

Regional Industrial Sector (RIS) Conferences

Great care must be taken to ensure that RIS Conferences are properly conducted in accordance with the best democratic practice, and that they elect representative Regional Industrial Sector Committees (RISCs) in conformity with EC Guidance.

The great majority of RISCs are divided into clearly defined constituencies, electing one or more seats onto the RISC.

The RIS Conferences will also elect a Young Member delegate for each RISC. The Young Member delegate must be Rule 6 compliant.

The Executive Council has determined that only representatives within a constituency will be able to vote for RISC member(s) in that constituency.

Standing Orders for the RIS Conferences agreed by the Executive Council have further mandated that nominations for each constituency must be received in advance of the RIS Conference.

For further clarity, the Executive Council believes that where a multi-seat constituency on a particular committee represents members from more workplaces than there are seats available (e.g. a constituency for “smaller workplaces” in a given sector which might provide for seats for representatives from 20 different companies/workplaces) then no one company/workplace should have more than one representative elected onto the RISC.

Under the authority of the Executive Council, Regional Secretaries are required to designate themselves or another appropriate officer as responsible for the proper convening and conduct of each RIS Conference (alongside the lay Chair in each case). The Executive Council directs the General Secretary to make arrangements for the proper briefing of all such officers to ensure that they are fully aware of, and accountable for, their responsibilities in ensuring the smooth running of the RIS Conferences and the RISC elections in particular.

Additionally, Regions should ensure that the list of eligible representatives is updated and as complete as possible before RIS Conferences are convened.

Regions should also ensure that the triennial Regional Equalities Conferences take place before the RIS Conferences and that delegates to the RISC elected at these conferences are invited to the RIS Conference and to the initial meeting of the RISC. For the avoidance of doubt, equalities delegates are full members of the RISC and are eligible to stand as Chair and/or Vice Chair of the RISC.

The Executive Council will establish a system for speedily hearing appeals from lay members regarding the conduct of elections and reserves the power to suspend a RISC from taking office until such appeals are resolved.

National Industrial Sector Committees

National Industrial Sector Committees (NISCs) shall be elected from and by the RISCs.

National Officials for each Sector have a plan, endorsed by the Executive Council, for the make-up of their NISC based on the allocation of seats to each RISC, bearing in mind the following criteria:

1. the size of the membership in each Region;
2. the need to ensure the representation of specific industrial interests within the Sector.

Rule 7.4 allows that “the Executive Council shall have the power to determine additional special constituencies (which may be on a national basis) where they determine it necessary in light of particular industrial circumstances.” Where National Officials believe such a constituency on a NISC is the most effective means of securing representation for a group of members, such a proposal should be accompanied by details as to how a proper election could be conducted for this constituency.

A Young Member shall be elected at the biannual National Young Members Conference to serve on each NISC. The Young Member must be an “accountable representative of workers in a workplace”, (ie an elected workplace rep) as defined in the EC Guidance on Rule 6.

The minimum proportional representation of women and BAEM members on NISCs must be achieved through the allocation of designated seats which must be filled by members of these two categories. The Executive Council has endorsed proposals for the composition of NISCs that include designated seats for women and BAEM members allocated to appropriate RISCs to ensure that the NISC as finally constituted has at least the number of women and BAEM representatives which the proportion of members in such categories in the Sector requires.

Each RISC electing delegates to a NISC should ensure that it also elects/appoints a substitute delegate to ensure that the RISC always has representation on the NISC. (see EC Guidance on substitute delegates).

NISCs should not usually have more than 30 members, and smaller sectors should generally have less.