

The Statutes of the European Evangelical Alliance (EEA)

This is a translation from the German authorised original

I. Name, Registered Office, Basis of Faith and Aims

1. Name

The **European Evangelical Alliance**, hereafter referred to as **EEA** exists as a non-profit organisation based in Wallisellen, Switzerland in accordance with article 60 of the Swiss Code of Civil Law.

It was formerly registered in Guernsey on the 2nd of December 1997 (registration number 33351) and is from now a non-profit organisation under Swiss law.

2. Registered Office

The organisation has its legal domicile in *Wallisellen, Switzerland*.

3. Basis of Faith

EEA works on the basis of its Statement of Faith.

4. Statement about non profit

The Association has no commercial purpose and seeks no profit

5. Purpose - The EEA

- a) serves its' Members as the dynamic centre to connect, equip and represent them.
- b) is the Europe wide trusted evangelical voice and the connecting hub for greater strategic impact.
- c) equips and serves European National Alliances within the agreed limits
- d) strengthens and empowers National Alliances, Affiliate Members and other partners.
- e) serves as the catalyst to unite the evangelical movement in Europe.
- f) serves as a platform of exchange for good practice, special actions and helpful information to further synergy and unity.
- g) identifies needs of national Alliances and responds appropriately.
- h) serves through its Commissions and stimulates theological reflection
- i) offers a platform for cooperation and support through its Networks.
- j) stimulates and furthers joint prayer initiatives across Europe.
- k) trains national Alliances and advocates for religious freedom nationally and Europe wide.
- l) stimulates theological reflection.

m) represents its Members to the World Evangelical Alliance.

II. Membership

6. General

National Evangelical Alliances or organisations with European wide work, which are prepared to further the Aims of the EEA, which agree with the Basis of Faith of the EEA and accept the constitution of the EEA, are permitted to be Members of the EEA.

7. National Alliances

A National Evangelical Alliance is an organisation which serves as a platform for cooperation and unity for evangelical Christians, Churches, Denominations and/or evangelical Organisations on a national level.

A National Alliance Member is entitled to three (3) votes and these are cast through at least one nominated and attending representative at the General Assembly.

8. Affiliate Member

Affiliate Membership is available to pan European evangelical organisations, incorporated Networks, Denominations and Church Networks.

Affiliate members are entitled to one vote which is cast through a nominated and attending representative at the General Assembly.

9. Observing Member

Observing Membership is appropriate for evangelical unions in countries where, due to special circumstances, no national Evangelical Alliance can be or is yet formed and to organisations which do not fit the Affiliate Members category. They have the right to attend the General Assembly but without voting rights.

10. Regulation of Membership

- a) Applications for Membership shall be made in writing to the Board using the application form provided.
- b) A simple majority vote of the General Assembly shall qualify such applicants for Membership upon payment of the first annual Membership dues.
- c) The Membership year is the calendar year (January 1 - December 31).
- d) Membership shall be suspended for one year if the Membership fee is not paid by 31 December and cease if the Membership is not paid by the end of the second year.

Exception: The Board will consider a year by year waiver or a reduction of the Membership fees. The Member should send a written application by 31 May of the current year.

- e) Only Members are eligible to speak.

- f) A Member suspended or ceased for the non-payment of dues, may reapply for Membership upon payment of a maximum of one year's dues in addition to the current Membership dues.
- g) Any Member may withdraw from Membership by tendering its resignation in writing to the Board by the end of November of the current year. This will become effective at the start of the next calendar year.
- h) The Board shall have the power to remove any Member from Membership for failing to comply with the conditions of Membership. A Member who is removed by the Board shall be given the opportunity to submit its case to the General Assembly (GA) for reconsidering. A 75% majority is needed to reinstitute a Member.

III. Organisational Structure

11. The bodies are

The General Assembly

The Board

The Auditors

The General Assembly

12. Composition

- i) The governing body of the EEA is the General Assembly of Members.
- j) It is made up of all its Members and the Board Members of the EEA
- k) Observers and Guests can be present but speaking permission can only be given by a simple majority of the voting Members.

13. Duties of the General Assembly are:

- a) Election of the Board
- b) Election of the President of the Board
- c) Election of the auditors
- d) Approve new Members
- e) Approval of the annual plan and its associated budget for the following year
- f) To receive the annual report and end of year accounts
- g) To set the Membership fees
- h) Approve acquisition and sale of property
- i) Changes to the constitution
- j) Dissolution of the organisation

14. Notice and content of GA

- a) Notice of the GA date shall be sent to all Members not less than 9 months in advance.
- b) The agenda and the supporting papers shall be sent to the GA Members no later than 10 working days prior to the meeting
- c) Items not included on the agenda can only be decided on if they are put before the Board at least 10 working days before the GA in writing and if the GA agrees to the inclusion of additional agenda items.

15. Elections and votes

- a) Every GA which has been called according to the constitution is quorate.
- b) Elections need an overall majority of votes cast (50% +1) of the voting Members present and the registered votes. In case of no overall majority a second ballot will be held and a simple majority will suffice.
- c) A motion will be passed by a simple majority of votes cast.
Abstaining votes are not counted.
- d) A set majority is required for the following decisions:
 - a. A motion to change the constitution must be approved by 66% of the votes cast.
 - b. A motion for the dissolution of the organisation must be approved by 75% of the votes cast.
- e) Voting takes place by a show of hands. A secret ballot will be held if 25% of the voting Members ask for it.
- f) Elections will take place by ballot.

16. Extraordinary General Assembly

- a) 20% of the Members or a majority of the Board may request in writing that the Board call an extraordinary meeting or a written vote for a specific purpose. The Board must do this within 60 days (by written vote) and 120 days (extraordinary meeting).
- b) The vote will be postponed if at least 20% of the Members demand that the motion brought forward by the Board be put on the agenda of the next GA.
- c) Votes, with a valid signature, need to be received by the President of the Board within 20 working days of the date on which they were sent out by e-mail.
- d) A candidate for an office needs to receive a majority of the valid votes.
- e) A motion is passed when it is agreed by a majority of the valid votes.
- f) Written votes are not allowed for the total replacement of the Board or for matters for which the constitution requires a set majority.

The Board

17. Composition and terms of office

- a) The Board consists of the President and five to seven Members
- b) The following roles need to be assigned:
 - President (elected by GA)
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - The General Secretary participates in the meetings of the Board in an advisory capacity and with the right of proposing in decisions.
 - The Affiliate Members are generally represented by one Member on the Board
- c) A Board Member is elected for a term of four years and can be re-elected twice.
- d) A board member will leave the board at the age of 70.
- e) The Board decides on the roles on the Board, with the exception of the role of the President (12 b).

18. Responsibilities

- a) The Board shall call a General Assembly of Members at least once a year.
- b) The Board shall prepare the agenda of all meetings of the GA and implement its decisions.
- c) The Board shall be responsible for the governance of the EEA.
- d) The Board shall take all appropriate measures to advance the work, purposes and objectives of EEA in conformity with the Constitution.
- e) The Board shall appoint the General Secretary for a term of four years (see bylaws for the procedure). The General Secretary can serve a maximum of three terms.
- f) The Board shall delegate powers to the General Secretary as it is needed for the efficient running of EEA's affairs.
- g) The Board shall consider and, if it shall so decide, approve such Strategic Plans or other initiatives as submitted to it by the General Secretary and shall monitor the implementation of Plans or other initiatives.
- h) The Board shall present to the GA a report on the activities and finances of EEA since the previous meeting.
- i) The Board decides on all other matters which are not specifically allocated to the General Assembly.

- j) The Board draws up its own bylaws to regulate its functioning and financial matters within the framework of the constitution.
- k) The Board represents the organisation judicially and extra-judicially.
- l) The President, the General Secretary and the Vice President have a single power of attorney.

19. Calling a meeting and voting

- a) The Board meets at the instigation of the President at least twice a year. If three Board Members request an additional meeting in writing to discuss a specific proposal the President will convene a meeting within 60 days.
- b) The Board is quorate if at least half of the Members are present.
- c) Board Members cannot abstain from voting.
- d) A motion is passed by simple majority. In the event of a tie the President has the casting vote.

20. Compensation

- a) The Board Members are volunteers and can only claim compensation for actual expenses and cash expenditure.

21. The President

- a) The President, together with the General Secretary, prepares the meetings of the Board and the General Assembly. He/she chairs the meetings. He/she can delegate these tasks to other Members of the Board.
- b) In coordination with the Members of the Board, especially with the General Secretary, he/she leads the General Assembly of the EEA.
- c) The President shall be supported in fulfilling his tasks by the other Board Members, especially by the Vice President.

22. The General Secretary

- a) The General Secretary is responsible for the operations of the EEA according to the agreed strategy and annual plan.
- b) The General Secretary shall appoint its staff.
- c) The General Secretary shall direct the activities of the staff and Networks.

The Audit

23. The Audit

- a) The Audit will be carried out by 2 people who are not Members of the Board or by a qualified professional.
- b) The Auditor will be elected by the Members at the GA to serve for a term of 1 year.

- c) The Auditor will approve the final accounts of the EEA as presented to the Board and will prepare a written report for the attention of the next GA.

IV. Finances

24. The income of the EEA

- a) Membership fees
- b) returns on investments and assets
- c) donations and legacies

25. The use of funds of the EEA and its liability

- a) Funds are to be used solely to fulfil the aims of the organisation as set out in paragraph 4.
- b) The organisation is non-profit making. The liabilities of the EEA are limited to the assets of the organisation. Neither the Board Members nor the Members are personally liable.

26. The fiscal year

- a) The fiscal year is the same as the calendar year. The final accounts consist of the audited accounts and the balance sheet at 31st December.

V. Miscellaneous

27. Dissolution of the EEA

- a) If the General Assembly agrees to the dissolution of the EEA as an organisation the liquidation is managed by the Board; alternatively, the organisation may appoint a special commission.
- b) Any assets/funds remaining after the dissolution of the EEA have to be granted to a tax-exempted institution in Switzerland with the same or similar objectives. A distribution among the Members is not possible. However, funds will be held in a restricted account of the Swiss Evangelical Alliance for 5 years before they are distributed. They can be used for the restarting of the organisation within this period.

28. The constitution taking effect

- a) This Constitution is enacted with immediate effect upon approval.

Frank Hinkelmann
President

Andreas Wenzel
Board Secretary

Date: Tuesday 18 June 2013

Place: Rijnsaterwoude, Netherlands

Revised & approved by the GA, Wednesday 8 October 2013 in Staddskanaal, Netherlands

Revised & approved by the GA, Wednesday 7 October 2015 in Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany

Revised & approved by the GA, Wednesday 12 October 2016, Colares (Sintra), Portugal

Revised & approved by the GA, October 2021, ...