

# CONFERENCE OF CANTONAL GOVERNMENTS

As at 24 March 2006

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## **Convention**

(English translation for information purposes only)

## **Convention on the Conference of Cantonal Governments of 8 October 1993**

The governments of the Cantons of Zurich, Bern, Lucerne, Uri, Schwyz, Obwalden, Nidwalden, Glarus, Zug, Fribourg, Solothurn, Basel-Stadt, Basel-Landschaft, Schaffhausen, Appenzell Ausserrhoden Appenzell Innerrhoden, St. Gallen, Graubünden, Aargau, Thurgau, Ticino, Vaud, Valais, Neuchâtel, Geneva and Jura hereby conclude the following Convention:

### **Article 1 Establishment and object of the Conference of Cantonal Governments**

<sup>1</sup> The governments of the cantons hereby establish a permanent "Conference of Cantonal Governments".

<sup>2</sup> Its purpose is to promote cooperation between the cantons within the scope of their powers, and to ensure the necessary coordination between and information to the cantons in canton-related Confederation matters, specifically in issues concerning:

- the renewal and continued development of federalism;
- the division of tasks between the Confederation and the cantons;
- participation in the federal decision-making process;
- the implementation of federal tasks by the cantons;
- foreign and integration policy.

### **Article 2 Members**

<sup>1</sup> The members of the Conference of Cantonal Governments are the cantonal governments.

<sup>2</sup> Each cantonal government is entitled to one seat in the Conference. The method by which delegates are appointed, and their period of office, are determined by the cantonal governments themselves.

<sup>3</sup> The cantonal governments may send additional government representatives to the Conference. In such cases, each cantonal government shall continue to have one vote. Cantonal delegates may, in exceptional circumstances, be accompanied by additional members of staff or by experts.

### **Article 3**

#### **Cooperation with the federal authorities**

<sup>1</sup> The Federal Council is invited to participate in the meetings of the Conference of Cantonal Governments.

<sup>2</sup> It may request that the Conference of Cantonal Governments discuss and take decisions on items of business which affect the interests of the cantons.

<sup>3</sup> The Conference of Cantonal Governments shall ensure proper coordination with other institutions in vertical cooperation.

### **Article 4**

#### **Cooperation with the Conferences of Cantonal Ministers**

The Conference of Cantonal Governments shall cooperate with the Conferences of Cantonal Ministers and with the other inter-cantonal conferences.

### **Article 5**

#### **Constituent bodies**

The Conference of Cantonal Governments is composed of the following constituent bodies

- the Plenary Conference, comprising representatives of all cantonal governments;
- the Board, comprising between nine and eleven members<sup>1</sup>;
- a permanent Secretariat, which reports to the Committee.

### **Article 6**

#### **I. Plenary Conference**

##### **1. Tasks**

<sup>1</sup> The Plenary Conference elects the following for a two-year period of office. Re-election is permitted once:

- the President
- the Board.

<sup>2</sup> It appoints the Secretariat.

<sup>3</sup> It also takes all decisions which do not fall within the competence of another constituent body.

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<sup>1</sup> Amendment entered into force following the resolution of the plenary meeting on 24 March 2006.

**Article 7**  
**2. Ordinary meetings**

<sup>1</sup> The Plenary Conference holds two ordinary meetings each year. The dates of those meetings are determined by the Plenary Conference in advance.

<sup>2</sup> The members of the Conference receive written invitations to the meetings at least ten days in advance.

- <sup>3</sup> Items for inclusion in the agenda may be submitted by
- the Board;
  - any cantonal government;
  - the Conferences of Cantonal Ministers.

**Article 8**  
**3. Extraordinary meetings**

<sup>1</sup> The President shall convene the Plenary Conference for extraordinary meetings at the request of

- the Board, or
- at least three cantons.

<sup>2</sup> In particularly urgent cases

- the invitation deadline set out in Art. 7 para. 2 may be shortened;
- the form of the invitation may be simplified;
- decisions may be made by means of circular letter, in which cases Articles 9 and 10 continue to apply by analogy.

**Article 9**  
**4. Deliberations and voting**

<sup>1</sup> The Plenary Conference is quorate when the representatives of at least eighteen cantons are present.

<sup>2</sup> Each cantonal government has one vote.

<sup>3</sup> The Plenary Conference may set out further details of its deliberations and voting process in its Rules of Procedure.

**Article 10**  
**5. Opinions**

<sup>1</sup> Where the Plenary Conference takes a decision by a majority vote of eighteen cantonal governments, the resolution is deemed to be an opinion on the part of the Conference of Cantonal Governments.

<sup>2</sup> The cantons retain the right to issue their own opinion.

**Article 11**  
**II. Board**  
**1. Tasks**

<sup>1</sup> The Board is the highest executive and management body within the Conference of Cantonal Governments. It deals with day-to-day business and prepares the meetings of the Plenary Conference.

<sup>2</sup> It may establish permanent or non-permanent specialist committees and appoint specialist officers to deal with individual submissions or major areas of business.

**Article 12**  
**2. Meetings**

The President convenes the Board as often as business so requires, or when requested by one of the members.

**Article 13**  
**III. Secretariat**

<sup>3</sup> The Secretariat is responsible for preparing the meetings of the Plenary Conference and the Board, as well as for keeping minutes of those meetings.

<sup>4</sup> It ensures a proper and continuous flow of information and documentation to the internal bodies of the Conference, and to the cantons and other interested parties.

## **Article 14 Financing**

The costs of the Conference of Cantonal Governments are shared between the cantons in proportion to the number of inhabitants in each canton.

## **Article 15 Entry into force**

This Convention enters into force one month following the day on which all cantonal governments declare their consent to it in writing. The depositary is the Cantonal Government of the Canton of Bern.

## **Article 16 Notification to the Federal Council**

The Cantonal Government of the Canton of Bern shall bring the Convention to the attention of the Federal Council immediately all written notifications of consent to the Convention have been received.

## **Article 17 Termination**

<sup>1</sup> Subject to a notice period of six months, any canton may withdraw from the Convention with effect from the end of a calendar year by notifying the President of such an intention in writing.

<sup>2</sup> When a notice of termination has been received, the Conference shall review the possibilities for the continued application of this Convention.

## **Article 18 Publication**

<sup>1</sup> This Convention has been prepared in German, French and Italian.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The cantonal governments shall ensure that the Convention is published appropriately.

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<sup>2</sup> An English translation is available for information purposes only.