

*The English translation is just for information.
The reference text is the French version.*

Statutes adopted by the Founding General Assembly on 20 December 2006, modified and adopted by the Board of Directors on 13 November 2008, modified and adopted by the Board of Directors on 9 November 2012, modified and adopted by the General Assembly on 4 March 2015, modified and adopted by the General Assembly on 30 June 2020.

Article 1

A transnational association governed by the French law of 1 July 1901 and the French decree of 16 August 1901 is created between the founder members of the European Civic Forum, signatories of the Strasbourg's resolution of 17/12/2005, and the adherents to the present Constitution. The name of this transnational association is the EUROPEAN CIVIC FORUM (ECF).

Article 2

The association has the following objectives:

- to work toward bringing out a true European civil dialogue, through reflection, sharing and devising proposals about the use of civic rights for all and the connection between citizens and European institutions and administrative offices;
- to carry out information and awareness campaigns amongst European citizens, but also making demands upon European Union politicians (through for example signatures collection campaigns) in order to influence and weigh in European Union politics;
- to foster encounters and exchange programmes between associations and NGOs in each of the countries involved during initiatives and events of civic nature, organised by network members;
- to organise, every year, in a different European country, a meeting of European association and NGO leaders. These civic forums, all the while promoting the human, cultural and festive dimensions of European construction, will make it possible to clarify and fine-tune the civic and democratic model that we want for Europe.

Article 3

In order to realize these objectives, the EUROPEAN CIVIC FORUM will do exhibitions, publications, electronic publications on Internet, and information and raising awareness actions of any kind and any other activity that allows the network to reach its objectives.

Article 4 **Head office**

Starting from the 11 December 2012, the Head office of the European Civic Forum is established 167 bd. de la Villette, 75010 Paris, France. The Head office can be transferred to any other address by simple decision of the Board of directors.

Article 5

The members of the association are only legal entities, and not individuals, that are non-profit non-governmental organisations: national associations, European networks, inter-associative national plate-forms.

Article 6 **Membership**

To become member of the European Civic Forum, it is necessary to be proposed as candidate by the Board of directors which will take the decision at 2/3 of its members. This decision has to be ratified by the Annual General Meeting. Legal entities asking to be member of the association can not make appeal of the decision of the Board of directors. The decision of the Board of directors does not have to be explained.

Article 7 **Expulsion**

The membership status can be revoked due to the following raisons:

- A) Member's dismissal,
- B) An expulsion declared by the Board of directors for non-payment of the membership fees or for a serious raison; in this last case, the member in question is beforehand invited, by registered letter, to explain himself in front of the Board of directors. The expulsion is ratified by the Annual General Meeting who will vote by simple majority.

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Article 8

The association's resources are the following ones:

- 1) The amount of membership fees,

- 2) Funding from European Union member states, regions, departments and municipalities, as well as European institutions,
- 3) Any other resource not forbidden by the law.

Article 9 **Board of directors**

The association is managed by a Board of directors mainly constituted by representatives of associations or national federations composed at least of 18 members and at the most of 36 members, coming from the majority of member states of the European Union.

The members of the Board of directors are elected for 3 years by the Annual General Meeting. A third of the Board of directors will be re-elected every year.

Every member of the Board of directors appoints one representative and one deputy. The Board of directors chooses among its members, and by secret ballot, a Steering committee, in charge of the implementation of the decisions of the Board of directors.

The elected members of the Steering committee designate:

- a) Two Co-presidents among which at least one woman
- b) One or more vice-presidents
- c) One or more members

One of the Steering Committee members (except the Co-Presidents) will hold the position of treasurer.

In case of vacancy, the Board of directors will temporarily proceed to the replacement of its members until the next Annual General Meeting.

While serving as co-presidents, elected officials no longer directly represent their organizations in the ECF operation.

Once the Steering committee has elected its two Co-presidents, the alternate of the organisation whose member has become Co-president shall become the organisation representative in the Board of Directors.

The Steering committee chooses from among its Co-presidents the one who has the legal responsibility to represent the ECF within the meaning of the obligations of the French law on associations of 1901.

Article 10 **Meetings of the Board of directors**

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The Board of director meets as often as necessary and at least twice a year, at the request of the President, or of a third of its members.

The decisions are taken by the majority of the voters.

Article 11
Annual General meeting

The Annual General Meeting meets every year. The decisions are taken at the majority of its present or represented members.

Each present member can only represent three other associations.

Members who are up to date with the payment of their membership fees have a deliberative voice.

At least one month before the date of the Annual General Meeting, the members of the association are invited, by simple letter, by the President, to participate on it. The agenda of the Annual General Meeting shall be presented on this invitation.

The President, assisted by the members of the Steering committee, chairs the Annual General Meeting and presents the association's report.

The treasurer presents the financial report and submits the association's accounts to the approval of the Annual General Meeting.

The election of the members of the Board of directors will take place once all the points of the agenda will be dealt with.

Only the questions proposed to the agenda by the Board of directors and adopted in the beginning of the session, shall be treated during the Annual General Meeting.

Voting by postal mail is not authorized.

Article 12
Emergency General Meeting

At the initiative of the Board of directors, or at the request of half plus one of the registered members of the association up to date to the payment of their membership fees, the President have to organise an Emergency General Meeting, following the formalities outlined in Article 11.

Article 13
Modification of the Constitution

This Constitution is modified by the Annual General Meeting, following a proposal of the Board of directors or of a third of the members of the association.

The proposals of modification can only be registered on the Annual General Meeting's agenda if they are received by the Head office at least 15 days before the Annual General Meeting takes place.

The Constitution is modified if the decision is taken by a majority of two-thirds of the present or represented members.

Article 14
Internal Rules

Internal rules can be established by the Board of directors, which shall make it approve, as well as its possible modifications, by the Annual General Meeting.

These internal rules are intended to fix different points that are not foreseen in the Constitution, in particular those concerning the internal administration of the association.

Article 15
Dissolution

The dissolution of the association can be pronounced by an Emergency General Meeting organized on this purpose. In order to do so, 2/3 of the present or represented members of the network must be at the Emergency General Meeting. Dissolution is decided by the vote of 2/3 of the present or represented members. One or several persons in charge of the liquidation will then be appointed by the Emergency General Meeting. If necessary, the assets of the structure will be managed according to article 9 of the French law of 1 July 1901 and to the French decree of 16 August 1901.

