

CHAPTER 3

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

PART I : GENERAL

3.1 On 11 March 2021, the NPC passed the “Decision of the NPC on Improving the Electoral System of the HKSAR”. Pursuant to the Decision, the HKSAR shall establish a CERC which is responsible for reviewing and confirming the eligibility of candidates for the members of EC, the CE, and LegCo members so as to ensure that the qualifications of candidates are in conformity with the Basic Law, the National Security Law, the NPCSC’s interpretation of Article 104 of the Basic Law, the NPCSC’s decision on the qualification of HKSAR LegCo members, and provisions of relevant local laws of the HKSAR. The NPC authorised the NPCSC to amend Annex I to the Basic Law “Method for the Selection of the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region” and Annex II to the Basic Law “Method for the Formation of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Its Voting Procedures”. *[Added in January 2022]*

3.2 In accordance with the Annex I to the Basic Law amended by the NPCSC on 30 March 2021, the CERC is responsible for reviewing and confirming the eligibility of CE candidates. The CERC may request the RO to provide advice to the CERC regarding the nominations of candidates throughout the review. It may also make decision pursuant to the opinion of the Committee on National Security. The Committee on National Security shall, on the basis of the review by the National Security Department of the Hong Kong Police Force, make findings as to whether a CE candidate meets the legal requirements and conditions on “upholding the Basic Law and bearing allegiance to the HKSAR of the People’s Republic of China”, and issue an opinion to the CERC in respect of candidates who fail to meet such legal requirements and conditions.

According to Article 14 of the National Security Law, no institution, organisation or individual in the Region shall interfere with the work of the Committee on National Security. Information relating to the work of the Committee on National Security shall not be subject to disclosure. By virtue of Annex I to the Basic Law and the electoral law, no legal proceedings may be instituted in respect of a decision made by the CERC on the eligibility of a candidate pursuant to the opinion of the Committee on National Security. *[Added in January 2022]*

3.3 Legislative provisions governing the eligibility for being nominated as a candidate at the CE election, the disqualification from being nominated as a candidate, and the requirements to be complied with by nominated candidates are set out respectively in ss 13, 14 and 16 of the CEEO (see Parts II and III of this chapter). *[Amended in January 2022]*

3.4 As stipulated in s 16 of the CEEO, the nomination of a candidate is invalid unless a declaration is made in the nomination form to the effect that he/she stands for the election in an individual capacity, and will uphold the Basic Law and bear allegiance to the HKSAR⁴. In accordance with s 84 of the EP (CEE) Reg, a person who makes a false statement in the nomination form commits a criminal offence, and shall be subject to criminal liability upon conviction. *[Added in January 2022]*

3.5 Under the subsisting law, the validity of a candidate's nomination is solely determined by the CERC. The EAC is neither empowered nor involved in the making of such decision and will not provide any advice. The

⁴ Upholding the Basic Law means to uphold all the provisions of the Basic Law, including:
Article 1: The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China.
Article 12: The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall be a local administrative region of the People's Republic of China, which shall enjoy a high degree of autonomy and come directly under the Central People's Government.
Article 159(4): No amendment to this Law shall contravene the established basic policies of the People's Republic of China regarding Hong Kong.
Please see s 3AA of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap 1) for details of upholding the Basic Law and bearing allegiance to the HKSAR.

EAC will only make practical arrangements for the election according to the validly nominated candidates determined by the CERC. In accordance with s 6 of the EP (CEE) Reg, if the CERC determines that a nomination is invalid, the CERC must endorse on the nomination form the determination and the reason(s) for it, including the reason(s) to determine the invalidation of nomination is/are pursuant to the opinion of the Committee on National Security or other reasons. The RO shall make available a copy of each of the nomination form for public inspection pursuant to s 8 of the Regulation (please refer to para. 3.26 of this chapter). If any person is disqualified from being a candidate at an election, he/she may make an election petition to question the result of the election in accordance with s 32(1) of the CEEO. However, as mentioned in para. 3.2 above, by virtue of Annex I to the Basic Law and the electoral law, no legal proceedings may be instituted in respect of a decision made by the CERC on the eligibility of a candidate pursuant to the opinion of the Committee on National Security. *[Added in January 2022]*

PART II : ELIGIBILITY AND DISQUALIFICATION FOR NOMINATION

Eligibility for Nomination

3.6 To be eligible for nomination as a candidate at a CE election, a person must:

- (a) be a permanent resident of the HKSAR;
- (b) be a Chinese citizen as defined by s 2 of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Passports Ordinance (Cap 539);
- (c) have no right of abode in any foreign country; and

- (d) have reached 40 years of age, and have ordinarily resided in Hong Kong for a continuous period of not less than 20 years.

[S 13 of the CEEO]

“Ordinarily Residing in Hong Kong”

3.7 The definition of “ordinarily residing in Hong Kong” is not set out in the subsisting electoral law. In assessing whether a person “ordinarily resides in Hong Kong”, one needs to take into account a host of factors and the specific situation of each case, and determine according to the relevant judgments of the Court. The conclusion cannot be generalised and one cannot say someone does not “ordinarily reside in Hong Kong” simply because he/she has a place of residence abroad. According to a court precedent⁵, a person is considered ordinarily residing in a place if he/she remains in that place legally, voluntarily and for a settlement purpose (such as for education, employment or residence), regardless of the duration, and even if he/she is temporarily absent from that place for some reasons. The Court also pointed out that a person may ordinarily reside in two places at the same time. *[Added in January 2022]*

3.8 Generally speaking, for a Hong Kong permanent resident who used to reside in Hong Kong all along, if he/she has now set up for personal reasons another residence elsewhere but still returns to live in Hong Kong from time to time (such as for handling personal matters, social gatherings or family reunion), then he/she can still be regarded as maintaining a reasonable connection with Hong Kong. A condition which must be considered in parallel is that in accordance with the electoral law, the person must provide, for the purpose of registration as an elector, a residential address which is his/her only or principal residence in Hong Kong (i.e. not a correspondence address but a residential address where he/she habitually resides when he/she is in Hong

⁵ *Lau San Ching v. Liu Apollonia* (1995) 5 HKPLR 23 citing *R.v. Barnet London Borough Council, ex parte Shah* [1983] 2 AC 309

Kong). Under such circumstances, whether the person still satisfies the statutory requirement of “ordinarily residing in Hong Kong” must be determined according to the actual circumstances of individual case. *[Added in January 2022]*

3.9 To sum up, the individual circumstances of the person must be considered when determining whether that person is “ordinarily residing in Hong Kong”, and it is not a matter capable of summary determination. In case of doubt, a prospective candidate should consult his/her independent legal adviser. *[Amended in January 2022]*

Disqualification for Nomination

3.10 A person is disqualified from being nominated as a candidate, if he/she:

- (a) is the incumbent CE and holds the office for the second consecutive term;
- (b) is a judicial officer, or a prescribed public officer⁶;
- (c) is adjudged bankrupt under the Bankruptcy Ordinance (Cap 6) and has not been discharged under section 30A or 30B of the Ordinance;

⁶ A prescribed public officer means any of the following-

- (i) the Chairman of the Public Service Commission;
- (ii) the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the ICAC and the holder of any other office under the ICAC Ordinance (Cap 204);
- (iii) the Ombudsman and the holder of any appointment under s 6 of the Ombudsman Ordinance (Cap 397);
- (iv) a member of the EAC;
- (v) the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and any member of the senior management of that Authority, including divisional heads, executive directors, managers and counsel employed by that Authority;
- (vi) the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data and any person employed or engaged by him/her under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap 486);
- (vii) the Chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission and any person employed or whose services are engaged by the Commission under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap 480); or
- (viii) any person holding an office, whether permanent or temporary, in a Government department or bureau and employed in the department or bureau.

- (d) holds a passport or similar travel document other than a passport or Certificate of Identity issued by the HKSAR or an entry permit issued by an authority in any part of the People's Republic of China;
- (e) has, in Hong Kong, or any other place, been sentenced to death, and has not either served the sentence or any substitute sentence or received a free pardon⁷;
- (f) has been convicted of treason;
- (g) has been convicted, within 5 years before the date of nomination,
 - (i) of any offence in Hong Kong or in any other place, the sentence for which is imprisonment (suspended or not) for not less than 3 months;
 - (ii) of having engaged in corrupt conduct or illegal conduct in contravention of the ECICO;
 - (iii) of an offence against Part II of the POBO; or
 - (iv) of any offence prescribed by the EAC Regulations;
- (h) is found, for the time being, to be incapable, by reason of mental incapacity, of managing and administering his/her property and affairs under the Mental Health Ordinance; or

⁷ The Court of First Instance delivered written judgment on 21 June 2012 on *Wong Hin Wai & another v Secretary for Justice* (HCAL 51 & 54/2012) and declared the similar provision under section 39(1)(b) of the Legislative Council Ordinance (which is similar to para. 3.10(e) above) to be unconstitutional. On 12 July 2012, the Government announced its decision not to appeal against the judgment. The future CE election will be organised in accordance with the prevalent electoral laws. Any person who would like to be nominated as a candidate for CE election and is doubtful about his/her eligibility for nomination may seek independent legal advice.

- (i) has vacated an office or has been disqualified from entering on an office under the law for declining or neglecting to take a specified oath⁸ within the 5 years before the date of nomination, or has been declared or decided in accordance with any law:
- (i) to be in breach of a specified oath; or
- (ii) to have failed to fulfil the legal requirements and conditions on upholding the Basic Law and bearing allegiance to the HKSAR of the People’s Republic of China.

[S 14 of the CEEO] *[Amended in October 2016 and January 2022]*

PART III : WHEN AND HOW TO NOMINATE

When to Nominate

3.11 Any person who intends to stand for the election may submit a nomination form during the **nomination period** specified in the notice published in the Gazette [s 3 of the EP (CEE) Reg]. The nomination period for a CE election shall not be less than 14 days, and shall terminate at least 21 days before the polling date [s 15 of the CEEO]. The EAC shall appoint a judge of the Court of Final Appeal (“CFA”), a Justice of Appeal or a judge of the Court of First Instance (“CFI”) of the High Court to be the RO of a CE election [s 41 of the CEEO]. An election timetable in the format of an “Action Checklist for Candidates” (see **Appendix 1**) will be provided to each candidate by the RO. The RO shall receive nominations during the ordinary business hours (i.e. from 9 am to 5 pm from Monday to Friday, and from 9 am to 12 noon on a Saturday)

⁸ Specified oath means an oath taken under the law that the oath-taker will uphold the Basic Law and bear allegiance to the HKSAR of the People’s Republic of China.

on each working day (i.e. any day other than a general holiday) in the nomination period. **Candidates are advised to submit their nominations in good time before the end of the nomination period to allow time for any errors in their nomination forms to be corrected.** *[Amended in October 2016 and January 2022]*

How to Nominate

3.12 Nomination forms specified by the EAC are available from the REO and may also be downloaded from the website of the REO (<https://www.reo.gov.hk>).

3.13 The nomination form for candidates comprises the parts of (a) nomination and (b) candidate(s)' consent to nomination and declaration of eligibility:

(a) **The Nomination**

The nomination must be subscribed by not less than **188 members of the EC**, with not less than 15 members of the EC from each of the 5 sectors referred to in s 2(3) and (4) of the Schedule to the CEEO. A member of the EC may nominate only one candidate, and the nomination shall not be withdrawn or revoked. *[Amended in November 2011 and January 2022]*

IMPORTANT :

A candidate who submits a nomination form on the last few days of the nomination period is advised to include more than the required number of subscribers for his/her nomination, so as to avoid the risk of invalidation of the nomination should any of the subscribers be subsequently found to be not qualified as

subscribers. A candidate should ensure that the members of the EC subscribing his/her nomination form are eligible to do so and these members of the EC have not subscribed another nomination previously. Each member of the EC subscribing a nomination shall sign the nomination form **personally**.

No unlawful means shall be used to procure a member of the EC to subscribe or not to subscribe a nomination. Please see Appendix 3 on legal provisions against pressuring electors not to nominate a particular candidate.

Candidates are also required to observe Data Protection Principle 4 of Schedule 1 to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap 486) (“PD(P)O”) in safeguarding the personal data of subscribers to the nomination form held by them. They should take all practicable steps to ensure that the aforesaid personal data are protected against accidental or unauthorised access, processing, erasure, loss or use. *[Added in October 2016 and amended in January 2022]*

(b) Candidate’s Consent to Nomination and Declarations of Eligibility

According to the CEEO and the EP (CEE) Reg, a candidate must duly complete the nomination form and the declarations, which shall be attested by a witness. The following declarations must be made before a justice, notary, commissioner or other authorised person:

- (i) a declaration to the effect that the candidate stands for the election in an individual capacity and that he/she will uphold the Basic Law and bear allegiance to the HKSAR; and

- (ii) a declaration as to the candidate's nationality and whether he/she has a right of abode in any foreign country.

[S 16 of the CEEO and s 4(1) of the EP (CEE) Reg] *[Amended in January 2007, October 2016 and January 2022]*

3.14 Candidates should ensure that their nomination forms are properly completed before submission. The completed nomination form must be delivered to the RO by the candidate **in person** during ordinary business hours (i.e. from 9 am to 5 pm from Monday to Friday, and from 9 am to 12 noon on a Saturday) on a working day (i.e. any day other than a general holiday) in the nomination period (see para. 3.11). In exceptional circumstances (e.g. the candidate is temporary absent from Hong Kong, suffers incapacity due to illness or is undergoing mandatory quarantine, etc.) which precludes the candidate from delivering the nomination form in person, the RO may authorise other manner of delivery of the nomination form [s 4(1)(e) of the EP (CEE) Reg]. *[Amended in January 2007]*

3.15 The RO will make available copies of the nomination forms for public inspection free of charge at the specified address during ordinary business hours until relevant notice of the election result is published [s 8 of the EP (CEE) Reg]. If the CERC determines that a nomination is invalid (see Part V below), it must endorse on relevant nomination form the determination and the reasons for it [s 6(1) of the EP (CEE) Reg]. If the CERC's decision that the nomination of the candidate is invalid is made pursuant to the opinion of the Committee on National Security, such decision shall be endorsed on the nomination form specifying that the decision is based on the opinion of the Committee on National Security. Under such circumstances, by virtue of Annex I to the Basic Law and the electoral law, no legal proceedings may be instituted in respect of the decision made by the CERC. *[Added in January 2022]*

False Declarations

3.16 A candidate who knowingly and wilfully makes a statement which is false in a material particular in the nomination form or makes a false declaration is in breach of the requirements of s 84 of the EP (CEE) Reg. The provision stipulates that a person who makes a statement which he/she knows to be false in a material particular in an election-related document, or recklessly makes a statement which is incorrect in a material particular in such document, or omits a material particular in such document, commits an offence and shall be liable to a fine at level 2 (\$5,000) and to imprisonment for 6 months. The provision also specifies that an election-related document means a form, declaration, etc. required or used for the purposes of the EP (CEE) Reg. Besides, a person making a false statement in statutory document is in breach of s 36 of the Crimes Ordinance (Cap 200) and shall be liable to imprisonment for 2 years and a fine. A violation against s 84 of the EP (CEE) Reg is a prescribed offence, with the same disqualification on conviction of a corrupt or illegal conduct under the ECICO (as described in paras. 16.53 and 17.37 of the Guidelines). *[Amended in January 2007, November 2011, October 2016 and January 2022]*

PART IV : CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

3.17 As stipulated in Annex I to the Basic Law and the CEEO, the CERC is responsible for reviewing and confirming the eligibility of candidates for the CE. The CERC may request the RO to provide advice to the CERC regarding the nominations of candidates. It may also make decisions pursuant to the opinion of the Committee on National Security. The Committee on National Security shall, on the basis of the review by the National Security Department of the Hong Kong Police Force, make findings as to whether a candidate meets the legal requirements and conditions on “upholding the Basic Law and bearing allegiance to the HKSAR of the People’s Republic of China”,

and issue an opinion to the CERC in respect of candidates who fail to meet such legal requirements and conditions. According to Article 14 of the National Security Law, no institution, organisation or individual in the Region shall interfere with the work of the Committee on National Security. Information relating to the work of the Committee on National Security shall not be subject to disclosure. By virtue of Annex I to the Basic Law and the electoral law, no legal proceedings may be instituted in respect of a decision made by the CERC on the eligibility of a candidate pursuant to the opinion of the Committee on National Security. [S 9B of the CEEO] *[Added in January 2022]*

3.18 Under s 9A of the CEEO, the CERC consists of the chairperson, at least 2 but not more than 4 official members and at least 1 but not more than 3 non-official members. Each member of the CERC is appointed by the CE by notice published in the Gazette. Only a principal official appointed pursuant to a nomination under Article 48(5) of the Basic Law is eligible for appointment as the chairperson or an official member, and only a person who is not a public officer is eligible for appointment as a non-official member. Besides, the CE shall report any appointment made to the Central People's Government for record. [S 9A of the CEEO] *[Added in January 2022]*

PART V : VALIDITY OF NOMINATIONS

3.19 Whether a nomination is valid or not is determined by the CERC. The CERC must make a decision on the validity of a nomination as soon as practicable after receipt of a nomination form, and publish a notice stating the persons who are validly nominated as candidates at the CE election within 7 days after the end of the nomination period [ss 17 and 18 of the CEEO]. *[Amended in January 2022]*

3.20 If the RO detects on a nomination form an error which may amount to a ground for deciding that the nomination form is invalid, and if the error can

be rectified before the close of the nomination period, the RO may, before forming an opinion as to whether the nomination form is valid, give the candidate a reasonable opportunity to rectify it as far as practicable [s 5 of the EP (CEE) Reg]. For example, if the qualification of a subscriber to a submitted nomination form is in doubt, the prospective candidate may, where possible, be allowed to find another subscriber as substitute as soon as practicable. However, no substitution of subscriber or re-submission of a nomination form is allowed after the end of the nomination period. *[Amended in January 2022]*

3.21 A nomination may be ruled invalid if any errors on the nomination form are not rectified by the end of the nomination period.

3.22 The RO may require a candidate to furnish any other information that he/she considers appropriate for him/her to advise the CERC on any of the specified matters [s 4(3) of the EP (CEE) Reg]. *[Amended in January 2022]*

3.23 A nomination will be invalid unless the nomination form contains all information and signatures required to be shown on the nomination form or other information required by the RO and the candidate has made the declarations referred to in para. 3.13(b). *[Amended in November 2011]*

3.24 Without prejudice to ss 13, 14 and 16 of the CEEO⁹, the CERC may decide that a nomination of a candidate is invalid only when:

- (a) the nomination form has not been signed by not less than 188 members of the EC (with not less than 15 members of the EC from each of the 5 sectors referred to in s 2(3) and (4) of the Schedule to the CEEO) qualified to make the nomination as required under s 16(2)(a) of the CEEO;

⁹ Please see paras. 3.6, 3.10, 3.13(b) and 3.16 for reference.

- (b) the nomination form, including the parts on nomination and declaration thereof, has not been completed or signed as required under the EP (CEE) Reg;
- (c) the CERC is satisfied that the candidate is not eligible to be, or is disqualified from being, nominated as a candidate under the CEEO;
or
- (d) the RO is satisfied that the candidate has died.

In deciding whether a candidate is validly nominated, the CERC may request the RO to advise the CERC as to any of the specified matters. The CERC may also require the candidate to furnish any other information that the CERC considers appropriate for enabling the CERC to be satisfied as to the validity of the nomination.

[S 4A(4) and (5) of the EP (CEE) Reg] [*Amended in January 2022*]

PART VI : WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDATURE

3.25 A candidate may withdraw his/her candidature only before the end of the nomination period. He/She is required to complete and sign a specified form entitled “Notice of Withdrawal of Candidature”, which must be delivered to the RO by the candidate or the candidate’s election agent in person [s 19 of the CEEO and s 9 of the EP (CEE) Reg]. Under the subsisting law, candidates are not allowed to withdraw their candidature after the end of the nomination period and there is no such mechanism as the so-called “abandonment of election”. Even if a candidate has made public his/her claim about the so-called “abandonment of election”, his/her name will still be shown on the ballot papers for the members of EC to vote for if they so wish. All candidates must comply with the election-related legislation, including reporting all election expenses.

IMPORTANT:

It is an offence under ss 7 and 8 of the ECICO for a person to bribe, or to use or threaten to use force or duress against, a candidate to induce him/her to withdraw his/her candidature, and for a candidate to solicit or accept a bribe to withdraw his/her candidature.

[Amended in November 2011 and January 2022]

PART VII : NOTICE OF VALID NOMINATIONS

3.26 The CERC must, within 7 days after the end of the nomination period, publish a notice in the Gazette declaring the name(s) of candidate(s) who is/are validly nominated, together with the names of those members of the EC nominating him/her [s 18(1) and (2) of the CEE0]. The RO shall, as soon as practicable after the CERC determining that a person is validly nominated as a candidate or is not so nominated, send a written notice of the determination to the person and to each validly nominated candidate [s 7(1) of the EP (CEE) Reg]. The RO will also make available copies of the nomination forms for public inspection free of charge at his/her office during ordinary business hours until the result of the election is declared or until the termination of the proceedings for the election under s 22(1AA), (1AB)(e), (1) or (3)(e) of the CEE0 [s 18(3) of the CEE0 and s 8 of the EP (CEE) Reg]. Should the CERC determine that a nomination is invalid, it is required to endorse on the nomination form the determination and the reasons for it, inform the RO of the decision and return the nomination form to the RO for retention [s 6 of the EP (CEE) Reg].

[Amended in October 2016 and January 2022]

3.27 If at any time after the end of the nomination period but before the declaration of the result of the election, proof is given to the satisfaction of the RO that any candidate has died, or proof is given to the satisfaction of the CERC that any candidate is disqualified under s 20(1) of the CEEO from being elected, the RO must publicly declare that the proceedings for the election are terminated [s 22(1AA) and (1) of the CEEO]. *[Amended in January 2022]*

PART VIII : CANDIDATES' BRIEFING AND INTRODUCTION TO CANDIDATES

3.28 The EAC will conduct a briefing for all validly nominated candidates on important matters related to the election. After the end of the nomination period, the RO will inform each validly nominated candidate of the lots drawing session and the date and time of the Candidates' Briefing. In the case of a contested election, the RO will draw lots to determine for each of the validly nominated candidates the candidate number to be shown on the ballot paper and the designated spots allocated to each of them to display EAs (please refer to para. 8.37). *[Amended in October 2016 and January 2022]*

3.29 The REO will publish an **Introduction to Candidates**. The candidate number of each candidate allocated by the drawing of lots and to be shown on the ballot papers will also be shown on the Introduction to Candidates, which will be mailed to the members of the EC together with the polling notice before the polling day. The Introduction to Candidates will be published even if there is only one validly nominated candidate at an uncontested election, although no candidate number will be allocated to the candidate. Copies of the Introduction to Candidates will be made available in the Correctional Services Department ("CSD") and other law enforcement agencies for the members of the EC imprisoned or held in custody. *[Amended in January 2007, January 2010 and October 2016]*

3.30 Candidates are free to make use of the Introduction to Candidates to promote their elections. Any candidate who so wishes should submit the following to the RO **before the end of the nomination period**:

- (a) a duly completed grid paper affixed with a colour photograph of the candidate which must be in a specified size and should be taken within the last 6 months; and
- (b) 2 additional copies of his/her photograph identical to the one affixed to the grid paper with his/her name label affixed on the back.

If a candidate does not submit the grid paper, the Introduction to Candidates will only show the name and the candidate number (in contested election) in respect of him/her, with the sentence “Relevant information has not been provided by the candidate” printed in the space provided for his/her electoral message. *[Amended in January 2010, November 2011, October 2016 and January 2022]*

3.31 The contents, nature and presentation of a candidate’s message in the Introduction to Candidates are exclusively the idea and work of the candidate himself/herself. They will not be subject to alteration or editing by the REO unless they are considered obscene, immoral, indecent, offensive, defamatory, unlawful or containing information irrelevant to the promotion of the candidature of the candidate concerned. *[Amended in January 2010, November 2011, October 2016 and January 2022]*

3.32 To assist persons with visual impairment in reading the contents of the Introduction to Candidates, candidates may provide the REO with typed texts of their messages to enable persons with visual impairment to read the contents of the document with the aid of computer software. The typed texts can be submitted after the end of the nomination period and by the deadline specified by the REO. With these typed texts, the REO will prepare a text

version of the Introduction to Candidates for uploading onto the dedicated website of the CE election. If a candidate does not provide the typed text for preparing the text version of the Introduction to Candidates, the website will only show his/her name and the candidate number (in contested election) in respect of him/her with the remark that the candidate has not provided a text version of his/her electoral message. The EAC appeals to all candidates to support this initiative and make use of this text version to convey their electoral messages to persons with visual impairment. As a general principle, candidates should be sensitive to the needs of the members of the EC and, in the course of their electioneering campaign, make their utmost efforts to ensure that persons with different needs can have fair access to the electoral messages. *[Added in October 2016 and amended in January 2022]*