

STATUTES

adopted by the formative Congress on 13th April 1973 in Brussels
and last amended by the XXVI Congress on 25th November 2018 in Vienna

PREAMBLE

Persuaded that the division of the human race into sovereign states 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 since the two world wars.

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 organization with the object of fighting together in the most effective way for the creation of a European Federation. This European organization was named the Union of European Federalists.

Name, Seat and Term

Art. 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 The Hague. The office of the General Secretariat shall be established by the Executive Bureau in one of the Member States of the European Community.
3. The Association was established on 13 April 1973 for an indefinite period.
4. The Association assumes the character of a supranational organization.

Aims

Art. 2

The Association's aims shall be to work for the creation of a European Federation, endowed with supranational institutions with limited but real sovereign powers and consisting of: a Federal Government; a Parliament elected by direct universal suffrage; a Federal Senate representing Member States and possibly the regions; and a Court of Justice. The European Federation will be bound to guarantee basic liberties, including the right of opposition and to ensure the maximum participation of citizens at all levels of government.

Art. 3

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

Art. 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 organize 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.

Art. 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.

Members and organizations on national level

Art. 6

1. The UEF shall consist of individual members who are direct members of the Association and who are associated through National Sections of the Association replenished with the "Groupe Europe" formed by members of the Association working in the framework of the European Union institutions.

2. Members shall be free to organize themselves at local, regional and national level in accordance with federalist and democratic principles. They can form national organizations. All these organizations shall become autonomous centres of action with freedom to pursue their respective activities within the general political framework determined by the Association at European level.

3. The National Sections are the organizations formed by members on a national level. Only one National Section per country may be accepted.

4. All basic and national organisations shall determine their own rules and procedures by agreement with the organization at the level immediately above. If such agreement is impossible, the matter shall be resolved by the Arbitration Board.

5. The annual subscription of members, fixed at a uniform rate by the Federal Committee at European level, after consultation with the National Sections, shall be collected by the National Sections and remitted to the General Secretariat of the U.E.F. through the National Sections.

6. The Federal Committee may authorize temporary exceptions in special circumstances.

Termination of membership

Art. 7

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

- a) upon death ;
- b) by resignation ;
- c) following notice to resign served by the Association where a member no longer conforms to the rules set out in the Statutes, fails to fulfil his obligations to the Association, or when the Association can no longer be reasonably expected to recognise a member as being suitably qualified to continue in membership ;
- d) as a result of exclusion; such exclusion can be pronounced only following action by a member in violation of the Statutes, rules or decisions of the Association or unjustified damage caused to the Association by a member.

2. Resignation must be submitted by a member in writing to the secretariat of his National Section or of the Groupe Europe, to take effect at the end of the calendar year, subject to four weeks notice. Members may withdraw from the organization earlier if they cannot reasonably maintain their membership for the remainder of the year.

3. Notice to resign served in the name of the Association and exclusion of a member shall require decision by the Executive Bureau which shall advise the member as soon as possible, stating reasons and the date from which the decision is to take effect. The member concerned shall have, for one month after receipt of the notice, the right of appeal against this decision to the Federal Committee; the notice must include a statement of the right of appeal. Membership shall be suspended during the appeal period and until the appeal is heard.

4. If membership terminates during the calendar year the full annual subscription shall remain payable.

Young European Federalists

Art. 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. In addition to the rights conferred on Members in Art. 13, 17, 18 and 21 the international organisation of the Young European Federalists (JEF) has the right to appoint additional representatives in the governing organs of the U.E.F. The JEF representatives have the same rights and duties as the other delegates or members of the respective organs. In addition 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. JEF lays down in its statutes and rules of procedure the procedure for electing their representatives.

Organs of the Association

Art. 9

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

- the Congress,
- the Federal Committee,

- the Executive Bureau,
- the Secretary General,
- the Arbitration Board,
- the Honorary Committee, if established in accordance with Article 22.

Art. 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

Art. 11

1. The Congress shall have full powers to determine the Association's policy.
2. It shall be the sole organ with powers to adopt or modify the provisions of the Statutes.
3. It shall elect the President of the U.E.F. from amongst its members by absolute majority vote of the delegates present or represented at the Congress. The President of the U.E.F. is of the Executive Bureau and Member of the Federal Committee at whose meetings he shall participate in this capacity. He shall take the Chair at meetings of the Congress until the election of the presidium of the Congress on recommendation of the Executive Bureau. If necessary, the Executive Bureau may delegate the Chair to other members.
4. The Congress shall elect the members of the Federal Committee in accordance with Articles 18 from amongst the U.E.F. members.

Delegates

Art. 12

The Congress shall consist of delegates representing the total membership of the Association.

Art. 13

1. The delegates shall be elected democratically by and from amongst the members of the Association in the local or in their absence by the regional or in their absence by the national constituent organisations in accordance with procedures determined in each country as well as by the Groupe Europe.
2. The total number of delegates shall be fixed at 160 unless the Federal Committee decides otherwise.
3. Irrespective of the procedure for their election two delegates shall be allocated to each National Section and to Groupe Europe. The remaining delegates shall be allocated to the National Sections on the basis of the average membership fees paid by each section in the two years preceding the Congress
4. The number of JEF delegates in the Congress of the U.E.F. equals an additional proportion of 10 % to the number of delegates elected by the constituent organisations of the U.E.F. Among these, one delegate should come from each national JEF section operating in an EU/EEA Member State, in which no UEF National Section exists.

Convening the Congress, participation & voting rights

Art. 14

1. The Congress shall meet every second calendar year since the previous Congress. Its meetings may be postponed by a decision of the Federal Committee, taken by a two-thirds majority of votes

expressed.

2. The Congress shall be convened in writing with an agenda issued on the authority of the Federal Committee. A minimum of two months notice must be given.

3. The Federal Committee may convene a Congress whenever it feels necessary or if obliged by law or by the Statutes.

Art. 15

1. The Congress may be attended by delegates, members of the Federal Committee and the Secretary General.

2. Every delegate shall exercise one vote. A delegate unable to attend can authorize another delegate in writing to exercise his vote by proxy. No single delegate shall have more than one proxy.

Federal Committee

Art. 16

1. The Federal Committee, that is the general assembly, is the sovereign organ of the UEF. It shall have full powers within the provisions of these Statutes and of the law. It is constituted every second year at the Congress by election and nomination by the Constituent Organizations.

2. The President takes the chair at the first Meeting of the Federal Committee after the Congress until the election of its Presidium of three persons.

3. The Federal Committee shall maintain the political direction of the UEF between Congresses.

4. The Federal Committee shall discharge the Executive Bureau of its management and approve the report and accounts referred to in Articles 20 and 31.

5. The Federal Committee shall elect from amongst its members one or more Vice-Presidents, and not less than five and not more than 15 members of the Executive Bureau with a maximum of two members per National Section for a period of two years, all of whom are eligible for re-election. The exact number of members to be elected must be fixed by the new Federal Committee.

6. The Federal Committee shall elect the Treasurer on proposal of the Executive Bureau.

7. The Federal Committee shall elect from among the members of UEF an Auditing Committee of two persons for a period of two years.

8. The Federal Committee shall appoint the Secretary-General for a period of two years. The Federal Committee can dismiss the Secretary General before the end of the period on the recommendation of the Executive Bureau if it appoints a new Secretary-General at the same time.

9. The Federal Committee shall draw up the Rules of Procedures of the U.E.F. as referred to in Art. 37.

Art. 17

1. One half of the membership of the Federal Committee shall be elected directly by the Congress from amongst U.E.F. members.

2. The remaining half shall be appointed by the constituent organisations and JEF before or during the Congress, according to their respective statutory requirements and internal rules. The number of members to be appointed shall be determined as follows:

a) Organisations having paid membership fees in the two years preceding the year of the Congress

exceeding 1.000 members in average shall have the right to appoint four members plus an additional member for every further 1.000 members;

b) Organisations having paid membership fees in the two years preceding the year of the Congress for between 500 and 999 members in average shall have the right to appoint three members.

c) Organisations having paid membership fees in the two years preceding the year of the Congress for between 101 and 499 members in average shall have the right to appoint two members.

d) Organisations having paid membership fees in the two years preceding the year of the Congress for 100 or less members in average shall have the right to appoint one member.

3. JEF shall have the right to appoint six members of the Federal Committee. In addition JEF members are eligible to direct election as provided in Para 1 as well as for appointment by the constituent organisations as provided by Para 2.a, b, c., d. and e.

4. Every member of the Federal Committee shall exercise one vote. A member unable to attend can authorize another member in writing to exercise their vote by proxy. No single member shall have more than one proxy. In the event that the member appointed by a constituent organisation referred to in 17.2.d) is unable to participate in a meeting, the president of the organisation shall have the right to participate and vote at the meeting in place of the appointed member.

Art. 18

Between Congresses the Federal Committee can co-opt additional members of the U.E.F. up to 10 % of the number elected by the Congress. These members shall be elected from amongst the members of the U.E.F.

Art. 19

1. A member of the Federal Committee may be excluded or suspended from membership either by the Federal Committee or by the national delegation which has nominated the member.

2. A member shall cease to belong to the Federal Committee

a) when no longer a member of the U.E.F.

b) by resignation

c) on expiry of the member's term of office.

The Executive Bureau

Art. 20

1. The Executive Bureau shall administer the UEF. It shall organise the Congress.

2. 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.

3. It shall convene the Federal Committee and prepare its meetings.

Art. 21

1. The Executive Bureau shall consist of the President of the UEF, the Vice-President(s), the Treasurer and the other members elected by the Federal Committee.

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. If necessary he can appoint

a deputy from amongst the Vice Presidents of JEF. The Secretary General of JEF is an ex-officio-guest at the U.E.F. Executive Bureau meetings.

The Honorary Committee

Art. 22

1. The Federal Committee may decide to establish a Honorary Committee with the role to advise, support and promote the Association and its activities. Its members and its Chairperson shall be appointed 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 dismissal 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.

Administration & Representation

Art. 23

1. The Executive Bureau shall have full powers to undertake any action in and outside court in each and every case as required. Consequently any restriction on the capacity of the Executive Bureau, settled by law is not applicable.
2. The Association's official and legal representation is exercised by the President or jointly by one Vice- President and the Secretary General.

The Secretary General

Art. 24

1. The Secretary General shall be responsible for running the secretariat of the U.E.F. and carrying out the decisions delegated to him/her by the organs of the U.E.F.
2. The Secretary General participates at the meetings of the organs of the U.E.F., without the right to vote.
3. The Secretary General shall be responsible for corresponding with members and constituent organisations and coordinating their activities.

The Arbitration Board

Art. 25

The Arbitration Board shall consist of seven members elected by the Congress from amongst the members of the U.E.F. according to the rules of procedure. The Congress can dismiss them.

Art. 26

1. The Arbitration Board shall ensure application of the Statutes and rules which it shall interpret in specific cases, and rules in all possible conflicts between constituent organisations, between U.E.F. organs and constituent organisations or between constituent organisation and/or UEF organs and the members of UEF.

2. The Arbitration Board shall communicate its decisions to the Federal Committee.

3. The Arbitration Board may only delegate its powers of investigation.

Art. 27

Each party to a dispute can challenge a member of the Arbitration Board.

Art. 28

The Arbitration Board shall require a quorum of three members for its decisions.

Art. 29

Members of the Arbitration Board cannot be members of the Executive Bureau.

Funds & their management

Art. 30

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 including profits.

2. Legacies can only be accepted free from liability for debts.

Art. 31

1. The Treasurer shall be responsible for management of the funds, for which he shall be answerable to the Federal Committee.

2. The report of the Treasurer must be accompanied by a report of the Auditing Committee.

Art. 32

In the event of the dissolution of the Association, its funds will be transferred to a European organization to be designated by the Federal Committee.

Decision making

Art. 33

All decisions by organs of the U.E.F. shall be taken by the majority of votes cast, unless otherwise stated in these Statutes.

Elections

Art. 34

1. The elections of the members of the Federal Committee directly elected by the Congress according to Art. 17.1 takes place on the basis of a single list of candidates. Every Congress delegate has a number of votes equivalent to 2/3 of the total number of Federal Committee members to be elected. The minimum of votes expressed is 1/3 of this total number. The chair of the Congress shall encourage the delegates to use all of their votes to ensure a geographical and political diversity of the Federal Committee. The candidates with the highest number of votes are elected members.

2. The Federal Committee decides on the number of Vice Presidents it is going to elect. The candidates with the highest number of votes being supported by at least 50% of the votes

expressed are elected.

3. The elections of the other members of the Executive Bureau takes place on the basis of a single list of candidates. Every Federal Committee member has a number of votes equivalent to 2/3 of the total number of Executive Bureau members to be elected. The candidates with the highest number of votes being supported by at least 1/4 of the votes expressed are elected.

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

Rules of procedure

Art. 35

Rules of procedure shall be drawn up to implement the requirements of the Statutes. They shall be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Federal Committee and require the same majority for their amendment.

General rules

Art. 36

The Statutes and rules of the organs of all the National Sections as well as of the Groupe Europe must comply with these Statutes.

Art. 37

These Statutes can only be amended by a two-thirds majority of delegates present or represented at the Congress, subject to prior written notice included in the agenda for the Congress. Amendments must be examined by the Federal Committee, which shall express its view on them, in advance.

Art. 38

1. 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.

2. 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.

Calendar year

Art. 39

All yearly terms in these Statutes refer to the calendar year.

Final clause

Art. 40

The Federal Committee shall exercise all powers and responsibilities which are not otherwise delegated to other organs by law or by these Statutes.