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SECOND MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

2 - 3 November 2004, Bonn, Germany

FUNDING AEWA DELEGATES AT MEETINGS

INTRODUCTION

1. To date, AEWA has no eligibility rules for funding delegates for AEWA-sponsored meetings. Therefore, the Secretariat proposes that the Standing Committee considers the same eligibility criteria that were discussed during the 27th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee and to endorse similar rules as applied by the mother Convention to bring.

2. The Secretariat would like to recall that CMS StC27 decided that the representatives from Central and Eastern Europe as well as Western Europe should consult with their region to consider the impact of not sponsoring countries from the European Union. Pending those results, the CMS StC will consider this issue again for decision-making by COP8 in 2005.

3. In accordance with past practice, the AEWA Secretariat would like to maintain the possibility of funding non-party delegates from countries in the process of acceding to the Agreement and countries with (firm) promises, depending on the availability of funds. Priority should still be given to Parties but, if funds are still available to fund non-party delegates, the same eligibility criteria should be applied.

4. Taking these factors into consideration, the Secretariat suggests that the Standing Committee consider the following option consisting of:

- (a) Setting the threshold for eligibility for funding delegates at 0.200 on the UN Scale of Assessment as a general rule;
- (b) Excluding countries from the European Union;
- (c) Excluding small European countries with strong economies which are at or below the threshold and which have in previous times not requested funding – this currently includes Monaco, which is not a member of the European Union;
- (d) Having the flexibility of funding some identified non-EU members upon request. Since it is difficult to establish clear limits due to periodic fluctuations in the UN Scale of Assessment, the Standing Committee Chairman should have the authority and flexibility to decide on travel assistance in individual cases at the request of the AEWA Secretariat, taking into consideration, for example, the state of the AEWA Trust Fund, the economic situation of AEWA Party countries and countries having recently been upgraded on the UN Scale of Assessment and thus exceeding the established limit; and
- (e) Maintaining the flexibility of funding delegates from non-member countries in the process of accession or willingness of accession, depending on the availability of funds. The same eligibility rules should be applied and priority given to Parties.

4. Eligibility of current AEWA Parties according to the proposed rules is stated in Annex 1.

5. The AEWA Secretariat requests the Standing Committee to discuss that matter and advise the Secretariat on how to proceed.

ACTION REQUESTED FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEE

- Take note of the discussion that took place in the CMS StC 27 as reported above;
- Discuss and consider the consequences of introducing the same rules that CMS applies to AEWA; decide on the criteria as proposed above; decide whether the rules could be approved on a preliminary basis and already used for MOP3 prior to formal adoption by MOP3; and
- Approve the attached guidelines in Annex 2 with any amendments the Standing Committee may deem more appropriate.

Annex 1

ELIGIBILITY FOR SPONSORSHIP FOR AEWB MEETINGS

N°	Party	Proposed rules UN Scale in % 2004*
1	Congo	0.001
2	Djibouti	0.001
3	Gambia	0.001
4	Niger	0.001
5	Republic of Moldova	0.001
6	Togo	0.001
7	Benin	0.002
8	Equatorial Guinea	0.002
9	Mali	0.002
10	Guinea	0.003
11	Georgia	0.003
12	Monaco	0.003
13	Albania	0.005
14	Senegal	0.005
15	The FYR of Macedonia	0.006
16	Uganda	0.006
17	United Republic of Tanzania	0.006
18	Sudan	0.008
19	Kenya	0.009
20	Jordan	0.011
21	Mauritius	0.011
22	Uzbekistan	0.014
23	Bulgaria	0.017
24	Lebanon	0.024
25	Lithuania	0.024
26	Croatia	0.037
27	Syrian Arab Republic	0.038
28	Ukraine	0.039
29	Nigeria	0.042
30	Slovakia	0.051
31	Romania	0.060
32	Luxembourg	0.077
33	Slovenia	0.082
34	Egypt	0.120
35	Hungary	0.126

N°	Party	Proposed rules UN Scale in % 2004*
36	South Africa	0.292
37	Ireland	0.350
38	Israel	0.467
39	Portugal	0.470
40	Finland	0.533
41	Denmark	0.718
42	Sweden	0.998
43	Switzerland	1.197
44	Netherlands	1.690
45	Spain	2.520
46	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6.127
47	France	6.030
48	Germany	8.662

Parties which are considered eligible for financial support to attend relevant AEWA-sponsored meetings.

Parties which are considered non-eligible for financial support to attend relevant AEWA-sponsored meetings.

* UN Scale of Assessment 2004 at 3 March 2004 (UN Doc. A/RES/58/1 B)

Annex 2

PROPOSED RULES ON ELIGIBILITY FOR SPONSORSHIP FOR AEWA MEETINGS

With reference to the 2004 United Nations Scale of Assessment, the Standing Committee decides during its 2nd Meeting that:

1. Parties whose percentage lies between 0.001 and 0.049 (except members of the European Union) shall automatically be considered eligible for financial support to attend AEWA-sponsored meetings that are relevant to them.
2. Parties whose percentage lies between 0.050 and 0.2000 (except members of the European Union) shall be considered eligible for financial support to attend AEWA-sponsored meetings that are relevant to them, upon request to the Secretariat and depending on availability of funds.
3. Small European countries with strong economies which are at or below the threshold and which are not members of the European Union (currently Monaco) are not eligible for financial support to attend AEWA-sponsored meetings.
4. The Chair of the Standing Committee has the delegated authority and flexibility to exceptionally decide on individual requests of travel assistance at the request of the Executive Secretary. These decisions should be based on the current situation such as the state of the AEWA Trust Fund, the economic situation of AEWA Party countries and on other factors as appropriate.
5. This flexibility also applies to the funding of delegates from non-member countries in the process / planning of accession, and decisions should take the availability of funds into account. Priority will be given to the funding of delegates from Party countries.
6. These rules will come into effect as preliminary rules when endorsed by the Standing Committee and will remain in effect until formal adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its third session end of 2005.