



E.C.C.E

The European Conference
on Christian Education

The Statutes of the European Conference on Christian Education

PURPOSE

1. The ECCE is a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences, receiving inspiration and encouraging developments in the fields of Sunday School and Christian Education and thus enabling its members to cement their ties with one another. It assumes thereby the function of the former World Sunday School Union in European lands and is interrelated with the WCC (World Council of Churches, unit II), the ICCS (Intereuropean Commission on Church and School), the IV (Internationaler Verband Evangelischer Erzieher), the CEZ (Conference of European Churches) and other denominations, which are active in Christian education.
2. Collaboration with the ECCE is basically open to all organisations and departments of Church work (and in exceptional cases, individuals) which are active in the fields of Sunday School and Christian Education in Europe (henceforth named 'countries'). There is no formal membership. At the present time, non-represented countries can ask the Steering Group to invite them once, or on a permanent basis to the Assemblies. Likewise the Steering Group can, of its own accord, invite other countries. The structural organisation of the ECCE is kept consciously to a minimum. Questions arising shall be dealt with case by case to the mutual agreement of all concerned.

THE ASSEMBLY

3. The ECCE exist mainly in its Assembly which takes place every third year (2004...); this is attended by 50 – 150 delegates. In the meantime the Steering Group represents the ECCE.
4. At each Assembly it is decided where the next Assembly is to be held. Every country attending may offer to host it. The matter is then voted on by the whole Assembly. Where a number of countries wish to host the next Assembly the invitation of the country receiving the most votes will be accepted.
5. For linguistic reasons the ECCE is divided into the following five regions: United Kingdom and Ireland; Northern Europe; the Latin Countries; Middle Europe and Eastern Europe. At each Assembly the delegates of each region nominate representatives to serve on the ECCE Steering Group.
6. The main language of the Assembly is English. The Steering Group must see that, as far as possible, translations of texts are made available to participants in French, German and English.

THE STEERING GROUP

7. The ECCE Steering Group consists of 10 persons, two from each region, and chosen by the regions. They choose, out of their number, a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer; in addition they determine who will direct the next Assembly. This person may be identical with the President.
8. The official address of the ECCE is that of the President or Secretary who is in office.

9. The three office bearers form the administration of the Steering Group and are its official representatives with other bodies and persons. They deal with any matters arising between Assemblies and Steering Group meetings. The division of the work is left to them.
10. The Steering Group meet to plan the conference. Together with the Host Country Coordinator they work out the theme and a rough draft for the Assembly. They regulate the invitations, the precise number of delegates and also the amount of the Assembly fee which should be paid.

ORGANISATION AND FINANCES

11. The invitations to the next Assembly are sent to the individual countries (only in exceptional cases to individual persons) telling them how many delegates they may send and the cost. Payment should be made in accordance with the directions of the Steering Group in its invitation. If a delegate is unable to attend the Assembly, a proportion of the fees may be returnable.
12. The Assembly fees will vary according to the economic levels of the different countries and the length of the journey to be taken. A table will be worked out so that the amounts that have to be paid for delegates spread the financial burden fairly evenly among all. The table is to be drawn up by the Steering Group before each Assembly.
13. The ECCE has an account which is fed by the surplus funds of the Assemblies and should be maintained at a level sufficient to cover the costs of the ECCE activities. The Treasurer deals with the money and establishes an account at a suitable bank. When the Treasurer changes the money can be transferred to another bank. The Treasurer and two other Steering Group members have signatory power with the Treasurer authorising payments up to the sum of 200 Euros and any other two signatories on all other payments. The ECCE account compensates all costs of ECCE activities and all expenses incurred by members of the Steering Group through attendance at Steering Group meetings; no daily allowance will be paid. A balance of accounts will be printed and distributed to each delegate at the conference.
14. Conference fees will be paid into the ECCE General Account. The Assembly account should be audited by the Steering Group. ECCE will operate a separate Travel Fund account and a claim form will be made available for conference delegates on request. Churches and countries will be invited to contribute to the Fund if they are able.
15. The Records of the ECCE are to be found in WCC, Unit 11, Geneva. Each respective President is responsible for seeing that the most important records of his/her term of office are registered in the Records.
16. To guarantee continuity the President keeps a file in which, in addition to the most important documents, all contact addresses are kept. This file should always be passed on to the new President. The resolutions passed at the Assemblies and the minutes of meetings of the Steering-group should be recorded by the Secretary and distributed to: members of the Steering-group, the Records, the Presidents file.

*Accepted by the delegates at the ECCE Assembly in Schiers (Switzerland) April 30th 1992.
Amended by the delegates at the ECCE Assembly in Leuven (Belgium) June 11th 2004.*

Rosemarie Chopard
President

Aled Davies
Treasurer

Karen Bulley
Secretary