

## The European Vocations Service

### Statute

#### Nature and Function

The European Vocations Service (EVS) is a federation of the National Vocations Services of Europe, in cooperation with the CCEE.<sup>1</sup> The aim of this federation is the promotion of an integral vocations ministry in Europe, and the development of activities in common for the promotion of vocations.

#### Membership

The members of EVS are the National Vocations Services established by the Bishops' Conferences in each of the countries of Europe.<sup>2</sup>

The executive committee of the EVS will recommend an annual membership fee for the approval of the conference. The executive committee will present annual accounts to the conference.

#### Executive Committee:

The Executive committee of the EVS consists of

- a. The episcopal president
- b. A co-ordinator, and
- c. Two deputy co-ordinators.<sup>3</sup>

The Episcopal president is the bishop, appointed by the CCEE for a period of five years, to take responsibility for vocations ministry. He assures the contact between the EVS and the CCEE.

The co-ordinator is responsible for the organisation of the EVS, for the (annual) conference, and for the co-ordination of all activities. The co-ordinator must be the director of a National Vocations Service. The co-ordinator is elected by an absolute majority of the votes cast. The term of office of the co-ordinator is three years.

The two deputies, elected on a single ballot, support the co-ordinator, and are also responsible for the activities of the executive committee. They are elected by a simple majority. The term of office of the two deputies is concurrent with that of the co-ordinator.

The executive committee may co-opt other members.

#### Conference

The EVS conference normally takes place in a different country each year. It has as its objective the realisation of the aims of the EVS. The conference is prepared by the executive committee, and presided over by the executive committee. It is open to :

- The directors and members of the National Vocations Service
- The secretary-general of the CCEE

<sup>1</sup> Conclusive document of the II International Congress of Bishops and others with Responsibilities for Ecclesiastical Vocations, Rome 10-16 May 1981, #58

<sup>2</sup> The EVS recommends that there be one vocations service for each bishops' conference, which takes responsibility for vocations to ordained ministry and to religious / consecrated life. We recognise that circumstances differ from country to country. If the bishops of a multi-lingual country have established more than one vocations service, or if there is a separate national centre for consecrated life, these additional centres may request membership of the EVS. The decision on this application will be made by the Executive Committee, and will subsequently be placed before the assembly of members for ratification. In all decisions and elections, the principle of "one Episcopal conference, one vote" In the event that a country has no National Vocations Service, a Diocesan Vocations Service which has been duly delegated to do so, may take the place of the National Vocations Service.

<sup>3</sup> A deputy co-ordinator need not be the director of a National Vocations Service

- Those responsible for vocations ministry on behalf of the Holy See
- Representatives of the conference(s) of major superiors, and of the secular institutes of Europe
- Other persons or bodies invited by the executive committee of EVS.<sup>4</sup>

In so far as the election of officers, and voting on motions is concerned, only the National Services have the right to vote, each National Service having one vote.

The costs of the conference are born by the participants.

**Activities:**

The EVS will develop common activities for the promotion of vocations ministry, e.g., congresses, exchange programmes, formation etc.

**Period of Validity:**

This statute formally approved by the Conference in 2002, once ratified by the presidency of the CCEE, will apply for the period 2003-2006. After three years the statute will be reviewed. If it has proven satisfactory, it will be presented at the assembly of the CCEE for ratification.

Warsaw, 14<sup>th</sup>. December, 2002 (Gaudete Sunday)

Fr. Rainer Birkenmaier (Co-ordinator EVS)

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<sup>4</sup>

From time to time the bishops who are responsible for vocations ministry in each country will be invited to take part in the EVS conference.