

WORKING METHODS FOR CEPT - CERP COORDINATION MEETINGS

Edition 1

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PART 1

WORKING PROCEDURES FOR CEPT – CERP COORDINATION in the preparation of UPU and EU meetings

1. The Chairperson of the CEPT - CERP (hereafter called the Chairperson) shall be responsible for the overall CEPT - CERP coordination if not decided otherwise.
2. The Chairperson shall be assisted by an agreed coordination team, which would include the Vice Chairpersons, Working Groups chairperson, during the negotiations and lobbying activities.
3. The observers from CEPT at UPU-Conferences shall also assist the Chairman.
4. Each CEPT - CERP delegation shall notify the Chairperson of their main contact person.
5. The Chairperson shall call CEPT - CERP coordination meetings as appropriate, or when requested by a Member, to inform CEPT - CERP delegates of progress, agree on a modified position as necessary to take account of progress, and agree the degree of flexibility on negotiations.
6. Such meetings shall be called by sending a notice to each contact person using the available messaging system.
7. CEPT - CERP coordination meetings during the conference to agree on a modified position or on the degree of flexibility on negotiations shall be led by a member of the coordination team (normally the Chairperson) from an administration which has consigned the relevant European Common Proposals (hereafter ECP).
8. In exceptional circumstances, participation in coordination meetings during the Conference may be limited to administrations that have not objected to the relevant ECP.
9. In emergency situations, the coordination team shall have the responsibility of notifying all the CEPT - CERP delegations of developments.
10. The coordination team will negotiate on the ECPs with other countries within the agreed limits of flexibility.
11. Other CEPT - CERP delegates should avoid entering individual negotiations with non CEPT - CERP countries which could undermine the CEPT - CERP position. Discussions with non CEPT - CERP delegates should be limited to lobbying of the current CEPT - CERP published position, and intelligence gathering. Information gained should be made available to the coordination team as soon as possible, and to all delegates at the next coordination meeting. These principles should also apply in the period leading up to the conference in relation to provisionally agreed positions.
12. Unless it has formally notified to the Chairperson of its opposition to an ECP before the deadline for signature, and preferably before its adoption, an administration which has not co-signed an ECP should avoid opposing the proposal in formal meetings but should seek to maintain European co-operation and unity, remain constructive and search for acceptable compromises, in particular within the coordination team.



13. Delegates from CEPT - CERP Administrations, should at all times maintain the original agreed CEPT - CERP positions, or the latest stance agreed at a coordination meeting, and not make known the agreed negotiating limits.
14. In cases where CEPT - CERP is unable to agree on an ECP or a common position, or in cases where a CEPT - CERP Member is unable to agree with a common position, CEPT - CERP Members should, before bringing forward explicitly their own positions as national or multinational proposals, endeavour to determine through CEPT - CERP coordination a common position on these proposals which could be supported by a majority.
15. Each of the ECPs shall be presented by a coordinator from an administration that has co-signed the proposal. The co-ordinator shall be responsible for tracking the proposal. A coordinator shall also be designated for agenda items where no ECP has been submitted.
16. Each coordinator shall establish contacts with the appointed representatives from the CEPT - CERP delegations (2 to 4 above) in order to have efficient cooperation among the delegates concerned before and during working sessions of the conference.
17. Within the authority delegated by the CEPT - CERP coordination team, the CEPT - CERP coordinator on a given subject shall call CEPT - CERP coordination meetings as appropriate, or when requested by a Member, to inform CEPT - CERP delegates of progress, agree a modified position on this subject as necessary to take account of progress, and agree the degree of flexibility on negotiations. Within the scope of their subjects, and within the authority delegated by the CEPT - CERP coordination team, the CEPT - CERP coordinators will, as necessary and in cooperation with interested CEPT - CERP members, lead the negotiations with non-CEPT delegations or organisations, keeping the coordination team informed.
18. Each ECP shall be actively supported by all CEPT - CERP delegations whose administrations have co-signed the ECP. This shall include speaking in support of the ECP following its presentation.

PART 2

WORKING PROCEDURES FOR CEPT COORDINATION in the preparation of contributions to meetings of CEPT – CERP groups

Working Groups or dependant groups may submit documents to UPU Working Parties or European Union. This can only be done based on unanimity among the CEPT members represented at the meeting. In case there is no unanimity the issues will, if necessary, be brought to the parental group for decision.

In case a contribution, agreed accordingly to the above, is submitted to the CEPT – CERP, it should include the sentence:

“This document has been developed and agreed within the framework of CEPT - CERP [group responsible]”

It should be emphasised that all CEPT - CERP Administrations should support such documents after their introduction in CEPT - CERP.

PART 3

Definition of a European Common Proposal (ECP)

An ECP is a multi-country proposal to which the Working Procedures for CEPT - CERP Coordination apply.

Co-signature of an ECP must be evidenced by endorsement from the responsible person within an Administration. It is recognised that in some cases this may take some time after approval of the ECP in the responsible CEPT - CERP entity. For the purposes of defining an ECP, an indication of intention to co-sign an ECP shall be considered as support.

The purpose of this definition is to serve two main purposes:

- ✓ to ensure that there would not be major open opposition from CEPT - CERP members,
- ✓ to require a reasonably active support, inter alia, through the co-signature of the proposal.

If this cannot be achieved, the proposal should not be submitted in the form of an ECP, as to do so would undermine the credibility of ECPs.

In making this decision, not only the quantity of opposition/support but also the quality must be considered. Those opposing might, reluctantly, accept a lost vote or, alternatively, they might feel obliged to reserve their right to present a contradicting national (or multinational) proposal. In a similar way, support could be anything between strong national interest (leading to very active support in the Conference) to lukewarm acceptance in the spirit of European cooperation.

Although these factors cannot be built into a simple count of votes, as a general guideline an ECP would not be approved by the responsible CEPT - CERP entity unless there were half of the participants on the meeting indicating their intention to co-sign it, and not more than 1/3 opposing the proposal going forward as an ECP.

Even so, it would still be for the responsible CEPT - CERP entity to decide if a proposal should go forward as an ECP or not, based on both the quantitative and qualitative factors as described above.

Any CEPT - CERP Member which is obliged to voice objections or submit alternative proposals to an ECP should inform the responsible CEPT - CERP entity of its intentions and should, nevertheless, cooperate with the other CEPT - CERP Members during CEPT - CERP meetings to develop a common consensus.

At the request of the responsible CEPT - CERP entity, the Office may circulate ECPs to CEPT

- CERP member administrations via diplomatic channels in Copenhagen, seeking their support.