

JUNE 2020 IEEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONSENT

ITEM:

IEEE Bylaws I-108.6.D - European Public Policy Assessment and I-305.6 - European Public Policy Committee

SUBMITTER:

M. Salazar Palma, IEEE Director

M. Delimar, Chair, IEEE European Public Policy Committee

CLASSIFICATION:

IEEE PROPRIETARY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The United Kingdom (UK) formally left the European Union (EU) on 31 January 2020. While the UK has agreed to the terms of its departure from the EU, both sides still need to decide what their future relationship will look like. This will be worked out during the transition/implementation period, which is due to end on 31 December 2020. During this period, the UK will continue to follow all of the EU's rules and its relationship with the EU will remain the same.

The IEEE Bylaws should reflect these upcoming changes in the EU landscape and should be updated accordingly, particularly insofar as the sections and paragraphs relating to the European Public Policy Committee (EPPC) are concerned. IEEE Bylaws I-108.6.D - European Public Policy Assessment and I-305.6 - European Public Policy Committee specify, *inter alia*, the geography of EPPC activities (i.e., EU and EFTA countries) and the requirements for the USD 5.00 assessment which is used to fund EPPC activities. Approximately 6,000 UK IEEE Members currently pay the USD 5.00 assessment and should the IEEE Bylaws remain unchanged, UK IEEE Members may not be eligible to participate in European Public Policy activities from 2021 onward. A number of changes to IEEE Bylaws I-305.6 and I-108.6.D are therefore proposed.

Additionally, the proposed changes have been submitted to Member & Geographic Activities Board for their approval.

The IEEE Governance Committee has reviewed this submission for clarity and consistency.

PROPOSED ACTION:

Resolved that revisions to IEEE Bylaws I-108.6.D - European Public Policy Assessment and I-305.6 - European Public Policy Committee, in the form presented to the IEEE Board of Directors, shall be, and are hereby, approved.

Additions

Deletions

CURRENT TEXT

I-108 Dues, Assessments, and Fees

6. Assessments. In addition to the IEEE dues, the following annual assessments shall apply.

D. European Public Policy Assessment.

There shall be a five dollar (USD 5.00) assessment for members, other than Student Members and Graduate Student Members, who are members from Region 8 within ~~the countries specified in Bylaw I-305.6. that are a part of the European Union (EU) or European Free Trade Association (EFTA)~~. The assessment shall be used to support the development of public policy and related activities for the benefit of the profession and public in Europe.

CURRENT TEXT

I-305 Functions and Membership of the Committees

6. European Public Policy Committee. The European Public Policy Committee (EPPC) shall advise the IEEE Board of Directors on activities and programs focused on shaping public policy in the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries ~~and the United Kingdom (UK)~~ to benefit IEEE members, engineering professionals and the general public. The Committee shall coordinate public policy activities in Europe and shall be an advocate on such matters for IEEE members in ~~EU and EFTA countries~~ ~~the countries specified above~~. The Committee shall oversee and provide opportunities and activities for IEEE members in Europe to engage in policy initiatives that includes, but is not limited to, the development of public policy papers, organizing and attending meetings and events, participation on policy working groups, increased interaction with regional governmental bodies and agencies, and other activities that look to advance technology through public policy. The European Public Policy Assessment, as defined in IEEE Bylaw I-108.6, shall be used to fund activities and shall be overseen by the EPPC.

Membership. The European Public Policy Committee shall consist of not more than thirteen members, all of whom shall be appointed for two-year terms by the Board of Directors with reappointment permissible for a second two-year term. The terms of the members shall be staggered. All members shall reside within the European Union/European Free Trade Association countries and the United Kingdom (UK). The Chair, who shall be appointed by the IEEE Board, shall be selected from among the members and shall serve a one-year term in that position, with reappointment permissible. Each year the Committee shall select one member to serve as its Vice-Chair. Members shall have an understanding of effective and appropriate methods of engaging in public policy initiatives.

PROS:

- Enables the current level of member and volunteer engagement and operations in the UK to continue after separating from the EU;
- Avoids uncertainty and unintended consequences of unfinished political processes.

CONS:

- May be a temporary solution, as the future of EU and UK relation remains uncertain and may continue to be uncertain for a significant amount of time;

- May need to be revisited again in 2021 or 2022.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None, if the motion is approved. Approximately 6,000 UK IEEE Members currently pay the USD 5.00 assessment and, should the IEEE Bylaws remain unchanged, UK IEEE Members may not be eligible to participate in the EPPC from 2021 onwards. This may entail a reduction in the EPPC budget of up to around USD 30,000.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Completion date is 29 June 2020.

This motion secures the continuity of EPPC business and operations, and no further action is required until any new developments between the EU and UK arise.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The UK stopped being a member of the EU on 31 January 2020. Since this date, the UK has begun an 11-month transition in which it continues to abide by the EU's rules and regulations, while deciding what sort of Brexit to pursue and what its future relationship with the EU may look like.

Numerous UK IEEE volunteers have actively contributed to both the creation of the European Public Policy Initiative and the establishment of the EPPC. A significant number of volunteer leadership positions in the EPPC have been held by UK volunteers, including the current Vice Chair of the EPPC and the former Chair of the EPPC Working Group on Energy.

VERSION CONTROL:

29 May 2020 – V10 – JC