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**EUROPEAN UNION / TURKEY
JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

RULES OF PROCEDURE

June 1998

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of

EUROPEAN UNION / TURKEY

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

of Economic and Social Interest Groups

18 June 1998

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(Revised by the EU/Turkey Joint Consultative Committee at its 6th meeting held on 18 June 1998
in Ankara)

PREAMBLE

1. Having regard to Article 27 of the 1963 EEC-Turkey Association Agreement, which advocates the establishment of cooperation between the Economic and Social Committee and the corresponding bodies in Turkey,
2. Having regard to the decision of the EC/Turkey Association Council of 9 November 1992 calling for the implementation of the abovementioned Article 27,
3. Having regard to the Economic and Social Committee's opinion of 22 December 1993 on relations between the European Union and Turkey, which recommended the establishment of an EU/Turkey Joint Consultative Committee,
4. Having regard to the decision of the EC/Turkey Association Council of 6 March 1995 on full implementation of the agreement on an EC/Turkey customs union, and the favourable opinion issued by the European Parliament on 14 December 1995 concerning the entry into force of the agreement on 1 January 1996,
5. Whereas the customs union marks a qualitative leap that signals the end of the transitional stage of association relations between the two parties and the deepening of their political and economic interdependence; and whereas the success of this interdependence depends on genuine, effective strengthening of dialogue and cooperation between the socio-economic partners of the two parties,
6. Whereas, with a view to ensuring cooperation on a systematic and regular basis, an EU/Turkey Joint Consultative Committee has been established.
7. The EU/Turkey Joint Consultative Committee shall adopt its Rules of Procedure.

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Rule 1 - Composition

The Joint Consultative Committee (hereafter referred to as "the Committee") set up under Article 27 of the EEC/Turkey Association Agreement shall have thirty-six members, with each contracting party appointing eighteen.

Rule 2 - Aims and terms of reference

1. The Committee shall seek to facilitate the involvement of the economic and social partners in the process of consolidating relations between the EU and Turkey.
2. The Committee's terms of reference shall cover all economic and social matters relating to the Association Agreement.
3. The Committee, acting on a referral from the Association Council, at the request of the Association Parliamentary Committee or on its own initiative, may express its views on matters falling within its terms of reference in the form of reports or resolutions.
4. The Committee shall adopt all the internal decisions necessary for the smooth conduct of its business.

Rule 3 - Appointment of members

1. The Committee shall comprise an equal number of members of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and of representatives of Turkish economic and social interest groups. Each party shall appoint eighteen members.
2. Committee members shall in principle be appointed for a two-year term. Their membership of the Committee shall terminate upon resignation or if they cease to belong to the body which appointed them.
3. The membership of the Committee must reflect each party's various categories of economic and social activity.
4. Full members may be replaced by alternates.

Rule 4 - Observers

Observers, not exceeding three for each party, may be invited to attend the Committee's meetings on the joint decision of the co-chairmen.

Rule 5 - Chair

1. The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and the representatives of Turkish economic and social interest groups shall each appoint a co-chairman representing the different economic and social interests. The two co-chairmen shall chair the Committee jointly for the duration of their term of office.

2. The co-chairmen shall be responsible for the preparation, coordination and organization of the Committee's work. They shall also ensure that the necessary duties are carried out between Committee meetings.

3. A contact group consisting of four members (two from the CES and two from among the representatives of Turkish economic and social interest groups, with the members of each delegation coming from a different economic and social interest group than that of the co-chairman) shall be set up under the authority of the co-chairmen. The term of office of the contact group members shall be two years.

The contact group shall meet in the presence of the co-chairmen, at least once between each meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee. It may meet on other occasions, at the request of the co-chairmen.

The tasks of the contact group shall be

- in liaison with the rapporteurs, to see to it that the recommendations adopted by the JCC are implemented,
- in liaison with the secretariat, to see to it that information is coordinated and circulated.

The members of the contact group may be given specific tasks by the co-chairmen.

Rule 6 - Frequency of meetings

1. The Committee shall generally meet twice a year. These meetings shall alternate between the Economic and Social Committee building in Brussels and a Turkish city to be decided by the representatives of Turkish economic and social interest groups.
2. The various categories represented on the Committee may hold preparatory meetings immediately prior to a Committee meeting.

Rule 7 - Proceedings

1. For a Committee meeting to be quorate, more than one half of the members appointed by each party must be present.
2. Where a vote is held, reports, resolutions and internal decisions shall be adopted by a simple majority of the members present, provided that a simple majority is also obtained within each party.
3. Voting may be by name, if at least three members of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and three representatives of Turkish economic and social interest groups so request.
4. Explanations of vote may be made. Such explanations shall be recorded in the record of proceedings of the meeting.

Rule 8 - Publication

1. Reports, resolutions and decisions shall be sent to the Association Council/and to the Association Parliamentary Committee.
2. The Secretariat-General of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and the Turkish economic and social interest groups represented on the Committee shall be responsible for disseminating reports and resolutions.

Rule 9 - Agenda

1. Draft agendas shall be drawn up by the co-chairmen, taking account of proposals from the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and the Turkish economic and social interest groups represented on the Committee, and from members themselves. Draft agendas shall be sent to Committee members no later than two weeks before the start of the meeting.
2. The draft agenda shall be adopted at the start of each meeting.

Rule 10 - Rapporteurs and working groups

1. The Committee may decide to appoint rapporteurs and set up working groups on specific topics. The working groups shall assist the rapporteurs in drawing up drafts for submission to the Committee.
2. Such appointments may also be made jointly by the co-chairmen when the Committee is not meeting. In this event, the Committee shall be informed of the appointment at the following meeting.
3. As a general rule, the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and the representatives of Turkish economic and social interest groups shall each appoint a rapporteur who shall work in close collaboration from the time work begins. The two rapporteurs shall each draw up a text, which shall be submitted to their respective delegations. They shall then draw up a joint draft. If a working group is appointed, it shall in principle comprise three members appointed by the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and three members appointed by the representatives of Turkish economic and social interest groups, including the rapporteurs. A written procedure may also be used.
4. The co-rapporteurs or working groups may be assisted by experts. These experts shall have a specialist knowledge of the fields covered and shall be appointed respectively by the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and by the representatives of Turkish economic and social interest groups. Rule 10 (2) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Rule 11 - Secretariat

The secretariat shall be provided by the Secretariat-General of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and by a body to be determined by the Turkish economic and

social interest groups represented on the Committee. The secretariat shall work in cooperation with the contact group (Rule 5(3)).

Rule 12 - Financial provisions

Each party shall meet its own expenditure.

Rule 13 - Languages

The official languages of the Committee shall be those officially recognized as such by the European Union and by Turkey.

Rule 14 - Revision of the Rules of Procedure

1. The present Rules of Procedure may be revised following a decision by the Committee.
 2. The requisite proposals shall be drawn up by the co-chairmen.
 3. The voting procedure described in Rule 7 shall apply.
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