **Spain** – Information Council of Catalonia
- **Spain** - Journalism Mass Media Complaints Commission
- **Sweden** – Press Ombudsman and Press Council
- **Switzerland** – Schweizer Presserat, Swiss Press Council
- **UK** – Independent Press Standards Organisation
- **Ukraine** – Commission on Journalistic Ethics

Annex II – Observers (as of 2015-10-09):

- **France** – Association pour la Préfiguration d'un Conseil de Presse
- **Israel** – Press Council
- **Kyrgyzstan** - Mass Media Complaints Commission
- **New Zealand** – Press Council
- **Pakistan** - Press Council of Pakistan
- **South Africa** - Broadcasting Complaints Commission
- **South Korea** – Korea Press Arbitration Commission
- **Sri Lanka** – Press Complaints Commission
- **Tajikistan** - Tajik Media Council
- **Thailand** – Press Council