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Mr. Daniel Sommer,
Secretary General,
IVTO,
Switzerland.

28th July, 1995.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Sommer,

In accordance with Article 9 and responding to your invitation, I, on behalf of the Irish Member (Department of Education) nominate Dr. Kees Beuk as a candidate for the position of President. According to Article 9 nominations should be valid up to two months prior to the General Assembly meeting at which the election takes place; ie, up to 10 August 1995.

You rightly point out that the Administrative and Technical Committees are responsible for electing their own Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons. You express that "in order to co-ordinate the elections we will be pleased to receive nomination by 31st July 1995". I have grave reservations about this approach and I strongly recommend that the old system apply for these elections which will take place during the competition campaign in Lyon. The apparent attempt at the alignment of the nomination of candidates for the "Chair" positions of the Administrative and Technical Committees to that of the approved procedure for the nomination of candidates for the position of President without the corresponding changes in the Constitution pre-empts the adoption of the new Standing Orders and Constitution. I would recommend that the nomination of persons as candidates for the positions in question should be through the usual procedure, custom and practice of proposing and seconding in an open way. Within your request for nominations there is a danger that the real responsibility for the election of a chairperson will slip away from the committee concerned, I will try to explain. From your letter it appears that each delegate can make a nomination for a position on either Committee, this means that the Official Delegate can make a nomination for the Technical Committee and vice-versa. This certainly is a change and does erode responsibility that each committee has by Constitution for the overall election of its own Chairpersons which includes the nomination process. The closing of nominations on the 31st July, 1995 appears to preclude nominations being made from the floor in Lyon. I further recommend that any nominations for the two committees in question which were received in response to your letter should not be circulated as is the requirement for the nominations received for President and that nominations should also be considered valid if made in Lyon.

The Irish Member is the Department (Ministry) of Education and the Official Delegate and the Technical Delegate are civil servants and as such have been requested to refrain from nominating one another and also from self-nomination. The Irish Technical Delegate is on leave at present and cannot be contacted, he may have inadvertently nominated the **Irish Official Delegate or Technical Delegate** as a candidate for election, if such is the case these nominations should be considered null and void. In general, self-nomination is not considered to be in the spirit of or consistent with democratic elections, seeking nominations without any controls can lead to unusual or irregular practices.

Should the Irish Official or Technical Delegate receive a nomination from another Member there is a procedure through which they can seek Departmental approval in relation to availability bearing in mind the service, time and financial commitments which may be involved in the event of election.


I consider that it should be possible for Delegates to make nominations for positions on their respective committees during the meetings in Lyon. I still favour "proposing and seconding from the floor in an open way". I can fully appreciate your desire to streamline and to co-ordinate the elections and I can see the advantages of early nominations. An approach may be that any person nominated in response to your request in relation to positions on the Administrative or Technical Committees could be contacted officially and asked if they are available for election, it could be made clear that they would require a seconder from the floor if they had not received a nomination from at least two Members other than their own National Member. I, however, still hold with the view that nominations should come from the floor.

I have scanned the documents "Standing Orders" and "Constitution" and I have made some comments which are contained in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. In general the two documents are an improvement on the current versions and I congratulate you for the professional way in which they were drafted and presented. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you and your office staff for the fullness of the service you have provided over the years.

The Competition in Lyon will be the sixteenth competition that I have attended as a representative of the Department of Education, the first one going back as far as 1963 when it was held in Dublin. The Lyon Competition will be my last as I retire in 1996, I may, with a little luck, get to the meeting in South Africa in an official capacity. I will attend the 34th Competition in St. Gallen in a private capacity as I have made many friends in Switzerland arising from my position as Council Chairman of the Irish/Swiss Institute of Horology. There is also a very strong connection between St. Gallen and Ireland and I will use the opportunity to view the oldest known Irish Writings which are in St. Gallen.

I wish you every success in your preparations for the 33rd International Vocational Training Competitions.

Yours sincerely,



Sean P.O Broin,
Assistant Chief Inspector,
Irish Member (Department of Education)

28 July, 1995