

## **§ 1 Name, Registered Office, and Scope of Activities**

- (1) The Association bears the name “Association for the Purpose of EU-wide Cultural Exchange – wEUnite (‘we connect’)”.
- (2) The abbreviation of the Association’s name is “wEUnite”.
- (3) The Association wEUnite constitutes the Austrian Section of the Young European Federalists (JEF Europe).
- (4) The Association wEUnite is an independent, non-partisan, and non-denominational youth organization. It is a non-profit organization and not directed towards commercial business operations or the pursuit of profit.
- (5) The Association extends its activities to the territory of the Republic of Austria and has its registered office in Graz. Furthermore, the Association also conducts international projects, cooperations, and activities of a European, cultural, and youth policy-related nature.
- (6) In each federal state of Austria, a regional association with or without legal personality may be established.
- (7) Regional, district and municipal sections with or without legal personality may be established in all regions, districts and municipalities. The Association may also establish other subdivisions with or without legal personality.

## **§ 2 Principles, Objectives and Purpose of the Association**

- (1) The Association, whose activities are not aimed at generating profit, is committed to a democratic, secure, economically strong, educated, peaceful, ecological, social, united and federal Europe, and thus to the European ideal and the European Spirit. The Association’s objective is to strengthen federal and democratic structures at all levels and to promote the establishment of a European federal state as a first step towards lasting peace and a world federation. For this reason, the Association advocates for greater democracy, participation, and social justice in society. The Association works towards strengthening democracy, primarily, though not exclusively, in Europe.
- (2) The political foundation of the Association is federalism, which can be traced back to the writings of Kant, Hamilton, Proudhon, Marc, and Spinelli - among others. Federalism aspires to a decentralized, self-governing society in which every individual can participate, directly or indirectly, in decisions affecting them. All decisions must be taken by democratic institutions at the most appropriate level (municipality, province, state, Europe, global level).
- (3) The Association promotes active European democratic citizenship, civic courage, solidarity, and the voluntary engagement of young people. The Association highlights opportunities for young people to take an active role in the development of society, Europe, the world, and democratic life.
- (4) The Association recognises and represents the concerns and interests of young people, promotes and demands their participation in all areas of life and at all levels, and contributes to their emotional, physical, and intellectual development as well as to their personal growth. The Association seeks to foster young people’s understanding of tolerance, peace, and mutual understanding, and to develop their social, political, ecological, and development policy engagement. Through political, human rights-related, democratic, and community-building education, young people shall be enabled to take an active part in the social, political, and cultural life of Austria, Europe, and the world. The Association also promotes the development of initiative, independence, and creativity among young people. Teaching key skills to young people is one of the Association's main goals.
- (5) The Association upholds the values of humanism and advocates for fundamental and human rights, tolerance, freedom, equal opportunities, social justice, democracy, solidarity, and environmental awareness, as well as for ecological, humanitarian, and development-oriented action and the dissemination of these values.

- (6) The Association actively opposes racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, Islamophobia, and antisemitism. Incitement to hatred and violence, racially motivated insults or threats, condoning of genocide and crimes against humanity as defined in the Statute of the International Criminal Court, and the dissemination or distribution of writings, images, or other material containing racist or xenophobic content are strictly condemned and rejected by the Association.
- (7) The Young European Federalists emerged from the resistance and resistance movements against National Socialism, fascism, and totalitarianism, and the Association, in this tradition, is fully committed and determined to oppose policies hostile to democracy and contemptuous of human dignity. An important aspect of the Association's work is also the commemoration and remembrance of the victims of National Socialism, fascism, and totalitarianism, as well as the imparting of knowledge to young people about how such inhumane systems came into existence.
- (8) Through its work, the Association strives to equip young people with the ability to clearly distinguish between democratic and undemocratic political actions. It imparts criteria enabling young people to make a well-considered assessment of political decisions and developments with regard to potential threats to our democratic system. This is also one of the essential foundations of national intellectual defence, the objectives of which the Association endorses. For this reason, the Association places particular emphasis on promoting the political education of young people, thereby strengthening democracy.
- (9) The Association advocates for a peaceful Europe and a peaceful world. It is a peace movement dedicated to the idea of peace education and the safeguarding of peace.
- (10) The Association adheres to the general understanding that the existential problems of humanity can only be solved through international cooperation. For this reason, the Association promotes the dissemination of the European ideal, international understanding, and open-mindedness among young people. The unification of societies shall take place by democratic means, with due regard for their linguistic, cultural, and historical distinctiveness.
- (11) The Association participates in the exchange of experiences and ideas with other political movements without, however, identifying itself with any specific political movement. Its partners include political parties, environmental, peace, human rights, children's, youth and student organisations, as well as international, European, national and local institutions, and the general public.
- (12) The Association is not interested in the direct administration of political power; it focuses its activities on the establishment of federal structures in Europe and worldwide.
- (13) The Association is a youth organisation — a voluntary alliance of young people who engage on an honorary basis in support of the Association's objectives and values. Young people are actively and decisively involved at all levels of the Association and hold leadership roles. The Association's projects and activities are planned and implemented according to the "peer-to-peer" principle, that is, by young people for young people. In educational measures and training programmes, the Association applies the method of "peer group education" and trains young people to act as multipliers: young people impart knowledge, values, skills, and competences to other young people.
- (14) The Association promotes the mobility of young people in Europe and worldwide and supports them in getting to know other people and cultures. Through the Association, young people shall have the opportunity to experience, explore, and become acquainted with Europe.
- (15) The Association advocates for the coming together and exchange on an equal footing between young people and decision-makers.
- (16) The Association enables and promotes barrier-free participation by socially or otherwise disadvantaged young people. Equal opportunities and equal treatment of young people in all areas and activities of the Association's life are taken for granted. A balanced representation of all genders in the Association's bodies is sought.

- (17) The Association maintains its own independent organisational life and thereby carries out youth work autonomously and independently.
- (18) In addition, the Association also serves as an umbrella organisation for pro-European, democratic youth Associations, youth organisations, and youth initiatives operating in Austria whose objectives are directed towards the peaceful and democratic unification of Europe and the participation of young people, and which recognise the European ideal as well as the values and principles of the Association.
- (19) The ideals, objectives, and purpose of the Association are set forth in the Association's bylaws and in its documents and resolutions.
- (20) The Association undertakes comprehensive quality assurance of its work in accordance with its own quality assurance guidelines and/or in compliance with the required or prescribed standards of federal, state, or European Union institutions.

### **§ 3 Ideal Means for Achieving the Association's Ideals, Objectives and Purpose**

The ideals, objectives, and purpose referred to in § 2 shall be pursued through the following activities:

- (1) Lectures, meetings, training courses, further education courses, classes, competitions, excursions, regular get-togethers and social gatherings, in the spirit of European education and youth work;
- (2) Establishing and maintaining contact with, as well as providing support to, pupils, trainees, students, and young people from within Austria and abroad, within the meaning of European education and youth work;
- (3) The organization of national and international youth exchanges within the meaning of European education and youth work;
- (4) The organization of events and activities with political decision-makers aimed at promoting the democratic system of government and European education or civic education;
- (5) Social gatherings and the fostering of all forms of youth community life at the Austrian and international level, including through sports and cultural activities;
- (6) The organization of public events and demonstrations intended to promote the dissemination of the Association's ideals and objectives;
- (7) The organization of other events and activities serving the purposes of European education and civic education;
- (8) Close cooperation with all JEF sections, in particular with neighboring ones, within the framework of the Association's international activities and in the spirit of promoting international understanding;
- (9) Publication of the Association's own media, such as newspapers, brochures, leaflets, posters, and other publications;
- (10) Press and public relations work: lobbying, sponsorship, awareness-raising, operating a website, and utilizing other digital media;
- (11) Association-owned documentation and library work;
- (12) Administration in the capacity of managing body for commissioned EU offices;
- (13) Establishment and termination of employment relationships;
- (14) Representation of associated and subordinate youth organizations and initiatives vis-à-vis funding bodies;
- (15) Contacts and cooperation with other organizations, associations, and initiatives pursuing the same objectives as this Association.

### **§ 4 Raising of Financial Resources**

The funds required to achieve the objectives may be raised through:

- (1) through admission fees, membership dues, donations (including in-kind donations), collections, testamentary dispositions, legacies, income from foundations, sponsorship, participation fees, and other voluntary contributions;
- (2) through support, reimbursements, grants, and subsidies from public and private entities;
- (3) through proceeds from officially authorized events;
- (4) through the publication of print and/or other media;
- (5) through essential and non-essential ancillary operations;
- (6) through proceeds from the activities referred to in § 3;
- (7) through asset management (e.g., interest, other capital income, income from renting and leasing, etc.);
- (8) through the implementation of projects and assignments from public and private entities that serve the objectives and ideals of the Association.

## **§ 5 Types of Membership and Affiliation**

- (1) The Association consists of:
  - a) ordinary members
  - b) honorary members
  - c) associated associations

In the following, the term “members” shall be understood to include ordinary members, honorary members, and associated associations (as legal entities).

- (2) Ordinary membership is open to all natural persons up to the age of 35. Office holders of the Association and its regional branches, whether or not possessing separate legal personality, shall retain their ordinary membership beyond this age until the expiry of their term of office within the Association.
- (3) Persons who have rendered distinguished services to the objectives of the Association through their activities may be appointed honorary members by the Federal Congress.
- (4) Legal entities that support the objectives and ideals of the Association but retain their own structure may be admitted as associated associations. The individual members of the associated association shall, within the meaning of voluntary dual membership, be recorded as members of the Association. A prerequisite for this is admission in accordance with § 7 of the Association’s bylaws.
- (5) The Association shall maintain a register of all members within the meaning of § 5 (1).

## **§ 6 Admission of Ordinary Members**

- (1) Members of regional associations or subdivisions possessing their own legal personality shall be reported to the Federal Executive Board without delay by the respective competent bodies of the association.
- (2) Natural persons may submit their application for admission as an ordinary member of the Association, either in writing or orally, to members of the Federal Executive Board.
- (3) Natural persons may submit their application for admission as an ordinary member of the Association, either in writing or orally, to representatives of regional associations and other subdivisions without their own legal personality.
- (4) The admission of ordinary members shall take place, following notification pursuant to § 6 (1), upon the proposal of a member of the Federal Executive Board or upon application pursuant to § 6 (2), by resolution of the Federal Executive Board.
- (5) The Federal Executive Board may refuse admission as a member without stating reasons. An appeal against a refusal by the Federal Executive Board may be lodged with the Arbitration Tribunal.

## **§ 7 Admission of Associated associations**

- (1) The admission of associated associations shall be decided by the Federal Executive Board upon application by the organization concerned. No appeal to the Arbitration Tribunal shall be permitted against a refusal.
- (2) A written agreement shall be concluded regarding the Association.

## **§ 8 Admission of Regional associations**

The admission of regional associations, whether or not possessing a separate legal personality, shall be decided by the Federal Executive Board upon application by the organization concerned. No appeal to the Arbitration Tribunal shall be permitted against a refusal.

## **§ 9 Termination of Membership**

- (1) The ordinary membership shall, as a rule, terminate on 31 December of the year in which the member reaches the age of 35, or through resignation, deletion from the register, expulsion, or death.
- (2) On 31 December of the year in which ordinary members reach the age of 35, such members shall forfeit their membership in the Association.
- (3) For office holders of the Association, the age limit pursuant to paragraph 1 shall not apply. All office holders are ordinary members. Upon leaving office after having exceeded the age limit pursuant to paragraph 1, they shall automatically lose their ordinary membership.
- (4) Voluntary resignation from the Association may be effected at any time by written notification to the Federal Executive Board.
- (5) The Federal Executive Board shall be entitled to delete members from the membership register if a member has failed to fulfil their obligations under § 11 for at least one year. An appeal to the Arbitration Tribunal may be lodged against such deletion. The member concerned shall be informed of the deletion from the membership register in writing without delay.
- (6) A member may be expelled:
  - a) in the event of gross violation of the Association's bylaws;
  - b) for disregarding resolutions of the Association;
  - c) for actions detrimental to the reputation and standing of the Association;
  - d) for actions otherwise harmful to the Association.
- (7) Expulsion shall be decided by the Federal Executive Board by a two-thirds majority. An appeal to the Arbitration Tribunal may be lodged against this decision. The member concerned shall submit such appeal in writing to the Federal Executive Board within one month of the expulsion.
- (8) Honorary membership shall terminate upon resignation, expulsion, or death. In the event of resignation by honorary members, paragraph 4 shall apply mutatis mutandis; in the event of expulsion of honorary members, paragraphs 6 and 7 shall apply mutatis mutandis.
- (9) After exceeding the age limit, leaving office after exceeding the age limit, resignation, deletion from the register, expulsion, or death, the member shall have no claim to reimbursement of contributions made or membership fees paid.

## **§ 10 Termination of Affiliation of Associated associations or Regional associations**

- (1) The affiliation of associated associations shall terminate upon dissolution of the affiliation agreement, expulsion, or dissolution of the associated association.
- (2) The affiliation of regional associations shall terminate upon resignation, expulsion, or dissolution of the organization, whether or not possessing separate legal personality.

- (3) The voluntary dissolution of the affiliation agreement or the resignation of a regional association may be effected at any time by written notification to the Federal Executive Board.
- (4) The expulsion of an associated association or regional association may occur:
  - d) in the event of gross violation of the Association's bylaws;
  - e) for disregarding resolutions of the Association;
  - f) for actions detrimental to the reputation and standing of the Association;
  - g) for actions otherwise harmful to the Association.
- (5) The expulsion of an associated association or a regional association shall be decided by the Federal Congress, upon the proposal of the Federal Executive Board, by a simple majority.
- (6) In the event of dissolution of the affiliation agreement, expulsion, or dissolution of the associated association, such association shall have no claim to reimbursement of contributions made or membership fees paid.

## **§ 11 Rights and obligations**

- (1) Ordinary members shall enjoy rights, in particular the use of the Association's facilities, participation in events, the active and passive right to vote in the Federal Congress, as well as the right to submit motions to and vote in the Federal Congress.
- (2) Members are obliged to safeguard the interests and reputation of the Association, to respond to and acknowledge contact attempts by the Association, to act in a politically independent manner on behalf of the Association, to observe and comply with the Association's bylaws and the resolutions of its bodies, and to pay the prescribed membership fees within the specified period. The obligation to pay membership fees may be suspended by the Federal Executive Board.
- (3) Members are obliged to refrain from any action that could harm the reputation or purpose of the Association.
- (4) Honorary members shall have the same rights and obligations as ordinary members, except that they shall not enjoy the passive right to vote in the Federal Congress nor the right to submit motions to and vote in the Federal Congress. Honorary members shall have the active right to vote in the Federal Congress.
- (5) Associated associations shall have the same rights and obligations as ordinary members. The passive right to vote, as well as the right to submit motions to and vote in the Federal Congress, shall be exercised by no more than two delegates per associated association.
- (6) Each member shall be entitled to request a copy of the Association's bylaws from the Federal Executive Board. The Federal Executive Board shall comply with such request without delay.
- (7) At least one tenth of the members may request the Federal Executive Board to convene a Federal Congress.
- (8) The members shall be informed of the Association's activities and financial management at each Federal Congress. If at least one tenth of the members so request, stating reasons, the Federal Executive Board shall provide such information to the members concerned within four weeks.
- (9) The members shall be informed by the Federal Executive Board of the audited financial statements (accounts). If this takes place at the Federal Congress, the auditors shall be involved.
- (10) In the event that the Association asserts claims for damages against office holders, the Federal Congress may appoint a special representative. If the Federal Congress refuses to appoint a special representative or does not address this matter, claims for damages may be asserted by at least one tenth of the members. These members shall appoint a special representative for the Association who shall be entrusted with asserting the claims for damages. In the latter case, if the Association is unsuccessful in enforcing the asserted claims in whole or in part, the members concerned shall be jointly and severally

liable externally for the costs arising from the legal action and shall bear such costs internally in equal shares.

## **§ 12 Organs of the Association**

- (1) The federal bodies of the Association are:
  - a) the Federal Congress as the supreme body of the Association;
  - b) the Federal Executive Board;
  - c) the Federal Committee
  - d) the Management;
  - e) the Auditors;
  - f) the Arbitration Tribunal.
- (2) The scope of authority of the federal bodies covers all matters concerning the Association and its members.
- (3) The federal bodies may regulate and implement all duties assigned to them by the Association's bylaws and all matters within their own sphere of competence.

## **§ 13 Federal Congress**

- (1) The Federal Congress shall be convened every three years as an ordinary Federal Congress. The convening shall be carried out by the Federal Executive Board at least three weeks prior to the meeting. The manner of convening shall be determined by the Federal Executive Board. The invitation to the Federal Congress shall specify the date, venue, and agenda.
- (2) Ordinary members and the designated voting delegates of the associated associations shall have the right to submit motions to the Federal Congress. Such motions must be submitted in writing to the Federal Executive Board at least seven days prior to the meeting.
- (3) Urgent motions submitted after the expiry of the regular deadline may be submitted to the Federal Executive Board up until the start of the Federal Congress and, during the Federal Congress, to the chair of the meeting. The admissibility of the motion shall be decided by the Federal Congress by a simple majority. The motion shall be admissible if the Federal Congress affirms its urgency.
- (4) Supplementary and amendment motions, provided they are not motions to amend the bylaws, may be submitted in writing to the chair of the meeting until the conclusion of the individual debate on the respective motion. The Federal Congress may, in its rules of procedure or in individual cases, decide on different deadlines.
- (5) The Federal Congress shall be composed of all ordinary members and honorary members recorded as such by the Association. Associated associations of the Association may each send up to two voting delegates.
- (6) An ordinary member may represent multiple votes. A prerequisite for the valid transfer of voting rights is that the voting right is transferred in writing prior to the start of the meeting and that such transfer has been notified to the Federal Executive Board. The Federal Executive Board shall decide on the validity of the transfer of voting rights.
- (7) An extraordinary Federal Congress shall be convened in writing by the Federal Executive Board within one week if requested by one tenth of the members or by the auditors. The Federal Executive Board may likewise convene an extraordinary Federal Congress on its own initiative. The extraordinary Federal Congress shall be composed in the same manner as the ordinary Federal Congress. It shall take place no earlier than two weeks and no later than four weeks after its convening.
- (8) The Federal Congress shall have a quorum if at least half of those entitled to vote are present. If the Federal Congress is not quorate at the scheduled time, a Federal Congress with the same agenda shall be held fifteen minutes later, which shall have a quorum regardless of the number of voting members present.

- (9) At the Federal Congress, the federal chairperson shall preside as chair of the meeting. In the event of his/her absence, one of the deputy chairpersons shall assume the chair; if necessary, the oldest voting member by age shall preside.
- (10) The Federal Congress shall pass its resolutions, unless otherwise provided in the Association's bylaws, by a simple majority of the valid votes cast. Abstentions shall be deemed invalid votes and shall be recorded separately. In the event of a tie in the valid votes cast, the motion shall be deemed rejected.
- (11) An amendment to the Association's bylaws shall require a two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast. Motions to amend the bylaws must be submitted in writing by ordinary members to the Federal Executive Board at least seven days prior to the meeting of the Federal Congress.
- (12) The Federal Congress shall be responsible for all tasks not assigned to another body. In particular, it shall be responsible for:
  - a) the election of the members of the Federal Executive Board elected by the Federal Congress;
  - b) the election of the two auditors;
  - c) the receipt of the report of the federal chairperson;
  - d) the receipt of the report on the annual financial statements and the adoption of a resolution thereon;
  - e) the discussion and adoption of resolutions on the motions submitted;
  - f) the expulsion of associated associations or regional associations;
  - g) the granting and revocation of honorary memberships;
  - h) the adoption of resolutions on amendments to the Association's bylaws;
  - i) the discussion and adoption of resolutions on political positions;
  - j) the discussion and adoption of resolutions on other items on the agenda;
  - k) the appointment of a special representative in the event that the Association asserts claims for damages against office holders;
  - l) the adoption of resolutions on the dissolution of the Association.

#### **§ 14 Federal Committee**

- (1) The Federal Committee shall consist of the chairpersons of the regional associations by virtue of their office, as well as one additional representative nominated by the respective regional executive board.
- (2) The Federal Committee shall further include one representative from each associated association. The nomination of the representative shall be the responsibility of the respective competent bodies of the association.
- (3) The members of the Federal Executive Board shall belong to the Federal Committee in an advisory capacity.
- (4) The Federal Committee may be convened by any voting member. The Federal Committee shall meet within two weeks of being convened.
- (5) The chair of the meeting of the Federal Committee shall be elected at the beginning of the session by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the oldest member by age shall preside.
- (6) The Federal Committee shall plan joint activities between the umbrella Association, the regional associations, and the associated associations.
- (7) The Federal Committee shall supervise and advise the Federal Executive Board on important matters of the Association. The Federal Committee shall adopt resolutions on motions concerning the political positions of the umbrella Association, provided such positions have not already been resolved by the Federal Congress.
- (8) The Federal Committee shall adopt its resolutions by a simple majority of votes. In the event of a tie, the resolution shall be deemed not adopted.

## **§ 15 Management**

- (1) The managing director may be appointed by the Federal Executive Board for a maximum term of three years. Reappointment as managing director shall be permissible.
- (2) The management shall support the Federal Executive Board in general and specific tasks. The Federal Executive Board may entrust the management with the handling of individual tasks. In fulfilling these tasks, the management shall be subordinate to the Federal Executive Board and bound by its instructions.
- (3) The Federal Executive Board may delegate certain matters of the Association to the management for independent handling.
- (4) Matters that the Federal Executive Board may delegate to the management for independent handling shall in particular include:
  - a) the preparation of events and meetings;
  - b) the preparation of annual financial statements and activity reports;
  - c) preparatory work for the Association's activities;
  - d) the administration of the Association's assets, excluding the conclusion of contracts exceeding EUR 2,000.00 and sales or other legal transactions relating to the Association's assets, which must be approved by the Federal Executive Board;
  - e) cash management and administration of the Association's funds;
  - f) the conclusion of contracts:
    - I. whose execution has already been approved by the Federal Executive Board,
    - II. whose implementation constitutes a necessary prerequisite for achieving objectives already defined by the Federal Executive Board,
    - III. whose implementation results in a positive benefit to the Association;
  - g) the preparation of legal transactions reserved for resolution by other bodies;
  - h) keeping the minutes of meetings of the Association's bodies;
  - i) regular reporting on the matters delegated by the Federal Executive Board.
- (5) For the duration of his/her term of office, the managing director shall be an advisory member of the Federal Congress and the Federal Executive Board.
- (6) In carrying out its obligations, the management shall act solely in the interests of the Association.

## **§ 16 Federal Executive Board**

- (1) The members of the Federal Executive Board shall be elected by the Federal Congress for a term of three years and shall consist of the following honorary office holders:
  - a) the federal chairperson;
  - b) one to four deputy federal chairpersons;
  - c) the treasurer;
  - d) the deputy treasurer, a position which may but need not be filled;
- (2) The Federal Executive Board shall further include, with voting rights:
  - a) other board members elected by the Federal Congress;
  - b) board members co-opted by the Federal Executive Board;
- (3) The Federal Executive Board shall further include, in an advisory capacity:
  - a) board members co-opted by the Federal Executive Board;
  - b) the managing director.
- (4) Re-election as a member of the Federal Executive Board shall be permissible.
- (5) The Federal Executive Board shall be convened by the federal chairperson or his/her deputies. Upon a substantiated request by at least three members of the Federal Executive Board, the meeting must be convened within two weeks. The Federal Executive Board shall meet no later than one week after being convened. The manner of convening shall be determined by the federal chairperson or his/her deputies. The invitation shall specify the date, venue, and agenda.

- (6) Meetings of the Federal Executive Board shall be chaired by the federal chairperson or, in his/her absence, by one of the deputy chairpersons.
- (7) The Federal Executive Board shall have a quorum if at least three voting members are present, one of whom must be the federal chairperson or a deputy chairperson.
- (8) Resolutions shall be valid if adopted by a simple majority of the valid votes cast. In the event of a tie, the vote of the federal chairperson shall be decisive. Abstentions shall be deemed invalid votes but must be recorded separately.
- (9) Minutes shall be kept of the proceedings and resolutions of the meetings of the Federal Executive Board.
- (10) The Federal Executive Board shall be obliged to ensure that no person is favored through administrative expenses unrelated to the purpose of the Association or through disproportionately high remuneration (board or supervisory board compensation) within the meaning of § 39 (4) of the Federal Fiscal Code (BAO).
- (11) Members of the Federal Executive Board shall remain in office until their respective successors have been elected by the Federal Congress.
- (12) Membership in the Federal Executive Board shall terminate in the event of death, resignation, or expulsion of the member.
- (13) In the event of the departure of the federal chairperson or the treasurer, the respective deputy shall assume the position.
- (14) The Federal Executive Board shall be responsible for:
  - a) the implementation of the resolutions of the Federal Congress;
  - b) the organization of events and activities at the federal level;
  - c) the preparation and adoption of rules of procedure;
  - d) the admission and expulsion of ordinary members;
  - e) the admission of associated associations or regional associations;
  - f) the granting of authorization for the establishment of regional associations and other subdivisions with or without legal personality;
  - g) the convening of the Federal Congress;
  - h) the confirmation of decisions regarding the establishment and termination of employment relationships with the Association;
  - i) the submission of the necessary reports to the Federal Congress;
  - j) the delegation of matters for independent handling to the management of the Association.

## **§ 17 Federal Chairperson**

- (1) The federal chairperson shall be elected by the Federal Congress for a term of three years.
- (2) She/He shall represent the Association externally and shall preside over the Federal Congress and the Federal Executive Board.
- (3) In the event of incapacity, the obligations of the federal chairperson shall be carried out by a deputy federal chairperson appointed by the federal chairperson. If no such appointment is made within 14 days of the chairperson's incapacity, the obligations of the federal chairperson shall be assumed by the longest-serving member of the Federal Executive Board.
- (4) The federal chairperson shall have signing authority for the Association. Contracts binding the Association must - subject to paragraph 6 - be countersigned by at least one deputy federal chairperson.
- (5) In financial matters, the federal chairperson and the treasurer shall sign jointly. This shall not apply to matters delegated by the Executive Board to the management of the Association for independent handling pursuant to § 15 (4).
- (6) In exceptional circumstances, in particular in cases of imminent danger and/or to avert harm to the Association, the federal chairperson may take any measures deemed necessary in the interest of the Association at any time. She/he shall inform the Federal

Executive Board as soon as possible and shall be accountable to the Federal Executive Board as well as to the Federal Congress.

- (7) The federal chairperson shall act as the employer in relation to the Association's staff. The staff shall be subject to the instructions of the federal chairperson. Personnel responsibilities shall include, among other things, decisions regarding the hiring and dismissal of staff. The federal chairperson may delegate this responsibility to a deputy federal chairperson.
- (8) At the end of his/her term of office and at each Federal Congress, the federal chairperson shall present a report on his/her activities to the Federal Congress.

## **§ 18 Treasurer**

- (1) The treasurer shall be responsible for budgeting, financial planning, proper bookkeeping, cash management, payment transactions, financial administration, and the management of the Association's assets.
- (2) In financial matters, the treasurer and the federal chairperson shall sign jointly.
- (3) The treasurer shall be responsible for ensuring the conduct of the annual audits.
- (4) Finally, the treasurer shall report on the annual financial statements to the Federal Congress and the Federal Executive Board.

## **§ 19 Auditors**

- (1) At least two auditors, elected by the Federal Congress and serving a three-year term, shall act as the supervisory body for the management of the Association's assets.
- (2) The auditors shall perform their duties independently and impartially. The Arbitration Tribunal shall decide disputes concerning independence and disputes regarding the existence of impartiality.
- (3) The position of auditor is incompatible with that of a member of the Federal Executive Board or a member of the Arbitration Tribunal.
- (4) The auditors shall be responsible for auditing the Association's financial management with regard to the correctness of the accounting and the use of funds in accordance with the bylaws.
- (5) The auditors shall examine the annual financial statements within four months of the preparation of the income and expenditure account.
- (6) The audit report shall confirm the correctness of the accounting and the use of funds in accordance with the bylaws, or shall identify any deficiencies in financial management or risks to the continued existence of the Association. Particular attention shall be given to unusual income or expenditure, especially self-dealing transactions.
- (7) They shall have the right to inspect all relevant documents at any time. They shall report the results of their audit annually to the Federal Executive Board and, every three years, to the Federal Congress.
- (8) If the auditors determine that the governing body persistently and seriously violates its accounting obligations, and there is no expectation that effective remedy will be provided within the Association in the foreseeable future, the auditors shall request the governing body to convene a Federal Congress.

## **§ 20 Arbitration Tribunal**

- (1) In all disputes arising from the Association relationship, a final internal decision shall be made by an independent Arbitration Tribunal consisting of at least three and no more than five persons, who may not be members of any other body of the Association.
- (2) It shall constitute a "conciliation body" within the meaning of the Austrian Associations Act 2002 and not an arbitration tribunal pursuant to §§ 577 et seq. of the Austrian Code of Civil Procedure (ZPO).

- (3) The Arbitration Tribunal shall be appointed by the Federal Congress, on behalf of the Association, for the entire Association including its subdivisions with and without separate legal personality, for a term of three years. When appointing the members of the Arbitration Tribunal, care shall be taken to ensure their impartiality. All members of the Arbitration Tribunal may be reappointed at any time.
- (4) From among its members, the Arbitration Tribunal shall elect a chairperson.
- (5) The Arbitration Tribunal shall decide, without being bound to a specific form, to the best of its knowledge and belief. It shall reach its decisions by a simple majority vote. In the event of a tie, the chairperson of the Arbitration Tribunal shall have the casting vote. The Arbitration Tribunal shall grant both parties to the dispute the right to be heard.

## **§ 21 Voluntary Dissolution of the Association**

- (1) The voluntary dissolution of the Association may only be resolved at an extraordinary Federal Congress convened for this purpose and shall require a two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast.
- (2) The extraordinary Federal Congress shall, if Association assets are available, decide on the liquidation of the Association's assets. In particular, it shall elect a final Federal Executive Board and resolve to whom the latter shall transfer the Association's remaining assets after covering liabilities.
- (3) The Association's final Federal Executive Board shall notify the competent Association authority in writing of the voluntary dissolution within four weeks of the resolution.

## **§ 22 Use of the Association's Assets upon Dissolution or Termination of the Association or Cessation of its Charitable Purpose**

In the event of dissolution or termination of the Association, or in the event that the Association's current charitable purpose ceases to exist, the Association's remaining assets, after covering liabilities, shall in any case be dedicated to charitable, benevolent, or ecclesiastical purposes within the meaning of §§ 34 et seq. of the Federal Fiscal Code (Bundesabgabenordnung – BAO). Wherever possible and permissible, such assets shall be transferred to institutions pursuing the same or similar purposes as this Association.