

BYE-LAWS RELATING TO ELECTIONS AND VOTING

(in force since June 2013)

The present Bye-Laws are adopted by the General Assembly on the basis of Article 15.4 of the EBU Statutes. They elaborate upon elections and voting and are set out in three parts:

Part I: Elections within the General Assembly

Part II: Elections within all EBU bodies except the General Assembly

Part III: Voting on proposals.

PART II

Elections within all EBU bodies except the General Assembly

(These bodies comprise the Specialised Assemblies and any other Groups which elect their own Chairman and Vice-Chairmen.)

1.1. General voting and eligibility provisions

Only Active Members have the right to vote and the right of eligibility.

Members which are subject to Level 1 sanctions under 4.3.1 of the Code of Finance are not entitled to put forward a candidate for election or re-election to any EBU body.

1.2. Voting strength

The Active Member or Members in each country have a total of 24 votes. Where there are two or more Members in a given country, they advise the Director General in writing of any agreed apportionment of their votes which differs from that which would result from a strict application of Article 15.2 of the Statutes.

If the strict application of Article 15.2 of the Statutes leads to fractions of votes, a rounding-up is made to the benefit of the Member with the highest fraction. Where the fractions are equal, rounding-up is made to the benefit of the Member with the highest subscription.

Three voting lists (General, Radio-only bodies and Television-only bodies) exist to reflect the fact that in countries with more than one Member the sharing of the 24 votes is weighted according to whether the individual Members operate both a radio and a television service, or only one of the two.

Unless indicated otherwise, and subject to the provision above regarding the Radio, Television, Legal and Public Affairs, Technical, Sports and News Assemblies, the apportionment notified to the Director General applies with regard to all bodies and groups of the Union.

Notification of the apportionment must reach the Director General at least one month prior to the first meeting at which it is to apply. It remains in force until repealed by one of the Members concerned, by written notice to the Director General.

1.3. Delegation of voting powers

Members may delegate their voting power to other Members. However, no Member may act as proxy for more than one other Member, not counting the Members in its own country. Written notification from the Member delegating its votes must reach the Secretary at least 24 hours before the scheduled starting time of the first or only day of the meeting.

1.4. Quorum

No quorum requirements apply.

1.5. Terms of office/re-election

Each body elects from among the representatives of Active Members a Chairman and one or more Vice-Chairmen, for a period of two consecutive years. The date on which the term of office begins is decided upon by the body itself.

Post-holders are eligible for re-election. However, after completion of a second full term they may be re-elected only if they obtain at least two-thirds of the votes that are cast by those present. For this purpose, blank or invalid voting slips (as well as abstentions in the case of a vote by show of hands) shall be regarded as votes cast.

A secret ballot is used only where there are two or more candidates for the same post. Where there is only one candidate, election shall be by show of hands, except that where a candidate is seeking a fourth or further term, election shall always be by secret ballot. If the Chairman is not certain of the result of a vote by show of hands, or if the result announced is questioned by at least three Members from different countries, voting shall be repeated by secret ballot.

If the incumbent Chairman is a candidate for re-election, the voting procedure is chaired by the eldest Vice-Chairman, unless that Vice-Chairman is a candidate. The election of the Vice-Chairmen, to be held after that of the Chairman, is conducted office by office, by order of age of the incumbent office holders, beginning with the eldest.

1.6. Majority required

Except where otherwise specified herein, an absolute majority (i.e. more than half) of the votes validly cast is required. Abstentions and blank or invalid voting slips are not taken into account in determining the number of votes required for an absolute majority.

1.7. Procedure prior to voting

For each post to be filled the Chairman invites candidacies. The names of all candidates are clearly posted prior to each election, in alphabetical order of surnames.

Before proceeding to a secret ballot, three tellers from different countries are appointed upon the proposal of the Chairman.

In the case of delegation of voting powers, the Chairman indicates which Member has delegated its votes to which other Member.

1.8. Voting session

For election by secret ballot, each Member receives an envelope containing a pad of voting slips, and any corresponding envelopes for Members which have delegated their votes to it. The voting slips are marked A, B, C, etc. and are used in that order, for the successive rounds of voting. A cross is placed in the box corresponding to the chosen candidate's number on the posted list of candidates. Only candidates whose names have been posted are eligible.

Each completed voting slip is placed in a ballot box, folded but without the envelope. The votes are counted by the three tellers, who pass the result to the Chairman, who announces it. After the session the voting slips are destroyed.

1.9. Successive rounds of voting

When voting is inconclusive there is a second and, if necessary, a third, round of voting. Any candidates requiring a two-thirds majority shall withdraw after an inconclusive second round of voting, and new candidates may be proposed for the final third round. If in this last round there are three or more candidates, the candidate who obtains the highest number of votes shall be elected, except that any new candidate who would require a two-thirds majority must still obtain that majority to be elected. Otherwise, lots shall be drawn between the candidates with an equal number of votes.

1.10. Block voting

Block voting may be used only for the composition of the Radio, Television, Legal and Policy, Sports, News and Technical Committees.

If requested by Members holding together at least one-third of the votes that may be cast by those present, block voting is applied. If the number of candidates happens to be identical to the number of posts to be filled, all candidates are automatically presumed to have been elected, regardless of the majority required. Otherwise, the names of all candidates are clearly posted prior to each election in alphabetical order of surnames. By secret ballot, Members may (but do not have to) choose as many candidates from the list as there are posts to be filled. The requisite number of candidates who have obtained the required two-thirds majority, as well as the requisite number of other candidates who have obtained the most votes, are duly elected. If there is a tie for the last post, a further secret ballot is held to choose between the candidates.

1.11. Number of Vice-Chairmen

The number of Vice-Chairmen is freely decided upon by the Specialised Assemblies, except in the case of the Legal and Public Affairs Assembly, where there shall be one Vice-Chairman. In the case of other groups, their governing bodies decide on the number of Vice-Chairmen. Where there is no governing body, the group itself decides. In all cases, any decision about the number of Vice-Chairmen requires a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes that are cast by those present.

1.12. Vacancies

If a vacancy arises for an elected post during the term of office, the relevant body shall elect, at the earliest opportunity, a replacement to complete the rest of the term.

1.13. Other provisions

Where appropriate, other provisions regarding the composition of the individual bodies are laid down in their respective Terms of Reference.
