



AIACE

International Association of Former Staff of the European Union

More than 14,000 members – open to former staff of the EU institutions and all bodies

46/2023



NB: The French text is the only authentic text; this document is a translation and solely for the purposes of informing members.

The 1921 Belgian law governing associations has been abolished and replaced by the "Code of Companies and Associations" (CSA) in 2019. Unfortunately, AIACE was only made aware of this at a very late stage (and somewhat by chance, thanks to other associations). The CSA requires associations to bring their articles of association into line with the new legislation by 31 December 2023, failing which they risk heavy fines. The Management Board (CA) was presented with a compliance proposal drawn up by a lawyer specialising in the law governing associations. The Board decided to initially retain only those provisions that would necessarily result from this compliance, with one exception: the possibility of holding meetings remotely, without which it would not be legally possible to do so. It is this proposal that is now submitted for approval to the Extraordinary General Meeting of 15 December 2023 (below). The CA recommends its adoption. All other proposals for substantive changes will be discussed by the Management Board and submitted to the General Meeting at a later date.

Present Articles of Association	Proposed new Articles of Association
Title 1 - Name. Registered Office. Aims. Duration	<u>Chapter 1 - NAME, REGISTERED OFFICE AND DURATION</u>
<u>Article 1</u> The name of the Association shall be: ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES ANCIENS DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE (ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STAFF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION). The Association shall be non-profit-making. It shall be set up in accordance with the Belgian Law of 27 June 1921, as amended and supplemented by the Law of 2 May 2002 which repealed the Law of 25 October 1919. The Association shall be known by its original acronym of 'AIACE'.	<u>Article 1.</u> The name of the international non-profit association is: ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES ANCIENS DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE, followed by the words - association internationale sans but lucratif - or - AISBL – (INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STAFF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION) (abbreviated to AIACE), hereinafter - the Association.

<p><u>Article 2</u></p> <p>The Association's registered office shall be in one of the municipalities in the Brussels conurbation ("Agglomération"). It is currently located in the premises of the European Commission at 200 rue de la Loi, Brussels, B-1049, Belgium.</p> <p><u>Article 3</u></p> <p>The aims of the Association shall be as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) to ensure close contact with the institutions and bodies of the European Union and to represent the interests of former staff in dealings with those bodies as broadly as possible and to protect those interests; 2) to ensure representation of the interests of former staff in dealings with the national authorities and, where necessary, to protect those interests in relation to administrative and welfare matters; 3) to maintain and develop the bond of friendship among former staff and between former and serving staff; <p><u>Article 4</u></p> <p>In order to pursue these aims, the activities of AIACE shall be:</p>	<p><u>Article 2.</u> The registered office of the Association is located in the Brussels-Capital Region, in the judicial district of Brussels.</p> <p><u>Article 3.</u> The international association has a non-profit purpose.</p> <p>Its aims are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) to ensure close contacts and the widest possible representation of the interests of former members with the Community bodies of the European Union and, if necessary, to defend their interests; 2) to maintain and develop the bond of friendship among former staff and between former and serving staff; 3) to ensure representation of the interests of former staff in dealings with the national authorities and, where necessary, to protect those interests in relation to Management and social matters. <p><u>Article 4.</u> To achieve its non-profit purpose, the association may develop the following activities:</p>
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<p>1) to contribute to the study of problems relating to European integration and to help increase public awareness of these problems; and, in particular, to contribute to the work of the institutions or bodies of the European Union in these fields;</p> <p>2) to reach agreements with the institutions or bodies of the European Union and, as part of those agreements, to show solidarity with and provide support to all former staff who request such help;</p> <p>3) to establish contact and, if necessary, create links with organisations which pursue similar aims to AIACE, at international, European Union or national level;</p> <p>4) to provide the institutions and bodies of the European Union with the benefit of its experience in preparing staff for retirement;</p> <p>5) to organise, in the above context, or to participate in cultural and leisure activities and visits as well as exchanges of information;</p> <p>6) to undertake any other measures required in order to achieve the above aims.</p> <p><u>Article 6</u></p> <p>The Association shall be set up for an unlimited duration.</p>	<p>1) to contribute to the study of the problems posed by European integration and to raising public awareness of these problems. In particular, it shall cooperate with the institutions or bodies of the European Union in these fields;</p> <p>2) to conclude Agreements with the institutions or bodies of the European Union, and, as part of those agreements to show solidarity with and provide support to all former staff members who request such help;</p> <p>3) to maintain contacts and, if necessary, create links with organizations which pursue similar aims, at international, European Union or national level;</p> <p>4) to provide the institutions and bodies of the European Union with the benefit of its experience in preparing officials and other servants for retirement</p> <p>5) to organize or participate in cultural and leisure activities as well as exchanges of information;</p> <p>6) to undertake any other measures required in order to achieve the above aims.</p> <p>In addition, in order to finance the achievement of its disinterested aim, the Association may undertake acts of a commercial or financial nature.</p> <p><u>Article 5.</u> The Association shall be set up for an unlimited duration. It may be dissolved at any time.</p>
<u>Article 5</u>	<u>Chapter 2 – GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE BODIES</u>

<p>The Association shall comprise the central bodies and national branches. The national branches can be set up at the initiative of the persons referred to in Article 6 hereinafter. The Board of Management of the Association shall authorise the setting up of a national branch when this is justified by the number of potential members.</p> <p>There shall be no more than one branch per Member State.</p> <p>Each national branch must be established in the form of an Association in accordance with the rules of the Member State in which it is situated.</p> <p>The bodies of the national branches are defined in Article 34.</p>	<p><u>Article 6.</u> The Association shall comprise central bodies and national sections. The latter are created on the initiative of the persons referred to in Article 7 hereafter. The Association's Management Body shall authorize the setting up of a national section when this is justified by the number of potential members.</p> <p>There may be no more than one section per Member State.</p> <p>Each national section must be established in the form of an Association in accordance with the rules of the Member State in which it is situated.</p> <p>The bodies of the national sections are defined in Article 30.</p> <p>The General Meeting, the Management Body and the Presidency constitute the central bodies of the Association.</p> <p>The central bodies contribute to the implementation of the Association's aims as defined in Article 3 above. In particular, they have the power to bind the Association in its dealings with the Institutions or bodies of the European Union and international organizations. They alone are empowered to make representations to the Institutions or bodies of the European Union on matters of principle or of a general nature.</p> <p>Since the central bodies are responsible for ensuring the cohesion and unity of action of the Association, they must be informed of any action by national sections which might have an interest for or repercussions on the Association as a whole or on some of its national sections.</p>
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<p><i>Title II - Acquisition of membership. Obligations. Loss of membership</i></p> <p><u>Article 7</u></p> <p>The initial subscribers to the Association shall enjoy the status of founding member.</p> <p>Any person who, as his or her main occupation, has served with one of the institutions or one of the other bodies of the European Union may, after finally ceasing such activity, become a member of the Association through the national branch of his or her choice. After the death of a member, his or her spouse may join the Association on the same terms.. The same shall apply to the surviving spouse of a serving postholder in one of the institutions or bodies of the European Union who dies while in service.</p> <p>The Board of Management may decide to admit as member any other person who has rendered noteworthy services to the European cause and who has worked, other than as his or her main occupation, with one of the institutions or one of the bodies of the European Union.</p> <p><u>Article 8</u></p> <p>The terms and procedures for admission to membership and for expulsion shall be laid down by the Board of Management.</p> <p>It is possible to be a member of more than one national branch.</p> <p><u>Article 9</u></p> <p>Membership of the Association shall be terminated in the event of:</p>	<p><u>Chapter 3 - MEMBERS, MEMBERSHIP, RESIGNATION, EXCLUSION</u></p> <p><u>Article 7.</u> Any person who, as his or her main occupation, has served with one of the Institutions or one of the bodies of the European Union may, after finally ceasing such activity, become a member of the Association through the national section of his or her choice. After the death of a member, his or her spouse may join the Association on the same terms. The same shall apply to the surviving spouse of a serving post holder in one of the Institutions or bodies of the European Union who dies while in service.</p> <p>The Management Body may decide to admit as member any other person who has rendered noteworthy services to the European cause and who has worked, other than as his or her main occupation, with one of the Institutions or bodies of the European Union.</p> <p><u>Article 8.</u> The terms and procedures for admission to membership and for expulsion shall be laid down by the Management Body.</p> <p>It is possible to be a member of more than one national branch.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - death; - resignation; - failure to pay a subscription for two consecutive years; - expulsion. <p><u>Article 10</u></p> <p>The financial liability of each member shall be strictly limited to the amount of his or her subscription.</p> <p>Members who leave the Association for whatever reason and the heirs and successors of deceased members shall enjoy no rights in respect of the Association's capital. The heirs and successors may not demand repayment of subscriptions paid by them or by the deceased member.</p>	<p><u>Article 9.</u> Membership of the Association shall be terminated in the event of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -resignation; -failure to pay a subscription for two consecutive years; - expulsion. <p>The exclusion of a full member may only be decided by the General Meeting and by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.</p> <p>The notice convening the General Meeting to which a request for exclusion has been submitted shall clearly mention the proposal for exclusion in the purpose of the meeting. The member whose exclusion is proposed is informed in the notice of meeting that he may be heard by the General Meeting.</p> <p>The Management Body may preventively suspend a member whose expulsion is being considered pending the General Meeting to which the request is submitted.</p> <p>Members who resign or are excluded, as well as their heirs and successors of deceased members, shall enjoy no rights to the Association's assets and may not claim reimbursement of any membership fees paid.</p>

<p>Titre III. Les organes centraux de l'Association</p> <p><u>Article 15</u></p> <p>The General Assembly shall consist of all members of the Association. A member may confer a power of proxy on another member; no member may stand proxy for more than three members.</p> <p><u>Article 14</u></p> <p>The President of the Association shall preside over the General Assembly The General Secretary shall take the minutes.</p> <p><u>Article 13</u></p> <p>There shall be a General Assembly in the first six months of each year.</p> <p>The General Assembly may also be called by the Board of Management or at the request of at least three national branches.</p>	<p><u>Chapter 4 - GENERAL MEETINGS</u></p> <p><u>Article 10.</u> The General Meeting is composed of all members. It is chaired by the President, the Vice-President or, failing this, by the member of the Management Body appointed by the President. The President may, for the duration of his term of office, designate one or more persons to replace him or her in the event of his or her absence.</p> <p>The Association's Ordinary General Meeting is held during the first half of the year.</p> <p>The Management Body may also publish the notice of meeting on the Association's website, if it considers this appropriate.</p> <p>It is convened by ordinary post or by e-mail, or by a similar electronic means, sent to members at least 1 month in advance. The agenda shall be attached to these notices, which shall be issued by the Management Body and signed by the</p>

<p>Notice of the General Assembly meeting shall be sent to each member at least one month before the date of the meeting. The notice shall contain the agenda.</p>	<p>President. Any proposal countersigned by one fifth of the members shall be included on the agenda.</p> <p>The General Meeting may only deliberate on items included on the agenda. Members may give a proxy to another member to represent them at the General Meeting. Each member may not hold more than three proxies.</p> <p>If the Management Body so wishes, it may post the notice of meeting on the Association's website.</p> <p>The Association may be convened to an Extraordinary General Meeting at any time by decision of the Management Body or at the request of at least one fifth of the members or at the request of at least three national sections. If the meeting is convened at the request of at least one-fifth of the full members, it shall be convened within 15 days of receipt of the request with a view to a meeting being held within 45 days of receipt of the request. The General Meeting is chaired by the President of the Management Body.</p> <p>Each member has one vote.</p> <p>The Management Body may invite any person to attend all or part of the General Meeting as an observer or consultant.</p> <p>The Management Body may provide for members to attend the General Meeting remotely using an electronic means of communication made available by the Association. For the purposes of quorum and majority requirements, members who participate in the General Meeting in this way are deemed to be present at the place where the General Meeting is held.</p> <p>The Association must be able to check, via the electronic means of communication used, the membership and identity of the member. The</p>
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<p><u>Article 12</u></p> <p>The General Assembly is the supreme body of the Association. In particular, it shall have authority as regards:</p> <p>1) amendments to the Articles of Association;</p>	<p>electronic means of communication must at least enable members to follow the discussions at the meeting directly, simultaneously and continuously and to exercise their right to vote on all the items on which the meeting is called upon to vote. The electronic means of communication must also enable members to take part in the deliberations and ask questions.</p> <p>The notice convening the General Meeting shall contain a clear and precise description of the procedures relating to remote participation. Where the Association has a website, these procedures shall be made available on the Association's website to those entitled to participate in the General Meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the General Meeting shall mention any technical problems or incidents that prevented or disrupted electronic participation in the General Meeting or voting.</p> <p>Members of the Bureau of the General Meeting may not take part in the General Meeting by electronic means.</p> <p>The members may, unanimously and in writing, take all decisions which fall within the powers of the General Meeting, with the exception of amending the Articles of Association. In this case, the formalities for convening the meeting need not be completed. The members of the Management Body and, if applicable, the auditors may, at their request, inspect these decisions.</p> <p><u>Article 11.</u> The General Meeting is the supreme body of the Association. In particular, the following matters are reserved to it:</p> <p>1) amendments to the Association's Articles of Association;</p>
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<p>2) confirmation of one or more members of the Board of Management on a nomination from the national branches;</p> <p>3) dismissal of one or more members of the Board of Management on a proposal from the national branches;</p> <p>4) approval of the budget and accounts of the central bodies of the Association and appointment of auditors;</p> <p>5) voluntary dissolution of the Association.</p> <p><u>Article 16</u></p> <p>Subject to the provisions of Article 35, the General Assembly shall be validly constituted regardless of the number of members present in person or by proxy. Decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast. In the event of an equal number of votes being cast, the President shall have a casting vote.</p> <p><u>Article 17</u></p> <p>Decisions taken by the General Assembly shall be recorded in minutes signed by the President and the General Secretary. Extracts required for court proceedings or for other purposes shall be signed by the President and the General Secretary. Such extracts shall be supplied to any</p>	<p>2) confirmation of one or more members of the Management Body upon nomination by the national sections;</p> <p>3) dismissal of one or more members of the Management Body on a proposal from the national sections;</p> <p>4) approving the budgets and accounts of the Association's central bodies and appointing the auditors and fixing their remuneration;</p> <p>5) voluntary dissolution of the Association.</p> <p><u>Article 12.</u> Decisions are taken by a simple majority of the votes present or represented, except where otherwise provided by law or by these Articles of Association. In the event of an equal number of votes being cast, the President shall have a casting vote.</p> <p>The General Meeting is validly held regardless of the number of members present or represented.</p> <p><u>Article 13.</u> The decisions taken by the General Meeting shall be recorded in a register of minutes signed by the President, the General Secretary or another member of the Management Body. This register is kept at the registered office, where all members may inspect it, but the register may not be moved. It may be kept in electronic format.</p>
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<p><u>Article 20</u></p> <p>Each member of the Board of Management has one vote.</p> <p><u>Article 19</u></p> <p>A national branch may submit new nominations for a member or alternate member in order to fill a vacancy arising during a term of office whether the vacancy arises out of necessity or simply as a result of resignation. These changes shall have immediate effect. The next General Assembly shall confirm the nominations.</p> <p>Any member or alternate member nominated to fill a vacancy arising during a term of office holds that position only for the period of time needed to complete that term of office.</p> <p>At least one full member of the Board of Management must be of Belgian nationality.</p> <p><u>Article 24</u></p> <p>The Board of Management shall meet at least twice a year; it shall be convened by the President at the registered office of the Board or in another EU country.</p> <p>The Board may not take any decisions unless a majority of its members are present in person or by proxy; no member may stand proxy for more</p>	<p>Each member of the Management Body has one vote.</p> <p><u>Article 15.</u> Any member of the Management Body wishing to resign shall notify his resignation in writing to the other members of the Management Body.</p> <p>In the event of a vacancy occurring before the end of term of office of a member of the Management Body, the remaining members have the right to co-opt a new one upon proposal by the section concerned.</p> <p>The first subsequent General Meeting shall confirm the mandate of the co-opted member of the Management Body. In the event of confirmation, the co-opted member completes the term of office of his predecessor, unless the General Meeting decides otherwise. If there is no confirmation, the co-opted member's term of office ends at the close of the General Meeting, without prejudice to the regularity of the composition of the Management Body until that time.</p> <p><u>Article 16.</u> The Management Body shall meet at least twice a year and shall be convened by the President. The Management Body may organize its meetings remotely.</p> <p>Notices of meetings shall be sent by the President by ordinary letter or e-mail at least 30 calendar days before the date of the meeting.</p> <p>The Management Body is chaired by the President or, in his absence, by the Vice-President.</p>
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<p>than one other member. Decisions shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast.</p> <p>The President may invite anyone whose skills may be useful to the work of the Board of Management to attend its meetings.</p> <p>Decisions shall be recorded in minutes signed by the President or the General Secretary. Extracts required for court proceedings or for other purposes shall be signed by the President and the General Secretary.</p> <p><u>Article 23</u></p> <p>Members of the Board of Management shall not be paid for their services.</p> <p>Allowances may be paid to members of the Board of Management who have incurred travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses in connection with meetings held in accordance with these Articles or with decisions of the Board of Management. The terms and procedures governing payment of such allowances (including the rates of</p>	<p>The Management Body may not take any decisions unless a majority of its members are present in person or by proxy. The decisions are taken by a majority of the votes cast.</p> <p>Invalid and blank votes, as well as abstentions, are not taken into account when calculating majorities. In the event of a tie, the chair of the meeting has the casting vote.</p> <p>Each member of the Management Body may hold only one proxy.</p> <p>Minutes of the decisions of the Management Body shall be drawn up and sent by e-mail to the members of the Management Body within one month of Management Body meeting. If no comments are made within one month of the minutes being sent, they are deemed to have been accepted. If any comments are made, approval of the minutes shall be submitted to the next Management Body meeting.</p> <p><u>Article 17.</u> The duties of a member of the Management Body are carried out free of charge.</p> <p>Allowances may be granted to members of the Management Body who have to incur travel and subsistence expenses in connection with statutory meetings and meetings decided by the Management Body. The terms and conditions of these allowances (including the rates of reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses) are determined by the Management Body.</p>
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<p>reimbursement for travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses) shall be determined by the Board of Management.</p> <p>The members of the Association who assist the President shall receive no payment but may be reimbursed for the cost of any travel, accommodation and subsistence incurred, in accordance with the rates of reimbursement in force, as well as for other operational expenses in accordance with the rules laid down by the authorising officer.</p> <p><u>Article 21</u></p> <p>The Board of Management shall elect from among its members a President and Vice- President who shall, accordingly, become President and Vice-President of the Association. They shall be elected by secret ballot.</p> <p>The term of office of the President and Vice-President shall be three years. The President's term of office may be renewed only once.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the sixth paragraph of Article 22, the outgoing President shall remain in office until the new President is elected.</p> <p>The President and Vice-President must belong to different national branches.</p> <p>Because the President holds a casting vote, he/she shall lose his/her right to vote. One of the two alternate members of his/her branch shall therefore become a member of the Board of Management. However, the</p>	<p>Members of the Association who assist the President do not receive any compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel and subsistence expenses in accordance with the scales in force, and for other operating expenses in accordance with the conditions laid down by the authorizing officer.</p> <p><u>Article 18.</u> The Management Body shall elect from among its members a president and a vice-president who shall thereby become President and Vice-President of the Association. Voting shall be by secret ballot.</p> <p>The terms of office of the President and Vice-President shall be three years. The term of office of the President may be renewed only once.</p> <p>The outgoing President shall remain in office until the new President is elected.</p> <p>The President and Vice-President must belong to different national sections.</p> <p>Because the President holds a casting vote, he/she shall lose his or her right to vote. One of the two alternate members of his or her section shall then become a member of the Management Body. However, the President's right to vote is restored in the event of an equal number of votes being cast.</p>
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<p>President's right to vote is restored in the event of an equal number of votes being cast.</p> <p><u>Article 22</u></p> <p>At least three months before the date when the Board of Management is due to meet and during which the elections are due to take place, the outgoing President shall invite members of the Board of Management to submit their candidacies for the positions of President and Vice-President.</p> <p>A candidate can submit his own candidacy or it can be submitted by others; in that case, the candidate must confirm his agreement.</p> <p>Candidates are invited to present themselves to the outgoing President up to two months before the date when the election is to take place.</p> <p>One month before the Board of Management referred to in the first paragraph, the outgoing President shall inform the members of the Board of Management of the names of the candidates received by that date.</p> <p>The Board of Management shall elect the President and the Vice-President, in two separate votes, from the candidates that have been received. A candidate for the Presidency may also run as a candidate for Vice-President.</p> <p>The outgoing President shall remain in office until the end of the week in which the Board of Management meets to elect his/her successor.</p>	<p><u>Article 19.</u> At least three months before the date of the Management Body at which the elections are due to take place, the outgoing President shall invite the members of the Management Body by email to submit nominations for the positions of President and Vice-President.</p> <p>Nominations may be made either by the candidate him or herself or by others; in the latter case, the candidate must confirm his or her agreement.</p> <p>Candidates are invited to present themselves to the outgoing President up to two months before the date when the election is to take place.</p> <p>One month before the Management Body referred to in the first paragraph, the outgoing President shall inform the members of the Management Body of the candidatures received by that date.</p> <p>The Management Body shall elect the President and Vice-President from among the candidatures received, in two separate votes. A candidate for the Presidency may run as a candidate for the Vice-President.</p> <p>The outgoing President remains in office until the end of the week in which the meeting of the Management Body at which his successor was elected takes place.</p>
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<p><u>Article 25</u></p> <p>Subject to the powers of the General Assembly, the Board of Management can take any action necessary in order to manage the Association, in the broadest sense of the term.</p> <p>On a proposal from its President, the Board of Management shall appoint a General Secretary and a General Treasurer.</p> <p>The offices of General Secretary and of General Treasurer shall not be held by a member of the Board of Management.</p> <p>The Board of Management shall also confirm all other postholders who are required to manage the Association and who are designated by the President and presented to the Board of Management pursuant to Article 31. The other postholders may, but do not need to be, members of the Board of Management.</p> <p><u>Article 27</u></p> <p>The Association shall be represented in legal proceedings to which it is party as plaintiff or defendant by the Board of Management represented by its President or by a member of the Board of Management designated for this purpose.</p> <p><u>Article 26</u></p> <p>For any matters other than those relating to day-to-day management, the Association shall be committed towards third parties by the joint signatures of two members of the Board of Management including that</p>	<p><u>Article 20.</u> Subject to the powers of the General Meeting, the Management Body is responsible for all acts relating to the management of the Association in the broadest sense.</p> <p>On the proposal of its President, the Management Body appoints a General Secretary and a General Treasurer.</p> <p>The offices of General Secretary and General Treasurer are incompatible with those of member of the Management Body.</p> <p>The Management Body shall also confirm all other office holders who are required to manage the Association and who are designated by the President and presented to the Management Body pursuant to of Article 26. Other office holders may, but need not, be members of the Management Body.</p> <p><u>Article 21.</u> The Association shall be represented in legal proceedings to which it is party as plaintiff or defendant by the Management Body represented by its President or by a member of the Management Body designated for this purpose.</p> <p>For any matters other than those relating to day-to-day management, the Association shall be committed towards third parties by the joint signatures of two members of the Management Body including that of the President; they shall not be required to produce any proof of prior authorisation.</p>
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<p>He shall be the authorising officer for all expenditure by the central bodies of the Association.</p> <p>The President may also be required by the Board of Management to perform any specific task which comes within the competence of the Board. He/she shall also be authorised, in an emergency, to take any necessary interim measure, subject to subsequent approval.</p> <p><u>Article 29</u></p> <p>Where the President is absent or unable to act, the Vice-President or, in the latter's absence, the oldest member of the Board of Management shall act in his place.</p> <p><u>Article 30</u></p> <p>The General Secretary is responsible for administrative and executive tasks relating to the running of the bodies of the Association.</p> <p>The Secretary General shall regularly inform national branches of developments on all important items.</p> <p>The General Treasurer is responsible for managing the finances and the accounts of the central bodies of the Association.</p> <p>The Secretary General and the General Treasurer shall attend meetings of the Board of Management but shall have no voting rights.</p> <p><u>Article 31</u></p>	<p>The President may also be entrusted by the Management Body with any specific task falling within the remit of the Management Body. He/she shall also be authorized, in an emergency, to take any necessary interim measure, subject to subsequent approval. Day-to-day management by the President includes both acts and decisions which do not exceed the needs of the day-to-day life of the association and acts and decisions which, either because of the minor interest which they represent or because of their urgent nature, do not justify the intervention of the Management Body.</p> <p><u>Article 24.</u> Where the President is absent or unable to act, he or she shall be replaced by the Vice-President. In addition, the President may, for the entire duration of his or her term of office, by anticipation, designate the member of the Management Body responsible for replacing him or her in the event of his impediment.</p> <p><u>Article 25.</u> The Secretary General is responsible for the administrative and executive tasks relating to the running of the bodies of the Association.</p> <p>The Secretary General shall regularly inform national sections of developments on all important items.</p> <p>The General Treasurer is responsible for managing the finances and the accounts of the central bodies of the Association.</p> <p>The Secretary General and the Treasurer General shall attend meetings of the Management Body without voting rights.</p>
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<p>The President may, in order to carry out his duties, set up a Bureau consisting of him/herself, the Vice-President, the General Secretary, the General Treasurer and other post holders. All members of the Bureau shall function under the authority of the President.</p> <p>If a Bureau is set up, each of its members may be given a specific responsibility.</p> <p>Within six months of his election, the President shall submit to the Board of Management and, if appropriate, to the Bureau, his programme of work for confirmation, in accordance with Article 25.</p> <p>The Bureau shall meet as necessary and at least once before each meeting of the Board of Management, taking into account the potential travel costs of its members.</p> <p>The President can call on people whose skills are regarded as useful for specific tasks for all or part of the time of his or her mandate.</p> <p><u>Article 32</u></p> <p>At the end of his term of office the President may be appointed Honorary President by decision of the Board of Management.</p> <p><i>Title VIII - Final provisions</i></p> <p><u>Article 38</u></p>	<p><u>Article 26.</u> The President, in the performance of his duties, may set up a Bureau comprising, in addition to himself, the Vice-President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer General and other office holders. All are placed under his or her authority.</p> <p>If a Bureau is set up, mandates may be assigned to its members.</p> <p>Within six months of his election, the President shall submit his or her work programme and, where appropriate, his or her Bureau to the Management Body for confirmation in accordance with Article 20.</p> <p>The Bureau shall meet as necessary and at least before each meeting of the Management Body, considering any travel costs incurred by its members.</p> <p>The President may call upon the services of persons whose skills are regarded as useful for all or part of the time of his or her mandate.</p> <p><u>Article 27.</u> At the end of his term of office, the President may be appointed Honorary President by decision of the Management Body.</p>
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<p>The provisions for implementing these Articles of Association, in particular a financial regulation and Rules of Procedure, shall be adopted by the Board of Management.</p> <p><i>Title IV - Budget and accounts</i></p> <p><u>Article 33</u></p> <p>Each year, the Board of Management shall draw up the accounts for the past financial year, ending 31 December, and shall prepare a draft budget for the central bodies for the next financial year.</p> <p>The accounts and the budget shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.</p> <p>The resources of the Association shall consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - members' subscriptions; - subsidies which may be granted in order that the Association can fulfil its aims; - any other resources authorised by law. <p><i>Title V - National Branches</i></p>	<p><u>Chapter 6 – RULES OF PROCEDURE AND FINANCIAL REGULATION</u></p> <p><u>Article 28.</u> The provisions for implementing these Articles of Association, in particular Rules of Procedure and a financial regulation, shall be adopted by the Management Body.</p> <p><u>Chapter 7 - BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS</u></p> <p><u>Article 29.</u> The financial year begins on 1 January and ends on 31 December.</p> <p>The accounts shall be kept in accordance with the legal provisions set out in the Companies and Associations Code or any other applicable regulations.</p> <p>The Management Body shall submit the annual accounts for the previous financial year as well as a draft budget to the Annual General Meeting for approval.</p> <p>The Association's resources consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - members' subscriptions; - any subsidies that may be granted to enable it to achieve the objectives it has set itself; - and any other resources authorized by law. <p>The Association's annual accounts are filed in accordance with legal provisions within one month of their approval.</p> <p>Approval of the accounts by the General Meeting constitutes discharge for the Management Body.</p>
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<p><u>Article 34</u></p> <p>Each national branch shall have an Assembly and a management body which are the bodies of the national branch. The management body can co-opt members. They must be set up in accordance with the national laws governing the establishment of each branch.</p> <p>Within the context of their powers and territorial authority, each national branch shall contribute to the implementation of the aims of the Association, as set out in Article 3 above, and , in particular, paras 3 and 4 of this article.</p> <p>The national branches shall liaise with the central bodies responsible for representing the members of the Association in dealings with the European Union institutions and bodies.</p> <p><i>Title VI Amendment of the Articles of Association - Dissolution of the association</i></p> <p><u>Article 35</u></p> <p>Any proposal to amend the Articles of Association or to wind up the Association must originate from the Board of Management or from at least one-fifth of the members of the Association.</p> <p>The Board of Management must give members of the Association at least two months' notice of the date of the General Assembly at which the proposal is to be decided upon.</p>	<p><u>Chapter 8 - NATIONAL SECTIONS</u></p> <p><u>Article 30.</u> The General Meeting and a Management body of the Association elected by the latter constitute the bodies of the sections. The management body can co-opt members. They must be set up in accordance with the national laws governing the establishment of each section.</p> <p>Within the scope of their territorial authority, each of these sections shall contribute to the implementation of the Association's objectives as set out in Article 3 above, and in particular paragraphs 2), and 3) of this article.</p> <p>The national sections shall liaise with the central bodies, which alone are responsible for representing the members of the Association in dealings with the institutions and bodies of the European Union.</p> <p><u>Chapter 9 - AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION - DISSOLUTION - MISCELLANEOUS</u></p> <p><u>Article 31.</u> Any proposal to amend the Articles of Association or to dissolve the Association must be submitted by the Management Body or by at least one-fifth of the members of the Association.</p>
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<p>The General Assembly may not take any decision unless at least two-thirds of the members are present in person or by proxy.</p> <p>For a decision to be adopted, it must receive at least two-thirds of the votes.</p> <p>An amendment to any of the aims referred to in Article 3 and for which purpose the Association was set up, requires a 4/5ths majority of members present in person or by proxy, in order to be adopted.</p> <p>If the General Assembly, as referred to in the second paragraph, is not attended by two-thirds of the members of the Association, a new General Assembly shall be convened which shall deliberate and take a definitive decision on the proposal in question, regardless of the number of members present in person or by proxy.</p> <p>In pursuance of para 3 of Article 50 of the Law of 27 June 1921, any amendments to the mentions referred to in Article 48 paragraph 1 (2) shall enter into force only after they have been approved by Royal Decree. The other statutory amendments referred to in Article 48(5) and (7), shall be recorded in due legal form.</p> <p>The General Assembly shall determine the manner of dissolution of the Association.</p> <p>Title VII - Dissolution and liquidation</p> <p><u>Article 36</u></p>	<p>The Management Body must give members of the Association at least two months' notice of the date of the General Meeting at which the proposal is to be decided upon.</p> <p>The General Meeting may only act if two thirds of the members are present or represented.</p> <p>No decision shall be valid unless passed by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. Amendments to the aims referred to in Article 3 for which the Association was set up requires a majority of 4/5ths of the votes of the members present or represented.</p> <p>If the General Meeting referred to in the third paragraph is not attended by two-thirds of the members of the Association, a new General Meeting shall be convened, which shall take a final and valid decision on the proposal in question, regardless of the number of members present or represented. Pursuant to articles 10:1 et seq. of the Companies and Associations Code, any change to the name, the non-profit purpose and the aim shall only come into force after approval by Royal Decree. The other statutory amendments shall be recorded in due legal form.</p> <p>The General Meeting shall determine the method of dissolution and liquidation of the Association.</p>
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<p>In the event of voluntary dissolution, the General Assembly shall appoint one or two liquidators and determine their powers.</p> <p><u>Article 37</u></p> <p>In the event of dissolution, whether voluntary or compulsory, whenever it occurs and for whatever reason, the General Assembly shall decide on the disposal of the net assets remaining after all debts have been paid and charges have been cleared. This shall reflect as closely as possible the purpose for which the Association was formed.</p>	<p><u>Article 32.</u> In the event of voluntary dissolution, the General Meeting shall appoint one or two liquidators and determine their powers.</p> <p>The General Meeting shall determine the allocation of the net assets remaining after payment of debts and expenses. This allocation must be as close as possible to the purpose for which the Association was formed.</p> <p><u>Article 33.</u> For all matters not provided for herein, the members declare that they will refer to the legal provisions in force.</p>
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