

Dear members of Russian PEN,

I will hereby answer your questions.

You are right, the Constitution of PEN International does not envisage this sort of situation happening, therefore we need to take it step by step.

Here is the quote with your questions and our answers:

In connection with all the above, we ask you to answer the following questions:

1. Did the management of the Russian PEN Center hold consultations on the state registration of the new version of the Russian PEN Center statutes, and if so, what recommendations did the Russian PEN Center receive?

The answer: No, they did not consult us beforehand.

2. Does the procedure of the reorganization of the national PEN center comply with the letter and spirit of the Constitution of PEN International, if it was carried out without prior approval of the General meeting of members by creating a new Center and re-registering members of the former PEN?

The answer: No, the procedures of that level need an approval of the General assembly of the centre.

3. Is the newly created organization the successor to the former, including membership in PEN International? Will it be such a successor in the future? Is membership in the International PEN Club automatically preserved among the members of the new PEN Center?


The answer: No to all three questions, since the establishment of the so-called new Russian PEN does not comply with the rules and procedures of PEN International.

4. Does the letter and spirit of the Constitution of PEN International comply with the situation when the same people are leaders, officials and members of two PEN centers located in the same country in the same region? May such persons take part in the work of both organizations simultaneously in the indicated qualities and have the right to vote at the general meetings of members of both organizations at the same time?

The answer: No.

Please let us know when exactly you plan to have your General Assembly so we could look into sending an independent evaluator to the assembly. We are extremely worried about the developments in Russian PEN and we are giving our best in working it out.

With best regards,



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