

Geneva, August 8th, 1938.

**LEAGUE OF NATIONS**

**INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION ORGANISATION**

**INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS IN  
ARCHITECTURE AND ASSOCIATED ARTS**

**Special Report submitted by M. J. CAIN to the Council of the  
League of Nations (on behalf of the International Committee on  
Intellectual Co-operation)**

At its seventieth session (February 1933), the Council of the League of Nations had before it a proposal by the Government of the United Kingdom for a study of the question of rules for international competitions in architecture.

The Council considered that this proposal was within the scope of the studies entrusted to the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation and that this body could make a useful contribution to it. It therefore instructed the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation to give it a preliminary opinion.

At its fifteenth plenary session, the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation proceeded to examine the different aspects of the question submitted by the Government of the United Kingdom. In its report,<sup>1</sup> it set out certain general considerations, while emphasising that it could not complete its task until it had been able to consult architectural experts.

Only in 1936 did the Committee obtain the credits required for a committee of experts. The results of the first consultation were embodied in a report to the Council (document C.328.M.205.1936). The Committee deduced from the first conclusions of the experts that the task of the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation should be confined to drawing up model rules for international competitions in architecture and associated arts. Indeed, it felt that if the Council of the League of Nations were able, as a result of the step taken by the United Kingdom Government, to recommend rules to facilitate the arrangements for international competitions of this kind, it would go a long way towards meeting the wishes of the professional bodies concerned, as a result of which the Government of the United Kingdom put forward its recommendation.

The Committee on Intellectual Co-operation therefore intimated on that occasion that, in its opinion, it was not desirable to provide in the said rules for the creation of a permanent organisation to supervise international architectural competitions and to work under the auspices of the League.

2. In accordance with the principles thus laid down by the Committee and approved by the Council at its ninety-third session (September 1936), a large number of international associations of architects and organisations representing the so-called associated arts were consulted. These enquiries led to the convening in Paris in April 1938 of a Drafting Committee set up by the Executive Committee of the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation. The Executive Committee had taken care to include in this Drafting Committee, on the one hand, experts belonging to the best qualified international associations and, on the other, the representatives of certain public administrations most interested in the organisation of international competitions.

3. After studying the report and the text of the Rules submitted by the Committee of Experts, the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation considered that this text fully met the intentions of the United Kingdom Government and adopted a favourable resolution on the matter.

<sup>1</sup> Document A.14.1933.XII.

The Committee's report also contains a recommendation to which the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation devoted careful attention — namely, that a special body should be set up which would be responsible for the supervision of international competitions. A similar body was contemplated in the memorandum transmitted by the United Kingdom Government to the League Council on February 3rd, 1933.

The Committee of Experts did not, however, overlook the difficulties which, at the present time at any rate, might be encountered in creating such a body. It accordingly recommended the setting-up, by the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation, at the request of Governments, of temporary committees for each particular case, to see that the competition proceedings were regular.

The International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation recognises that this proposal of the Committee of Experts is undoubtedly calculated to ensure greater respect for the principles and rules laid down.

It accordingly approved the addition to the Rules of a special paragraph in the sense proposed by the Committee of Experts :

“ X. *International Technical Assistance for the Organisation of Competitions.*

“ 59. Organisers of international competitions may, through their Governments and for each particular case, request the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation to set up an *ad hoc* committee of experts, consisting of specialists in the subject of the competition, which would be placed at the disposal of the organisers, to act as technical adviser, during the competition.

“ 60. The Committee may be called upon to co-operate in drawing up the programme, and it will take steps subsequently to see that the competition proceedings are regular and that the conditions are observed.

“ Subject to the application of Article 56, the Committee may lend its good office for the settlement of difficulties that may arise between organisers and competitors.

“ The committee of experts will consist of three members, including one national of the applicant country.

“ The programme of the competition will define the rôle and the duties and powers of the committee thus constituted.

“ All costs connected with the constitution of the committee and its secretariat shall be borne by the organisers.

“ 61. Decisions taken by the experts appointed by the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation shall not involve the responsibility of the latter, and such decisions cannot accordingly form the subject of an appeal to the Organisation.”

RESOLUTION

The International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation,  
Approving the Rules for International Competitions in Architecture and Associated Arts drawn up by the Committee of Experts at its meeting in Paris on April 20th :

Pays a tribute to the work done by the experts ;

Considers that the task begun in 1933 by the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation at the request of the Council of the League, in accordance with the suggestions made by the United Kingdom Government, has now been completed ;

Transmits to the Council of the League the Rules thus completed by the Committee ;  
and

Requests the Council to be good enough to authorise the communication of this text to the States Members of the League and non-member States, for the guidance of administrations organising international or national competitions in architecture, town-planning and associated arts.

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Appendix

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS IN ARCHITECTURE AND ASSOCIATED ARTS

REPORT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

The Committee set up by the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation met at Paris on April 6th and 7th, 1938, at the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation. It was composed as follows :

*Chairman.*

M. Ch. DE VISSCHER, Member of the Permanent Court of International Justice,  
The Hague.

*Members.*

*Representatives of the Permanent International Committee of Architects :*

M. Paul VISCHER, *Chairman* (Basle) ;

M. C. PONTREMOLI, Honorary Director of the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts (Paris);

Mr. H. P. CART DE LAFONTAINE, Secretary of the British Section of the Permanent International Committee of Architects (London).

*Representatives of "International Meetings of Architects":*

M. August PERRET, *Chairman*; assisted by  
M. P. VAGO, Secretary-General (Paris).

*Representing Public Administrations:*

M. Léon YUNGO, Director of "Constructions fédérales suisses" (Berne).

*Representing the International Union of Local Authorities:*

Jonkheer M. J. I. DE JONGE VAN ELLEMEET, ex-Director of the Rotterdam Housing and Building Services.

The Committee's task was defined in paragraph (b) of the resolution adopted by the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation at its eighteenth session (July 1936), dealing with international competitions in architecture and the associated arts.

According to this resolution, its task was to prepare a draft model set of regulations for international competitions in architecture and the associated arts. The draft model set of Rules thus prepared would be submitted to the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, which reserved the right to submit it to the Council of the League of Nations for such recommendations as it might then deem to be opportune.

The Committee feels that it has performed the task entrusted to it in drawing up a body of Rules for the guidance of organisers of international competitions in architecture and associated arts. In the Committee's opinion, some of these Rules might, also with suitable adaptations, be used by organisers of national competitions.<sup>1</sup>

In submitting this draft text to the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, the Committee thinks it advisable to attach the following observations:

(a) The Committee felt it was better not to give this draft the character of Rules strictly so called. It thought that it would be more consonant with the intentions of the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation itself if it evolved, from a few general principles tested by experience, Rules sufficiently elastic to be adaptable to particular circumstances and to meet the various requirements inherent both in the geographical situation and in the respective traditions, customs and needs of the various countries.

Nevertheless, the Committee thinks that this draft constitutes a single whole and that its unity should be maintained.

(b) A thorough study of the various aspects of the problem convinced the Committee that respect for the principles and Rules laid down in the draft would be better secured by the creation of a special body responsible for the supervision of international competitions. A similar body was contemplated in the memorandum on international architectural competitions laid before the Council of the League of Nations by the United Kingdom Government (February 3rd, 1933).

The Committee does not, however, overlook the difficulties which, at the present time at any rate, might be encountered in creating and operating such a body.

(c) Should the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation consider itself unable to recommend the setting-up of a new body, the Committee suggests that organisers of international competitions might be given the following option:

Such organisers might, through their respective Governments and for each particular case, ask the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation to set up an *ad hoc* Committee of three experts on the subject of the competition, one of whom would be a national of the country making the application. This Committee, which would have an essentially temporary character and a specific task, would enhance the moral guarantees offered to competitors and would ensure the proper organisation of the competition. Similarly, the Committee would see that the proceedings were regular and the stipulated conditions observed. It might also be able to clear up any difficulties arising from non-observance of certain clauses in the programme. The experts thus appointed might be regarded as the technical advisers of the organisers of the competition.

The announcements regarding the competition might define the functions of these experts, stipulate in advance the remuneration they would receive and, generally speaking, give them all the moral authority required.

*Conclusion.*

In endeavouring to discharge the task entrusted to it by the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, the Committee has by no means overlooked the factors which in present circumstances might impede the organisation of international competitions. Among these may be mentioned more particularly the unfavourable financial and economic outlook and the obligation incumbent on States to protect the interests of their own architects, artists and technical experts.

<sup>1</sup> M. de Jonge van Ellemeet, a member of the Drafting Committee, entered a reservation regarding the last sentence in this paragraph. He considers that the adaptation to national competitions of rules designed for international competitions would be by no means easy, particularly as regards the optional anonymity rule.

Nevertheless, the Committee feels that the task undertaken has a topical character and has lost none of its importance in the field of international collaboration. The action which the United Kingdom suggests that the League of Nations should take in this connection may lead Governments and organisers of competitions to adopt uniform and flexible rules calculated gradually to reduce a number of the more serious obstacles to the organisation of international competitions.

The Committee has tried to reconcile the views and interests involved, both those of the organisers of competitions and those of competitors. It considered that the principles and rules laid down should have the twofold effect of enhancing the guarantees offered to architects and artists and of encouraging better results from international competitions. While architects and artists find that international competitions afford wider possibilities of making their influence felt and securing employment, the external collaboration also gives organisers better chances of encouraging new and original work. Moreover, by attracting the best competitors, well-organised international competitions should ensure the submission of better schemes and, consequently, the adoption of better solutions.

It has been the Committee's constant conviction that fair competition in the artistic and technical sphere is particularly calculated to serve the cause of the artists themselves and to promote the advance of culture in general.

In this spirit, the Committee trusts that it has made a useful contribution to the work of intellectual co-operation.

#### Annex

### RULES FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS IN ARCHITECTURE, TOWN-PLANNING AND ASSOCIATED ARTS

#### I. AIM AND SCOPE OF THE REGULATIONS

1. The present Rules are intended as suggestions and as guidance in drawing up programmes for international competitions in the joint interest of the organisers and the competitors.

2. These Rules refer to international competitions in architecture, town-planning and associated arts.

3. Any competition is considered to be international if architects, town-planners, engineers, artists or decorators in the widest meaning of these words belonging to more than one country are invited to take part by the organisers.

4. The present Rules apply to any competition if the organisers mention them at the head of the programme.

#### II. ORGANISATION AND PUBLICITY OF COMPETITIONS

5. The conditions and the programme of an international competition must be identical for all competitors.

6. The announcement of an international competition with a statement of the general conditions must appear in the newspapers and technical journals of the principal countries, as far as possible simultaneously, and in sufficient time to allow the persons concerned to obtain the complete programme as soon as the competition is opened.

7. This announcement must mention the institution in which the complete programme of the competition and the documents relating thereto are to be deposited in each country.

8. In order to enable the persons concerned to make certain at any moment that the conditions of the programme communicated to them are the same for all countries and all competitors, a copy of the programme must be deposited with the Arts Department of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, together with a list of the institutions at which the complete programme and annexed documents have been deposited in the various countries.

9. Any programme not published in a widely understood language must be accompanied by a translation into at least one of such languages.

10. In principle, the organisers of an international competition must employ the metre as a standard of measurement in the plans; otherwise, equivalents in metres must be annexed to the programme.

11. The international competitions may be public or restricted. Competitions are regarded as public if they are open without exception to the technicians of two or more countries. They are considered as restricted if they are limited to certain technicians invited by the organisers.

12. International competitions may be in one or two stages.

13. The programme of competitions must state whether the plans are to be signed or anonymous.

### III. PREPARATION OF THE PROGRAMMES

14. The programme must distinguish clearly between compulsory and essential conditions and conditions which allow the competitors a certain latitude of interpretation. The compulsory and essential conditions must be sufficiently limited to allow the competitors the greatest possible liberty of expression.

15. The programme of an international competition in one or two stages, public or restricted, must clearly state the intentions of the organisers. It must lay down all the conditions with which the work must comply — that is to say, the necessary main elements for drawing up the plan.

16. The programme must specify the number and kind, the scale and the dimensions of the designs and documentary material requested; it must state the conditions on which the documents and designs are received, accepted and returned; it must lay down the rules with which the competitor must comply in submitting reports, specifications and estimates; it must indicate the units of cost and the maximum cost involved in carrying out the plan.

17. The organisers must endeavour to reduce to a minimum the number and dimensions of the documents and designs requested for each of the tests.

### IV. APPLICATION AND ADMISSION OF COMPETITORS

18. As soon as the competitors have taken note of the entire programme, they must apply to the organisers in their own name or, in the case of an anonymous competition, they must make use of a motto. This application implies the competitors' acceptance of the conditions of the competition.

19. In competitions in two stages only, the competitors who have been passed by the jury in the first stage are admitted to the final competition.

20. The list of competitors admitted to the final competition is drawn up in alphabetical order.

21. For the second stage of the test, the competitors admitted must receive from the organisers, in accordance with the decision of the jury for each particular case, any further information calculated to facilitate the preparation of the plans intended for the final test.

22. The organisers of an international competition must furnish the competitors with all the documentary material necessary for drawing up their plans. If the documentary material has been provided against payment of a sum of money, this sum must be refunded to the competitors who have actually taken part in the competition.

### V. AWARD OF PRIZES, REWARDS AND COMPENSATION

23. The programme of every international competition must fix the method of distributing prizes; the value of the prizes should be proportionate to the extent of the programme, the work accomplished and the expenditure incurred by the competitors.

24. In fixing prizes for competitions of ideas (town-planning, improvement of country districts, etc.), the organisers must take account of the fact that these prizes normally constitute the only remuneration for the ideas and work of the authors and that they should therefore be on as generous a scale as possible.

25. In competitions of ideas, when the jury decides, in the interest of the work to be carried out, to borrow parts of the ideas contained in the plan, the remuneration must form the subject of special agreements between organisers and competitors.

26. The special character of the prizes provided for a competition of ideas must not exclude possible co-operation by the author in carrying out the work.

27. The prizes must be paid at the latest within three months after the results of the competition have been announced.

28. The programme must state the exact use which the organisers of the competition propose to make of the prize-winning plans.

They may not be used for any other purpose than that explicitly stated in the programme. If the organisers propose to make a different use of, or to make any change in, the plan selected, such use or change must form the subject of fresh agreements between the organisers and the author of the plan.

29. The payment of the prize and the award of the execution of the plan receiving first prize merely confer on the organisers of the competition the right to the material property of the plan.

30. In the case of a restricted competition, remuneration must be provided for each of the competitors invited to take part, without prejudice to the regulation prizes.

31. The grant of first prize to a plan implies an obligation on the part of the organisers of the competition to entrust the execution of the work to the author of the prize-winning plan.

But if the author who has obtained the first prize cannot produce adequate professional references, the jury may request him to choose a technical expert who possesses such references and is approved by the jury to assist in carrying out the work.

32. The programme must make provision for cases where the organisers have not proceeded to carry out the plan within one year after the decision has been given, and must specify the percentage rates or the compensation payable in this case to the author.

Should, however, the plan be subsequently carried out under the direction of the author, the amount thus paid will be deducted from the fees due to him for carrying out the work.

33. In a competition in two stages, equitable remuneration must be paid to every competitor admitted to the final competition. This amount, which is intended to cover the cost of preparing plans for the final competition, must be stated in the programme of the competition and must be distinct from the prizes provided for the final test.

34. The insurance of the competitors' plans is payable by the organisers. The amount of the insurance may not exceed that of the highest prize.

35. If a competition for which competitors have entered in accordance with the rules is cancelled, the organisers are under the obligation to remunerate work actually carried out by the entrants.

36. If a competition is cancelled, the following rules must be observed :

(a) The competition may not be cancelled later than two months before the expiry of the time-limit prescribed for handing in the competitors' plans ;

(b) Whenever a competition is cancelled, the competitors will be requested individually to suspend their work and, if they think fit, to communicate it immediately in its existing form to the organisers. The jury must fix the compensation payable to the competitors according to the extent of the work already performed.

37. The programme must mention the measures taken by the organisers in order to guarantee to the competitors the payment of the prizes, rewards or compensation provided for the competition. It must also state the name of the establishment with which the amounts placed at the disposal of the jury for this purpose have been deposited. Such deposit must not be made available to the organisers until the final validation of the competition, in accordance with Section 58.

## VI. AUTHORS' RIGHTS

38. The author of a plan retains the entire artistic ownership of his work ; no change may be made in it without his explicit consent.

39. All the plans, other than the first, which have been awarded prizes or acquired by the organisers only become their property if this is provided for by a special condition in the programme. In any case, rights of reproduction of the plans are reserved for the authors.

40. The organisers of the competition may not reserve any right to the plans which have not been awarded prizes except that of temporarily exhibiting them.

## VII. ORGANISATION AND WORKING OF THE JURY

41. The jury must consist of persons of different nationalities and must be of as small a number as possible ; the majority of the members must be specialists in the work forming the subject of the competition.

42. The proceedings of the jury must be presided over by a lawyer without the right to vote. The jury appoints a vice-chairman and a rapporteur from among its members who are specialists in the work forming the subject of the competition.

43. The jury is set up as soon as the competition is open. The list of the members of the jury and, if necessary, their substitutes must be annexed to the programme of the competition.

44. The members, in agreeing to form part of the jury, enter into an obligation on their honour not to be guided in the discharge of their duties by any consideration other than those imposed by their conscience and the interest of the competition.

45. None of the members of the jury may take part either directly or indirectly in the competition or be entrusted directly or indirectly with work relating to the execution of the successful plan.

46. The decisions of the jury are taken by a majority of votes for each of the plans. Minutes of the meetings are drawn up by the rapporteur and signed by the Chairman and by all the members of the jury.

47. Designs, photographs, models and documents other than those specified in the programme may not be taken into consideration and must be ruled out by the jury before any examination.

48. Before the judgment is given, any plan may be ruled out by the committee and excluded from the competition if the essential conditions of the programme have not been observed by the competitor.

49. All the decisions of the jury must be accompanied by reasons and must be published.

### VIII. EXHIBITION OF THE PLANS

50. In the case of each competition, the entrants must be notified by the organisers of the place and date of the public exhibition in time for the notification to reach the competitors in the various countries. The organisers must announce the place and date of such exhibition and the hours of admission in the same newspapers and technical journals that published the general conditions of the programme.

51. The public exhibition is compulsory after the judgment of all the plans of the competition and also comprises the documents and designs, the estimates of costs and the report and decisions of the jury signed by the Chairman and by all the effective members.

52. In the case of competitions in two stages, the plans submitted at the first test must remain secret until judgment is given at the final test.

53. Plans excluded from the competition are exhibited with a statement of the reasons for the jury's decision.

54. The exhibition must be open free of charge to the public for at least one week.

55. After the closing of the competition and of the public exhibition, the plans which have not been awarded prizes or have not been purchased must be sent to the competitors at the cost of the organisers within one month.

### IX. RULES REGARDING DISPUTES

56. The programmes of the international competitions must contain an arbitration clause.

Such arbitration may be carried out either by a sole arbitrator selected by the parties or by two arbitrators selected by each of them respectively. In the latter case, if the two arbitrators disagree, the parties may apply to the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation for the appointment of an umpire.

The cost of arbitration is payable by the parties in the proportion to be fixed by the arbitrator, or by one of the parties only if the arbitrator so decides.

Any request for arbitration must be accompanied by the payment of security to cover the cost which may be incurred. The amount and method of paying such security must be fixed in advance in the programme of the competition.

57. Complaints by competitors in connection with the jury's decisions may only relate to the non-observance of the conditions of the competition. The classification of the successful plans may not form the subject of any complaint by the competitors.

58. In order that a complaint may be entertained, it must be notified to the organisers within four months after the decisions have been given by the jury. After that date, the operations of the competition may no longer be contested and the results are considered as final.

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### PARAGRAPHS ADDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION

#### X. *International Technical Assistance for the Organisation of Competitions.*

59. Organisers of international competitions may, through their Governments and for each particular case, request the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation to set up an *ad hoc* committee of experts, consisting of specialists in the subject of the competition, which would be placed at the disposal of the organisers, to act as technical adviser, during the competition.

60. The Committee may be called upon to co-operate in drawing up the programme, and it will take steps subsequently to see that the competition proceedings are regular and that the conditions are observed.

Subject to the application of Article 56, the Committee may lend its good office for the settlement of difficulties that may arise between organisers and competitors.

The committee of experts will consist of three members, including one national of the applicant country.

The programme of the competition will define the rôle and the duties and powers of the committee thus constituted.

All costs connected with the constitution of the committee and its secretariat shall be borne by the organisers.

61. Decisions taken by the experts appointed by the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation shall not involve the responsibility of the latter, and such decisions cannot accordingly form the subject of an appeal to the Organisation.

