

The Constitutional Amendment

Background

The current constitution states:

The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- a) The President, Secretary-General, Treasurer, Vice Presidents, and the Immediate Past President as elected members. Only elected members shall have the right to vote.
- b) The President, Secretary-General and Treasurer of the International Bureau for Epilepsy as ex-officio, non-voting members.
- c) The Editor-in-Chief of Epilepsia and the Information Officer as non-voting members.

Background

- The geographic distribution of the elected officers, including the president, shall be restricted as follows: Each of the five elected officers must be primary members of different chapters. Primary membership is defined by the location of where professional activities are performed. **No more than two members of the Management Committee shall come from the same region** as defined by the geographical division accepted within ILAE, and **no more than three of the five elected officers shall come from the same region.**
- The By-Laws define the Management Committee consisting of the President, Secretary-General and Treasurer and that it shall act as in between meetings of the Executive Committee. Their actions shall be subject to ratification by the Executive Committee.

Background: the Danish amendment of 2005

In the event that after the global elections of President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary General, and Treasurer, and the appointment of Editor-in-Chief and Information Officer, any **fully operational region** of the ILAE (as determined by the Executive Committee) is not present on the Executive Committee, **the Chapters of this region** shall elect an additional Vice President. This Vice President will be a voting member of the Executive Committee and not be considered as a regional Vice President but unrestrictedly share the global responsibilities of the Executive Committee.

Background

- The Constitution does not further define objective criteria by which a region may be decreed to be *“fully operational”*.
- It is left to the Executive Committee to make the assessment and decision.
- This issue was eloquently stated by the current Past President, Professor Giuliano Avanzini in a letter circulated in April 2007 to ILAE Executive Committee members, members of the Election Commission and ILAE Chapters. Professor Avanzini specifically pointed out that *“any decisions made by the Executive Committee on this issue could be contested by an excluded region that could feel penalized by the procedure”*.

The new proposal: Aims

Ensure participation of all regions in the governance of the League at the highest level with membership to the Executive Committee.

Clarify and add structure to the *“Danish amendment”*.

Restructure the Executive Committee and its acting branch, the Management Committee

The Amendment in the Constitution

The new Executive Committee will consist of:

- a) The President, Vice President, Secretary-General, Treasurer, the Immediate Past President and one Regional Vice-President from each of the ILAE recognized regions as elected members. Only elected members shall have the right to vote.
- b) The President, Secretary-General and Treasurer of the International Bureau for Epilepsy, as ex-officio, non-voting members.
- c) The Editor(s)-in-Chief of Epilepsia and the Information Officer as non-voting members.

The Amendment- The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will meet at least twice a year and will be responsible for the policies and the order of priorities of the League.

Each regional commission will elect its chair who will also serve as Vice President from the region.

The Regional Vice-Presidents will work on behalf of, and in the best interests of the ILAE globally, and will not act narrowly as 'regional representatives'.

The Amendment- The Management Committee

The Management Committee will now consist of the President, one Vice President, Secretary-General, Treasurer and Immediate Past President.

The Management Committee will carry out the policies set by the Executive Committee and govern the League between meetings of the Executive Committee.

If the Amendment is approved, the following changes will be proposed to the By-Laws for the Election Procedures-1

The members of the Management Committee will be elected first by world-wide voting.

No more than two of the newly elected members of the Management Committee shall come from the same region (excluding the Immediate Past-President), as defined by the geographical regions recognized by the ILAE.

The new proposal: By-Laws for Election Procedures-2

Following the elections of the members of the Management Committee, each region elects its Regional Commission chair who will also serve as the Regional Vice President.

In this election, the one-country one-vote rule will apply.

All regions will have a Vice President, irrespective of the representation of the regions in the Management Committee.

The new proposal: Timeline

The Executive Committee is widely disseminating the proposal for discussion and feedback from all the chapters. This document is published in Epigraph and is distributed for discussion at the Chapter Conventions held in conjunction with the 2008 Regional Congresses.

The Constitutional Amendment will be presented at the 2009 Budapest International Epilepsy Congress.

The new structure would then be implemented for the 2013 Executive Committee election.

The new proposal: Procedural items

The Secretary-General will send the proposed amendment to all chapters by the 27 of April of 2009 (at least 60 days before the 2009 Budapest Congress) and then present it to the General Assembly held at the 2009 Congress.

The present Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those attending the meeting of the General Assembly

Participants shall consist of **one** delegate from each Chapter who carries the total number of votes of that chapter.

Representatives from more than **fifty percent of the Chapters** attending a meeting of the General Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

The new proposal: Procedural items

If the amendment is approved, the By-Laws will be revised.

The amendment is binding unless the constitution is revised by the General Assembly. The By-Laws can be revisited as needed and a change does not require the approval of the General Assembly.

Looking forward to your
comments and input
regarding the amendment.

Thank you
