

Statutes

EUROPEAN LEAGUE for ECONOMIC COOPERATION (E.L.E.C.)

Association internationale sans but lucratif a.i.s.b.l. (*international non-profit association*)

French is the only authentic text in case of litigation.

Title I - Name - seat - aim and activities

Article 1. - Name - duration

1.1. - An international non-profit association is established, known as "Ligue Européenne de Coopération Economique" (L.E.C.E.) in French, and "European League for Economic Cooperation" (E.L.E.C.) in English. It assumes all the rights and obligations of the association formerly existing under the same name in accordance with the Belgian law of the 25 October 1919, the statutes of which were published in the Annexes du Moniteur belge of 20 November 1948 at n°2497-2500.

1.2. - The association is governed by the provisions under Title III of the Belgian Law of 27 June 1921 on non-profit associations, international non-profit associations and foundations.

1.3. - The association is created for an unlimited period.

Article 2. - Seat

The association's registered office is established in the Brussels-Capital Region, currently Place du Champ de Mars 2, 1050 Brussels *. It can be transferred anywhere in Belgium by a Central Council decision, to be published in the Annexes du Moniteur Belge.

Article 3. - Aim and activities

3.1. - The association has the non-profit international aim of promoting integration within the European Union, developing the spirit of cooperation among European States and peoples at the institutional, economic, social, political and cultural level, and reinforcing the role of Europe worldwide.

3.2. - To achieve its aim, the association may use all appropriate means including:

- a) the constitution of working commissions
- b) the organisation of meetings
- c) a support to the activities of the national sections
- d) publications
- e) the exchange of information

3.3. - The bodies of the association are: the General Assembly, the Central Council and the Secretariat General.

Article 4. - Financial resources

4.1. - The association's financial resources are:

- a) subscriptions paid by its national sections
- b) subsidies from public or private institutions
- c) payments receivable for general services and the sale of publications
- d) gifts and legacies
- e) contributions of associate members

4.2. - The scale of subscriptions and modalities of payment are set annually by the General Assembly on proposal from the Central Council.

Title II - Members

Article 5. - Type of members

5.1. - Full members. The association is composed of national sections.

5.2. - Associate members. The association may admit associate members (individuals or legal entities).

Article 6. - Admission

6.1. - National sections, established under the laws and customs of their countries of origin and pursuing the same objectives as the ELEC, may be admitted as full members.

The Central Council rules on requests for admission after examination of the application, and submits them to the General Assembly for ratification.

Each national section undertakes to participate actively in achieving the association's objectives, and in honouring its financial commitments to the association.

6.2. - Associate member status is granted according to the methods determined by the Central Council. It only carries consultative rights.

Article 7. - Resignation

7.1. - Any national section wishing to withdraw from the association must notify the Secretariat General by registered letter at least six months before the end of the financial year.

7.2. - Associate members are free to withdraw from the association at any time, on simple notice to the Secretariat General.

Article 8. - Exclusion

- 8.1. - Any national section failing to comply with the provisions of the present Statutes, inter alia by failing to meet its financial obligations, may be excluded from the association.
- 8.2. - Exclusion is pronounced by the General Assembly on proposal of the Central Council. The General Assembly establishes the financial obligations for which the excluded national section remains liable.
- 8.3. - Any national section, the exclusion of which is put to the General Assembly, has the right to attend the meeting and to be heard.
- 8.4. - A national section that ceases, by resignation or exclusion, to be a member of the association has no rights in respect of the social fund.
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Title III - Main supervisory body: General Assembly

Article 9. - Membership

The General Assembly is composed of all the national sections.

Only national sections which have paid their subscriptions, represented by their president or any other person expressly authorised by him, are permitted to attend the General Assembly and to exercise voting rights.

Article 10. - Competences

The General Assembly has full powers enabling the achievement of the association's aim and activities.

It is empowered inter alia to:

- a) amend the Statutes
- b) approve the budget and the annual accounts, and give discharge to members of the Central Council
- c) admit and exclude full members
- d) nominate and dismiss the International President
- e) dissolve or liquidate the association.

Article 11. - Method of convocation

11.1. An ordinary General Assembly is held annually before 31 December at the date, hour and place appointed by the Central Council in order to:

- a) approve the accounts for the financial year since the preceding Ordinary General Assembly and to give discharge to the Central Council
- b) fix the budget of income and expenditure until the next Ordinary General Assembly and set the scale of annual subscriptions for national sections
- c) examine the Central Council's annual report
- d) where necessary appoint or dismiss the International President and ratify the admission or exclusion of national sections.

11.2. - The Ordinary General Assembly meets as of right, at the registered office or any other place indicated in the convocation, and is chaired by the International President or by any other person expressly appointed by him. In case of vacancy of the presidency, the most senior president of the national sections serves until the appointment of a new International President.

11.3. - The Central Council may convene extraordinary general assemblies.

It must call an extraordinary General Assembly within three months if so requested by at least one quarter of those national sections whose subscriptions are in order. Such a request indicates exactly which questions should be on the agenda.

11.4. - Convocation of ordinary or extraordinary General Assemblies, together with their agenda, is sent to the national sections at least one month in advance, by post or by e-mail.

The Central Council sets the agenda, taking account of those questions that must be submitted to the General Assembly under Article 10.

It shall include in the agenda any question raised by a national section the subscriptions of which are in order, provided that this proposal reaches the Central Council at least two months before the date of the ordinary or extraordinary General Assembly.

Article 12. - Method of decision

12.1. - Each national section the subscriptions of which are in order has a single vote.

12.2. - The General Assembly legitimately deliberates if the majority of national sections the subscriptions of which are in order are present or represented.

National sections may be represented by another national section duly authorised in writing. Each national section may hold only one proxy.

12.3. - Unless otherwise provided in the present Statutes, decisions are taken by a majority of the national sections present or represented. In the event of a tie, the International President casts the deciding vote. Decisions are notified to members within the month following the General Assembly by post or by e-mail.

Title IV - Administrative body: Central Council

Article 13. - Membership

13.1. - The association is administered by the Central Council under the chairmanship of the International President. It is composed of the presidents of national sections the subscriptions of which are in order, and consists of at least three members.

13.2. - The mandate of a Central Council member shall end as soon as he ceases to serve as president of a national section. The new national president shall replace him by right.

13.3. - The Central Council may admit individual members with consultative status. They are appointed by the Central Council because of services rendered to the association.

Article 14. - Competences

14.1. - The Central Council holds all the administrative and management powers except those held by the General Assembly.

The Central Council's powers include:

- a) the financial management of the association, including the preparation of the budget and the scale of members' annual subscriptions and the drafting of annual accounts for adoption by the General Assembly
- b) the presentation of the association's activity report to the General Assembly
- c) the adoption of the association's resolutions and position papers
- d) the creation and operating methods of working commissions
- e) the appointment of the Secretary General and the definition of the Secretariat General's powers and procedures
- f) the modalities for joining and the amount of the annual contribution for associate members.

14.2. - It delegates daily management to the International President, assisted by the Secretary General.

In addition it may confer special circumscribed powers at its own responsibility on one or several persons.

Article 15. - Method of convocation

The Central Council meets twice a year in principle, or when specially convened by the International President. Convocation of such a meeting is given by post or by e-mail at least one month before the date of the Central Council.

Article 16. - Method of decision

16.1. - The Central Council deliberates legitimately if at least half of its members are present or represented.

A national section president may be represented by any other member; however such member may not hold more than one proxy.

16.2. - The Central Council's decisions are taken by a majority of the members present or represented. In the event of a tie, the International President casts the deciding vote.

16.3. - The International President may decide to adopt resolutions and position papers by a written procedure.

Title V - Executive body: Secretariat General

Article 17. - Competences

17.1. - The daily management of the association is entrusted to the Secretariat General, under the responsibility of the Secretary General.

17.2. - The Secretary General is appointed and dismissed by the Central Council on the International President's proposal.

The Secretary General recruits the staff needed for the proper management of the association within the budgetary limits set by the General Assembly. He may also make use of volunteers.

17.3. - The competences and procedures of the Secretariat General are determined by the Central Council.

Title VI - General rules

Article 18. - Representation of the association

Every act binding the association is, except in the event of a special proxy, legitimately signed by the International President who shall not have to demonstrate to third parties the powers conferred on him to this end.

Legal proceedings whether as plaintiff or defendant are conducted by the Central Council represented by the International President or by a member appointed for this purpose.

Article 19. - Budget and accounts

The financial year commences on 1 January and ends on 31 December.

In accordance with Article 53 of the law, the annual accounts of the past financial year and the budget for the following financial year are drafted by the Central Council annually, and submitted for approval to the next ordinary General Assembly.

The General Assembly may decide to establish a reserve.

Article 20. - Modification of the statutes - dissolution - liquidation

20.1. - Without prejudice to the provisions of the law on non-profit associations, international non-profit associations and foundations, any proposal for the amendment of the statutes or for the dissolution or liquidation of the association must issue from the General Assembly or from at least two thirds of the national sections the subscriptions of which are in order.

20.2. - The Secretariat General notifies members, at least three months in advance, of the date of the General Assembly that shall rule on the said proposal and on the proposed amendments.

The General Assembly may only legitimately discuss the proposal if it is attended by two thirds of those members the subscriptions of which are in order.

No decision is taken unless approved by a majority of the two thirds of the votes of members present or

represented.

However, should the General Assembly not be attended by two thirds of the association's members, a new meeting shall be called which shall rule definitively and legitimately on the proposal, also with a two thirds majority of the votes, regardless of how many members are present or represented, within fifteen days of the first meeting at the earliest.

20.3. - In the event of the dissolution or liquidation of the association, the Central Council has full powers to liquidate the association's assets unless the General Assembly decides otherwise.

After settlement of all the debts and charges, the General Assembly decides how the association's net assets are distributed, allocating them in the way which most closely reflects the objective for which the association was founded.

Article 21. - Working commissions

The Central Council may set up working commissions on specific subjects. It appoints its president and determines their powers.

Working commissions do not form a part of the association's management or executive bodies.

Article 22. - Committee of Honour

The Central Council may appoint an Honorary President and create a Committee of Honour whose members are chosen to reflect their involvement in the European project. They do not form a part of the association's management or executive bodies.

Article 23. - Working languages

The association's working languages are French and English.

Communications may take place in additional languages.

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* In June 2013 ELEC headquarters have been transferred to rue Marie-Thérèse 21, - B- 1000 Brussels (**Decision of the Yerevan Central Council of 7 June 2013, published in the "Annexes du Moniteur Belge" on August 16th 2013**).