

Statute

Article 1

Introductory provisions

The Government Council on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (hereinafter referred to as 'Council') is a standing advisory body of the Government in the field of equal opportunities for women and men.

Article 2

Competence

(1) The Council shall prepare draft measures to promote and achieve equal opportunities for women and men.

(2) In particular, the Council

- a) shall discuss and recommend to the Government conceptual guidelines regarding Government procedure in promoting equal opportunities for women and men,
- b) shall coordinate the guidelines for ministerial concepts regarding equal opportunities for women and men,
- c) shall establish a set of priorities for ministerial projects promoting equal opportunities for women and men,
- d) shall identify current problems in society relating to equal opportunities for women and men,
- e) shall assess efficiency in the fulfilment of the principle of the equality of women and men.

Article 3

Composition of the Council

(1) The Council shall be composed of the chairman, the deputy chairman, and other members.

(2) The Council chairman shall be appointed and removed by the Government; as a rule, the Council chairman is a member of Government whose remit covers equal opportunities for women and men.

(3) The deputy chairman of the Council shall be appointed and removed by the Government. As a rule, the deputy chairman is the Minister or Deputy Minister for Labour and Social Affairs. Where justified by the scale of the Council's activities, the Council chairman may propose the appointment of additional Council deputy chairmen to the Government. As a rule, any further Council deputy chairman shall be the chairman of a Council committee.

(4) Further, Council members are:

- a) 2 Deputy Ministers for Labour and Social Affairs; where a Deputy Minister for Labour and Social Affairs is a Council deputy chairman under the preceding provision, only one deputy Minister shall be a Council member pursuant to this provision,
- b) the Deputy Minister of the Interior,
- c) the Deputy Minister for Justice,
- d) the Deputy Minister for Education, Youth and Sports,
- e) the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs,
- f) the Deputy Minister for Finance,
- g) the Deputy Minister for Health,
- h) the Deputy Minister for Defence,

- i) the Deputy Minister for Regional Development,
- j) the Deputy Minister for Agriculture,
- k) the Government Commissioner for Human Rights,
- l) the president or vice-president of the Czech Statistical Office,
- m) a representative of the employers' delegation in the Council of Economic and Social Agreement of the Czech Republic,
- n) a representative of the trade unions' delegation in the Council of Economic and Social Agreement of the Czech Republic,
- o) 9 representatives of the public from nongovernmental organizations active in equal opportunities for women and men,
- p) 4 experts active in equal opportunities for women and men.

(5) The Council members referred to in paragraph (4) shall be appointed and removed by the Council chairman.

(6) The Council members referred to in paragraph (4)a) to j) shall be appointed by the Council chairman pursuant to nominations from the competent ministers.

(7) A minister or the president of the Czech Statistical Office may, in warranted cases and after prior consultation with the Council chairman, may nominate another manager responsible for equal opportunities between women and men as a Council member in accordance with paragraph (4)a) to j) or l).

(8) The Council's term of office is four years and shall coincide with the term of office of the Government. There is no limit to the number of times a person may be appointed to the Council. (9) at the end of its term of office, the Council shall continue to engage in its activities until a new Council is appointed.

(10) Council membership shall automatically end

- a) in the case of Government members, when they cease to hold government office,
- b) in the case of representatives of state administration, on their removal from office or on termination of their employment/service relationship,
- c) on the resignation of a Council member before the end of the term of office,
- d) on the death of a Council member.

(11) Council members may not be represented by other parties, apart from representation at Council meetings under the conditions referred to in Article 5(4).

Article 4

Chairman of the Council

(1) The Council chairman shall be accountable to the Government for the Council's activities.

(2) The Council chairman shall convene and manage Council meetings. Council meetings shall be held as and when required, at least three times a year.

(3) In particular, the Council chairman shall

- a) manage the Council's activities,
- b) sign opinions, recommendations and other materials of the Council,
- c) submit proposals to the Government for the removal of the Council deputy chairman,
- d) present Council members with the Council's plan of work for approval and draft materials of the Council for discussion,
- e) at the Council's proposal, decide on the establishment or winding-up of a committee, and shall appoint and remove the chairman, deputy chairman and other members of that committee at his own discretion,
- f) at the Council's proposal, decide on the establishment or winding-up of a working party, and shall appoint and remove the chairman, deputy chairman and other members of that working party at his own discretion, and shall decide on the rules of procedure to be followed

by the working party (Article 7(3)),

g) take decisions on whether guests shall be invited to Council meetings and on the status of permanent guests,

h) grant consent to invite an external associate (Article 8), who may be, in particular, an employee of state administration or another expert who is not a Council member.

(4) In the absence of the Council chairman, the Council chairman shall be represented by and Council meetings shall be managed by the Council deputy chairman. In warranted cases, the Council chairman may delegate the convening and management of meetings to the deputy chairman on a permanent basis, in which case the deputy chairman shall be an 'executive deputy chairman'.

Article 5

Council members

(1) Council members shall attend Council meetings and the meetings of the committee or working party to which they have been appointed (hereinafter referred to as 'Council meetings').

(2) Council members shall be entitled to submit proposals to the Council and to attend any Council committee or working party meetings.

(3) Should a Council member be unable to attend a Council meeting, that Council member shall apologize in advance to the Council chairman via the Council secretariat (Article 9) and shall send written observations on individual items on the agenda.

(4) In the event of illness or for other reasons meriting special attention, a Council member may send a representative from the same institution the Council member represents to a Council meeting. A representative of a Council member shall prove his identity by means of written authorization prior to the start of the Council meeting. If the representative of a Council member is to vote regarding a particular item on the agenda of the Council meeting, this shall be expressly stated in the authorization, otherwise he shall not be entitled to vote.

Article 6

Council committees

(1) The Council may, for the requirements of its activities, set up Council committees (hereinafter referred to as 'committee'), the task of which is to deal with sub-issues in the Council's competence.

(2) The Council chairman, at the Council's proposal, shall decide on the establishment of a committee.

(3) The committee chairman, deputy chairman and members shall be appointed by the Council chairman.

(4) The committee shall draw up committee statutes. The statutes shall inter alia lay down which rules of procedure are to be followed by the committee. The committee statutes shall be subject to the Council's approval.

(5) Committee meetings shall be governed by the rules of procedure issued by the Council. In warranted cases, the committee may have its own rules of procedure. The committee's rules of procedure shall be subject to the Council's approval.

(6) External associates may be invited to work in a committee.

(7) The Council chairman, at the Council's proposal, shall decide on the winding-up of a committee.

Article 7

Working parties

- (1) The Council may, for the requirements of its activities, set up Council working parties (hereinafter referred to as 'working party'), the task of which is to deal with sub-issues in the Council's competence.
- (2) A working party may be set up within the scope of one or several committees.
- (3) The Council chairman, at the Council's proposal, shall decide on the establishment of a working party. At the same time, the Council chairman shall decide whether the working party will be governed *mutatis mutandis* by the Council's rules of procedure or by the rules of procedure of the committee in the framework of which it has been established.
- (4) The working party chairman, deputy chairman and members shall be appointed by the Council chairman.
- (5) The working party shall, in particular, prepare documentation for Council meetings.
- (6) External associates may be invited to work in a working party.
- (7) As a rule, a working party acts informally and tries to reach a consensus in its decision-making.
- (8) The Council chairman, at the Council's proposal, shall decide on the winding-up of a working party.

Article 8

External cooperation

- (1) The Council chairman may seek the cooperation of external associates.
- (2) External associates may participate in the work of a committee or working party as a permanent associate, or may attend Council meetings as a guest regarding a specific issue if invited by the Council chairman.
- (3) Rules regulating the activities of the Council, its committees and working parties shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to external associates.

Article 9

Council secretariat

- (1) The Council's activities, including its committees and working parties, are administrated and organized by the Council secretariat, which is an organizational unit of the Office of the Government.
- (2) Further, the Council secretariat shall
 - a) gather documentation and information required for the Council's activities,
 - b) draw up expert documentation for Council meetings in accordance with instructions from the Council chairman,
 - c) publish, on the website of the Office of the Government, current information about the Council, in particular information about Council members, information about the Council's activities, the current consolidated version of the Council's statutes, and information about committees and working parties set up.
- (3) The director of the Council secretariat shall be responsible for the fulfilment of the secretariat's tasks and shall manage the secretariat's activities in accordance with the instructions of the Council chairman. The director of the Council secretariat shall be appointed and removed by the Government minister whose remit covers equal opportunities for women and men.
- (4) As a rule, the director of the Council secretariat shall also be the Council secretary; in exceptional cases, the Council secretary may be one of the Council members, in which case

the following sentence shall not apply. The director of the Council secretariat shall attend Council meetings in an advisory capacity.

Article 10

Cost of activities and remuneration

- (1) The costs of the Council's activities shall be covered from the budget of the Office of the Government. Meetings of the Council and its committees and working parties shall be held, as a rule, on the premises of the Office of the Government.
- (2) Council members shall not be entitled to remuneration for holding their office as this is an unsalaried position.

Article 11

Council Rules of Procedure

- (1) The method of conduct of the Council shall be regulated by the Council's Rules of Procedure. The Rules of Procedure and amendments thereto shall be subject to the Council's approval.

Article 12

Final provisions

- (1) Amendments to these Statutes are subject to the Government's approval.
- (2) These Statutes shall enter into effect on 1 January 2008 pursuant to approval granted under Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No 1386 of 12 December 2007.