

## Statutes of the Swiss Communist Party

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Published: *l'Etincelle (Spark) No 12 December 1964 pp13-18*

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### A. CONSTITUTION, SEAT AND GOALS

- Article 1 - The **SWISS** COMMUNIST PARTY, hereafter known as "PCS" was set up in VEVEY, on 1 September 1963. This is an institution set up in accordance with Articles 60 and following of the **Swiss** Civil Code (CCS) and the permit for its creation was issued on 9 September 1963, by the Vevey Prefecture.
- Article 2 - Basically, its seat is located in the settlement or near the place of residence of the secretary general.
- Article 3 - The main GOALS OF THE PCS are the following:
- a. Absolute struggle for the complete political and economic liberation of the **Swiss** working people and the creation of a Socialist society with the total elimination of the exploitation of man by man, through the establishment of a DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT.
  - b. Strict support of the revolutionary MARXIST-LENINIST line.
  - c. Merciless struggle against the oppressors, exploiters, imperialists, capitalists, trusts and revisionists.
  - d. Defense of human rights and of the material and moral interest of the workers.
  - e. Respect for proletarian internationalism and help, according to possibility, to brotherly

- and oppressed peoples, seeking their national liberation and the elimination of oppressing regimes.
- f. Total devotion to brotherly cooperation with a view to strengthening the UNITY WITHIN THE SOCIALIST WORLD and eliminate differences dividing the Communist camp and an attempt to adapt, as rightly as possible, the Marxist-Leninist principles to **SWISS** possibilities and realities.
  - g. The organization of the CLASS STRUGGLE everywhere, and, mainly, within the trade unions.
  - h. The organization of movements with social purposes such as the TRADE UNIONS, youth groups, groups of democratic women, cultural centers and centers for dissemination of materials useful to the cause, centers for help to the handicapped, the widows, the old, the orphans, the invalids, etc; cooperation with sports, arts, etc., circles.
  - i. The organization of any type of institutions serving the working people in cities and villages, in general, bringing them the MARXIST-LENINIST truth through means suitable to the **Swiss** situation but helping the strengthening of proletarian internationalism.

#### B. MEMBERSHIP

Article 4 - The PCS will accept ACTIVE members and SUPPORTING members.

To join, the candidate must fill in a proper formula issued by the Central Office to the Sections and groups. Signing it, he accepts the present bylaws and the party program, expressing, also, his adherence to the decisions of the party majority, and to the orders and directives issued by the latter.

The admission request will be carefully examined by the nearest group committee. If the data is positive, the candidate will be accepted as a SUPPORTING member. Basically, if he wishes to become ACTIVE, he must prove his capabilities and sincerity for a period of six months, this period varying according to the case. If the trial period is positive and the candidate has displayed class consciousness by participating to all party activities, he will then be promoted to ACTIVE

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member. In such a case, he will continue to behave and work within the party as before. The SUPPORTING members must pay the same dues as the active members. The dues are, in principle, based on the value of one working hour, four francs monthly being the minimum. Women, students, apprentices and the handicapped pay membership dues according to their possibilities. In principles, the dues must be paid to the unit leader (10-member unit) at the beginning of the month. The latter, whether having received, or not, must promise, when appointed, to deposit with the central treasurer, by the end of each month, the sum total of the fee of the dues owed. It is he who must see to it that the dues are paid and collected. The members may pay their dues for several months at the time, thus facilitating the work of those in charge. The active and supporting members of the PCS have the DUTY to subscribe to the periodical L'ETINCELLE, the official organ of the party. In addition, each month they will purchase six additional copies, to be sold at 0.50 francs apiece or distributed free of charge. Thus, the administrative official in charge of each group must deposit with the central treasurer the corresponding funds which he will collect from members for whom he is responsible, within the 8 days following the receipt of the periodicals addressed to each above, mentioned person in charge. The sale of those six copies or their distribution is an integral part of the work of an active member. Supporting members are not obliged to carry out this task but it is strongly recommended that they do.

Article 5 - If a member of the PCS is elected in municipal, cantonal or federal elections, he must sign, prior to his election, a power of attorney in favor of the party leadership, giving the latter full rights as to the right to recall his mandate. A member elected to a permanent position must deposit his entire salary with the party leadership which, in turn, will pay him wages equivalent to those of a specialized worker, the balance remaining in the hands of the party, to the benefit of its chest. Members elected to non-permanent positions must deposit half of their net profits from their work in such positions into the party treasury. Salary losses stemming from such

participations to positions of authority and pertaining to professional activities will be reimbursed.

- Article 6 - Unless agreed otherwise in advance, all party members, who are members of a party committee, work free of charge. Expenses will be reimbursed if deemed justifiable by superior organs or by the committee itself.
- Article 7 - No member has the right to put the party under obligation, morally or materially, as an individual. Sanctions will be adopted against anyone who violates this provision. Press or any other interviews must be collectively studied and prepared by a committee in charge.
- Article 8 - The members are obliged to be part of the group nearest to their place of residence, except in special cases allowed by the party leadership.
- Article 9 - Party members elected to positions of authority are subject to party control. In cases of disagreement, the central committee of the PCS may withdraw them at any time, until the next party congress.
- Article 10- Applications forms, filled and signed by the candidates must be submitted to the group which will immediately submit them to the central committee of the party, with its opinion. The Secretary General will then issue the membership card to the candidate following payment of his first dues and the price of a subscription to the periodical L'ETINCELLE. No membership card will be issued without the fulfillment of those two conditions. Each candidate will receive, with these cards, a copy of the current statutes with which he must be familiar prior to his admission request.
- Article 11- Once any as yet unorganized area has three members, they must set up a group and request their affiliation with the regional or cantonal organization within which they are. The latter must do everything possible to facilitate the task of the new group, setting it on its way and giving it brotherly advice.

- Article 12- As soon as there are ten members in a group, the group becomes a section which, then, sets up a committee of at least five members. The sections may include several cells or groups, in precincts, in plants or construction sites. Such groups or cells are under the full control of the committee of the section to which they belong which must receive their activity reports, on a regular basis. The sections must organize the tasks of the active party members and hold a general meeting no less than once a month. Political, civic and Marxist education courses must be regularly organized. in cooperation with regional, cantonal or national party organizations which must coordinate their efforts and operate in close cooperation.
- Article 13- The groups or sections must hold, annually, an ordinary general meeting to elect their committees, according to the general rules of the party, following methods outlined by the present statutes and in accordance with regulations issued by the superior party organs.
- Article 14- Any conflict within a group or section of the party must be moderated by the corresponding cantonal committee. If agreement cannot be thus reached, the matter is referred to the judgement of the central committee of the party whose decision cannot be appealed.
- Article 15- Once any given canton has three groups or sections, they must organize on the cantonal level and adopt a cantonal program fully adapted to the situation and following the Marxist-Leninist line. The cantonal organization will elect a committee to adopt decisions concerning the political program of the canton. The committee will have no less than seven members, with equitable representation of each group or section. The cantonal committees must hold regular meetings no less than once a month.
- Article 16- The cantonal organizations must convene every year in a cantonal congress to which each group or section will delegate two comrades per each ten members or fraction thereof.

Article 17- The cantonal organizations of the PCS must organize on the national level and be an integral part of the national party organization.

Article 18- Any rejection of a request for a party membership, whether on the individual, regional or cantonal levels, is reported to the petitioner without comments. The party leadership does not have to provide explanations on the subject.

Article 19- Any movement concerning, or depending upon, the party, is subject to local, regional, cantonal and national party control and must cooperate in close affiliation with it.

#### C. THE ORGANS OF THE PCS

Article 20- The organs of the PCS are the following:

1. The national Party Congress,
2. The National Party Conference,
3. The General Secretariat of the Party,
4. The Political Bureau of the Party,
5. The Central Committee of the Party,
6. The Financial Commission of the Party,
7. The Central Commission for Political Control,
8. The Auditing Commission,
9. The Press and Propaganda Party Commission.

#### THE NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS

Article 21- The national congress of the PCS is the supreme instance of the party. The central committee must convene it once every two years. It includes the representatives of all the affiliated organizations, in the proportion of one delegate per ten paying members, or fraction thereof. The delegates to the congress must be nominated by the section or group general assembly. Whereas the national party congress may convene, in ordinary session, once every two years, the central committee may, at any time, issue an extraordinary convocation, if such a congress is warranted by urgent and very important questions. Such a congress may be equally convened if one-third of the dues paying members demand it. If, following three requests, by one-third of the above-mentioned members, the superior organization to which the request has been made has not given

a favorable answer, this third membership may duly convene an extraordinary party national congress.

The ordinary congresses are convened following the issuance of a temporary agenda, distributed at least one month before the established date. This period of time may be reduced by half in the convention of an extraordinary congress.

Article 22- In extremely urgent cases, where major circumstances make the convention of a congress impossible, the central committee may take decisions which are, normally the competence of the national congress.

Article 23- The national party congress may decide on the following subjects:

- a. Ratification or rejection of the decisions adopted by the central committee concerning the acceptance or rejection of cantonal or regional or local organizations;
- b. Ratification or amendment of the party program, drafted and submitted by its central committee;
- c. Ratification or rejection of reports by party organs;
- d. Election of party secretary general, of the central secretariat, of the political bureau, of the central committee, of the various commissions listed under the section "Party Organs" of the present statutes;
- e. Discussions and decisions concerning any political or organic question of national importance;
- f. Discussions and decisions concerning the international Marxist-Leninist movement;
- g. The national party congress has the right to determine the amount of dues;
- h. It has the right to revise the party statutes;
- i. To dissolve the party;
- j. To deal with any matters included in the agenda.

No decision may be adopted on a subject not listed in the agenda. This applies to all the party instances, whether on the national, cantonal, regional or local level.

## THE NATIONAL PARTY CONFERENCE

- Article 24- The national party conference may be called ordinarily once a year by the central party committee.  
It may convene, at any time, extraordinarily at the call of the central committee, if urgent problems to be solved make this necessary.
- Article 25- The national party conference has the right to appoint new members to the party organs if some members of such organs have left them or have been dismissed, discuss political and organizational problems of national importance, maintain coordinating activities and brotherly and systematic contacts among all the affiliated organizations. Any affiliated section or group may delegate as many members as it wishes to the national party conference.  
The national party conference has the right to dismiss a member of the central committee adjudged incapable or dishonest with the party, by request of the political bureau. The central committee which may decide on eventual dismissal of members of the political bureau or the central secretariat, must submit its decision to the ratification by the majority of the delegates to the national conference which may, if necessary, rehabilitate the dismissed or suspended member.  
In urgent cases, the central party committee enjoys the rights of the national conference.

## THE CENTRAL SECRETARIAT OF THE PARTY

- Article 26- The central secretariat of the PCS consists of five members, one of which is the party secretary general. The latter is elected separately, by the national congress.  
His four comrades, members of the central secretariat, are elected through a joint ballot at the national party conference. A three-members bureau is elected among the five members. The secretary general is member of the bureau by virtue of his position. The bureau must meet once weekly; its members are elected on the basis of their geographic closeness to one another, for practical reasons. The central secretariat, with all its members present, must meet no less than twice months. Its

five members must include the assistant secretary general and the central treasurer. The remaining two members should be able to carry out important tasks. They will be chosen from two different areas, one from German Switzerland, if possible, and one from Italian Switzerland.

Article 27- The central secretariat of the party must attend to all the urgent tasks of the party and supervise all party activities. It settles problems by correspondence. It is in charge of the organization of party political education. It must convene the political bureau and the central committee and report its activities to the latter, at each meeting. It is in charge of the general organization of the party and of its press. If serious and urgent cases prevent the convocation of the central committee, the secretariat assumes its rights and obligations.

#### THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE PARTY

Article 28- The political bureau of the PCS is elected by the national congress. The members of the central secretariat are members ex officio. It consists of 12 members, all capable of assuming important responsibilities. They are, in principle, elected throughout the areas of the country having PCS sections or groups. Each member has an organizational position in the party. Each one must report of his activities at the meetings of the central committee. In principle, the political bureau is the executive arm of the central committee. It meets once every five weeks, convened by the central secretariat. The central committee assigns functions of every member of the political bureau.

#### THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PCS

Article 29- The central committee of the PCS consists of 24 members, at least, elected by the national party congress, as well as six candidate members who take the place of absent, resigned or dismissed members. It is convened by the central secretariat and meets no less than once every eight weeks.

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- Article 30- The powers of the central committee of the PCS are as follows:
- a. Acceptance or rejection of cantonal or local organizations, subject to ratification by the next national party congress to be held.
  - b. Ratification or refusal to accept individual dismissals submitted by a section or group committee, its decision being final.
  - c. Adoption of decisions on the political line to be followed on the national level, concrete organization of peasant and worker struggles.
  - d. Supervision over the activities of the central secretariat and the political bureau of the PCS.
  - e. Supervision of activities of party sections, groups and commissions.
  - f. Drafting of organizational rules.
  - g. Decisions on ordinary and special membership dues.
  - h. Decisions on the convocation of PCS conferences or congresses.
  - i. Various items included in the agenda.

The 12 members of the political bureau are ex officio members of the central committee.

#### THE PARTY FINANCIAL COMMISSION

- Article 31- The financial commission of the PCS consists of no less than 7 members in charge of administering the financial matters of the party in cooperation with the central committee. The central treasurer presides over the commission.
- The tasks of these seven members are to find the financial means necessary to the existence of the party and its press. To this effect, they must organize all types of activities providing that they are honest and profitable. Thus, this commission is in charge of the financial management of the party.
- Financial management of the official newspaper does not fall within its competence, its accounts being an entirely different matter. However, if the party press has shown a profit, it belongs entirely to the party. The administrative committee of L'ETINCELLE must submit detailed accounts on the newspaper prior to each national conference and deposit the available funds with the central treasurer of the party at this occasion.

## THE CENTRAL COMMISSION FOR PARTY POLITICAL CONTROL

Article 32- This commission is elected by the national congress and, basically, consists of five members who are not members of the central committee of the PCS. Its tasks are to watch over the physical and moral health of the party and control discipline and the implementation of decisions adopted by the national congresses to which it submits its reports.

## THE AUDITING COMMISSION

Article 33- The auditing commission consists of two joint sections, appointed by the national congress. Those sections appoint two members each. These members must not have been elected to the national organs of the party. These four comrades are in charge of supervising party treasury each six months and to immediately report any irregularity or suspicious event. If everything is in order, a report must be submitted at the national congress supporting the treasurer's report. The sections in charge of auditing are appointed for periods of two years.

## THE PARTY PRESS AND PROPAGANDA COMMISSION

Article 34- This commission is elected by the national congress to which it reports its activities. It must cooperate closely with the central committee. It is divided into two sections, one in charge of direct party propaganda, and the other of the publication of L'ETINCELLE or any other official organ acknowledged by the PCS. The central committee supervises its activities. It consists of no less than six members distributed, if possible, among the various regions of the party. Those in charge of propaganda draft pamphlets and disseminate the material drafted and prepared in cooperation with the central party committee. The personnel in charge of the press decide on the articles to be published, edit and proof the articles sent by regional correspondents, if such have been received. Unpublished manuscripts are not returned. The editor in charge of the official newspaper has the right to accept or reject the articles. He is responsible for the newspaper to the party both as regards finances or editorial

matters. The newspaper accounts must be carefully kept. Eventual losses must be covered out of the party treasury and eventual profits, deposited to it.

D. VARIOUS

- Article 35- Every four years, the committees at cantonal and national party levels and, if possible, on the regional and local levels, must be renewed, as regards at least 25% of their members. The leaders must all accept this important article and be willing to submit a resignation if so required by the central committee or by either congress. The members who have been dismissed may be re-elected in four years' time. While not members of committees they must, nevertheless, be active and help the progress of the party, following closely its activities.
- Article 36- The party's liability is limited to its property.
- Article 37- Secret elections are held at all party levels. Except for the four year changes and for the members of the auditing commission, all committee or commission members are re-eligible.
- Article 37- The dissolution of the PCS may take place only if 50% of the delegates to the national congress have so decided. In that case, all party holdings will be given to a social or political establishment selected by the congress.
- Article 38- Party funds will be collected out of the following:
- a. Standard dues,
  - b. Extraordinary dues,
  - c. Collections or various gifts,
  - d. Eventual profits from the party press,
  - e. Profits from various undertakings,
  - f. Other contributions.
- Article 39- The present statutes were partially drafted at the November 1963 national conference, at Clarens, and completed at the first national party congress at Vevey, on 6 September 1964.