

Agenda item 3:

Consideration of the cycle of term of office of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

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Committee of Permanent Representatives
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At OECPR-5.1, some Member States proposed to extend the term of office of the CPR bureau until UNEA-5.2, while others questioned the value-added of making changes in the cycle of the terms of office for bureau

Consequently, UNEA-5.1 adopted UNEA Decision 5/3 (paragraph 7):

“Recommends that the Committee of Permanent Representatives, at its 154th meeting, consider, in view of systemic problems and in a comprehensive manner, the cycle of the term of office of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in relation to that of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly”.

At its meeting on 23 March, the CPR Bureau decided to:

- Consider the matter at the 6 May subcommittee to prepare for CPR 154
- Request the Secretariat to prepare an options paper for consideration by MS

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RELEVANT RULES OF PROCEDURE AND DECISIONS

- Rule 20: the Members of the Bureau hold office until their successors are elected.
- Rule 8: UNEA-5 decided to adjourn temporarily and resume its session from 28 February to 2 March 2022 – therefore the Bureau of UNEA-5 will continue UNEA-5 is concluded and a new Bureau is elected.
- Rule 18 and 20: Bureau members are eligible for re-election taking into account regional rotation
- Paragraph 9 of GC Decision 19/32: “the CPR shall elect a Bureau composed of a Chairperson, three Vice Chairpersons and a Rapporteur, for a period of two years, taking into account the principles of rotation and equitable geographical representation”

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OPTION A: ESTABLISHED PRACTICE

- No change in the existing cycle of rotation for the CPR Bureau
- A new CPR Bureau and Chair will be elected for the period 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2023
- Consequences:
 - The same regional group will chair CPR and UNEA bureaus until closure of UNEA-5.2
 - Occasional overlap with regard to chairing of both Bureaus in future (as has been in the past) eg APG in 2023-25

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OPTION B: RE-ELECTION OF EXISTING CPR BUREAU IN JULY 2021 AND SUBSEQUENT ALIGNMENT WITH UNEA CYCLE

- The current CPR Bureau and Chair is re-elected for one year (1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022)
- Consequences:
 - Different regional groups will chair CPR and UNEA bureaus during the period 2021-22
 - Occasional overlap with regard to chairing of both Bureaus in the future (as has been in the past) eg APG in 2023-25

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OPTION C: ELECTION OF NEW CPR BUREAU IN JULY 2021 AND SUBSEQUENT ALIGNMENT WITH UNEA CYCLE

- New CPR Bureau and Chair is elected for one year (1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022)
- Consequences:
 - The same regional group will chair CPR and UNEA bureaus during the period 2021- early 22
 - No overlap with regard to chairing of both Bureaus in future

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Summary

- The current UNEA Bureau period spans three years instead of two – but has not been formally extended; it is a consequence of adjourning and resuming UNEA-5
- The Secretariat has sought to ensure that all options are in accordance with ROP + decisions – and that the current order of regional rotation will not change
- **Option A** (established practice) will not avoid a current and/or future overlap of chairmanship for both bureaus
- **Option B (re-election of current bureau + alignment)** will avoid a current overlap of chairmanship for both bureaus, but some overlap will still happen in the future
- **Option C (election of new bureau + alignment)** will not avoid a current overlap of chairmanship for both bureaus, but will avoid future overlaps, as of 2022 and beyond
- **Other options are possible** – but would likely entail either a change in the current regional rotation scheme – or a change in the UNEA Bureau cycle or time period
- **Option B and C requires a UNEA-5.2 decision** to align CPR and UNEA Bureau cycles

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THANK YOU