



General Assembly 14 January 2021

Agenda item 11: Changes to the IRPA Constitution

Proposal for Changes to the IRPA Constitution and associated Rules

IRPA Executive Council, February 2020

The current IRPA Rules contain the following requirement:

Rule 1.3 The Executive Council shall, at least once during the term of office of each President, consider whether the time has come for a consolidated and revised version of the constitution and/or the rules to be prepared and circulated, incorporating all the changes since the last such revision.

In practice it is quite some considerable time (October 2008) since any changes were made to the Constitution, and then only very specific amendments were introduced. The basics of the constitution are now therefore over 50 years old, and the current EC considers it appropriate to make necessary changes to ensure that the constitution and related rules reflect modern practice.

The changes proposed are not substantive in nature, but are aimed to reflect current practices as at 2020. The principal changes arise from the following considerations:

- The move from mail-based communications and paper-based ballots to the internet and electronic age
- Improved timescales for decision-making resulting from the above
- Removal of any distinction between 'commissions' and 'committees' by adoption solely of committees
- Recognition that much of IRPA's work is done via task groups and networks
- Ensuring gender neutrality
- Modern and more accurate terminology for the Officer positions:
 - **Vice President:** this is the usual simpler term for the previous 'Vice President of the Association'.
 - **Vice President for the International Congress:** the previous 'Vice President for Congress Affairs' gives an impression of responsibility also for regional congresses.
 - **Communications Officer:** the previous 'Publications Director' is strangely the only officer using the term 'Director', and the current role is more aligned with wider communications rather than just publications.
 - **Financial Officer:** this term is more representative of the role and aligns with the 'officer' styling.
 - The terms **President** and **Executive Officer** remain.

These proposals for changes to the constitution and associated rules are commended by the Executive Council and are submitted to the General Assembly.

Roger Coates, IRPA President, on behalf of the Executive Council, February 2020