



EFPA

WORKING GROUP

EFPA becoming NGO

Convenor : Luc SCHELDEMAN

REPORT to the

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2003 in VIENNA

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON NGO

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EFPA wishing to be entered on the list of organisations enjoying consultative status with the Council of Europe has to send an application accompanied by a file.

1. Executive summary :

❖ Period of Working Group

Rome 1999 : start and preliminary inquiries of the field.

01 September 2002 till now : procedure for granting of consultative or advisory status.

❖ Scope of work

During the general assembly of Rome, it has been recommended that the EC should explore the possibility for the federation to become a NGO with Consultative Status.

❖ This Working Group reported was accepted as the position of EFPA at the GA in London 2001.

2. Introduction :

In order to become a NGO the EC has set a working group examining three objectives:

1. Could EFPA become a NGO
2. What would be the advantages ?
3. What process is to be implanted for it to become a NGO ?

The study and analysis of the collected documents permit to share positively that EFPA could become a NGO with advisory or consultative status, following the Resolution (93)38,§7 of the Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers.

3. Introduction to the field

The first question, mentioned above, was positively answered and the advantages were double :

A – concerning information and lobbying :

The specific advisory status will yield profits such as direct contact with the European Authorities, information and lobbying.

B - at the financial level the MA's will obtain advantages on the financial level.

Carrying out the plan of the EC the working group started in September 2002 composing the file with the following documents required to support our application for consultative status.

1. Questionnaire to be completed and to return to the Directorate General of Political Affairs, Division of NGOs and Civil Society in Strasbourg.
2. The statute of our NGO
3. The list of member organisations
4. A report on recent activities
5. A declaration to the effect our NGO accepts the principles set out in the preamble and Article 1 of the Statute of the Council of Europe.

4. Literature

Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers. Resolution (93) 38

on relations between the Council of Europe and International Non-Governmental Organisations. (adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 18 October 1993 at the 500th meeting of Ministers' Deputies)

5. Methodological aspects of the draw up of the NGO application

Composing the file:

The working group decided to gather the experience and knowledge available in the Ma's. At that purpose Gertrude Kort, assigned by EFPA to assist the WG, contacted and interviewed the person in the national associations that was knowledgeable about European projects and/or that has already an expertise concerning previously planned or deployed Europe oriented activities.

Ad. 1 : About the Questionnaire:

The file has to give an answer to questions such as :

- to which activities of the Council of Europe psychologists contributed
- in what way psychologists feel able to make such a contribution
- what practical co-operation already had been established with the Council and the Departments.

Ad. 2 : About the Statutes:

A critical examination of the Statutes of the International Association EFPA (by Belgian Law of 25.10.1919 modified by the Law of 06.12.1954 and 30.06.2000) bearing date 18 June 2002 revealed the association as a principally professional interests promoting institution. We mean by it that in general our Statutes are adequate to our purpose except for they are somewhat inward-looking. The Council of Europe however demands explicitly the benefit of the public to be mentioned as an important aim of the NGO's. Other NGO-Statutes were examined likewise.

These reflections have been considered by the WG and they resulted in some modifications in the objectives mentioned in the statutes.

6. Future tasks of EFPA

Organisations enjoying consultative status shall undertake to answer the rules for Consultative Status set up by the Council of Europe. The Council may establish working relations with the NGO, such as described in the annexe "EFPA as a NGO, The modalities of cooperation."

Read the Annexe, EFPA as NGO, The modalities of cooperation - point 1 to 5.

Moreover the consultative status commits the NGO to promote the well-being and the quality of life of the citizen and to participate and support the actions of the Council of Europe from the point of view of, and within the field of competence of psychologists.

Read the annexe "EFPA as NGO, The modalities of co-operation" point 6 to 8.

Members of the Working Group on NGO :

Mr. Patrick COHEN (France) (convenor 1999 - July 2002)

Mr. Willem KORT (the Netherlands)

Mr. Pierangelo Sardi (Italy)

Mr. Luc SCHELDEMAN (Belgium) convenor

Mr. Miloslav SOLC (Szech Republic)

Gertrude KORT Assistant NGO

Wim Manniën (Liaison EC EFPA)

EFPA OPERATING AS A NGO
i.e. THE MODALITIES OF COOPERATION

- 1/ **Address memoranda** to the Secretary General for submission
 - to the committees of governmental experts
 - to the bodies of the Committee of Ministers
 - to the committees of the Parliamentary Assembly
 - to the committees of the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe
- 2/ Receiving the agenda and public documents of the Assembly the **attendance at public sittings of the Assembly** will be facilitated
- 3/ As a NGO with consultative status (c.s.) we are invited to **public sittings of the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities** of Europe
- 4/ A NGO with c.s. shall be invited **to the general information meeting held annually by the Secretariat and also to the sectoral meetings** of the Secretariat
- 5/ Being a NGO with c.s. enables (in the sense of “shall”) our organization **to undertake the following activities:**
 - *furnish information, documents or opinions relating to our own field(s) of competence*
 - *give maximal publicity to the initiatives of achievements of the Council of Europe in our fields of competence*
 - *submit every two years a report to the Secretary General which should specify*
 - a. her participation in the work of the various bodies of the CE (a.o. comm. of experts parliamentary comm.)
 - b. her attendance at events organized by the Secretary General (general & sectoral meetings)
 - c. attendance at meetings of interest groups of NGOs which maintain relations with the corresponding sectors of the of the Secretariat
 - d. meetings organized by itself and to which the CE has been invited
 - e. action they have undertaken in a view to publicizing the work of the CE
- 6/ Being a NGO with c.s. makes an appeal to EFPA **to work out fields of competence which are of interest to** the Council of Europe. These fields of competence have to be in line with the goals of the Council, especially with respect to issues like human rights, development and education, integration of cultural minorities, employment and ethics.
 - a. to summarize the most important results of research in the indicated fields
 - b. to indicate the practical significance of the psychological knowledge
 - c. to disseminate the present knowledge to the general public and specific groups which are ready to use psychological knowledge
 - d. to support specific groups which make use of knowledge and skills and advising those groups in the ways this knowledge can be used in a practical way.
- 7/ **Important subjects** which be suggested as being worked out are
 - a. treatment and support of traumatized people as refugees and war victims

- b. support of youngsters coming from cultural minorities with almost no formal education
- c. living conditions in the environment in respect to public health
- d. using procedures for diagnosing people from cultural minorities in work and public health settings
- e. improvement of traffic safety

8/ Working out these activities may be a **task of an EFPA working group**. The tasks of this Working Group might be indicated as

- a. gathering the relevant information from the different EFPA working groups in the concerning fields
- b. disseminating the gathered information
- c. calling attention from the (different relevant committees) to the subjects as indicated
- d. giving feedback to the different working groups
- e. stimulating dissemination of psychological knowledge with respect to other fields

At the financial level:

The financial authority created in 1976 a budgetary post allowed to the co-financing of actions with the NGOs. This budget was 174 millions of Euros in 1995. The NGOs profit of three types of financing:

1. Financing its participation to the European bodies;
2. Financing its activities as part of appeals to European plans;
3. Financing by subventions

A Working Group as indicated may consist of 4 members and a liaison from the EC. The Working Group will take care for contacts with the above mentioned committees and present EFPA when necessary, will invite other working groups and relevant organizations within or connected with EFPA, will make public (on internet) the contributions of psychology to the issues mentioned and stimulates new developments relevant to the general public.

The estimated costs for this Working Group are

- attending meetings Council of Europe: € 3500
- meeting costs: €3500
- communication costs € 500
- office costs (paper etc...) € 250
- Total costs €7750

Summary:

With the advisory status the organization has to meet the following: contribute to the CE activities by reflecting the works of the council to the European public within our sphere of competence; we shall address reports with the view to present them to the European bodies & committees. The ngo will be invited to the meetings of the European bodies and shall report her attendance to this meetings. We shall commit ourselves to make the more possible advertisement for European initiatives in our scope of competence and to report summarizing the activities at the European level to the Secretary General.

Luc Scheldeman
Convenor