

Regulation on measures in case of a violation of the EARAZA Code of Ethics or rules of participation in EARAZA Programmes

In case of a violation of the EARAZA Code of Ethics or rules of participation in EARAZA Programmes, two levels of measures can be imposed by EARAZA General Meeting on the institution that committed a violation:

- I. Warning**
- II. Termination of membership**

I. Warning

A warning can be issued to an EARAZA Member institution by the EARAZA Presidium upon the recommendation of the Membership and Ethics Committee, Animal Welfare Committee, or Working Group on EARAZA Programmes for one or more of the following reasons:

1. The institution violates the EARAZA Code of Ethics or rules of participation in EARAZA Programmes or does not comply with the animal welfare standards;
2. The institution takes actions that are detrimental to the mutual interests or reputation of EARAZA or EARAZA members;
3. The institution without valid reasons does not follow recommendations from EARAZA Programme Coordinators for animal transfer between officially approved EARAZA Programme participants;
4. The institution claims for money for the animals included in the EARAZA Programme when transferring the animals to other EARAZA members;
5. The institution transfers or receives an animal included in the EARAZA Programme without the knowledge and approval of the Programme Coordinator;
6. The institution repeatedly does not respond to relevant requests from the EARAZA Programme Coordinator within a time period of six months;
7. The institution commits other violations of the rules of participation in EARAZA Programmes.

Information about each warning is registered by the EARAZA Executive Directorate and communicated to all EARAZA members. The problem(s) that led to the warning shall be rectified or settled with the respective EARAZA committees by the member institution within six months from the date of the warning issuing; otherwise, a new warning will be issued automatically. Warnings are canceled three years after they were issued. The duration of the warning is established by the Presidium and ranges from one to three years. The warning will be lifted after established period provided that the member cooperates fully with the relevant committee or working group and does not receive new warnings. In order for the restricted status to be lifted the following conditions should be met:

- Membership and Ethics Committee, Animal Welfare Committee, or Working Group on EARAZA Programmes recommends to the Presidium to lift the warning;
- The Presidium considers the recommendation in the meeting prior to the deadline of the validity of the warning and decides if warning can be lifted;
- The Executive Director monitors the situation and if no further concerns are raised between the meeting of the Presidium and the deadline then a letter is written from the EARAZA Executive Director to the member to confirm that the warning is lifted.

After the member has been informed about the decision of the Presidium, the EARAZA Executive Directorate communicates the relevant information to all EARAZA members.

If the institution continues to violate the rules of participation in EARAZA Programmes or receives the third warning the EARAZA Presidium will recommend the EARAZA General Meeting to terminate the membership of such institution.

II. Termination of membership

The EARAZA Presidium can propose termination of membership to EARAZA General Meeting in the following cases:

1. The institution has received three warnings from the EARAZA Presidium;
2. The institution commits severe violation of the EARAZA Code of Ethics or rules of participation in EARAZA Programmes (e.g. takes actions contrary to the requirements related to the animal welfare or species conservation, or irresponsibly manages “surplus” animals).

Information about the termination of membership is registered by the EARAZA Executive Directorate and communicated to all EARAZA members. Information about termination of membership of an institution that is a member of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) is also communicated to the WAZA Executive Office.

Terminated members can apply for new membership after three years and must go through the whole accreditation procedure.

Appeal

Members have the opportunity to appeal decisions of the EARAZA Presidium or General Meeting. Information about appeal procedure is provided in the document “*Regulation on membership and accreditation for joining/confirmation of membership in EARAZA*”.