

conference

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C 91/LIM/48
November 1991

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ROME

Twenty-sixth Session

Rome, 9 - 28 November 1991

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EIGHTH REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS)

1. In accordance with the provisions of Article II.3 of the Constitution, an application for membership has been received on 25 November 1991 from the European Economic Community. The application includes a request for the suspension of Rule XIX of the General Rules of the Organization in order to allow for an application for membership in the FAO by the European Economic Community to be considered at the present session of the FAO Conference. Rule XIX.2 of the General Rules of the Organization provides, inter alia, that applications for membership "shall be transmitted immediately by the Director-General to Member Nations and shall be placed on the agenda of the next Conference session which opens not less than 30 days from the receipt of the application". Rule XIX.1 GRO also specifies that "an application shall be accompanied or followed by the formal instrument of acceptance of the Constitution ..." and that "this formal instrument shall reach the Director-General not later than the opening day of the Conference session at which the admission of the applicant is to be considered".
2. Rule XLVIII.1 - Suspension and amendment of Rules - provides that "Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, any of the foregoing Rules may be suspended by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at any plenary meeting of the Conference, provided that notice of the intention to propose the suspension has been communicated to the delegates not less than 24 hours before the meeting at which the proposal is to be made".
3. Under Article II.3 of the Constitution, the Conference decides on the admission of Member Organizations by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast provided that a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present. "Votes cast" mean votes for and against, and do not include abstentions or defective ballots (Rule XII-4(a) GRO). Membership becomes effective on the date upon which the Conference approves the application.
4. The Committee recommends that the Conference hold a vote on the suspension of Rule XIX, to be followed, in the event that Rule XIX is suspended, by a vote for the admission of the European Economic Community at the plenary meeting on the afternoon of Tuesday, 26 November 1991. The result of the vote will be announced at the same meeting and the ceremony for installing the new Member Organization will take place immediately afterwards. As is customary, the Chairman will welcome the new Member Organization and the new Member Organization will be invited to make a brief statement. In order to gain time, the Committee recommends that only one country respond on behalf of each region.

- PAYMENTS BY NEW MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

5. In accordance with Article XVIII.6 of the FAO Constitution, a Member Organization is required to pay to the Organization a sum to be determined by the Conference to cover administrative and other expenses arising out of its membership in the Organization.

6. By extrapolation from the provisions of Article XVIII.3 of the Constitution, the first payment to be made by a Member Organization should cover a proportion of the budget for the current financial period, a sum which is set for Member Nations under Financial Regulation 5.8 as one-quarter of the contribution payable for the year in which the application is approved.

7. It is not possible to use an established scale of assessment in order to determine the sum to be paid by a Member Organization. The Committee recommends that the calculation of the sum to be paid be based on the administrative expenses incurred in the issuing of invitations, translation and production of documents, etc., and on the other expenses arising out of membership in the Organization. In the case of the European Economic Community, the Committee recommends that:

- a) the sum payable for administrative expenses be set at the level of US\$500 000 for the 1992-93 biennium; and
- b) the sum payable in respect of the last quarter of the current year be set at US\$62 500.

8. The Committee realizes, however, that other expenses are likely to arise out of the membership of the European Economic Community in the Organization which cannot as yet be quantified. The Committee therefore recommends that the Conference request the Director-General to quantify such other expenses, in consultation with the Member Organization concerned, and that he be invited to report on this matter to the next session of the Finance Committee.

9. The Committee further recommends that the Conference decide in principle that:

- a) the moneys payable by Member Organizations to cover administrative expenses should be paid into the General Fund of the Organization; and
- b) the moneys payable by Member Organizations to cover other expenses, following the consultations referred to above, should be paid into a special Trust Fund to be established by the Director-General for that purpose under Regulation 6.7 of the Financial Regulations of the Organization, in view of the fact that additional expenditures will be required that are outside the scope of the present Programme of Work and Budget.