



Preamble

The Conference of European Rabbis (CER) is the voice of Judaism and the custodian of our tradition, the union of Rabbis of the Jewish Communities of Europe who seek to strengthen their voice and their mission, by transmitting the tradition of our fathers to the next generation of Jewish Europeans, defend our religious rights, and represent the interests of Judaism and the Jewish community of Europe to the European Institutions and to the governments of Europe.

I. Membership:

1. In order to become a member of the CER Conference of European Rabbis a person must:
 - a) Be a Rabbi with a Rabbinical ordination from an Orthodox Jewish Rabbi or an Orthodox Jewish in situation.
 - b) Believe in the 13 Principle of the Jewish faith.
 - c) Be committed and practicing a life according to Jewish law's and custom.
 - d) Live or / and work in Europe, or has lived and worked in Europe as in article I.1.e.
 - e) Engage in Rabbinical work either full time or part time, or for many years were active in Europe in the rabinate or in the teaching of Torah.
 - f) Conduct a synagogue service in accordance with Halacha as defined by the SC of the CER.
 - g) Fill out the necessary application form of the CER and possess all necessary recommendations.
 - h) Pay, on time, all CER membership dues.
 - i) Have not been convicted of any felony.
2. For members the CER will:
 - a) Certify Rabbis in good standing.
 - b) Help place Rabbis within communities.
 - c) Certify Rabbis who can issue kashrut certificates.
 - d) Certify Rabbinical courts which can deal with conversions and divorces.
 - e) Help Rabbis who may be in distress in their communities.
 - f) Give political and legal advice to Rabbis regarding their employment rights.
 - g) Defend Rabbis when attacked by external organisations.
3. The Rabbis who are members of the CER will have to abide by the following rules:
 - a) Rabbis will never attack another member of the CER from another country in Europe, in any media, without the explicit sanction of the SC.
 - b) Rabbis will support other members of the CER in distress.

II. Standing Committee

1. Membership:
 - a) The supreme sovereign body of the Conference of European Rabbis is its Standing Committee, which meets in a major European city or in Israel twice a year.
 - b) The Standing Committee is comprised of Rabbis who are members of the CER and conform to the standards of the CER and are ready to work with the CER and for the CER, attend its meetings and carry out its policy.
 - c) A member of the CER SC cannot be a member of another European Rabbinical Organization without the explicit approval of the CER SC.



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- d) All current members of the CER SC continue to be members of the SC as long as they hold their Rabbinical position as explained in paragraph I.1.a-g
- e) Member of the SC who do not appear at the SC meetings three times consecutively, are automatically excluded from the SC, unless the member was unable to attend because of war, sickness or any act of G-d.
- f) When the SC looks to add new members to the SC it will add them according to the key provided in the paragraph I.1.a.-h.
- g) Membership in the SC is limited to employed Rabbis, either serving as a minister of a Shul, community, city or country, or as a Dayan on an established, recognized Beis Din. Upon the termination of such employment, due to retirement, dismissal or any other reason, all positions must be vacated within six months and a special appointment or election (as appropriate) would be held for the vacated position. The exceptions to this rule are for officers of the CER, Rabbis who dedicate much of their time to the CER, or those who have a special expertise is needed in the CER.
- h) Rabbis eligible to become members of the CER SC:
 - 1. President
 - 2. Rabbinical Director
 - 3. Av Beis Din of the CER
 - 4. Chief Rabbi of the UK
 - 5. Senior Dayan of the London Beth Din
 - 6. Spiritual Head of the Spanish Portuguese Congregation in Great Britain
 - 7. Chief Rabbi of France
 - 8. Chief Rabbi of Paris or other important French community
 - 9. A Senior Dayan from France
 - 10. Chief Rabbi of Strasbourg, Envoy to the Council of Europe
 - 11. Chief Rabbi of Rome (for Italy)
 - 12. Chief Rabbi of Brussels, Envoy to the EU (for Belgium)
 - 13. Chief Rabbi of Amsterdam
 - 14. Chief Rabbi of Ukraine
 - 15. Senior Rabbi from Switzerland
 - 16. Chief Rabbi of Russia or Moscow (for Russia)
 - 17. Dayan of the Moscow Beth Din
 - 18. Member of the Vorstand of ORD (for Germany)
 - 19. Leader of the Hildesheimer Rabbinical Seminary (Germany)
 - 20. Senior Rabbi from Southern Europe (for Spain, Portugal and Gibraltar)
 - 21. Chief Rabbi of Austria
 - 22. Chief Rabbi of Poland
 - 23. Senior Rabbi from rest of Western Europe (Scandinavia, Luxembourg, Monaco)
 - 24. Senior Rabbi from rest of Central Europe (Hungary, Czech, Balkans, Turkey)
 - 25. Senior Rabbi from rest of FSU (Belarus, Baltics, Moldova, Georgia)
- i) All Rabbis holding the positions above, can only be elected to the Standing Committee, after being voted in as a member by the existing Standing Committee.



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- j) In case of position 9, 17, the Chief Rabbi of the country and the Assembly of Rabbis at the CER Convention have to recommend the candidate for this position. If there is no consensus in the local Rabbinate, the SC will choose the candidate.
 - k) In case of position 15, 18, 20, 23, 24, 25 the assembly of the Rabbis of the region present at the CER Convention will recommend a candidate to the SC.
 - l) An additional 5 seats will be elected directly from the general membership, resulting in Standing Committee of 30 members.
 - aa) If this is deemed too small by the SC, up to 15 more Rabbis from the general membership could be elected, resulting in a Standing Committee of up to 40 members.
 - bb) If the SC decides that a new member should be elected to the SC and doesn't want to wait until the next Convention, the SC can consult the SC Members from the candidate country or area mentioned in paragraph 8, and then elect a new member to the SC.
 - cc) If the SC sees that a Rabbi in the CER does not live up the standards mentioned in paragraph 1.b and 1.c, the SC can nominate a Honours Committee to decide on the membership of the Rabbi in the SC and the CER. The list in paragraph II.1.h can be amended by a two thirds majority of the SC, as with all other paragraph of this constitution.
2. The task of the Standing Committee is to:
- a) Elect a President of the organisatio.
 - b) Elect Vice Presidents.
 - c) Elect members of the Presidium.
 - d) Elect the Av Beth Din of Europe.
 - e) Can elect a chairman of the SC in case he will be ready to assume responsibilities for the fundraising of the budget of the CER with the President.
 - f) Confirm new members of the SC.
 - g) Confirm the Executive staff of the organisation.
 - h) Confirm new members of the CER.
 - i) Discuss issues and policies of the CER during its deliberations.
 - j) Confirm the Cabinet.
 - k) Set the agenda for each meeting.
 - l) Decide where and when the next meeting of the SC will be.
 - m) Decide where and when the next convention will be.
 - n) Set policy and religious standards for the European Rabbinate.
 - o) Hold revisionary and oversight responsibility over the CER Charitable Trust registered in the UK.
3. Rules of voting for resolutions and elections in the SC:
- a) Members of the SC are obligated to take part in all of the meetings of the SC. Members of the SC, who are unable to participate in a SC meeting must inform the rest of the committee in writing. Rabbinical Courts such as the LBD, and Rabbinical organizations such as the ORD, which have a seat in the SC can send another delegate to SC meetings in case the permanent member cannot participate in a SC meeting. The CR of the British Commonwealth and the CR of France can send personal delegates to the SC meetings in case of their absence, excluding SC meetings which take place during a CER plenary meeting.
 - b) The date and location of SC meetings will be announced by the President at least 45 days before the meeting. The minimum quorum is 60% of the overall membership of the SC. In a case where meetings are not quorate



but where issues need to be voted on in between SC meetings, the President can call for an online vote.

- c) The online vote has to have the participation of over 60% of the members of the SC, who have to vote: aye, nay, or abstain within a 48 hour period. A member of the SC who does not participate in a vote, is considered to be in violation of the code of conduct of the SC and can after three times be excluded from further online votes of the SC by the President.
- d) The sessions are to be chaired by the president. In case there is a chairman of the SC the sessions should be co-chaired or can be divided between the two. The President, or in absence of the President the SC, can also nominate a session chair. The nominated chair must be confirmed by the members of the SC.
- e) Resolutions which are being passed by the SC should be decided by consensus. By lack of consensus the chairman of the SC session can withdraw the resolution or elect to conduct a simple majority vote.
- f) All elections are to be decided by simple majority of those present. Changes in the regulations of the CER require a majority of the participating SC members.
- g) When electing a new president, candidates have to declare their readiness for the position in front of the SC, and affirm their readiness to dedicate enough time and find enough financial resources for the next five years for the CER.
- h) Elections for the President have to be in the absence of the candidates. All other elections will be by an open ballot in the presence of all candidates.
- i) The official language of the CER and the SC is Hebrew.

III. President and Presidium:

1. The President:
 - a) Is elected for a five year period and can be re-elected indefinitely.
 - b) Nominates the professional staff of the organisation.
 - c) Hires and directs the professional staff of the organisation.
 - d) Chairs the SC meetings.
 - e) Nominates a Cabinet comprising from 5 to 9 members of the SC.
 - f) Heads and speaks in the name of the CER to all governments and organisations.
 - g) Runs the day to day operation and the finances of the CER.
 - h) Signs documents in the name of the CER.
 - i) Sets the policy of the CER.
 - j) Is empowered to nominate a chairman of the SC to co-chair the SC meetings.
 - k) Is empowered to create a Board of Patrons to finance the activities of the CER, and will present the members of the Board of Patrons afterwards to the SC.
 - l) Is empowered to create daughter organizations of the CER to accomplish the goals of the CER after consulting with the SC.
 - m) Is empowered to sign agreements with governments, organizations and individuals in the name of the CER.
2. The SC also elects a Presidium consisting of the President, the Av Beth Din of Europe, vice presidents, and past presidents of the CER.
3. Presidium members can be assigned different tasks by the president and confirmed by the SC.
4. In case of incapacitation of the president by death, illness, political turmoil, or by resignation, the presidium of the CER has to validate the fact that the president cannot anymore lead the organization and nominate within



three month an acting president. Up until this time the oldest member of the presidium will function as interim president.

5. If the SC is of the opinion that the incapacitated president can be brought back to a state where he can lead the organization, the SC can extend the mandate of the acting president up to one year. If by then the president has not recovered, the SC will elect a new president.

IV. Cabinet

1. If the SC is the parliament of the CER, the Cabinet is the government of the CER. When making any major policy or personal decision in between SC meetings, the president should consult with the Cabinet by email in order to be advised wisely.
2. The Cabinet should comprise Rabbis available at all times who are ready to invest the time and effort for the CER and should preferably represent the different regions and major communities in Europe.
3. The cabinet should be nominated by the president and confirmed by the SC. The President has the right to ask a specific member of the cabinet to resign.
4. If the President wants to add a new member to the cabinet it must be confirmed by the SC.
5. The Cabinet will appoint two rabbis to be trustees of the CER UK Charity who will supervise and see to comply with the accountants of the CER UK Charity all which is necessary according to UK law.

V. Executive

1. The President heads the Executive.
2. The President will hire professionals to run the CER and will have them confirmed by the SC. The President also has the right to fire a professional after consulting with the Cabinet in between SC meeting.
3. The Executive is responsible for the day to day functioning of the CER, divided into three departments- Rabbinical, political and administrative.
4. The Rabbinical department is responsible to maintain halachic standards and will be guided by the Av Beth Din on halachic issues.
5. The administrative department will provide services to the members, maintain relations with communities, organise meetings and conventions, manage the financial and legal back office operations, write letters and will be in touch with all the members of the CER.
6. The political department coordinates representatives and policy functions, is in touch with the various governments and European institutions.
7. The different departments might be combined if necessary, but ought to be kept separate when the organisation has the capacity to do so.
8. The SC can decide to include its professionals in the SC.

VI. General Assembly

1. The General Assembly of the CER is the CER Convention. The Convention should take place once every two years in a place and time voted on by the SC.



2. Every member of the CER should be invited to the Convention. The SC has the right to invite also non CER members to the Convention.
3. The SC has six month prior to a convention to name a subcommittee to designate the themes issues and guest speakers to be invited to the convention.
4. During Conventions, CER members can elect candidates to the SC according to the CER Regulations. The candidates of the General Assembly, once confirmed by the SC will serve for two years until the next convention.
5. If the elected candidate to the SC is rejected by the SC, the candidate with the next highest number of votes will be eligible to be confirmed by the SC.
6. The SC will designate a panel of three Rabbis who will be the elections committee.
7. Elections to the various positions on the SC will be conducted through a secret ballot.

VII. Beth Din of Europe

1. The Av Beth Din of Europe is the highest halachic authority of the CER.
2. In case a constitutional question arises, and there is a dispute in the SC with interpretation of the constitution, the Beth Din of Europe will be the sole arbiter and legal instance to render a decision.
3. In case of monetary disputes between employees of the CER and the CER, the Beth Din of Europe is the sole arbiter and legal instance to render a decision.
4. The Av Beth Din of Europe is automatically member of the SC and the Presidium.
5. The Av Beth Din of Europe chooses the other judges on the Beth Din, the secretary of the Beth Din and as well the place and date of the sessions of the Beth Din.
6. A new Av Beth Din must be proposed by the majority of the Cabinet, and afterwards has to be confirmed by the majority of the SC.
7. The Av Beth Din is being elected for life until he dies, resigns, or if the Presidium has come to the conclusion that due to illness or political turmoil, the Av Beth Din cannot anymore lead the organization. In this case the Presidium will instruct the Cabinet to look for an acting Av Beth Din within three month.
8. If the SC is of the opinion that the incapacitated Av Beth Din can be brought back to a state where he can lead the Beth Din, the SC can extend the mandate of the acting Av Beth Din up to one year. If by then the Av Beth Din has not recovered, the SC will elect a new Av Beth Din.