

Legal version in French

V7 CONGRESS AMS

STATUTES (by-Laws) OF THE EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY

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).

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 (IDC-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.

I. 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 "parti politique européen/Europese politieke partij, European political party" or the abbreviation "PPEU/EUPP/EUPP".

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, as amended.

For the matters not regulated by the referred European Regulation the association is governed by the Belgian Code of Companies and Associations (hereinafter the "CCA").

The EPP does not pursue profit goals.

The logo of the association is defined in annex 1 to the by-laws.

Article 2 ADDRESS

The registered office of the association is established at Rue du Commerce 10, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.

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

Article 3 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

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

62
63 In order to realize this purpose and in order to establish, develop, implement and promote its
64 policies, the association organizes several discussion and decision forums, major events and
65 fact finding missions according to strict democratic principles and issues publications of all
66 sorts.

67
68 The association is also authorised to execute all legal instruments (including real estate
69 transactions) directly or indirectly useful or necessary for the promotion and achievement of the
70 above-mentioned aims.

71
72 Through their national policies the member parties of the association support positions taken by
73 the association in the context of the European Union. In the context of national responsibilities,
74 they shall maintain their own name, their identity and their freedom of action. The association
75 is represented in the European Parliament by the Group of the European People's Party (Christian
76 Democrats) (Group of the EPP in the European Parliament).

77
78 Member parties oblige parliamentarians elected to the European Parliament on their list, and/or
79 sent to the like-minded or associated Groups at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the
80 OSCE and NATO, the European committee of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and
81 EURONEST, to join the EPP Groups therein.

82 83 Article 4 DURATION

84
85 The association is incorporated for an indefinite duration.

86 87 **II. MEMBERSHIP**

88 89 Article 5 MEMBERS WITH VOTING RIGHTS

90
91 The number of members is unlimited, but may not be less than two. Requests for membership
92 shall be submitted to the President and Secretary General in writing. They shall comprise a
93 statement on the adoption of the Political programme, the EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical
94 Behaviour in Politics, as well as the by-laws and the internal regulations of the association, in
95 addition to a copy of the by-laws and programme in its original language and in English of the
96 applicant party. The EPP President and Secretary General should be notified in writing of any
97 change in the by-laws of any member. The Presidency will transmit the application for
98 membership to the Political Assembly following the recommendation of the Working Group EPP
99 Membership.

100
101 Without prejudice to article 5 bis and subject to what follows, the Political Assembly is authorised
102 to grant, at its own discretion, the applicant one of the following member status in the EPP: (1)
103 Ordinary Member Party, (2) Associated Member Party, (3) Member Association or (4) Individual
104 Member (as defined here below).
105

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(1) Ordinary Member Parties

The member status of Ordinary Member Party can be granted to any Christian Democrat or like-minded party, based in the European Union, which subscribes to the association's political programme and the EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics, and which accepts the association's by-laws and internal regulations.

(2) Associated Member Parties

The member status of Associated Member Party can be granted 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 subscribes to the objectives referred to in article 3 of the by-laws and to the association's political programme and EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics, and which accepts the association's by-laws and internal regulations. Associated Member Parties, or their representatives within the organs and bodies of the association, 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.

(3) Member Associations

The member status of Member Association can be granted to any Member Association within the meaning of article 26 of the by-laws and section VIII of the internal regulations and which subscribes to the association's political programme and EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics and accepts the association's by-laws and internal regulations.

The member status of Member Association has been granted to the following associations:

- European Democrat Students (EDS)
- European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW)
- Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP)
- Small and Medium Entrepreneurs of Europe (SME EUROPE)
- EPP Women (EPPW)
- European Seniors Union (ESU)

The way in which these Member Associations are integrated in the association is further described in article VIII of the Internal Regulations.

(4) 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

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159 representative. In case of a change of representation, the President of the association is
160 immediately informed in writing.

161
162 Article 5 bis MEMBERS WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS

163
164 Without prejudice to article 5 and subject to what follows, the Political Assembly is, on the
165 proposal of the Presidency, authorised to grant, at its own discretion, the applicant one of the
166 following member statuses without voting rights: (1) Observer Member Party, (2) EPP Partner
167 or (3) Associated Entities (as defined here below).

168
169 (1) Observer Member Parties

170
171 The member status of Observer Member Party can be granted to parties close to the EPP, from
172 (i) European Union Member States, (ii) states which have applied for European Union
173 membership as well as from (iii) European states that are members of the Council of Europe,
174 upon the condition of the adoption of the association's political programme and the EPP Code of
175 Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics, and the acceptance of the association's by-laws and
176 internal regulations.

177
178 (2) EPP Partners:

179 The member status of EPP Partner can be granted to any political party outside the EU
180 represented in an International Organization such as the Council of Europe, NATO, OSCE and /
181 or Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), upon the condition that such party has a likeminded EPP
182 orientation, accept the association's by-laws (including the objectives referred to in article 3 of
183 the by-laws), internal regulations and political programme. Membership of the Centrist Democrat
184 International (IDC-CDI) and/or International Democrat Union (IDU) is a positive criteria.

185 (3) Associated Entities

186 The member status of Associated Entity can be granted to any entity based in a European Union
187 Member State or a third country whose activities and positions taken are in line with the EPP
188 program and which subscribes to the association's political programme and EPP Code of Conduct
189 on Ethical Behaviour in Politics and accepts the association's by-laws and internal regulations.

190
191 The member status of Associated Entity has been granted to the Robert Schuman Institute **[EPP
192 add: and the Wilfried Martens Fund]** .

193
194 The way in which the Robert Schuman Institute **[EPP add: and the Wilfried Martens Fund]**
195 **are** integrated in the association is further described in articles **[EPP add: XIII and]** XIV of the
196 Internal Regulations.

197
198 Article 6 COMPLIANCE WITH CODE OF CONDUCT

199 Every application for the member status of Ordinary Member party, Associated Member Party,
200 Member Association, Observer Member Party, or Individual Member, who is not a member ex
201 officio of the association, must include a written statement confirming that the applicant
202 undertakes to comply with the values, principles and provisions set out in the association's EPP
203 Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics as approved and amended from time to time in
204 accordance with article 25 and 16 of the by-laws (hereinafter referred to as the "EPP Code of
205 Conduct").

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206 The EPP Ethics Committee shall draw up a procedure to be applied as part of the application
207 process, with a view to verifying the compliance with the EPP Code of Conduct of any applicant,
208 having confirmed its adherence to the EPP Code of Conduct in accordance with this article.
209

210 Article 7 MEMBERSHIP FEES AND MEMBERSHIP PUBLICATION
211

212 Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member Associations, Observer Member
213 Parties and EPP Partners individually pay annual dues of no more than 500.000 (five hundred
214 thousand) euros. The amount of the dues is determined annually by the Political Assembly. Dues
215 are payable within two weeks of having been set and communicated by the Political Assembly
216 to the members.
217

218 Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member Associations, Observer Member
219 Parties publish the political programme and logo of the EPP on their websites, in a clearly visible
220 and user-friendly manner, from the date on which the Political Assembly granted them member
221 status and for the entire duration of their membership.
222

223 Article 8 REGISTER AND EXCLUSIVITY
224

225 The Presidency keeps a membership register at the registered office of the association. This
226 register lists the surname, first name, place of residence, date and place of birth of members or,
227 in the case of legal persons or de facto associations, the name, legal form, address of the
228 registered office, identity of the representative and, where applicable, the registration number
229 in accordance with existing legislation and/or regulations. All members may consult this register
230 at the registered office of the association.
231

232 The EPP membership is strictly exclusive. In no case may an EPP member as defined under
233 Articles 5 and 5 bis under Section II of the by-laws also be a member of any other Political Party
234 at European Level recognized under Regulation (EU/EURATOM) N° 1141/2014 of the European
235 Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political
236 parties and political foundations.
237

238 A member of the EPP that is found to be also member of another Political Party at European
239 Level will be automatically excluded according to Article IX, c. of the EPP Internal Regulations.
240

241 Article 9 RESIGNATION, SUSPENSION AND EXCLUSION
242

243 Any member may resign from the association at any time. The member gives notice to the
244 Presidency of the decision to resign by written notification.
245

246 Members that resign are obliged to fulfil their financial obligations toward the association for the
247 year during which the resignation is submitted and for all previous years.
248

249 The suspension and the exclusion of a member may only be decided by the Political Assembly.
250 It is not obliged to disclose its reasons. A proposal for the exclusion **[EPP add: or suspension]**
251 of a member may only be submitted by the Presidency, or seven Ordinary or Associated Member
252 Parties from five different countries. The Presidency invites the member concerned to the
253 meeting of the Political Assembly and may hear the member concerned. The Political Assembly
254 can take any action it deems appropriate against an Individual Member, who is not a member
255 ex officio of the association. A proposal for the exclusion of an Individual Member who is a
256 member ex officio of the association may only be submitted by the Presidency of the EPP Group
257 in the European Parliament.
258

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259 If a Member Party is not any more a viable political force in its respective country and, in
260 particular, has not been represented in regional or national or European Parliament(s) for two
261 consecutive parliamentary terms, the EPP Presidency can recommend to the Political Assembly
262 its suspension or exclusion, according to the procedures stated in the previous paragraph.
263

264 If a member, other than an Individual Member who is a member ex officio of the association,
265 does not comply with the EPP Code of Conduct, the Presidency can, upon recommendation of
266 the EPP Ethics Committee, recommend to the Political Assembly the suspension or exclusion of
267 that member, according to the procedures stated above. In this case, the Political Assembly shall
268 investigate the alleged violations of the EPP Code of Conduct, invite the member concerned to a
269 hearing and render a reasoned decision.
270

271 If a member, other than an Individual Member, does not continuously publish the political
272 programme and logo of the EPP on its website in a clearly visible and user-friendly manner, the
273 EPP Presidency can recommend to the Political Assembly its suspension or exclusion, according
274 to the procedures stated above. In this case, the Political Assembly shall invite the member
275 concerned to a hearing and render a reasoned decision.
276

277 A member's affiliation ceases automatically upon death, disqualification, liquidation or in cases
278 of temporary administration, court-ordered settlement or insolvency. The affiliation of an
279 individual member ends automatically when this member is no longer a member of the European
280 Parliament and the affiliation of a Member Association ends automatically when this member
281 does no longer fulfil the criteria that were necessary for its preliminary recognition as a Member
282 Association and which are set out in the internal regulations.
283

284 Members that resigned or were excluded and the legal successors of such members or of
285 deceased members have no claims on the assets of the association and may never be reimbursed
286 for dues paid, contributions or any other payments made to the association, unless otherwise
287 expressly provided for in the by-laws.
288

289 In no case may a member that resigned or was excluded demand the communication of or a
290 copy of the accounts, the placing of official seals on the property of the association or the drawing
291 up of an inventory.
292

293 Article 9 (bis) STATEMENTS – MEMBERS LIST
294

295 The EPP does not bear responsibility for statements issued on behalf of the EPP by members
296 without prior approval of the EPP President.
297

298 The list of member parties as defined in article 5 and 5 bis is defined in annex 2 to the by-laws.
299

300
301 **III. ORGANS OF THE ASSOCIATION**
302

303 Article 10 ORGANS
304

305 The organs of the association are:
306

- 307 (i) The Presidency
- 308 (ii) The Political Assembly
- 309 (iii) The Congress.

310
311 The EPP strives towards equal participation of women and men in all its organs.
312

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313 **IV. PRESIDENCY**314
315 Article 11 COMPOSITION – ELECTION – INCOMPATIBILITIES – INVITEES – VOLONTARYTY –
316 REPLACEMENTS317
318 The association is managed by the Presidency, the executive organ, within the meaning of article
319 10:9 of the CCA. The Presidency is composed of:

- 320 (i) the President of the EPP;
-
- 321 (ii) the President of the European Commission, the President of the European Council,
-
- 322 the High Representative on Foreign and Security Policy, the President of the European
-
- 323 Parliament (to the extent that these persons are affiliated to the EPP);
-
- 324 (iii) the Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament
-
- 325 (iv)
- [EPP add: the President of the European Committee of the Regions to the**
-
- 326
- extent that he/she is affiliated to the EPP or the Chairman of the EPP Group**
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- 327
- in the European Committee of the Regions only if the President of ECoR is**
-
- 328
- not affiliated to the EPP];**
-
- 329 (v) the Honorary President(s);
-
- 330 (vi) ten Vice-Presidents;
-
- 331 (vii) the Treasurer; and
-
- 332 (viii) the Secretary General.
-
- 333

334 Except for the Honorary President(s) who are elected by the Political Assembly, and for the
335 President of the European Commission, the President of the European Council, the High
336 Representative on Foreign and Security Policy, the President of the European Parliament, the
337 President of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament, who are *ex officio* members of the
338 Presidency, the members of the Presidency are elected by the Congress by secret ballot and by
339 separate vote, for a renewable term of three years.
340341 The Congress elects first the President who, subsequently, proposes to the Congress a Secretary
342 General to be elected. Only representatives of Ordinary and Associated Member Parties are
343 eligible for these functions.
344345 Candidates who obtain a simple majority of the valid votes cast are elected. Abstentions are not
346 considered valid votes. Prior to the Congress, a special voting regulation for the election of the
347 President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary General and Treasurer, will be approved by the Political
348 Assembly.
349350 Candidates for the functions of President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer must be nominated, in
351 writing, to the Secretariat General, seven days prior to the date of the election. Presidents and
352 Secretaries General are entitled, on behalf of Ordinary and Associated Member Parties and on
353 behalf of Member Associations, to propose candidates provided that all candidates are member
354 of an Ordinary or Associated Member Party. All Ordinary and Associated Member Parties and all
355 Member Associations shall be informed of the names of the candidates not less than three days
356 prior to the elections.
357358 The members of the Presidency may resign at any time, by giving notice to the Presidency of
359 the decision to resign by written notification. Their mandate is at any time revocable by the
360 Congress.
361362 Ceasing to be a member of an Ordinary or Associated EPP Member Party also constitutes
363 simultaneous resignation from the EPP Presidency.
364365 If a mandate falls vacant, the Political Assembly shall in accordance with the previous paragraphs
366 of this article, elect a replacement following a call for candidatures. At the following Congress,

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367 confirmation of this election is requested and the Congress determines the duration of the term
368 of office. Members of the Presidency may be re-elected.
369

370 Members of the Presidency whose terms of office are coming to an end must, before expiry of
371 the term, call a Congress for the purpose of electing new members of the Presidency. If they fail
372 to do so, they are obliged to remain in office until such time as a replacement can be found,
373 without prejudice to their responsibility for any damage caused by their omission.
374

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

- 377 - members of the European Commission who are member of a Member Party;
- 378 - The President and/or the President of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the
379 Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European committee of the
380 regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST.
381

382 The following persons are permanently invited:

- 383 (1) the Deputy Secretary(ies)-General of the EPP;
- 384 (2) The Secretary-General of the EPP Group in the European Parliament.
385

386 The EPP President and/or Secretary General can attend, at will, any meetings of any organs of
387 EPP Groups and Associations.
388

389 The members of the Presidency are not remunerated for the exercise of their mandate, unless
390 decided otherwise by the Political Assembly.
391

392 In case the President would be prevented to fulfil his powers, as attributed to him by these by-
393 laws and the internal regulations, he will delegate one of the Vice-Presidents as his
394 representative.
395

396 Article 12 POWERS – RESPONSIBILITIES
397

398 The Presidency has the powers attributed to it by the law, these by-laws and the Internal
399 Regulations. Its competences consist inter alia of:
400

- 401 - ensuring the implementation of decisions taken by the Political Assembly;
- 402 - preparing the annual accounts and budget;
- 403 - ensuring the permanent political presence of the EPP;
- 404 - monitoring the work of the General Secretariat, and more in particular the budget
405 management;
- 406 - issuing statements on behalf of the EPP in the framework of its political program further
407 to a decision of the Political Assembly;
- 408 - proposing candidates for the function of Deputy Secretary(ies) General to the Political
409 Assembly in agreement with the Secretary General;
- 410 - proposing candidates for nomination as Honorary President to the Political Assembly;
- 411 - ensuring the coherence of membership policies between the EPP and EPP Groups in
412 international organisations, institutions, bodies and assemblies;
- 413 - adopting internal regulations for matters that fall within the scope of its competences;
- 414 - implementing the recommendations of the EPP Ethics Committee and formulating
415 proposals to the Political Assembly as to the further implementation by the Political
416 Assembly of these recommendations.
417

418 Article 13 MEETINGS
419

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420 The members of the Presidency shall meet at least eight times annually, upon convocation by
421 the President, by letter, fax or email at the latest two weeks in advance, unless in case of
422 urgency. The meetings take place on the day and at the time and place stated in the convocation
423 notice. The notice also contains the agenda, which is fixed by the President. The Presidency may
424 only debate on the items on the agenda, unless all the members are present and unanimously
425 agree to deliberate and to approve the agenda set at that time.

426
427 The Presidency shall validly deliberate if a majority of its members are present.

428
429 In case of failure to achieve this quorum, a second meeting shall be convened with the same
430 agenda, which can validly deliberate, regardless of the attendance quorum.

431
432 Decisions shall be taken with a simple majority of the votes cast by the members of the
433 Presidency present. All members of the Presidency shall have one vote. In case of a tie, the
434 President has the casting vote. Abstentions and blank votes are not considered valid votes.

435
436 The meetings are chaired by the President.

437
438 The Secretary General or a Deputy Secretary General shall draw up the minutes of the meetings,
439 which shall be kept at the registered office of the association.

440
441 Membership of the Presidency is strictly personal, meaning that a representative of a member
442 of the Presidency will not be admitted to meetings. The mandate of the elected members of the
443 Presidency will automatically expire if, during the course of the year, a member has not
444 participated in at least half of the meetings.

445
446 On the proposal of the President, the Presidency may share work between its members or
447 mandate certain members for specific tasks and delegate specific powers to one or more of its
448 members.

449
450 **Article 14 DECISION MAKING PROCESS**

451
452 If the President considers it advisable, the Presidency may approve a proposal by having all
453 members of the Presidency sign for approval a circular setting out the proposal.

454
455 In this case, the Presidency is not required to call a meeting. The circular must include the
456 following information:

- 457
458 - a statement that the text is a proposal for a decision of the Presidency;
459 - a statement that the decision shall only be approved if signed by all the members of the
460 Presidency;
461 - a statement that the decision may not be amended and that no reservations may be
462 expressed by members of the Presidency;
463 - a statement that all the members of the Presidency must return the document signed
464 and with the handwritten words "read and approved";
465 - a statement that the signed circular must be returned within ten days to the association.

466
467 The meetings of the Presidency may also be organized by video- or teleconference **[EPP add:
468 or any other means of telecommunication, as long as all participants are able to
469 express themselves and are intelligible to all other participants].**

470
471 **V. POLITICAL ASSEMBLY**

472
473 **Article 15 DEFINITION – COMPOSITION**

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The Political Assembly is the strategic organ and the general assembly, within the meaning of article 10:5 of the CCA, 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, members of the European Commission and the President or the first Vice-President of the European 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 European 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.
 - o The delegates and voting rights of Ordinary Member Parties are assigned proportionally to the number of Individual Members of the association;
 - o The delegates and voting rights of the Associated Member Parties are assigned by the Presidency.
- **[EPP add dash: Representatives (three) of the EPP Group in the European Committee of the Regions.]**

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 European committee of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST;
- Two representatives of each Observer Member Party;
- One representative of each EPP Partner and each Associated Entity.

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527 On the proposal of the President, the Political Assembly may invite certain personalities to give
528 advice.
529

530 Article 16 POWERS – RESPONSIBILITIES
531

532 The Political Assembly has the powers attributed to it by the law, these by-laws and the Internal
533 Regulations. Its competences consist inter alia of:
534

- 535 - ensuring unity of action by the EPP and influencing the achievement of European policy
536 in the spirit of its program;
- 537 - electing the Deputy Secretary(ies) General on the proposal of the Presidency;
- 538 - stimulating and organizing systematic relations between national parliamentary groups
539 and member parties in agreement with the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament;
- 540 - adopting the annual accounts and the budget;
- 541 - electing two Internal Auditors in accordance with article 24 of the by-laws;
- 542 - deciding on the applications for membership as well as on the recognition of Member
543 Associations;
- 544 - deciding on the **[EPP add: suspension and]** exclusion of members and revoking the
545 recognition of Member Associations;
- 546 -
- 547 - deciding on the amount of annual dues to be paid by the members;
- 548 - formulating recommendations to the Congress as to modifications of the by-laws;
- 549 - adopting the Internal Regulations;
- 550 - electing the Honorary President(s) on the proposal of the Presidency;
- 551 - accepting candidature(s) of EPP candidate(s) for President of the EU Commission;
- 552 - deciding on changes to annex 1 to the by-laws on the logo and annex 2 to the by-laws
553 on the list of member parties;
- 554 - appointing five members of the EPP Ethics Committee and electing its president;
- 555 - approving the EPP Code of Conduct and any amendments thereof, upon the proposal of
556 the EPP Ethics Committee;
- 557 - approving the internal regulations of the EPP Ethics Committee, and any amendments
558 thereof, upon the proposal of the EPP Ethics Committee;
- 559 - implementing the recommendations of the EPP Ethics Committee upon the proposal of
560 the Presidency;
- 561 - reporting to its members on the compliance by the EPP members with the EPP Code of
562 Conduct.

563
564 The Political Assembly may establish standing commissions and ad hoc working groups to study
565 specific problems, and decide to dissolve them after having heard the president of the
566 commission or working group.
567

568 Article 17 MEETINGS - DECISION MAKING PROCESS
569

570 On the invitation of the President, the Political Assembly meets at least four times annually,
571 whenever the object or the interest of the association so requires; an extraordinary meeting can
572 be held at the request of either one-third of the Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member
573 Parties, or of the Presidency of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament.
574

575 The Political Assembly shall validly deliberate if it is convened regularly, i.e. by letter, fax or
576 email at the latest two weeks in advance, unless in case of urgency, and if a simple majority of
577 its members are present. Failure to achieve this quorum can only be established on the basis of
578 a formal motion, introduced during the meeting itself of the Political Assembly. A formal motion,
579 preventing valid deliberation of the Political Assembly, may be introduced by at least seven
580 Ordinary Member Parties or Associated Member Parties from five different countries. If a formal

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581 motion has not been introduced, the Political Assembly can validly deliberate, regardless of the
582 fact the attendance quorum has not been reached. If a formal motion has been introduced, and
583 the Political Assembly is thus unable to make a valid deliberation, the President shall convene a
584 second meeting with the same agenda, within at least two weeks and at most two months after
585 the introduction of the formal motion, which can validly deliberate, regardless of the attendance
586 quorum.

587
588 The convocation notice sets out the agenda. Meetings are held at the registered office of the
589 association or at the place stated in the notice of the meeting. **[EPP add: The Political
590 Assembly can be held either physically or remotely, via video or telephone conference
591 or any other means of telecommunication, as long as all participants are able to
592 express themselves and are intelligible to all other participants (without prejudice to
593 the specific provisions of applicable law, if any). For an item not listed on the agenda
594 to be validly put to the vote, at least two thirds of members present must consent.
595 **[EPP replace last sentence by: In a case of urgency, that needs to be dealt with
596 immediately at the political assembly, the deadline to list this topic on the agenda ends
597 3 days prior to the scheduled beginning of the political assembly. All members of the
598 political assembly must immediately be informed about the addition on the agenda.]]****

600 All decisions shall be taken by simple majority of the votes cast by the members of the Political
601 Assembly present. In case of a tie, the President has the casting vote. Abstentions and blank
602 votes are not considered valid votes

603
604 The meetings are chaired by the President.

605
606 The Secretary General or a Deputy Secretary General shall draw up the minutes of the meetings,
607 which shall be kept at the registered office of the association. All members will receive copies of
608 these minutes within four weeks of each meeting.

609
610 The Political Assembly normally meets "in camera". On the request of the Presidency or of one
611 tenth of the delegates, the Political Assembly may decide to admit the public to the meeting.

612
613

614 **VI. CONGRESS**

615

616 Article 18 DEFINITION - POWERS

617

618 The Congress has the following competences:

619

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

625

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

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628 **VII. SECRETARY GENERAL**

629 630 Article 19 ELECTION – POWERS

631
632 The Congress elects, on the proposal of the President, a Secretary General, in charge of the day-
633 to-day management of the association, including the representation of the association within the
634 limits of the day-to-day management.

635
636 This day-to-day management includes inter alia:

- 637
- 638 (i) the management of the General Secretariat and exercise of the decisions taken by
639 the organs;
 - 640 (ii) the supervision of the cooperation between the General Secretariats of Ordinary
641 Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Observers, Member Associations, EPP
642 Partners and the General Secretariat of the EPP Group in the European Parliament;
 - 643 (iii) the drawing up, in agreement with the President, of agendas for meetings of organs,
644 the supervision of the convening of meetings, their preparation, and the writing of
645 minutes;
 - 646 (iv) the responsibility to the Presidency and the Political Assembly for proper and
647 adequate budgetary management;
 - 648 (v) the drawing up of a report of the activities of the General Secretariat and
649 organizational perspectives to the Political Assembly at the beginning of each year;
 - 650 (vi) Chairs the working group on Statutory Changes. This working group will issue
651 recommendations to the EPP Presidency concerning the revision of the by-laws and
652 internal regulation prior to each Statutory Congress in accordance with article 26 and
653 27 of the by-laws;
 - 654 (vii) verification of the documents of all new membership applications as referred to in
655 article 5, 5 bis and 6 and clearance, in accordance with the President, for transferral
656 to the Working Group EPP Membership
- 657

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

661
662 On the proposal of the Presidency and in agreement with the Secretary General, the Political
663 Assembly, following the election of the Presidency, elects the Deputy Secretary (ies) General for
664 a period of three years.

665 666 **VIII. REPRESENTATION**

667 668 669 Article 20 PROCEDURE

670
671 All legal acts on behalf of the association not falling within the scope of the day-to-day
672 management or of a special delegation of powers, must be signed by the President or by two
673 members of the Presidency.

674 675 676 **IX. Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies**

677 678 Article 21 DEFINITION

679
680 The Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (hereinafter referred to as “WMCES”) is the
681 official European political foundation of the European People's Party. The WMCES will function as

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682 the sole and official think-tank of the EPP and shall, in particular, serve as a common European
683 framework for national foundations/think-tanks recognized by EPP member-parties.
684

685 WMCES is organized as a separate legal entity with separate financial accounts, operating in
686 accordance with its own by-laws and internal regulations.
687

688 **X. PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION**

689 Article 22 DEFINITION

690 The EPP is committed to comply with national applicable laws and EU regulations concerning the
691 protection of data and will collect only information that is strictly needed and relevant, and up-
692 to-date and will use appropriate controls to ensure the information is kept secure.
693
694
695
696

697 **XI. FINANCIAL YEAR, ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET**

698 Article 23.1 FINANCING

699 The EPP shall be financed by:

- 700 - The general budget of the EU in conformity with the Regulation (EC) N° 1141/2014 of the
701 European Parliament and Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of political
702 parties at European level;
- 703 - The annual membership fees of Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties,
704 Member Associations, Observer Member Parties and EPP Partners;
- 705 - Contributions from supporting members.
706
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709 Article 23.2 MEMBERSHIP FEES

710 The conditions for the determination of the membership fees are strictly defined in the Internal
711 Regulations. Membership fees and contributions are governed by the conditions and obligations
712 relating to the funding of political parties at European level established in Regulation (CEC)
713 1141/2014.
714
715

716 Article 24 FINANCIAL YEAR – ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET

717 The association's financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December.
718
719

720 At the end of each financial year, the Presidency closes the accounts for the year ended and
721 establishes the budget for the following financial year in accordance with the applicable legal
722 provisions; the annual accounts are submitted to the Political Assembly for approval.
723

724 The Treasurer will assist the Presidency in drawing up the accounts and the budget. He controls
725 the budgetary management of the General Secretary and reports to the Presidency. He is
726 responsible in particular for the financing of the association and its activities, by means of
727 membership fees, donations or otherwise.
728

729 Every two years, the Political Assembly elects two Internal Auditors who may not be a member
730 of the Presidency. The mandate of the Internal Auditors lasts two years and is renewable. The
731 Internal Auditors are responsible for the verification of the annual accounts and report
732 accordingly to the Political Assembly.
733

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

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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.

XII. ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR IN POLITICS - ETHICS COMMITTEE - CODE OF CONDUCT

Article 25 ETHICS COMMITTEE – ELECTION AND POWERS

The EPP Ethics Committee is composed of five members appointed by the Political Assembly for a renewable term of three years. The chairperson of the EPP Ethics Committee shall be chosen and elected from among the members of the Presidency.

The EPP Ethics Committee drafts an EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics and submits it for approval to the Political Assembly.

The EPP Ethics Committee drafts its internal regulations and submits these for approval to the Political Assembly.

By subscribing to the EPP Code of Conduct, which is a prerequisite for EPP membership, Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member Associations, Observer Member Parties, Individual Members, accept the responsibility to continuously act so as to maintain and enhance public confidence in the integrity of the political process.

The competences of the EPP Ethics Committee include inter alia:

- drafting, as well as amending, if need be, the EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics and submitting the EPP Code of Conduct and any subsequent amendments thereto for approval to the Political Assembly;
- outlining the procedure to verify the compliance of applicants with the EPP Code of Conduct;
- drafting, as well as amending, if need be, its internal regulations and submitting these and any subsequent amendments thereto for approval to the Political Assembly;
- monitoring compliance with the EPP Code of Conduct;
- reporting on any alleged infringements of the EPP Code of Conduct;
- in case of non-compliance with the EPP Code of Conduct, making recommendations to the Presidency to adopt proposals for a final decision on any appropriate measures to be taken by the Political Assembly, including the suspension or exclusion of the concerned member;

The Political Assembly may, upon the recommendation of the EPP Ethics Committee and a proposal of the Presidency, request that a Member Party takes action against one of its members, if it has determined that the respective member has acted in a way that is not compliant with the EPP Code of Conduct.

XIII. INTERNAL REGULATIONS AND MODIFICATION OF INTERNAL REGULATIONS.

Article 26 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.

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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 European 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.

XIV. MODIFICATIONS OF THE BY-LAWS**Article 27 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 European 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 of the votes cast in the Political Assembly. Approval of modifications to the by-laws presented by the Political Assembly requires a simple majority of the votes cast by the members of Congress present. The Congress may by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by the members present overrule the proposals of the Political Assembly. Abstentions and blank votes are not considered valid votes.

XV. DISSOLUTION**Article 28 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.

XVI. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

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841 By derogation to article 27 of the by-laws, the Political Assembly is entitled to adopt
842 amendments to the by-laws of the association if such amendments are required or useful with
843 a view to implementing

844 (i) Regulation No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014
845 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations;

846 (ii) delegated acts of the European Commission as set out in article 36 of the Regulation, and;

847 (iii) current and future Belgian laws and regulations that, directly or indirectly, relate to any
848 aspect of the conversion of a European political party governed by Belgian law into a European
849 Political Party governed by the aforementioned Regulation.

850

851 The EPP Code of Conduct, **[EPP replace: approved by the Political Assembly 14 October**
852 **2019 ~~once drawn up by the EPP Ethics Committee and approved by the Political~~**
853 **~~Assembly in accordance with article 16 and 25 of the by-laws;~~** shall be communicated
854 to all current Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member Associations,
855 Observer Member Parties, Individual Members and shall be binding upon those members having
856 continued their membership of the EPP beyond the date of entry into force of the EPP Code of
857 Conduct set forth in the notice communicated by the Political Assembly.

Approved by the Political Assembly in Brussels on September 6 – 7 2021 and to be approved by the EPP Congress 31 May-1 June 2022 in Rotterdam (The Netherlands)

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Annex 1. The logo of the association.

Annex 2. List of member parties

Annex 1
EPP logo

