

ADVERTISEMENT

Nomination of an Irish candidate for election as member to the Council of Europe European Committee of Social Rights

The Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Ms Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD, is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced persons for consideration for selection as the candidate nominated by Ireland for consideration by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to fill a vacancy arising on the Council of Europe's European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR). If there is more than one candidate for the vacancy the Committee of Ministers will hold an election by secret ballot.

Term of Office

The term of office is for a six year period commencing on 1st January 2017 until 31st December 2022.

Role of the European Committee of Economic and Social Rights (ECSR)

The European Committee of Social Rights has 15 independent, impartial members which are elected by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers for a period of six years, renewable once.

Details of the work of the ECSR and its current membership are available at the following link:

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/turin-european-social-charter/european-committee-of-social-rights>

The ECSR has responsibility for the following tasks:

- Examining reports submitted by States Parties to the European Social Charter (either the 1961 Charter or the 1996 Revised Charter) and making a legal assessment of the conformity of national situations with the Charter;
- Examining collective complaints lodged under the 1995 Protocol to the European Social Charter, deciding on admissibility and rendering decisions on the merits of the complaints.

According to Article 25 of the European Social Charter as amended by the Turin Protocol, the Committee members must be “of the highest integrity and of recognised competence in national and international social questions”.

In application of Rule 4 of the Committee’s Rules:

“Before taking up duties, each member of the Committee shall, at the first meeting of the Committee at which the member is present after election, make the following declaration: ‘I solemnly declare that I will exercise my functions as a member of this Committee with the requirements of independence, impartiality and availability inherent in my office and that I will keep secret the Committee’s deliberations’.”

Qualifications

Members of the ECSR should have a legal background and relevant human rights expertise, preferably with judicial experience, especially in the field of economic and social rights.

Commitment

Members of the ECSR will be required to be available as follows:

- 7 sessions per year, each lasting 5 days.
- Meetings held in States in the framework of the procedure on non-accepted provisions of the European Social Charter.
- Missions to assist States in European Social Charter matters, including preparation for ratification.
- Information meetings on the European Social Charter.

Allowances

Travel expenses are paid by the Council of Europe. Members of the ECSR receive a per diem of €323 per session day and an allowance for work at home of €147 per day.

Nomination process and how to apply

Selection will be based on an examination of the expressions of interest received. A shortlist of the most suitable candidates will be placed before the Minister for consideration. The factors that will be considered will be:

- Educational and academic and other qualifications.
- Breadth of international experience.
- The extent of domestic expertise in the field of economic and social rights.
- Publications, other works or equivalent.

The Minister may, at her discretion, consider and select a person from outside this list.

The name of the person selected will be forwarded to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for transmission to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Applicants should note that selection as the Irish candidate does not guarantee election to the ECSR. In order to ensure regional balance on the ECSR, States are divided into regional groupings for the purposes of filling seats on the Committee. One vacancy arises in the regional group of which Ireland is a member. In the event other States in that Group put forward a candidate for the vacancy, the Committee of Ministers will hold an election by secret ballot at one of its meetings in the autumn of 2016 to fill the vacancy.

How to Apply

You should apply by submitting;

- (a) a detailed CV; and
- (b) a covering letter outlining your significant achievements and experience, and the relevance of your expertise to the requirements of membership of the ECSR.

Both documents at (a) and (b) above must be emailed to socialcharter@djei.ie.

Questions and Inquiries

If there are issues on which you require clarification please email socialcharter@djei.ie.

Closing Date

Your curriculum vitae and covering letter should reach the above mentioned email address not later than 12.00 midnight on Friday 2nd September 2016.