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*“Rotary has proved to be capable of  
surrounding the world with its ideals of  
friendship, camaraderie  
and serving others.”*

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*Paul Harris*



# Introduction

In order to encourage contacts between Rotarians and clubs in two or more countries and to promote fellowship and intercultural understanding among the peoples of different nations,

Rotarians, Rotary clubs, or districts are urged to establish Inter-Country Committees formulated by or with the approval of their governors.



**Jonathan Majiyagbe**  
Antibes Juan les Pins  
October 25th 2003

*“They have built bridges of friendship and cooperation and, with their simple, flexible structure, have spread Rotary service to the far reaches of the world and into countries where Rotary was yet unknown.”*

*“We must explore how the development of Inter-Country Committees can contribute to world understanding and the promotion of Rotary’s mission in the world.”*

*“The work of Inter Country Committees has become vital to Rotary as threats to peace have become a constant and growing concern in the world.”*



**Frank Devlyn**  
Lille - March 25th 2001

*“If the ICC’s didn’t exist, they’d have to be invented!”*



**Cliff Dochterman**  
Montpellier - 3th December 1992  
*“The Inter-Country Committees offer clubs and Rotarians other possibilities for assuming our responsibility for world peace”*





# A Brief History

After the First World War (1914-1918), the old demons of nationalism were being revived all over Europe. In 1931, Past Governors Otto Boehler (RC Vienna, District 73) and Georges Bernardot (RC Paris, District 49) created the “Petit Comité Franco-Allemand” at the first Rotary International European Conference in the Hague.

1931

The Committee had to put a stop to its activities in late 1937 when the Nazi government banned German, and subsequently Austrian, Rotary Clubs.

1950

In 1950, Past Governors Roger Coutant and Jean Caroni of the Rotary Club of Lille undertook the difficult task of reestablishing contact with Germany. In Baden Baden (18 May 1950) Robert Hausmann, the first German governor after WWII, organized the first postwar conference in his district. Roger Coutant, accompanied by 7 French Rotarians, called for the rebuilding of Franco-German ties.

Strasbourg

On May 20, 1950, at the District 70 Conference in Strasbourg, the 24 German Rotary Clubs adopted a resolution condemning the violation of “The Rights of Man “.



20 May 1950  
The first Inter-Country  
Committee :  
France-Germany  
was born.

Robert Hausmann



Roger Coutant





# Organization of a I.C.C.



- The founders of a future ICC between two or more countries must each create a national section that is tied to their respective countries and districts.
- The two sections together constitute an Inter-Country Committee.
- Each section is composed of founding Rotarians, clubs and districts. The ICC may take the name of the founding club or district.
- Both sections are autonomous and shall meet at a general meeting once a year, alternating countries (delegates must be able to travel).
- Naturally, Inter-Country Committees are open to Rotaractors, spouses of Rotarians and, possibly, to non-Rotarian associated members.
- National sections must conform to the laws governing their country (in France, under the Law of 1901 concerning Associations).
- Each president shall have a term of 3 years.



## Financing

- Because the organization and functioning of such committees are the independent activities of Rotarians, Inter-Country Committees function at no cost to Rotary International.
- Operating costs for the committees are covered by the Rotarians, clubs and districts that created them.
- Modest fees shall cover the committee's operating costs.





# Projects of the Inter-Country Committees

- First and foremost, Inter-Country Committees are to be Rotary **embassies** in a host country.
- **Their role is to promote group or individual exchanges**, sister partnerships, sponsorship or club-to-club contacts, and to provide information and training to Rotarians if needed.
- The Committee shall participate in, or initiate **World Community Service** projects in educational and humanitarian fields, which will be carried out by districts or clubs.
- The Committee shall focus on **younger generations** by encouraging cultural, professional and social meetings and exchanges.
- The committee supports the development of **key programs of Rotary** International and its Foundation.
- All other activities consistent with the objectives and goals of Rotary International.

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*Funding for major projects comes from clubs and districts, but also via opportunities offered by The Rotary Foundation through Matching Grants.*

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*The associative nature of these committees also allows them to create partnerships with other public organizations : The European Union, Regional and Departmental Councils, municipal and local governments, chambers of commerce, universities, and hospitals*

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# National Coordinators and Executive Council

A National Coordinator manages a section in each country in Zones 10-18. Appointed by the governors involved in the ICC, the coordinator is responsible for promoting the committee (brochures, colloquiums, conferences, websites and any other tool that may be used toward this end).

The Executive Council has the same mission, but with regard to Europe, Africa and the Middle East. The Council is made up of a chairman, two vice-chairmen, a general secretary, a treasurer and international representatives from non - ICC Countries.





# Committees in Western Europe

While we are certainly all working toward goodwill among peoples in each of our corners of the world, it is when two teams (one in each country) come together to achieve this goal that it becomes a veritable mission

## 1 Committees in Western Europe

These committees are built on a network of sister clubs established over a number of years between countries of comparable standards of living. These committees work together and are based on almost perfect reciprocity. Project responsibility is easily undertaken by the clubs involved. Germany, Austria, Belgium-Luxemburg, Great Britain, Spain-Andorra, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland-Liechtenstein.

## 2 Committees in Africa

In the sixties, ICCs focused their attention primarily on the African continent. Many young nations were just beginning to enjoy the benefits of their newfound independence. Here, ICCs focused on building ties and working toward social and economic development through humanitarian and educational projects that called upon the competencies of the Rotary Clubs and the Foundation. African Rotarians would determine their needs and would ensure that Rotary help from the North was channeled to the right areas. ICCs showed solidarity without interfering. Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of Congo, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia and Madagascar.

*The ambition of Inter-Country Committees is to go where they are not yet present, working through exchanges and cooperative projects to develop within Rotary International a force for peace and global solidarity.*





Algeria  
 Andorra  
 Argentinian  
 Australia  
 Austria  
 Belgium  
 Benin  
 Bosnia Herzegovine  
 Brazil  
 Bulgaria  
 Burkina Faso  
 Cambodia  
 Cameroun  
 Canada  
     Quebec  
     Ontario  
     Seaboard provinces  
 China  
 Congo  
 Côte d'Ivoire  
 Croatia  
 Czech Republic  
 Egypt  
 Estonia  
 Germany  
 Greece  
 India  
 Ireland  
 Israel  
 Italy  
 Japan  
 Jordan  
 Korea  
 Latvia  
 Lebanon  
 Liechtenstein  
 Lithuania  
 Luxembourg  
 Madagascar  
 Mali  
 Morocco  
 Mauritania  
 Mexico  
 Moldavia  
 Nigeria  
 New Zealand  
 Poland  
 Portugal  
 Romania  
 Russia  
 Senegal  
 Serbia  
 Slovenia  
 Slovakia  
 South Africa  
 Spain  
 Sweden  
 Swiss  
 The Philippines  
 Togo  
 Tunisia  
 Turkey  
 Ukraine  
 United Kingdom  
 United States  
     Illinois  
     California  
     Louisiana  
     Massachusetts  
 Venezuela  
 Vietnam  
 Zaïre

### 3 Committees in Central and Eastern Europe

The fall of communism in Central Europe throughout the 90s led to a birth and rebirth of Rotary.

ICCs were particularly active and dedicated to Rotary International's growth by sponsoring new clubs.

One fundamental priority of this expansion was the training of new Rotarians who longed to know more about our nongovernmental movement based on freedom and service above self.

**Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine.**

### 4 Committees in the Middle East

At this same point in time, committees started developing in the Middle East with the goal of encouraging peace and goodwill.

**Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.**

### 5 Expanding Inter-Country Committees

#### North America

- A **France-Quebec** committee exists and will be included as part of the larger **France-Canada** ICC with new sections : "**Provinces Maritimes**" and "**Ontario**".

- Likewise, given the great geographic distance and US demarcation by state, **Illinois, Louisiana, California** and **Massachusetts** committees will be part of a greater **France-United States** committee.

#### South America

An **initial** committee has been established with **Brazil** and contacts have been made with Mexico and Argentina.

#### Asia

A committee exists today with **China** and contacts have been made in Vietnam, Cambodia, Japan, India, South Korea and countries in South Asia - India and Philippines.

#### Australia

**Contacts** have been made in Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands.





## LETTER OF AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERCOUNTRY COMMITTEE (I.C.C.)

- **The Board of Directors** recognizes the importance of existing RI intercountry committees and encourages the creation of new committees in all areas of the world.
- The Board advises RI's leadership to include the work of ICCs in their programs for Rotary events, especially the International Assembly where Governors-elect are trained.
- The Board also recommends that RI keep literature at its headquarters as a resource on intercountry committees.

### PROTOCOL

#### Preamble

- In order to encourage contacts between Rotarians and Rotary clubs in two or more countries and to promote fellowship and intercultural understanding among the peoples of various nations.
- Rotarians, Rotary Clubs, or districts are strongly urged to establish intercountry committees with the approval of their governors.
- As an advisory body to governors, intercountry committees may take initiatives, under the existing provisions, to support Rotary projects.

#### Mission

- Their role is to promote individual or group friendship exchanges and in so doing develop a network of twin clubs.
- In Rotarian countries, they shall assist in strengthening the ties of friendship between Rotarians, clubs and districts from foreign countries and thus help them as they sponsor new clubs or develop informal international contacts (cross-border, continental or transcontinental).
- The committee shall participate in or initiate World Community Service projects. However, committees that undertake long-term projects of over 12 months must adhere to the RI guidelines governing multidistrict activities see Chapter 2 (RCP 36.030.3).

#### Organization

- The founders of a future ICC between two or more countries must create a national section that is tied to their respective countries and districts.
- The 2 sections constitute the intercountry committee.
- Each section is composed of Rotarians from the founding clubs and districts. The name of the ICC may take the name of the two countries or of the founding clubs or districts.
- Both sections are autonomous and meet during a general assembly to be held once a year, alternating from one country to the other (delegates must be able to travel).
- Intercountry committees are naturally open to Rotaractors as well as to spouses.
- National sections must abide by the rules governing organizations in their country and as such will have officers including a secretary and a treasurer.
- Each president shall have a term of 3 years. This term is nonrenewable except when no other candidate is available, and then only once.

#### Financing

- Because the organization and functioning of such committees are considered to be independent activities of Rotary Clubs, districts and countries under their own volition, ICCs shall function without financial support from Rotary International.
- Operating costs for the committees are covered by the founding Rotarians, clubs and districts. Modest fees shall cover the committees operating costs.

#### The Executive Council and National Coordinators

- **The Executive Council** sees to the promotion, coordination and supervision of intercountry committees.
- It is composed of a chairman, two vice-chairmen, a general secretary and a treasurer – elected by the Council of National Coordinators. The council shall also include international representatives from non-ICC countries as proposed by the chairman of the Executive Council.
- **The national coordinator**, undertakes the same mission as the Executive Council in his own country. The coordinator is assisted by a secretary and a treasurer.
- The coordinator shall be elected for 3 years by the district governors and the three most recent past district governors in his country or as customary, designated by a council of past governors and governors.
- An annual activity report from each committee shall be submitted to the national coordinator who will in turn address a full report to the Executive Council and the RI General Secretary.

It is in this spirit that the signatories decided to initial this protocol before the handing-over of the charter.