

Statutes

Adopted by the formative Congress on 13th April 1973 in Brussels – last amended by the XXVIIth Congress on 3rd and 4th of July 2021 in Valencia

Preamble

Persuaded that the division of the human race into States persistently claiming their inalienable, indivisible and non-shareable sovereignty causes continuous wrongs, enmities, wars, sufferings and miseries,

Convinced that all peoples, groups and individuals have a natural right to organise their lives in accordance with their wishes and that common problems should be resolved on the basis of common democratic rights,

Inspired by the works of E. KANT, A. HAMILTON and P.J. PROUDHON who were amongst the first to turn their attention to our world of States and who developed the idea of unity in diversity, and are as a result considered the founders of federalism; committed to fighting for a society that is free, democratic and federal under the rule of law as the only guarantee of genuine social progress in Europe,

Different movements, independently founded, but with the same objectives have established themselves between the two world wars, and particularly right after World War II.

Taking as a basis for their current action previous studies, published texts, resolutions adopted at various times of their existence, and in particular the directives of Federal Union of 1939, the principles for a new Europe by the Europa-Union of Switzerland in February 1940, the Manifesto of Ventotene of July 1941, the declarations of the European Resistance Movements in Geneva in May 1944, the Hertenstein program of September 1946, the declaration of the first Congress of Montreux in 1947, the political resolution of Europa-Union Germany in May 1949, the Federalist Charter adopted by the second Congress of Montreux in 1964, and the declaration of principles of the M.F.E. accepted by the Congress of Nancy in April 1972

After a 10-year separation, these Movements have decided to reunite. Their democratically elected delegates met on 13 April 1973 in Brussels to establish a supranational European organisation with the object of fighting together in the most effective way for the creation of a European Federation. This resulting European organisation was then named the Union of European Federalists, which the following articles of association constitute the updated statutes of.

Since the publication of the Schuman Declaration of 9 May 1950, significant progress has been achieved in the European integration through intermediate stages ; such as the successive enlargement of the Union from six founding to 27 Members, the direct election of the European Parliament, the creation of internal market ,and the area without internal borders, the creation of the single currency and the establishment of the European Central Bank, independent of the Member States. Nevertheless, the 'more perfect union' desired by the founding fathers and mothers is far from being achieved.

Name, Seat and Term

Article 1

1. The Association shall be named “Union of European Federalists” in English and the equivalent translation in any other language. It shall be known by the initials “U.E.F”.
2. Its registered office shall be in Brussels.
3. The Association was established on 13 April 1973 for an indefinite period.
4. The Association assumes the character of a supranational non-profit organisation.

Aims

Article 2

The UEF’s aims shall be:

- to work for the creation of a European Federation, endowed with supranational institutions with limited but real sovereign powers, consisting of:
 - a Federal Government,
 - a Parliament elected by direct universal suffrage,
 - a Federal Senate representing Member States and possibly the Regions,
 - a Court of Justice,and bound to guarantee basic liberties, including the right of opposition and to ensure the maximum participation of citizens at all levels of government;
- to support and to settle the engagement of the citizens of the Union;
- to promote and to protect the engagement of the citizens of the Union;
- to serve and to strengthen the remembrance of European history and heritage.

Article 3

The U.E.F. shall be independent of all political parties and pursue its objectives in complete freedom.

Article 4

1. Its role shall be to bring together citizens who desire to work for the federal unity of Europe; to act as a catalyst of democratic forces; and to organise and stimulate public debate on the political content of European Federation.
2. One of its aims shall be to bring together and organise, on a Europe-wide basis, individual members of the European Movement, of which U.E.F. is a constituent member.

Article 5

The policy of the U.E.F. is set out in the political declarations of its Congresses, which shall be binding and shall guide the members in carrying out a common purpose.

Membership

Article 6

1. The U.E.F. shall consist of individual members who accept its aims and Statutes and are associated through its Sections. Sections are the organisations formed by members on a national level. Only one Section per country may be accepted. Members working or having worked in the European Institutions or in international organisations operating at their working places may organise themselves in “Groupe Europe”, which enjoys the same status as a Section.

2. In the absence of a Section, Regional and local groups, which organise themselves in accordance with federalist and democratic principles and in line with the aims of the U.E.F. will be endowed with transitory direct U.E.F. membership. Regional and local U.E.F. groups will be encouraged to set up a Section as soon as possible.

3. Any individual residing in a country with no organisation of the U.E.F. may become a member provided it accepts its aims and statutes.

4. The Section have to fix a rate to be paid for membership in their remit. They have to pay for each member a contribution to the U.E.F., which is fixed on the base of a Finance and Contributions Order (FCO), to be adopted by the federal Committee on a proposal by the Executive Bureau with the majority of its component members. The FCO shall fix the requirements under which the delegates of a Section loses their rights to vote, if the Section is more than 6 months in arrear with their financial obligations

5. Acceptance of new Sections depends on the approval of the Federal Committee on the proposal of the Executive Bureau after fulfilling the requirements for Sections in the Statutes and the Financial and Contributions Order (FCO). Organisations applying for approval as a Section are considered as Candidate Sections. The approval as a Section should follow only with a justified proposal earlier than one year after the application arrived at the Secretariat.

6. A candidate organisation, whose application for full membership is rejected by the FC, may reapply for full membership at the subsequent FC. Should the second application be rejected or no second application put forward, the organisation’s status as a candidate organisation shall lapse automatically.

7. If candidate organisations do not apply for full membership within two years after having been accepted as candidate organisation, the organisation’s status as a candidate organisation shall lapse automatically.

Termination of membership

Article 7

1. Membership of a Section of the U.E.F. shall cease:

- a. by resignation submitted to the Secretariat taking effect on the end of the calendar year if the Executive Bureau decides not otherwise;
 - b. after a decision following severe or repeated action against the Statutes, rules or positions of the U.E.F. or by causing unjustified material or immaterial damage to it.
2. A decision based on paragraph 1.b. is taken by the Federal Committee on a proposal of the Executive Bureau. On a justified appeal filed within one month after notice, the Arbitration Board takes a final decision. If the Executive Bureau rules out immediate measures until the meeting of the Federal Committee, the Arbitration Board has to confirm the immediate measures on a justified appeal, which has to be submitted by the Section concerned within one week.
3. Membership of a Section shall cease after a decision to delete the membership of a Section, which misses to fulfil its obligations and in the circumstances laid down in the FCO. An appeal to the Arbitration Board is only admissible on the base of wrong factual assumptions.
4. Once the membership is terminated a Section can in any case only apply for new membership following the proceedings laid down in these Statutes and has no legal position to claim any relation to the U.E.F.
5. An individual membership of the U.E.F. shall cease:
- a. upon death,
 - b. by resignation submitted to the respective addressee in line with the respective organisations' regulation,
 - c. following a decision by the Federal Committee to terminate membership of a Section to which the member belongs. Members of such Sections can acquire membership under the auspices of Art. 6.3.
 - d. by exclusion pronounced following action by a member against the Statutes, rules or positions of the U.E.F. or by causing unjustified material or immaterial damage to it. An exclusion of a member shall require a decision of its section according to the respective Statutes. The responsible body for a membership according to Art. 6.3 is the Executive Bureau. Against its decisions, the member has the right to appeal to the Arbitration Board.

Young European Federalists

Article 8

1. Young federalists can organise themselves, in an autonomous organisation: the Young European Federalists (JEF). The relationship between JEF and the U.E.F. shall be determined by an agreement approved by the Federal Committee.
2. Where JEF is entitled by U.E.F. statutes to send representatives into the bodies of the U.E.F. they shall have the same rights and duties as the other delegates or members of the respective body. JEF lays down in its statutes and rules of procedure the procedure for the democratic election or appointment of their representatives.
3. JEF members being at the same time members of the U.E.F. are eligible for positions in the U.E.F. organs according to the procedures applicable for ordinary U.E.F. members.

Organs of the U.E.F.

Article 9

The organs of the U.E.F. shall be:

- the Congress,
- the Federal Committee,
- the Executive Bureau,
- the Arbitration Board,
- the Honorary Committee, if established in accordance with Article 2218.

Article 10

Each organ may delegate part or all of its powers, subject only to limitations laid down by law or by these Statutes.

The Congress

Article 11

1. The Congress is the highest organ of the U.E.F. and determines its policies. It shall convene every second calendar year since the previous Congress or for an extraordinary meeting on a decision of the Federal Committee taken with a two third majority.
2. It shall be the sole organ with powers to adopt or modify the provisions of the Statutes and represents the total membership of the U.E.F.
3. It shall elect the members of the Executive Bureau listed in Art. 16.1 after having decided on the number of the Vice-Presidents and the other Members of the Executive Bureau.
4. It shall elect the members of the Arbitration Board.
5. It shall elect its delegates to the Federal Committee.
6. The Congress shall discharge the Executive Bureau of its management at the end of its term and approve the report and accounts referred to in Articles 21 and 31.

Article 12

1. The Congress shall consist of:
 - a. the Members of the Executive Bureau eligible to vote who are in office at the start of any given conference;
 - b. the delegates of the Sections comprised of one basic delegate and one additional delegate for each started amount of 100 members;
 - c. the delegates of the JEF, comprised of one delegate for each started amount of 10 delegates in reference to a., b. and paragraph 2.

2. No Section shall have more delegates than the double amount of the total number of delegates of the 10 Sections that are entitled to have the lowest numbers of delegates.
3. If, with regard to paragraph 1 and 2 the number of delegates of the Congress falls below 100 or raises above 200 the Executive Bureau may take by a majority of its component members the decision to modify the rule for the number of delegates “each started amount of 100 members” in steps of 50 each way.
4. Members of the Executive Bureau that are not eligible to vote, members of the other organs of the U.E.F. and individuals invited as guests on a decision of the Executive Bureau following a registration of Sections or the JEF. They shall not be eligible to vote.

Federal Committee

Article 13

1. The Federal Committee is the highest organ of the U.E.F. between the Congresses. Following the general political orientation of the Congress. It exercises its full powers except those explicitly reserved for the Congress in the Statutes and the rules of the U.E.F. It shall convene at least twice each year or for an extraordinary meeting on the request of one fourth of the Sections.
2. The Federal Committee shall elect an Auditing Committee of two persons at its first meeting after a Congress with the regular elections of the Executive Bureau.
3. The Federal Committee shall discharge the Executive Bureau of its management and approve the report and accounts referred to in Articles 15.4 and 25.3.

Article 14

1. The Federal Committee shall consist of:
 - a. the Members of the Executive Bureau eligible to vote who are in office at the start of any given conference;
 - b. the delegates of the Sections comprised of one basic delegate and one additional delegate for each started amount of 200 members;
 - c. the delegates of the Congress comprised of one delegate for each started amount of 10 delegates in reference to a., b. and paragraph 2;
 - d. the delegates of the JEF with an equal number of delegates with regard to paragraph 1.c.
2. No Section shall have more delegates than the double amount of the total number of delegates of the 10 Sections that are entitled to have the lowest numbers of delegates.
3. If, with regard to paragraph 1 and 2 the number of delegates of the Federal Committee falls below 75 or raises above 150 the Executive Bureau may take by a majority of its component members the decision to modify the rule for the number of delegates “each started amount of 200 members” in steps of 50 each way.

4. Members of the Executive Bureau that are not eligible to vote, members of the other organs of the U.E.F. and individuals invited as guests on a decision of the Executive Bureau following a registration of Sections or the JEF. They shall not be eligible to vote.

Executive Bureau

Article 15

1. The Executive Bureau shall act on the base of the political decisions of Congress and Federal Committee. It shall administer the UEF and shall convene at least 6 times a year and on the request of one third of its members.
2. It shall organise the meetings of the Congress and the Federal Committee, which are convened by the President.
3. It shall be answerable to the Congress in the course of the discharge procedure at the end of its term.
4. It shall be answerable to the Federal Committee, to which it submits both the draft budget for the following year and a report of activities in the preceding year and shall render an account of its management during the preceding year together with all appropriate documentation. All accounts submitted must be audited by a chartered accountant. The Federal Committee is in charge mutatis mutandis with regard to paragraph 2 in the case of outgoing members before the end of the regular term if appropriate and no Congress is at hand.
5. The legal role and position of the organs of the U.E.F. and the Executive Bureau as its main executive Body in particular is defined and limited by applicable law.
6. In the performance of its tasks the Executive Bureau shall act as a college in conformity with the Statutes. It has the full power to undertake any action in and outside court in each and every case as required.
7. To execute, exercise or take any decision, position or declaration of the Executive Bureau with binding nature for the U.E.F. and going beyond day to day business the President or a Vice-President and the Secretary General or the Treasurer or another member of the Executive Bureau as defined in Art. 16 Paragraph 1 lit. e are acting as official and legal representatives on behalf of the U.E.F. In line with the provisions of the FCO, the Executive Bureau shall settle in the Rules of Procedures general provision and implementing measures in order to describe and define the scope of the day to day business exercised by the Secretary General and actions going beyond that scope requiring consultations with other members of the Executive Bureau or their consent or a formal decision of the Executive Bureau as a College on a case by case basis.
8. Paragraph 4 is applicable mutatis mutandis for members of the Executive Bureau with special competences or responsibilities and the ordinary business of members.

Article 16

1. The Executive Bureau shall consist of:
 - a. the President of the UEF;

- b. the Secretary General, elected on the proposal of the President;
 - c. not less than 2 and not more than 4 Vice-Presidents and among those not more than one coming from the same Section,
 - d. the Treasurer and
 - e. not less than 5 and not more than 10 other members and among those not more than two coming from the same Section.
2. The President or a Vice President of JEF, elected by the Executive Bureau of JEF for its full term in office, shall be ex-officio a member of the U.E.F. Executive Bureau, who can appoint a deputy from amongst the Vice-Presidents of JEF if necessary.
3. The Executive Board is entitled to replace Members who do not fulfil their term for the rest of its mandate by appointment. The appointment has immediate effect but requires confirmation on the next possible session of the Federal Committee in line with the general rules. The Executive Board is entitled to appoint deputies for members who are temporarily not able to serve.
4. The Secretary General of JEF is member of the Executive Board as an ex-officio-guest without the right to vote.

The Arbitration Board

Article 17

1. The Arbitration Board shall ensure coherent application of regulations in the U.E.F. and rule in all cases of conflict in the U.E.F. that fall within the remit of its statutes and rules. In specified cases, it delivers interpretations on justified request of the organs of the U.E.F.
2. A case may only be lodged with the Arbitration Board through the General Secretariat by:
- a. Organs of the U.E.F.;
 - b. Organisation in the U.E.F.;
 - c. Individual members of the U.E.F., and only if arbitration bodies in the Sections are neither existing nor competent or the recourse is exhausted. If the recourse was exhausted, an appeal of an individual is only admissible if it is justified with an infringement of the aims of the U.E.F. or with systematic arbitrariness.
3. The Arbitration Board shall consist of seven members and elect from amongst them a chairperson and a vice-chairperson. Its members shall not be a member of another U.E.F. organ at the same time and not more than two shall come from the same Section.
4. The Arbitration Board may only delegate its powers of investigation
5. Each party to a dispute can challenge a member of the Arbitration Board.
6. The Arbitration Board shall require a quorum of three members for its decisions.

The Honorary Committee

Article 18

1. The Federal Committee may decide to establish an Honorary Committee with the role to advise, support and promote the Association and its activities. Its members and its Chairperson shall be appointed and withdrawn by the Federal Committee, upon proposal of the Executive Bureau. They shall be personalities of European relevance from the political, economic and social world who have clearly distinguished themselves in the promotion of a federal Europe.
2. In appointing the members of the Honorary Committee the Federal Committee shall ensure political, geographical and gender balance. Members of the Honorary Committee shall cease to be so by death, resignation or decision by the Federal Committee, upon proposal of the Executive Bureau.
3. The Chairperson of the Honorary Committee shall coordinate any activities with the President of the Association in advance.

The Secretary General

Article 19

1. The Secretary General shall be responsible for running the secretariat of the U.E.F. and organises its day to day business. The Secretary General shall in particular
 - a. carry out the decisions delegated by the organs of the U.E.F.;
 - b. be responsible for corresponding with Sections;
 - c. draft proposals to the organs how to exercise U.E.F.'s endeavour to assist the Sections, to give them guidance in terms of their statutory rights and duties and to foster the work of the U.E.F. and organisations in countries where no active Section exists;
 - d. operate in close contact with JEF-Europe and European Movement International;
 - e. organise, prepare and assist the meetings of Congress, Federal Committee and Executive Bureau including regulation for the admissibility of ordinary, initiative and urgent motions, the respective deadlines and other formalities without contradiction to the respective organs Rules of Procedure,
 - f. assist the other organs to solidly fulfil their tasks,
 - g. serve contacts with members,with the assistance of and through the Secretariat.
2. The Secretary General shall sign and terminate labor contract at least with the approval of the President and according to the requirements laid down in line with Article 15 paragraph 6 second sentence. For the case of temporary or part-time contracts modifications may be laid down.
3. The Secretary General shall have the right to attend all meetings of the organs of the U.E.F., which do not foresee a statutory membership without the right to vote.
4. Paragraph 3 is applicable mutatis mutandis for attending the organs of the Sections based on a justified request.

5. The Secretary General can delegate tasks, namely mentioned in paragraph 3, which are linked to the function, to the staff in the Secretariat General.

General Provisions for the Organs and Principles of representation and decision making

Article 20

1. The Congress and the Federal Committee shall elect a Presidium, a credential Committee and tellers at the beginning of each meeting, in the case of the Federal Committee at the beginning of the first meeting after the regular election of the Executive Bureau with a term until the next election. In both cases, the President takes the chair in order to open the meeting and to conduct the election of the Presidium.
2. Notice of the meetings of the organs must be sent out to their members after the decision on their date and venue without delay, in case of the regular meetings of the Congress not later than 8 weeks and in case of the regular meetings of the Federal Committee not later than 6 weeks in advance. In case of extraordinary meetings, the decision on the date has to be taken immediately after the request.
3. Invitations with the draft agenda and all documents at hand shall be sent out with a deadline of one week, in the case of the Congress and the Federal Committee of two weeks.
4. At the beginning of a meeting, the organ shall decide on the proposed draft agenda.
5. Rules concerning the minutes of the Organs shall be set by the Rules of Procedures of the respective organ. Minutes shall be communicated in due time to all the members of the respective organs and the main results of meetings should be accessible for all members of the organs and for the Sections as a minimum standard with only justified exceptions.
6. Each organ shall set its Rules of procedure in order to implement the requirements of the Statutes and with regard to the principles to regulate appropriately further details necessary to serve its duties and to fulfil its tasks. They shall be approved and amended by a two-thirds majority of the respective organs component members.

Article 21

1. Office holders and delegates as members of the organs shall take their decisions on a strictly personal base and free from the influence of others. They have one vote each unless otherwise stated in these Statutes. Their personal right to vote can only be restricted by a personal limitation of the U.E.F. membership of the respective person or if the voting rights of all delegates of a Section are ceased or not existing.
2. Each Section and body entitled to send delegates elects these delegates democratically in line with the respective Statutes together with a sufficient number of substitute delegates. If the number of substitute delegates is exhausted, a proxy is admissible in a way that no delegate controls more than two votes.
3. Where the number of delegates depends directly or indirectly on the numbers of the members of the Sections they are calculated on the base of the number of members at the end of the second quarter

before the start of a meeting. The Secretary General shall fix the number of each Section by the end of the first quarter of each year and give report to the Executive Board, which shall confirm the fixing formally on request.

4. If a person is entitled to vote out of different functions or elected by more than one body as a delegate, the preference is with the ex-officio membership and with the election on the U.E.F. level.

5. If the number of voting rights collides with delegates and substitute delegates present or a proxy, the preference is with the substitute delegate arrived in time against a delegate with late arrival and a proxy lapses. The Executive Board may regulate further details unless the organs with delegates represented do not find corresponding solutions in their respective Rules of Procedure.

6. The Executive Bureau shall find with the consent of the participating organs common rules for written votes, electronic votes, remote meetings and hybrid meetings.

7. All decisions by organs of the U.E.F. shall be taken by the majority of votes cast, unless otherwise stated in these Statutes. For the purposes of definition there is a distinction between “votes cast”, “members taken part” – which includes abstentions – and “component members”, which takes only members with the right to vote into account. On request of 25% of the component members of an organ the decisions takes place by secret ballot.

8. Article 20 paragraph 6 applies.

Elections

Article 22

1. For elections there shall normally be a secret ballot. In case of only one proposal for election it shall be possible to elect by an open vote if no objections are expressed.

2. Nominations of candidates shall be valid provided they are signed by 10% of delegates or at least three Sections. No Section may sign more nominations than the number of posts to be elected.

3. In an election for a single post the candidate with a majority of the votes cast is elected.

4. An election for several equal posts takes place on the basis of a single list of candidates. Every member has a number of votes equivalent to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total number posts to be elected in the respective round. The minimum of votes which has to be expressed is $\frac{1}{3}$ of this total number. Paragraph 2 applies mutatis mutandis.

5. If necessary, one or more subsequent round of votes shall take place; the candidates of the first round and new candidates are eligible to run.

6. If at any time more candidates from one Section could be considered elected than allowed in Articles 16.1 (c and e) and 17.3 and taking into account Article 21.3, respective candidates with lower number are not elected and for subsequent votes no candidates from the Section concerned are eligible any more.

7. The election of delegates takes place in one round on the basis of a single list of candidates. Every member has a number of votes equivalent to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the relevant number of delegates on the day of election. The minimum of votes which has to be expressed is $\frac{1}{3}$ of this total number. The candidates

with the highest numbers of votes are elected delegates, the others elected substitutes in the order of votes. In case of equal numbers the order is determined by an agreement of the respective candidates or by lot.

Financial management

Article 23

1. The funds of the U.E.F. shall consist of
 - a. membership subscriptions;
 - b. donations, bequests and legacies;
 - c. subsidies;
 - d. all other resources.
2. Legacies can only be accepted free from liability for debts.
3. The Treasurer shall be responsible for management of the funds, for which he shall be answerable. Any decision in the Executive Bureau beyond the adopted budget lines shall not be taken against the vote of the Treasurer unless the respective proposal includes a balance of its financial burden.
4. Reports of the Treasurer to other organs than the Executive Bureau must be accompanied by a report of the Auditing Committee.
5. In the event of the dissolution of the Association, its funds will be transferred to a European organisation to be designated by the Federal Committee.

Article 24

1. The Statutes and rules of the organs of all Sections must comply with these Statutes.
2. The sections are obliged to:
 - a. lodge the latest valid version of their statutes at the Secretariat;
 - b. provide the name, postal address and a designated electronic address of the legally binding persons acting on their behalf and all the Members of their highest executive organ to the Secretariat, keep them up to date and guarantee their accuracy by the submission of protocols of the respective electoral;
 - c. inform the Secretariat by 31 January at the latest on the number of Members they had during the previous.
 - d. comply with the obligations laid down in the FCO.

General rules and transitory regulations

Article 25

1. These Statutes can only be amended by a two-thirds majority of members present or represented at the Congress, subject to prior written notice included in the agenda for the Congress.

2. The U.E.F. may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of delegates to the Congress acting on a proposal of the Federal Committee. All National Sections and the Groupe Europe must be given at least three months notice before the Congress, of the Federal Committee's proposal.

3. In the case of the dissolution of the U.E.F. the Federal Committee shall take charge of its liquidation. During the period of liquidation these Statutes shall continue to apply as far as practicable.

Article 26

1. These Statutes were last amended on the XXVII. Congress, taken place on the 3rd and 4th of July 2021 in Valencia. With the limitations laid down as follows the amendments take immediate effect as far as possible under the applicable law.

2. The new composition of the Congress and the calculation of the numbers of delegates therein take effect as from 1st of August 2021.

3. The Rules of Procedures adopted by the Federal Committee on the 12th of October 2008 lapses as whole by the end of 2023. Its regulations remain only in effect as far as they are not in contradiction with these Statutes and as long as the respective organ has not drawn up Rules of Procedure for its remit.

4. The financial obligations in the U.E.F. and the regulations in this context are first applied before or after 1st of January 2022 only if and as far the Financial and Contributions Order (FCO) and the decisions of the responsible body based thereon sets no other date.