

# Statutes & Internal Regulations

## EPP - International Non-Profit Association

Approved by the EPP Congress on 21 October 2015 in Madrid (Spain),  
and by the EPP Political Assembly on 2 June 2015 in Oslo (Norway)



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# Statutes



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# Statutes

## PREAMBLE

— Political Parties at European level contribute to forming European political awareness and to expressing the will of the citizens of the Union.

(Article 10.4 of the Treaty on the European Union-Lisbon Treaty and Article 12.2 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union-the Charter).



## EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY INTERNATIONAL NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION

### ON THE BASIS

→ of the Christian view of mankind and the Christian Democratic concept of society,

→ of their joint will to create a federal European Union as a Union of free peoples and citizens conscious of their own responsibilities, the Christian Democrat, Centrist and like-minded parties of the European People's Party as heirs of Europe's Founding Fathers accept these responsibilities and create an association. This association will be a member of the Christian/Centrist Democrat International (CDI), a worldwide organisation of Christian Democrats and like-minded political parties and the International Democrat Union (IDU), a worldwide organization of Conservative, Christian Democrat and like-minded political parties of the centre and centre right.

## 1.

**NAME - ADDRESS -  
OBJECTIVES - DURATION****Article 1.****NAME - LEGAL BASE - LOGO**

The association, an alliance of political parties at European level, is named "Parti populaire européen / Europese Volkspartij / Europäische Volkspartei / European People's Party", abbreviated as "PPE/EVP/EPP"). This name must always be preceded or followed by the words "association internationale sans but lucratif / internationale vereniging zonder winstoogmerk" or the abbreviation AISBL / IVZW.

The EPP pursues its aims, carries out its activities and is organized and financed in conformity with the conditions laid down in the Regulation (EU/EURATOM) N° 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and political foundations.

For the matters not regulated by the referred European Regulation the association is governed by title III of the law of 27 June 1921 on the non-profit associations, the foundations and the international non-profit associations.

The logo of the association is defined in ANNEX 1 to the statutes.

**Article 2.****ADDRESS**

The registered office of the association is established at rue du Commerce 10, 1000 Brussels, in the Brussels judicial district.

The Presidency is authorized to transfer the registered office of the association to another location within this judicial district and to establish other offices and/or subsidiaries within or outside this judicial district.

**Article 3.****PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of the association is to:

- promote and foster close and ongoing collaboration among its members for the purpose of implementing their common policy at European level;
- encourage and organise unanimous action by its members at European level;
- work (i) to achieve free and pluralistic democracy, (ii) for respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law on the basis of a common programme;
- promote the process of unification and federal integration in Europe as a constituent element of the European Union.

In order to realize this purpose and in order to establish, develop, implement and promote its policies, the association organizes several discussion and decision forums, major events and fact finding missions according to strict democratic principles and issues publications of all sorts. The association is also authorised to execute all legal instruments (including real estate transactions) directly or indirectly useful or necessary for the promotion and achievement of the above-mentioned aims.

Through their national policies the member parties of the association support positions taken by the association in the context of the European Union. In the context of national responsibilities, they shall maintain their own name, their identity and their freedom of action. The association is represented in the European Parliament by the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) (Group of the EPP in the European Parliament).

Member parties oblige parliamentarians elected to the European Parliament on their list, and/or sent to the like-minded or associated Groups at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the Committee of the Regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST, to join the EPP Groups therein.

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## Article 4. DURATION

The association is incorporated for an indefinite duration.

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# 2.

## MEMBERSHIP

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## Article 5. MEMBERS WITH VOTING RIGHTS

The number of members is unlimited, but may not be less than two. Requests for membership shall be submitted to the President and Secretary General in writing.

They shall comprise a statement on the adoption of the Political programme and by-laws as well as the internal regulations of the association, in addition to a copy of the by-laws and programme in its original language and in English of the applicant party. The EPP should be notified of any change in the by-laws of any member. The Presidency will transmit the application to the Political Assembly following the recommendation of the Working Group EPP Membership.

Without prejudice to article 6 and subject to what follows, the Political Assembly is authorised to grant, at its own discretion, the applicant one of the following member status in the EPP: Ordinary Member Party, Associated Member Party, Member Association or Individual Member (as defined here below).

### Ordinary Member Parties

The Political Assembly is authorised to grant member status in the association to any Christian Democrat or like-minded party, based in the European Union, which subscribes to the association's political programme and accepts its by-laws and internal regulations (hereinafter referred to as "Ordinary Member Parties").

### Associated Member Parties

The Political Assembly is also authorised to grant member status to any political party of Christian Democrat or like-minded orientation, based outside the European Union, from states whose applications for membership of the European Union have been introduced and / or states belonging to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which subscribe to the objectives referred to in article 3 of the by-laws and to the association's political programme, and which accept its by-laws and internal regulations (hereinafter referred to as "Associated Member Parties").

They shall not participate in decisions involving the policies and structure of the European Union nor of its institutional system. If the state in which the Associated Member Party is established effectively becomes a member of the European Union, such Associated Member Party shall automatically become an Ordinary Member Party as from the date of the adherence of such state to the European Union.

### Member Associations

The status of Member Association can be granted to any Member Association within the meaning of article 25 of the by-laws and section 8 of the internal regulations and which subscribes to the association's political programme and accepts its by-laws and internal regulations (hereinafter referred to as «Member Associations»).

### Individual Members

In addition, all members of the EPP Group in the European Parliament elected on a list of a member party are also members ex officio of the association (hereinafter referred to as "Individual Members"). Other members of the European Parliament can become Individual Members of the association by decision of the Political Assembly on the proposal of the Presidency of the association. The speaking and voting rights of the Individual Members within the organs of the association are personal and inalienable.

If a candidate for membership in the association is a legal person within the meaning of the law applicable to it, it must name in its application for membership a natural person who will represent it in the association. The same provision applies if the candidate does not have legal personality under the law applicable to it. It shall then designate a natural person who will act on behalf of all members of the candidate member without legal personality, as its representative. In case of a change of representation, the President

of the association is immediately informed in writing.

### Associated Member Parties

The Political Assembly is also authorised to grant member status to any political party of Christian Democrat or like-minded orientation, based outside the European Union, from states whose applications for membership of the European Union have been introduced and / or states belonging to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which subscribe to the objectives referred to in article 3 of the by-laws and to the association's political programme, and which accept its by-laws and internal regulations (hereinafter referred to as "Associated Member Parties").

## Article 6. OTHERS

### Observer Member Parties

Parties close to the EPP, from (i) European Union Member States, (ii) states which have applied for European Union membership as well as from (iii) European states that are members of the Council of Europe, may be granted observer status by the Political Assembly, on the proposal of the Presidency.

### EPP Partners:

On the proposal of the EPP Presidency, the Political Assembly may grant EPP Partnerships to any political party outside the EU represented in an International Organization such as the Council of Europe, NATO, OSCE and / or Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). Such party must have a likeminded EPP orientation, accept the association's by-laws (including the objectives referred in art 3), internal regulation and political programme. It shall not participate in decisions involving the policies and structure of the European Union nor of its institutional system. Membership of the Centrist Democrat



International (IDC-CDI) and/or International Democrat Union (IDU) is a positive criteria.

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## Article 7. MEMBERSHIP FEES

Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member Associations, Observer Member Parties and EPP Partners individually pay annual dues of no more than 500.000 (five hundred thousand) euros. The amount of the dues is determined annually by the Political Assembly. Dues are payable within two weeks of having been set and communicated by the Political Assembly to the members.

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## Article 8. REGISTER AND EXCLUSIVITY

The Presidency keeps a membership register at the registered office of the association. This register lists the surname, first name, place of residence, date and place of birth of members or, in the case of legal persons or de facto associations, the name, legal form, address of the registered office, identity of the representative and, where applicable, the registration number in accordance with existing legislation and/or regulations. All members may consult this register at the registered office of the association.

The EPP Membership is strictly exclusive. In no case may an EPP member as defined under Articles 5 and 6 Section 2 of the EPP Statutes also be member of any other Political Party at European Level recognized under Regulation (EU/ EURATOM) N° 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and political foundations.

An EPP member that is found to be also member of another Political Party at European Level will be automatically excluded according to Article 10 of the EPP Internal Regulations.

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## Article 9. RESIGNATION, SUSPENSION AND EXCLUSION

Any member may resign from the association at any time. The member gives notice to the Presidency of the decision to resign by registered letter.

Members that resign are obliged to fulfil their financial obligations toward the association for the year during which the resignation is submitted and for all previous years.

The suspension and the exclusion of a member may only be decided by the Political Assembly. It is not obliged to disclose its reasons. A proposal for the exclusion of a member may only be submitted by the Presidency, or seven Ordinary or Associated Member Parties from five different countries. The Presidency may hear the member concerned. A proposal for the exclusion of an Individual Member may only be submitted by the Presidency of the EPP Group in the European Parliament.

If a Member Party is not any more a viable political force in its respective country and, in particular, has not been represented in regional or national or European Parliament(s) for two consecutive parliamentary terms, the EPP Presidency can recommend to the Political Assembly its suspension or exclusion, according to the procedures stated in the previous paragraph.

A member's affiliation ceases automatically upon death, disqualification, liquidation

or in cases of temporary administration, court-ordered settlement or insolvency. The affiliation of an individual member ends automatically when this member is no longer a member of the European Parliament and the affiliation of a Member Association ends automatically when this member does no longer fulfil the criteria that were necessary for its preliminary recognition as a Member Association and which are set out in the internal regulations.

Members that resigned or were excluded and the legal successors of such members or of deceased members have no claims on the assets of the association and may never be reimbursed for dues paid, contributions or any other payments made to the association, unless otherwise expressly provided for in the by-laws.

In no case may a member that resigned or was excluded demand the communication of or a copy of the accounts, the placing of official seals on the property of the association or the drawing up of an inventory.

### **Article 9 (bis).** **STATEMENTS – MEMBERS LIST**

EPP does not bear responsibility for statements issued on behalf of EPP by members without prior approval of the EPP President.

The list of member parties as defined in article 5 and 6 is defined in annex 2 to the statutes.

## **3.** **ORGANS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **Article 10.** **ORGANS**

The organs of the association are:

- The Presidency
- The Political Assembly
- The Congress.

The EPP strives towards equal participation of women and men in all its organs.

## **4.** **PRESIDENCY**

### **Article 11.** **COMPOSITION – ELECTION – INCOMPATIBILITIES – INVITEES – VOLONTARYTY – REPLACEMENTS**

The association is managed by the Presidency, the executive organ. The Presidency is composed of:

- the President of the EPP;
- the President of the European Commission, the President of the European Council, the High Representative on Foreign and Security Policy, the President of the European Parliament (to the extent that these persons are affiliated to the EPP);
- the Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament;

- the Honorary President(s);
- ten Vice-Presidents;
- the Treasurer; and
- the Secretary General.

Except for the Honorary President(s) who are elected by the Political Assembly, and for the President of the European Commission, the President of the European Council, the High Representative on Foreign and Security Policy, the President of the European Parliament, the President of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament, who are ex officio members of the Presidency, the members of the Presidency are elected by the Congress by secret ballot and by separate vote, for a renewable term of three years.

The Congress elects first the President who, subsequently, proposes to the Congress a Secretary General to be elected. Only representatives of Ordinary and Associated Member Parties are eligible for these functions. Candidates who obtain a simple majority of the valid votes cast are elected. Abstentions are not considered valid votes.

Candidates for the functions of President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer must be nominated, in writing, to the Secretariat General, seven days prior to the date of the election. Presidents and Secretaries General are entitled, on behalf of Ordinary and Associated Member Parties and on behalf of Member Associations, to propose candidates provided that all candidates are member of an Ordinary or Associated Member Party. All Ordinary and Associated Member Parties and all Member Associations shall be informed of the names of the candidates not less than three days prior to the elections. The members of the Presidency may resign at any time, by giving notice to the Presidency of the decision to resign by registered letter. Their mandate is at any time revocable by the Congress.

Ceasing to be a member of an Ordinary or Associate EPP Member party also constitutes simultaneous resignation from the EPP Presidency. If a mandate falls vacant, the Political Assembly shall in accordance with the previous paragraphs of this article, elect a replacement following a call for candidatures. At the following Congress, confirmation of this election is requested and the Congress determines the duration of the term of office. Members of the Presidency may be re-elected. Members of the Presidency whose terms of office are coming to an end must, before expiry of the term, call a Congress for the purpose of electing new members of the Presidency. If they fail to do so, they are obliged to remain in office until such time as a replacement can be found, without prejudice to their responsibility for any damage caused by their omission.

On the proposal of the President, and in accordance with the requirements of the agenda, the following persons may be invited to attend meetings of the Presidency:

- members of the European Commission who are member of a Member Party;
- The President and/or the President of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the Committee of the Regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST.

The following persons are permanently invited:

- The Deputy Secretary(ies)-General of the EPP;
- The Secretary-General of the EPP Group in the European Parliament.

The EPP President and/or Secretary General can attend, at will, any meetings of any organs of EPP Groups and Associations. The members of the Presidency are not remunerated for the exercise of their mandate, unless decided otherwise by the Political Assembly.

In case the President would be prevented to fulfil his powers, as attributed to him by these by-laws and the internal regulations, he will delegate one of the Vice-Presidents as his representative.

## Article 12. POWERS - RESPONSIBILITIES

The Presidency has the powers attributed to it by the law, these by-laws and the Internal Regulations. Its competences consist inter alia of:

- ensuring the implementation of decisions taken by the Political Assembly;
- preparing the annual accounts and budget;
- ensuring the permanent political presence of the EPP;
- monitoring the work of the General Secretariat, and more in particular the budget management;
- issuing statements on behalf of the EPP in the framework of its political program further to a decision of the Political Assembly;
- proposing candidates for the function of Deputy Secretary(ies) General to the Political Assembly in agreement with the Secretary General;
- proposing candidates for nomination as Honorary President to the Political Assembly.
- ensuring the coherence of membership policies between the EPP and EPP Groups in international organisations, institutions, bodies and assemblies.

## Article 13. MEETINGS

The members of the Presidency shall meet at least eight times annually, upon convocation by the President, by letter, fax or email at the latest two weeks in

advance, unless in case of urgency. The meetings take place on the day and at the time and place stated in the convocation notice. The notice also contains the agenda, which is fixed by the President. The Presidency may only debate the items on the agenda, unless all the members are present and unanimously agree to deliberate and to approve the agenda set at that time.

The Presidency shall validly deliberate if a majority of its members are present.

In case of failure to achieve this quorum, a second meeting shall be convened with the same agenda, which can validly deliberate, regardless of the attendance quorum.

Decisions shall be taken by an absolute majority of the votes cast. All members of the Presidency shall have one vote. In case of a tie, the President has the casting vote.

The meetings are chaired by the President.

The Secretary General or a Deputy Secretary General shall draw up the minutes of the meetings, which shall be kept at the registered office of the association.

Membership of the Presidency is strictly personal. A representative of a member of the Presidency will not be admitted to meetings. The mandate of the elected members of the Presidency will automatically expire if, during the course of the year, a member has not participated in at least half of the meetings.

On the proposal of the President, the Presidency may share work between its members or mandate certain members for specific tasks and delegate specific powers to one or more of its members.

## Article 14. DECISION MAKING PROCESS

If the President considers it advisable, the Presidency may approve a proposal by having all members of the Presidency sign for approval a circular setting out the proposal.

In this case, the Presidency is not required to call a meeting. The circular must include the following information:

- a statement that the text is a proposal for a decision of the Presidency;
- a statement that the decision shall only be approved if signed by all the members of the Presidency;
- a statement that the decision may not be amended and that no reservations may be expressed by members of the Presidency;
- a statement that all the members of the Presidency must return the document signed and with the handwritten words "read and approved";
- a statement that the signed circular must be returned within ten days to the association.

The meetings of the Presidency may also be organized by video- or teleconference.

# 5.

## POLITICAL ASSEMBLY

### Article 15. DEFINITION - COMPOSITION

The Political Assembly is the strategic organ of the association.

It is composed of:

#### A. Members ex officio:

- members of the Presidency;
- members of the Presidency of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament;
- Presidents of Ordinary or Associated Member Parties, Member Associations or their mandated representatives;
- Presidents of national delegations of member parties of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament;
- Members of the Presidency of the European Parliament, of the European Commission and of the Presidency of the Committee of the Regions, provided they belong to an Ordinary Member Party;
- Presidents of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the Committee of the Regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST, provided that they are member of an Ordinary Member Party or Associate Member Party.

The mandate of these members of the Political Assembly ends when they lose the capacity in which they became member of the Political Assembly.

#### B. Delegated members:

- Representatives of Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties.
- The Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties shall nominate their delegates together with an equivalent number of substitutes.
  - The delegates and voting rights of Ordinary Member Parties are assigned proportionally to the number of Individual Members of the association;
  - The delegates and voting rights of the Associated Member Parties are assigned by the Presidency.

The mandate of these members of the Political Assembly ends when the delegation by which they became member of the Political Assembly comes to an end.

The composition of the Political Assembly is calculated by the Secretary General twice in a legislature of the European Parliament (i): at the beginning and (ii) half-way through the European parliament legislature (any delay in these calculations is limited to a maximum of six months). This calculation must be approved by the Political Assembly.

### C. Non voting members

- The deputy Secretary(ies) General of the Association;
- The Secretary General of the EPP Group in the European Parliament, and the equivalent EPP Secretaries General of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the Committee of the Regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST;
- Two representatives of each Observer Member Party;
- One representative of each EPP Partner.

On the proposal of the President, the Political Assembly may invite certain personalities to give advice.

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## Article 16.

### POWERS - RESPONSIBILITIES

The Political Assembly has the powers attributed to it by the law, these by-laws and the Internal Regulations. Its competences consist inter alia of:

- ensuring unity of action by the EPP and influencing the achievement of European policy in the spirit of its program;
- electing the Deputy Secretary(ies) General on the proposal of the Presidency;
- stimulating and organizing systematic relations between national parliamentary groups and member parties in agreement with the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament;

- adopting the annual accounts and the budget;
- deciding on the applications for membership as well as on the recognition of Member Associations;
- deciding on the exclusion of members and revoking the recognition of Member Associations;
- deciding on the amount of annual dues to be paid by the members;
- formulating recommendations to the Congress as to modifications of the by-laws;
- adopting the Internal Regulations;
- electing the Honorary President(s) on the proposal of the Presidency;
- accepting candidature(s) of EPP candidate(s) for President of the EU Commission;
- deciding on changes to annex 1 to the statutes on the logo and annex 2 to the statutes on the list of member parties.

The Political Assembly may establish standing commissions and ad hoc working groups to study specific problems, and decide to dissolve them after having heard the president of the commission or working group.

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## Article 17.

### MEETINGS - DECISION MAKING PROCESS

On the invitation of the President, the Political Assembly meets at least four times annually, whenever the object or the interest of the association so requires; an extraordinary meeting can be held at the request of either one-third of the Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties, or of the Presidency of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament.

The Political Assembly shall validly deliberate if it is convened regularly, i.e. by letter, fax or email at the latest two weeks in advance, unless in case of urgency, and if a majority of its members are present.

Failure to achieve this quorum can only be established on the basis of a formal proposal, at the request of the delegations of at least seven Ordinary Member Parties or Associated Member Parties. If a second meeting has been convened with the same agenda, within at least two weeks and at most two months after the establishing of the failure to achieve the quorum, this second meeting can validly deliberate, regardless of the quorum.

The convocation notice sets out the agenda. Meetings are held at the registered office of the association or at the place stated in the notice of the meeting. For an item not listed on the agenda to be validly put to the vote, at least two thirds of members present must consent.

All votes and election procedures shall be made by absolute majority of the members present. In case of a tie, the President has the casting vote.

The meetings are chaired by the President.

The Secretary General or a Deputy Secretary General shall draw up the minutes of the meetings, which shall be kept at the registered office of the association. All members will receive copies of these minutes within four weeks of each meeting.

The Political Assembly normally meets "in camera". On the request of the Presidency or of one tenth of the delegates, the Political Assembly may decide, by simple majority, to admit the public to the meeting.

## 6. CONGRESS

### Article 18. DEFINITION - POWERS

The Congress has the following competences:

- deciding on the political program of the EPP;
- deciding on modifications of the by-laws;
- electing the President, Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General and the Treasurer;
- deciding on the dissolution of the association;
- electing the EPP candidate for President of the EU Commission.

The composition and the functioning of the Congress are regulated in the Internal Regulations.

## 7. SECRETARY GENERAL

### Article 19. ELECTION - POWERS

The Congress elects, on the proposal of the President, a Secretary General, in charge of the day-to-day management of the association, including the representation of the association within the limits of the day-to-day management.

This day to day management includes inter alia:

- the management of the General Secretariat and exercise of the decisions taken by the organs;
- the supervision of the cooperation between the General Secretariats of Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Observers, Member Associations, EPP Partners and the General Secretariat of the EPP Group in the European Parliament;
- the drawing up, in agreement with the President, of agendas for meetings of organs, the supervision of the convening of meetings, their preparation, and the writing of minutes;
- the responsibility to the Presidency and the Political Assembly for proper and adequate budgetary management;
- the drawing up of a report of the activities of the General Secretariat and organizational perspectives to the Political Assembly at the beginning of each year;
- Chairs the working group on Statutory Changes. This working group will issue recommendations to the EPP Presidency concerning the revision of the by-laws and Internal Regulations prior to each Statutory Congress in accordance with art. 25 and 26 of the by-laws;
- verification of the documents of all new membership applications as referred to in article 5 and clearance, in accordance with the President, for transferral to the Working Group EPP Membership.

The secretary General is also entitled to implement decisions of the Presidency and in particular to authorize an attorney at law to represent the association in judicial proceedings either as applicant or defendant.

On the proposal of the Presidency and in agreement with the Secretary General, the Political Assembly, following the election of the Presidency, elects the Deputy

Secretary (ies) General for a period of three years.

## 8. REPRESENTATION

### Article 20. PROCEDURE

All legal acts on behalf of the association not falling within the scope of the day-to-day management or of a special delegation of powers, must be signed by the President or by two members of the Presidency.

## 9. WILFRIED MARTENS CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

### Article 21. DEFINITION

The Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (hereinafter referred to as "WMCES") is the official European political foundation of the European People's Party. The WMCES will function as the sole and official think-tank of the EPP and shall, in particular, serve as a common European framework for national foundations/think-tanks recognized by EPP member-parties.



# 10.

## PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION

### Article 22. DEFINITION

The EPP is committed to comply with national applicable laws and EU regulations concerning the protection of data and will collect only information that is strictly needed and relevant, and up-to-date and will use appropriate controls to ensure the information is kept secure.

# 11.

## FINANCIAL YEAR, ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET

### Article 23.1. FINANCING

The EPP shall be financed by:

- The general budget of the EU in conformity with the Regulation (EC) N° 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of political parties at European level;
- The annual membership fees of Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member Associations, Observer Member Parties and EPP Partners;
- Contributions from supporting members.

### Article 23.2 MEMBERSHIP FEES

The conditions for the determination of the membership fees are strictly defined in the Internal Regulations. Membership fees and contributions are governed by the conditions and obligations relating to the funding of political parties at European level established in Regulation (CEC) 1141/2014.

### Article 24 FINANCIAL YEAR – ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET

The association's financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December.

At the end of each financial year, the Presidency closes the accounts for the year ended and establishes the budget for the following financial year in accordance with the applicable legal provisions; the annual accounts are submitted to the Political Assembly for approval.

The Treasurer will assist the Presidency in drawing up the accounts and the budget. He controls the budgetary management of the General Secretary and reports to the Presidency. He is responsible in particular for the financing of the association and its activities, by means of membership fees, donations or otherwise.

The surplus is added to the association's assets and in no case may be paid to members in the form of dividends.

To promote transparency the EPP accounts will be drawn up and communicated in accordance to chapter 5 of Regulation (EU/EURATOM) N° 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014.

# 12.

## INTERNAL REGULATIONS AND MODIFICATION OF INTERNAL REGULATIONS

### Article 25. INTERNAL REGULATIONS - MODIFICATION

At the proposal of the Presidency, the Political Assembly decides on the Internal Regulations in which issues of internal order and of financial order not mentioned in these by-laws shall be set out. In the Internal Regulations, some additional bodies will be created, such as the EPP Summit and the membership categories of "Member Associations", "Individual Members", "Observer Members" and "EPP Partners" will be defined.

Proposals for modifications of the Internal Regulations may be introduced by the Presidency, Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties or Member Associations; and by the EPP Group at the European Parliament and the Presidents of the EPP, likeminded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the Committee of the Regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST, provided that they are member of an Ordinary Member Party or Associated Member Party. Said proposals must be submitted in writing to the Secretary General four weeks prior to the meeting of the Political Assembly at which they will be considered and they must be notified to the members.

# 13.

## MODIFICATIONS OF THE BY-LAWS

### Article 26. BY-LAWS - MODIFICATION

Proposals for modifications of the by-laws may be introduced by the Presidency, Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties or Member Associations and by the EPP Group at the European Parliament and the Presidents of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the Committee of the Regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST provided that they are member of an Ordinary Member Party or Associated Member Party.

Proposals must be presented in writing to the Secretary General who will transmit them to the Members of the Political Assembly for deliberation at least four weeks prior to the meeting at which the Political Assembly will deliberate on those proposals.

Proposals shall be presented to the Congress for adoption only if they have obtained a two-thirds majority in the Political Assembly. Approval of modifications to the by-laws presented by the Political Assembly requires a simple majority of the members of Congress present. The Congress may by a two-thirds majority of the members present overrule the proposals of the Political Assembly.

# 14.

## DISSOLUTION

### Article 27. REGULATION

The association is not dissolved as a result of the death, dissolution or resignation of a member, provided the number of members is not less than two.

The association may be dissolved voluntarily by a decision of the Congress with a three-quarters majority of the members present, in accordance with the rules applicable to its functioning, as set out in the Internal Regulations.

In the event of voluntary dissolution, the Congress elects the liquidator(s). In the absence of liquidator(s), the members of the Presidency will act as liquidators.


In the event of dissolution, the Political Assembly decides on the disposal of the assets. Such disposal must serve a not-for-profit purpose.

# 15.

## TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

By derogation to Article 27 of the Statutes, the Political Assembly is entitled to adopt amendments to the Statutes of the Association if such amendments are required or useful with a view to implementing

- (i) Regulation No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations;
- (ii) delegated acts of the European Commission as set out in article 36 of the Regulation, and;
- (iii) current and future Belgian laws and regulations that, directly or indirectly, relate to any aspect of the conversion of a European political party governed by Belgian law into a European Political Party governed by the aforementioned Regulation.



— Congress resolution to perform actions required in the light of the anticipated European and Belgian legislation.

The Congress refers to Regulation No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22nd October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations (the "Regulation") which provides that the legal form of the Association needs to be converted, prior to 1st January 2017, into a European Political Party (as defined in article 2 of the Regulation) in order for the Association to be able to apply for funding under the Regulation for its activities as of 2017.

The Congress acknowledges that (i) the Belgian legislator still has to adopt a legal framework that governs such a conversion of a European political party governed by Belgian law into a European Political Party governed by the Regulation, and (ii) the European Commission still has to adopt delegated acts as set out in article 36 of the Regulation.

Taking into account that the next ordinary meeting of the Congress will not take place prior to 1st January 2017, the Congress, for the avoidance of doubt, hereby declares that it expects (and to the extent required, mandates) the Presidency and, as the case may be, the Political Assembly to take all actions required to ensure a successful conversion of the legal form of the Association into an European Political Party by 1st January 2017.

This mandate comprises the right to take all actions and perform all formalities that are necessary or useful in the light of the conversion of the legal form of the Association into an European Political Party in conformity with the provisions of:

- the Regulation,
- delegated acts of the European Commission as set out in article 36 of the Regulation,
- current and future Belgian laws and regulations that, directly or indirectly, relate to any aspect of the said conversion or the requirements applicable to a European Political Party after such conversion.

# Internal Regulations



<b>CHAPTER 1</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>B.</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>F.</b>	<b>31</b>
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# Internal Regulations

— By and under supervision of the Political Assembly, the following additional bodies with decision-making powers will be established and function within the association. The rules regarding the functioning and composition of these bodies, as well as other rules relating to the functioning of the international association which are not set out in the by-laws, will be set out in these Internal Regulations.



EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY  
INTERNATIONAL NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION

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## 1.

## ON THE CONGRESS

A.  
COMPOSITION

The members of Congress are:

- Members of the EPP Presidency;
- Presidents of Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties and Member Associations;
- Delegates of Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties and Member Associations
- Heads of State and of Government of Member States of the European Union, who are members of an Ordinary Member Party;
- Individual Members of the Association (cf. article 5, alinea 4 of the by-laws) ;
- Members of the European Commission provided they are members of an Ordinary Member Party;
- Presidents of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the Committee of the Regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST provided that they are a member of an Ordinary Member Party or an Associated Member Party;
- Delegates of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the Committee of the Regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST, provided that they are member of an Ordinary Member Party or Associated Member Party.

The overall number of delegates shall be decided upon by the Political Assembly

prior to convening the Congress. Delegates of Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member Associations, the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the Committee of the Regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST respectively form delegations.

They must, in the composition of their delegation, give priority to their representatives at the Political Assembly.

The number of delegates from each Ordinary Member Party, Associated Member Party and Member Association is calculated in accordance with the number of delegate members of the Political Assembly. Members ex officio are not taken into account.

Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties are entitled to a minimum of three delegates. Member Associations and the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the Committee of the Regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST are entitled to six delegates.

The following are invited to the Congress as guests:

- three representatives of each Observer Member Party, in accordance with article 6 of the by-laws;
- two representatives of each EPP Partner, in accordance with article 6 of the by-laws;
- Presidents of the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the Committee of the Regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST; provided they are member of an Ordinary Member Party, Associated Member Party, Observer Member Party or EPP Partner.
- members of the Presidency of the EPP,

like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the Committee of the Regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST;

- parliamentarians of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament who are not Individual Members of the association;
- all former Presidents and Secretaries-General of the party;
- Supporting Members.
- two representatives of each EPP Partner, in accordance with article 6 of the by-laws;

The President has the right to invite other personalities to the meetings of the Congress.



## **B.** **FUNCTIONING**

The Congress meets at least every three years. It is convened by a decision of the Political Assembly which determines the venue, date, agenda and regulations of the Congress. Convening of the Congress is the responsibility of the President on behalf of the Political Assembly.

The Political Assembly debates and approves the draft EPP Congress document.

Notice shall be made in writing and contain the venue, date and proposed agenda. It must be dispatched, together with a copy of the regulations of the Congress, four weeks prior to the Congress. Organizations that have delegates are responsible for informing them.

The venue and date of an ordinary Congress, as well as the number of delegates per delegation, must be communicated at least two months in advance.

The Political Assembly can decide to convene an extraordinary Congress. At the request of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament or at least one-third of the Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties, the Political Assembly shall convene an Extraordinary Congress. The time period set out in the previous paragraphs shall be reduced to minimum three weeks.

The Congress can validly take decisions if it has been correctly convened and if the majority of its members are present. Failure to reach a quorum must be established by a formal motion.

A motion preventing valid deliberation may be introduced by:

- the presidency of the Congress;
- at least seven Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties from five different countries;
- the Presidency of the EPP Group in the European Parliament.

If the Congress is unable to make a valid deliberation, the President shall, after consultation with the EPP Presidency, determine the date and agenda of an extraordinary Congress. The stipulations concerning the notice and notice period shall not apply. This extraordinary Congress may nonetheless validly deliberate. This must be mentioned in the invitation.

Decisions shall be taken by an absolute majority of the votes cast. Decisions on modifications to the by-laws are governed by article 26 of the by-laws. Each member of Congress has one vote.

The Congress normally meets in public. On the request of the Congress Presidency, the Congress may decide, by simple majority, to meet "in camera".

By derogation to the preceding rules on the functioning of the Congress, a Congress can be validly held by at least two members of the Presidency, in the presence of a notary, without any convening notice or quorum being required, in case a special meeting of the Congress is required to adopt modifications to the Statutes of the Association which must be recorded in a notarial deed pursuant to applicable law, provided that these modifications have been previously approved by a Congress convened and held in accordance with the functioning of an ordinary meeting of the Congress (or by the Political Assembly, pursuant to the transitional provisions of the Statutes to the extent such transitional provisions grant such powers to the Political Assembly).

## 2.

### ON THE POLITICAL ASSEMBLY

Following Article 15 b) of the EPP By-laws, the number of the delegates and voting rights of the Associated Member Parties and Member Associations are assigned by the Presidency. The number of delegates shall be limited to a maximum of 2 besides the Party Chairman.

## 3.

### ON THE EPP SUMMIT

#### A. COMPETENCES

The EPP Summit prepares the position to be taken by the EPP Heads of State and of Government at the European Council and issues recommendations on the strategy and political orientation of the association.

#### B. COMPOSITION

The EPP Summit is composed of:

- the members of the EPP Presidency;
- the members of the European Council (Heads of State and of Government), a Vice-President of the EC to represent the members of the Commission in the absence of the President, as far as he or she is a member of an EPP Ordinary Member Party;
- Presidents of parties in coalition governments in EU Member States in cases where the Head of Government is not a member of an EPP Ordinary Member Party;
- the President of the largest opposition party in each Member State of the European Union.  
Where EPP Ordinary Member Parties candidate only in complementary regions, the President of each party is invited.

The President has the right to invite other personalities to the meetings of the EPP Summit.

The President will report to the Political Assembly on the outcome and general direction of the EPP Summit.

## 4.

### ON THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIES STEERING COMMITTEE

The Secretary General chairs the «International Secretaries Steering Committee», an ad hoc consultative body that will assist, when necessary, the work of the institutional bodies of the EPP. All international, external or related Secretaries have the right to participate in this Committee.

## 5.

### ON THE EPP MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

The EPP organizes on a regular basis EU Ministerial Meetings prior to the EU Council meetings on relevant EU policy sectors proposed by the EPP Presidency in order to improve political coordination and policy synergy in the Council. At the recommendation of the EPP President, EPP Vice-Presidents or other outstanding EPP political personalities may chair such meetings if they have relevant policy experience and expertise. On those policy areas where co-decision is required the

European Commissioner, provided he belongs to an EPP member party, may be invited as well as Members of the European Parliament of the EPP Group who will participate following the recommendations of the Presidency of the EPP Group in the European Parliament.

## 6.

### ON THE WORKING GROUP CHAIRMEN

The Members of the Presidency should commit themselves in the bodies of the party, e.g. working groups, fora, ad-hoc committees. In case of vacancies, the Presidency together with the Secretary General will appoint a high profile EPP personality to Chair a working Group. In case of poor performance by an appointed working Group Chairperson, the Presidency and the Secretary General have the right to replace the Chairperson with a new appointment.

The Members of the Presidency and the members of the Political Assembly may suggest or request the creation of a specific Working Group to discuss issues of particular relevance for the EU and its international position.

Member Parties who do not participate in two consecutive meetings of the Working Group Meetings, will not be able to present and/or vote amendments to EPP Working Group documents or resolutions in the two following Working Group Meetings.

# 7.

## ON THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

The EPP has the right to establish Bilateral Agreements with parties, organizations, think tanks, NGOs, civil society organizations, unions, etc., as an instrument to develop broader relations. The specific terms of the Agreement have to be accepted by the Presidency and approved by the Political Assembly. At the proposal of the Presidency, the Political Assembly has the right to revoke a Bilateral Agreement if the terms of the Agreement have been breached.

# 8.

## ON THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

### A. ASSOCIATIONS ELIGIBLE TO BECOME MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

Recognition as a Member Association presupposes that:

- the association has legal personality in the Member State in which its seat is located;
- national sections, linked to an Ordinary Member Party of the EPP, exist in at least half the Member States of the EU;

- the activities of the association are performed on the basis of by-laws governing their operation, internal responsibilities and the right of representation;
- their activities and the positions taken are in line with the EPP Program and the party's political directives.

The EPP Member Associations must clearly indicate in their name their relationship to the EPP. As a general rule, the Member Associations must accept the participation of the corresponding national associations of the Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties.

### B. ADMISSION AS A MEMBER ASSOCIATION

Associations wishing to be recognised should apply to the Presidency in writing.

The application must include:

- the program of the association;
- the by-laws of the association;
- and information concerning the organization and the number of members;
- evidence that the recognition requirements set forth in section 10, a) are satisfied.

The Presidency must submit the application to the members of the Political Assembly at least one month prior to its examination. The Political Assembly may decide to hear representatives of an applicant association.

On the proposal of the Presidency, and after having heard the association concerned, the Political Assembly may revoke its recognition of an association.

## C. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AND THIRD PARTIES

The EPP Member Associations are autonomous organisations and should act as separate legal entities through their own bodies.

The Member Associations clearly indicate in their name their relationship to the EPP in a way that no confusion is created over the fact that the Member Association is a separate legal entity operating independently from the EPP.

The Member Associations should give due consideration to the interests of the EPP and other Member Associations.

The Member Associations should observe the guidelines which the Political Assembly has adopted to increase transparency as to the relationship between the EPP and the Member Associations and to contribute to the good governance of the EPP and the Member Associations.

## 9. ON THE BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS

At the first meeting of each odd-numbered year, the Political Assembly elects two Internal Auditors who may not be members of the EPP Presidency. Their mandate lasts two years.

# 10. ON THE MEMBERSHIP

## A. ADMISSION

During its preliminary examination of the membership application as mentioned in articles 5, 6 and 19.vii of the By-Laws, the Political Assembly may decide to hear a representative of the applicant party. The Secretary General in accordance with the President transmits the application for advice to the EPP Working Group on 'EPP Membership'. The Political Assembly will take a decision on the application on one of its next meetings following the receipt of the advice of the EPP Working Group on 'EPP Membership'.

## B. SUSPENSION

The suspension of a member as defined in article 9 of the By-Laws may only be decided by the Political Assembly after hearing the member concerned. If the member fails to turn up for the hearing, the Political Assembly is authorized to decide on the suspension of the member. Suspended members lose their speaking and/or voting rights within the organs and bodies of the association as well as their right to propose candidates for positions within the association, until the Political Assembly has lifted the suspension, it being understood that they have to continue to comply with their membership obligations during the whole time of the suspension.

### C. EXCLUSION

The exclusion of a member as defined in article 9 of the By-Laws may only be decided by the Political Assembly after hearing the member concerned. If the member fails to turn up for the hearing, the Political Assembly is authorized to decide on the exclusion of the member.

### D. SUPPORTING MEMBERS

The Presidency may also grant the title of Supporting Member to other persons or associations. They do not enjoy the same rights as the members mentioned in article 5 of the by-laws but may be invited by the President to attend meetings of certain organs or bodies of the association.

# 11.

## ON THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

### A. MEMBERSHIP FEES OF EPP ORDINARY MEMBER PARTIES

The annual Membership Fees of the EPP Ordinary Member Parties is based on:

1. a basic sum calculated on the basis of the votes obtained by that party in the last European Elections
2. a basic sum per member of that party in the EPP Group in the European Parliament.

The basic calculation is made for the first budget following European Elections, on the proposal of the Treasurer and the Secretary General and after approval of the Political Assembly.

When a modification in Membership Fees is necessary, it is possible to vote for either a modification of basic sum a) or for a modification of basic sum b) or for a modification of both sums.

### B. MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR ASSOCIATED MEMBER PARTIES, OBSERVER MEMBER PARTIES AND EPP PARTNERS

On the proposal of the Treasurer and Secretary General, the Membership Fees of EPP Associated Member Parties, is calculated by the Political Assembly on the basis of the votes obtained by these Associated Member parties during the last national elections. The Associated Member Parties will start paying Membership Fees immediately after their admission as an Associated Member Party, pro rata temporis. The same procedure is for 50 % applied to Observer Member Parties and EPP Partners.

### C. MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

The Membership Fees of EPP Member Associations are determined by the Political Assembly upon proposal of the Treasurer and Secretary General.

### D. CONTRIBUTION OF SUPPORTING MEMBERS



Supporting Members can contribute to the financing of the EPP. The Supporting Member Contribution is at least 20 euro.

## **E.** **GENERAL STIPULATIONS**

Membership Fees are fixed in euro; they are payable without deduction of incurred costs. Membership Fees are adjusted annually in line with Belgian inflation levels.

## **F.** **ARREARS**

Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Observer Member Parties and EPP Partners which accumulate arrears in the payment of their annual Membership Fee equivalent to one year of membership fee lose their speaking and/or voting rights within the organs and bodies of the association as well as their right to propose candidates for positions within the association, until they have paid off their arrears. The Presidency has to propose to the Political Assembly to exclude Ordinary, Associated and Observer Member Parties which accumulated arrears for two years. Interest, equivalent to double the relevant year's annual inflation rate in Belgium, will be added to the amount of the arrears. A list outlining the current Membership Fees' situation will be distributed at each meeting of the EPP Political Assembly.

## **G.** **SUBVENTIONS TO MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

1. The EPP in so far as possible supports the activities of its Member Associations. The nature and conditions of this support are determined by the EPP authorities responsible for the budget

and follow the decisions of the Bureau of the European Parliament and article 210 of the RAP with regard to 'support to third parties'.

2. Each Member Association submits each year by the 1st February at the latest to the EPP Secretary General the budget and action programme of the year to come and the activity report of the previous year. As soon as completed, it also furnishes its accounts and balance sheet of the previous budgetary year. The balance sheet and accounts are to be accompanied by the report of the financial auditors and the minutes of the meeting at which this report was approved.
3. Following this, each member association is entitled to a reimbursement to a maximum amount of 60.000€ of proven expenditures with regard to the organisation of events and administrative costs. In order to obtain reimbursements of these costs the associations must produce all supporting documents including invoices, bank statements and detailed cost overviews.
4. A detailed list of eligible and non-eligible expenditures will be provided to each member association.
5. On all invitations to the activities and on all publications concerning the activities of the Member Associations for which reimbursement is requested the EPP logo must be prominently displayed.

## **H.** **FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO RELATED ORGANIZATIONS**

Should the EPP Political Assembly decide to give annual financial support to other related organizations, these organizations should follow the same procedure as described above, in section g.

**I.****ADMINISTRATION OF RESOURCES**

The EPP Treasurer and Secretary General are entrusted by the EPP Presidency and Political Assembly with the proper administration and use of the financial resources of the association. To that purpose they will draft Internal Financial Regulations that will be submitted for the approval of the Presidency.

**J.****DECISIONS ON THE ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET**

In accordance with article 12 and article 24 of the by-laws, any member of the EPP Presidency who is a Member of the European Commission or President of the European Parliament shall abstain from taking part in the deliberation and voting process regarding the annual accounts and budget of the association.

**12.****ON THE EPP MERIT AWARD**

The EPP Presidency has the right to grant an «EPP Merit Award» to individuals that have made an outstanding contribution in promoting the EPP. The EPP Presidency will receive nominations and examine them on a case-by-case basis before granting the Award.

**13.****ON THE WILFRIED MARTENS FUND**

EPP will participate in the 'Wilfried Martens Fund' established together with the KU Leuven University. The Wilfried Martens Fund is created to honour the memory and legacy of the late EPP President Martens. The Wilfried Martens fund shall present a yearly report on its activities and finances to the Political Assembly.

**14.****ON THE ROBERT SCHUMAN INSTITUTE**

The Robert Schuman Institute is recognized as the training institute of the European People's Party and will be supported by the European People's Party. The Robert Schuman Institute shall present a yearly report on its activities and finances to the Political Assembly.



**European People's Party**

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