

ANNUAL CONGRESS WINTER GARDENS BLACKPOOL
SUNDAY 11TH JUNE 2006 10.00AM-12.30PM
MONDAY 12TH JUNE TO THURSDAY 15TH JUNE 2006
9.30AM-12.30PM 2.00PM-5.00PM

GMB

FOR JUSTICE
AND EQUALITY

CEC SPECIAL REPORT 2006

THE SECTIONS OF THE UNION

TRADE JUSTICE

ANTI-CORRUPTION

GENDER EQUALITY

HUMAN RIGHTS

CIVIL RIGHTS

SEXUALITY

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

FAIR TRADE

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

DISABILITY

SOCIAL JUSTICE

EQUAL PAY

EQUALITY

POLITICAL JUSTICE

AGE DISCRIMINATION

CORPORATE JUSTICE

DIVERSITY

RACIAL EQUALITY

LIBERTY

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

GLOBAL JUSTICE

CEC SPECIAL REPORT: THE SECTIONS OF THE UNION

Congress '05 approved the Special Report, "A Framework for the Future of the GMB". Recommendation 13 comprised two parts:

"(i) there should be a reduction to three sections based around Public Services, Private Services and Manufacturing and that these sections should hold sectional conferences

(ii) the CEC Recruitment and Organisation Committee progresses this matter and in doing so considers the creative use of industrial conferences under the new sectional structure to encourage greater participation by the members in the work of the Union."

The Central Executive Council is not yet in a position to report on the second limb of Recommendation 13. This Report to Congress '06 contains rule amendments to establish the three Sections.

THE THREE SECTIONS

On reflection, the CEC considers that it would be preferable to retain the title "Commercial Services Section", which is already established within the Union's structure. The CEC therefore recommends that the rule should provide for merger as follows:

- Clothing & Textile Section; Construction, Furniture, Timber and Allied Section; Engineering Section and Process Section form the new Manufacturing Section;
- Commercial Services Section; Energy and Utilities Section and Food & Leisure Section form the new Commercial Services Section
- Public Services Section remains basically unchanged.

However, some members in the Food and Leisure Section, such as those in food processing, regard their natural home as the new Manufacturing rather than the new Commercial Services Section. Elsewhere, there may be groups of members who either have not been properly allocated in the past or who might not feel at home in the new Section to which their Section is allocated. So the amended rule should allow the CEC to make exceptions to the principle of straight merger.

NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND PRESIDENTS

Following the same principle, the existing National Committees of the Sections (including co-opted members) should merge to make up the National Committees of the new Sections, but there may be cases where one or more individuals will instead transfer to another Committee.

Those National Committees will hold office until the new CEC takes up office in December 2007. One option is to provide that the Presidents of the current Sections should serve as President of their new Section on a rotation basis. However the recommended option is for National Committees at their first meeting to elect a new Section President from those members who were Presidents of their current Section. If only one member of the new National Committee was President of his/her Section prior to merger, he/she would assume the presidency of the Section without election.

NATIONAL CONFERENCES

National Conferences should continue to be held biennially. The time is right to move to a consistent basis for the election of delegates and it is recommended that we adopt the Congress model of one delegate for every complete 2,000 financial members but with a maximum of 150 delegates. Given the wide range of membership in the new Sections, the draft rule requires Regions to pay heed to the

geographical and industrial distribution of their members. Where the 150 limit would otherwise be breached, places would be allocated pro rata depending on Regions' financial membership of the Section.

OFFICERS

Rule 17C4 still refers to the Apex Partnership and should be amended. We should take this opportunity to bring the rulebook into line with Officers' titles and to delete obsolete references to District Officers and Branch Administrative Officers. This requires a series of amendments, particularly to rules 17 and 37.

REGIONAL COUNCILS AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES

The rules for the election of Regional Councils are flexible and do not need to be amended, provided Congress wishes to retain the system of general voting for Section delegates. However, rule 20.8 setting the size of Regional Committees is badly out of date. It is recommended that Regional Committees should comprise:

- the Regional President
- three delegates from each of the three Sections
- up to four more delegates, as determined by the Regional Council, to ensure fair representation taking heed of the geographical and industrial distribution of their members and of the interests of special groups.

This model would produce Regional Committees of a minimum of 10 delegates and a maximum of 14 (which seems the highest number feasible for an effective management committee of a Region).

RULE 36

This rule still refers to Apex Partnership and should be amended to allow for reflect existing Congress policy, which is that all branches should move to branch allocation once a new Branch Secretary takes up office.

RULE A4 REGIONAL CONFERENCES

RULE A5 BRANCH FINANCIAL SECRETARY

These rules are no longer required and should be deleted. Regions could arrange Section conferences if they wish.

RULE 10.19 CEC POWER TO ESTABLISH NEW SECTIONS

The CEC should retain its power to establish new Sections, but we can simplify this rule.

THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The current structure of the CEC is designed to facilitate democracy across a combination of 10 Regions and eight Sections. A move to three Sections would allow for a considerable simplification of the CEC structure. It is recommended that the Task Group should review the size and structure of the CEC in light of the move to three Sections and other developments, with a view to bringing rule amendments to Congress in 2007 in time for the elections later that year.

APPENDIX: RULE AMENDMENTS

Rule 8 Congress of the Union

Clause 5, line five: delete "Regional Industrial Officer"; substitute "Senior Organiser"

Lines 6 to 7: delete "Regional Organisers (to include, for the purpose of this rule, District Officers and Branch Administrative Officers who are full-time employees)"; substitute "Organisers"

Rule 10 Central Executive Council

Clause 19: delete this clause and substitute

“19 The Central Executive Council shall have power to amend the Appendix to establish new Sections of the Union.”

Rule 17A Officials – Authority over

Clause A2, line four: delete “Regional Industrial Officers”; substitute “Senior Organisers”

Rule 17C Regional Industrial Officers

Amend title of rule to read “Senior Organisers”

Clause C1, line 3;

clause C2, line 1 and

clause C3 line 1:

On each occasion, delete “Regional Industrial Officer”; substitute “Senior Organiser”

Clause C4: delete this clause

Rule 17D Regional Secretary

Clause D2, line 2: delete “Regional Industrial Officer”; substitute “Senior Organiser”

Rule 17F Officials – Disciplinary Procedures

Clause F2, line 1: delete “Regional Industrial Officers”; substitute “Senior Organisers”

Rule 18 Qualifications for Office and Definition of Officers

Clause 2, line 6: delete “Regional Organisers”; substitute “Senior Organisers, Organisers”

Lines 7 and 8: delete “District Officers”

Rule 19 Branch Administrative Officers – Appointment

Delete this rule

Rule 20 Regions and their Management

Clause 8: Delete this clause and substitute:

“8 At its first meeting, the Regional Council shall elect from its own number

- (a) a President
- (b) additional members of the Regional Committee as follows
 - three delegates from each Section and
 - up to four delegates as determined by the Regional Council to ensure fair representation having regard to the geographical and industrial distribution of members and the interests of special groups
- (c) the Region’s representative on the Appeals Tribunal panel
- (d) two other members of the Regional Elections Committee.”

Rule 22 Regional Committees

Clause 6, lines 1 and 2: delete “, District Officer”

Rule 32 BMS Section Members’ Superannuation Fund – Full Benefit Section

Clause 6, line 1: delete “Technical Craft Section”; insert “Manufacturing Section”

Clause 7, lines 2 and 5: delete “Technical Craft Section”; insert “Manufacturing Section” on each occasion

Rule 34 Payment of Expenses etc.

Clause 2, lines 4 and 5: delete “(excluding Branch Administrative Officers and District Officers)”

Rule 36 Branch Allocation

Clause 1: delete this clause and substitute

“1 Where Congress so specifies, this rule will apply to Branches in place of rule 35.”

Rule 37 Branches

Clause 3, lines 7 to 10: delete “Where a Branch Administrative Officer is appointed, s/he shall attend meetings of the Branch Committee with the right to speak and vote. Where a District Officer is appointed, s/he shall attend meetings of the Branch Committee with the right to speak but not to vote.”

Clause 4, lines 5 and 6: delete “(or if so directed prior to week ending 5th January 1985, a District Officer or Branch Administrative Officer)”

Clause 7, lines 2 and 3: delete “but not whole-time Branch Secretaries, District Officers, or Branch Administrative Officers,”

Clause 11, lines 1 and 2: delete “(other than a District Officer or a Branch Administrative Officer)”

Clause 15, lines 2 and 3: delete “(other than a District Officer or a Branch Administrative Officer)”

Rule A1 The Sections of the Union

Delete clauses 1 to 8 and insert:

“1 Members of the Union shall be allocated to one of its three Sections:

- the Manufacturing Section
- the Commercial Services Section
- the Public Services Section.

2 Save where the Central Executive Council otherwise directs, members of

- the Clothing and Textile Section
- the Construction, Furniture, Timber and Allied Section
- the Engineering Section and
- the Process Section

at the adoption of this rule shall become members of the Manufacturing Section.

3 Save where the Central Executive Council otherwise directs, members of

- the Commercial Services Section
- the Energy and Utilities Section and
- the Food and Leisure Section

at the adoption of this rule shall become members of the Commercial Services Section.”

Rule A2 National Committees

Insert Clauses 2A and 2B:

“2A The Members of the National Committees of

- the Clothing and Textile Section
- the Construction, Furniture, Timber and Allied Section

- the Engineering Section and
- the Process Section

at the adoption of this rule who become members of the Manufacturing Section shall form the first National Committee of that Section. At its first meeting, the Committee shall elect the President of the Section from among those of its members who were President of their Section immediately prior to the adoption of this rule.

2B The Members of the National Committees of

- the Commercial Services Section
- the Energy and Utilities Section and
- the Food and Leisure Section

at the adoption of this rule who become members of the Commercial Services Section shall form the National Committee of that Section. At its first meeting, the Committee shall elect the President of the Section from among those of its members who were President of their Section immediately prior to the adoption of this rule.”

Rule A3 Section National Conferences

Clause 2: Delete this clause and substitute:

“2 Representation at National Conferences shall be on the basis of one regional delegate for every complete 2,000 financial members of the Section in the Region up to a maximum across all regions of 150 delegates. Regions shall take steps to ensure fair representation, regard being had to the geographical and industrial distribution of members of the Section in the Region. Delegates to National Conferences shall hold office for two years.”

Rule A4 Regional Conferences

Delete this rule

Rule A5 Branch Financial Secretary

Delete this rule

Rule A6 AA Staff Association

Delete this rule