

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
Party, European political party**

**adopted by the ALDE Party Congress in Athens, Greece on 24-26 October 2019**

**CHAPTER I - NAME, REGISTERED OFFICE, PURPOSE AND TERM OF THE  
ASSOCIATION**

Article 1 – Name and logo

A European political party, is hereby incorporated under European law. Its name is “**Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party**”, abbreviated as “**ALDE Party**” hereinafter referred to as the “**Association**”. Both the full and the abbreviated names may be used indistinguishably.

All acts, invoices, announcements, publicity, letters, orders and other documents issued by the Association, shall indicate the full name or the abbreviated name of the Association preceded or followed by the words “European party”, as well as the indication of the registered office of the Association.

The Association is governed by the Regulation 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 European political foundations (the “**Regulation**”), as well by the Belgian Act of 27 June 1921 (the “**Act**”) for the legal matters that are not covered by the Regulation, as provided under Article 14 of the Regulation

The logo of the Association is attached as Annex I to the Statutes.

Article 2 – Registered office

The registered office of the Association is located at B-1050 Brussels, rue d’Idalie, 11. The registered office may be transferred to any other location in the EU by a decision of the Bureau.

Article 3 – Purpose and objectives

The Association observes the values on which the Union is founded, as expressed in Article 2 TEU, namely respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

The Association has as non-profit purpose to bring together political parties and citizens in Europe who, within the framework of liberal, democratic and reformist ideals, wish to contribute to the European Union.

To achieve this purpose, the Association will:

- strengthen the liberal, democrat and reform movement in the European Union and throughout Europe;
- seek a common position on all important matters affecting the European Union;
- inform the public and involve it in the construction of a united European democracy;
- support and co-ordinate its members in the context of the elections to the European Parliament;
- promote the constitution of a Liberal, Democrat and Reform parliamentary group in all international parliamentary assemblies;

41 - develop close working relationships with and among its members, their national  
42 parliamentary groups, the parliamentary Group of the ALDE Party of the European  
43 Parliament, in other international fora and Liberal International.

44 The Association may also validly set up a subsidiary dedicated to fundraising, sponsoring and  
45 other related activities which contribute to collect private or public funds, provided that any  
46 revenue paid by the subsidiary to the Association is used by the Association for the  
47 achievement of its non-profit purpose and objectives.

48 The Association may carry out all operations and conduct all activities, in Europe, which  
49 directly or indirectly increase or promote its purpose and objectives.

#### 50 Article 4 – Term

51 The Association is incorporated for an unlimited period of time.

#### 52 Article 5 – Youth Organisation

53 European Liberal Youth, abbreviated as LYMEC, is the associated youth entity of the  
54 Association. They have the right to take part in the meetings of the Council and the Congress,  
55 to voice their opinion and to vote, as specified in the Internal Regulations.

#### 56 Article 6 – Foundation

57 The affiliated European political foundation of the Association is the European Liberal Forum.  
58 It is formally affiliated to the Association and through its activities, within the aims and  
59 fundamental values pursued by the European Union, underpins and complements the  
60 objectives of the political party at European level.

## 61 **CHAPTER II - MEMBERS**

#### 62 Article 7 – Criteria for membership, categories of members and rights and obligations of 63 members

64 Membership of the Association is open to all political parties in Europe and individual citizens  
65 that accept these Articles of Association, the Internal Regulations of the Association, the policy  
66 programmes of the Association and the Stuttgart Declaration.

67 The Association shall be composed of at least two full members. The Association shall consist  
68 of full, affiliate and individual members, natural persons or legal entities lawfully established in  
69 accordance with the laws and customs of their country of origin.

70 If a candidate member does not dispose of a legal status in accordance with the laws and the  
71 customs of its country of origin, it shall, in its written application for membership, appoint a  
72 natural person, who will act on behalf and for the account of all the members of such candidate  
73 member, in his/her capacity of common attorney-in-fact.

74 Full, affiliate and individual members shall pay a membership fee according to the Internal  
75 Regulations. Full, affiliate and individual members' delegates have the right to take part in the  
76 meetings of the Council and the Congress, to voice their opinion and to vote as specified in  
77 the Internal Regulations.

#### 78 Article 8 – Register of members and members list

79 A register containing an up-to-date list of all full and affiliate members of the Association and  
80 a list of individual members will be held at the registered office.

81 Full, affiliate and individual members may have access to the register and the list of individual  
82 members at the registered office of the Association.

83 The list of full and affiliate member parties of the Association is annexed as Annex II to the  
84 Statutes.

85 Article 9 – Admission of members

86 Any application for full or affiliate membership shall be sent to the Bureau with all necessary  
87 documentation evidencing that the applicant fulfils the membership requirements. The Bureau  
88 shall submit the application and its preliminary report and opinion to the Council, which will  
89 examine whether or not the application meets the membership requirements. The Council shall  
90 take its decision with a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast. The decision of the Council to  
91 admit or not the applicant shall be final and the Council shall be under no obligation to justify its  
92 decision.

93 Affiliate members can apply for full membership at any time.

94 Any application for individual membership shall be sent to the Secretary General. The  
95 application shall be submitted to the Bureau. The Bureau shall take its decision with a simple  
96 majority of the votes cast. The decision of the Bureau to admit or not the applicant shall be final  
97 and the Bureau shall be under no obligation to justify its decision.

98 Article 10 – Resignation of members

99 Any full or affiliate member may resign from the Association at any time by giving three months'  
100 notice by registered letter addressed to the Secretary General. The resignation shall only come  
101 into force at the end of the financial year, unless specified otherwise.

102 Any individual member may resign at any time by written notice addressed to the Secretary  
103 General. The resignation shall come into force at the end of the financial year, unless specified  
104 otherwise.

105 A resigning member will remain liable for its financial obligations vis-à-vis the Association until the  
106 end of the financial year during which its resignation takes place.

107 Article 11 – Disaffiliation of members

108 If a full member fails to meet its financial obligations after a notice sent by the Secretary General  
109 to settle its debts within a period of three months, the voting rights of the full member will be  
110 suspended as from the end of the three months period.

111 If a full, affiliate or individual member fails to meet its financial obligations, the membership rights  
112 will be suspended until aforementioned financial obligations are met.

113 If a full, affiliate or individual member fails to meet its financial obligations for two consecutive  
114 financial years, it will be considered as having been disaffiliated as from the end of the meeting  
115 of the Council that will have voted in favour of the disaffiliation. The disaffiliated member will  
116 remain liable for its financial obligations until the end of that financial year.

117 Article 12 – Suspension of members

118 Any member may be suspended for any of the following reasons:

- 119 (i) not abiding by the Articles of Association or the Internal Regulations;
- 120 (ii) not abiding by the decisions of any body of the Association;

- 121 (iii) not fulfilling the conditions for membership anymore;  
122 (iv) when it acts contrary to the interests and the values of the Association in general.

123 At the request of at least seven full members from at least five countries who have fulfilled their  
124 membership obligations, the Bureau can be instructed to put the proposal on the agenda of  
125 the next meeting of the Council.

126 Such request must be received in writing at least four weeks ahead of the Council meeting, in  
127 the form of a letter addressed to the President of the Association from the respective party  
128 leader, Secretary General or President, in which the detailed reasons for the request for  
129 suspension are outlined. The Bureau may make a recommendation to the Council.

130 If suspended, the member loses its right to take part in the meetings of the Council and the  
131 Congress, to voice its opinion and to vote as specified in the Internal Regulations, and shall  
132 remain liable for its financial obligations vis-à-vis the Association until the end of the financial  
133 year during which its suspension takes place. The suspended member may, at the discretion  
134 of the President, be invited to attend Council or Congress meetings without voting right.

135 The status of the suspended member shall be reviewed at the subsequent meeting of the  
136 Council or after a period of at least six months.

137 A suspended member can regain its membership status upon the approval of the Council in a  
138 subsequent meeting and if proven to have complied with the Articles of Association, Internal  
139 Regulations, criteria for membership and any conditions determined by the Council. If not, the  
140 Council may validly decide on the expulsion of the suspended member at the occasion of the  
141 same meeting.

142 The decision to suspend a full or an affiliate member is taken by the Council with a majority of  
143 50%+1 of the votes cast. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting of the Council, the Secretary  
144 General shall send a copy of the decision to the suspended member by registered mail,  
145 facsimile, email or any other written means. The suspension decision shall set forth the  
146 grounds on which the suspension is based but apart from that, the decision does not need to  
147 be justified.

#### 148 Article 13 – Expulsion of members

149 Any member may be expelled for any of the following reasons:

- 150 (i) not abiding by the Articles of Association or the Internal Regulations;  
151 (ii) not abiding by the decisions of any body of the Association;  
152 (iii) not fulfilling the conditions for membership anymore;  
153 (iv) when it acts contrary to the interests and the values of the Association in general.

154 At the request of at least seven full members from at least five countries who have fulfilled their  
155 membership obligations, the Bureau can be instructed to put the proposal on the agenda of  
156 the next meeting of the Council.

157 Such request must be received in writing at least four weeks ahead of the Council meeting, in  
158 the form of a letter addressed to the President of the Association from the respective party  
159 leader, Secretary General or President of each party, in which the detailed reasons for the  
160 request for expulsion are outlined. The Bureau may make a recommendation to the Council.

161 The full, affiliate or suspended member will be informed of a proposal for their expulsion by

162 registered mail, facsimile, email or any other written means and shall be invited to participate  
163 in the Council meeting. The letter sets forth the grounds on which the proposed expulsion is  
164 based. If requested, it may also provide documentation for inclusion in the dossier for Council  
165 members, which must be sent to the secretariat at least one week ahead of the Council  
166 meeting.

167 The Council decides on the expulsion of full, affiliate or suspended members with a majority of  
168 two-thirds of the votes cast.

169 The expulsion shall come into force immediately and the expelled member shall remain liable for  
170 its financial obligations vis-à-vis the Association until the end of the financial year.

171 The Bureau according to the Internal Regulations decides the expulsion of an individual member.  
172 The decision does not need to be justified. The Secretary General sends a copy of the decision  
173 to the expelled individual member in writing, within 15 calendar days. The expulsion shall come  
174 into force immediately but the expelled member shall remain liable for its financial obligations vis-  
175 à-vis the Association until the end of the financial year.

176 A member who has resigned, has been disaffiliated, or has been expelled shall have no claim  
177 against the assets of the Association.

### 178 **CHAPTER III – BODIES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

#### 179 Article 14 – The bodies of the Association

- 180 (i) The Congress;
- 181 (ii) The Council;
- 182 (iii) The Bureau.

### 183 **CHAPTER IV - CONGRESS**

#### 184 Article 15 – Composition and powers

185 The Congress shall consist of all full, affiliate members, and individual members' delegates as  
186 well as the members of the Bureau.

187 In accordance with the Internal Regulations, third parties may be granted the right to take part  
188 in a meeting of the Congress. They may voice their opinion but do not have the right to vote.

189 The decisions taken by the Congress shall be binding on all members, including those absent,  
190 dissenting or abstaining from voting, as well as suspended members.

191 The following powers are restrictively reserved to the Congress:

- 192 a) election, dismissal and discharge of the members of the Bureau;
- 193 b) amendments to the Articles of Association;
- 194 c) dissolution and liquidation of the Association;
- 195 d) approval of the common political programme for the European elections;
- 196 e) election of a common top candidate(s) for the European elections.

#### 197 Article 16 – Notices and meetings

198 The Council convenes the Congress. Congress shall meet at least once in each calendar year  
199 and not more than 18 months must elapse between two meetings of the Congress.

200 The Bureau or the Council or at least one quarter of the full members may convene  
201 extraordinary meetings of the Congress.

202 The notice is sent by mail, facsimile, email or any other written means. For the rest, the rules  
203 related to the agenda, timetable and conduct of the meetings of the Congress will be laid down  
204 in the Internal Regulations.

#### 205 Article 17 – Representation

206 Full, affiliate and individual members' delegates, appointed in accordance with the rules laid down  
207 in the Internal Regulations will represent full, affiliate and individual members at the Congress.

208 Each full member will have as many votes as delegates. Individual members will have as many  
209 votes as delegates as stipulated in the Internal Regulations. A delegate may cast two votes at  
210 most.

#### 211 Article 18 – Proceedings, quorums and votes

212 The delegates shall sign an attendance list of full, affiliate and individual members prior to the  
213 meeting, under the name of the member they represent.

214 The Congress may validly proceed if at least one third of the full members who have fulfilled  
215 their membership obligations are present. Where this quorum is not reached, a new meeting  
216 of the Congress shall be called no earlier than 15 calendar days after the first meeting. The  
217 second meeting of the Congress shall be entitled to validly take decisions, irrespective of the  
218 number of full members present.

219 Decisions of the Congress shall be taken with a simple majority of the votes cast. Abstentions  
220 shall not be taken into account and, in the case of a written vote, blank and invalid votes will  
221 not be counted in the votes cast. In the case of a tie vote, the decision will be rejected.

#### 222 Article 19 – Minutes

223 The decisions of the Congress are recorded in minutes. The minutes are approved during the  
224 next meeting of the Congress and signed by the Chair of the approving Congress.

225 The minutes are kept in a register, at the members' disposal at the registered office of the  
226 Association. A copy of the minutes is also sent out to all full and affiliate members.

227 The minutes of the Congress may also be published in full or in part.

### 228 **CHAPTER IV - COUNCIL**

#### 229 Article 20 – Composition and powers

230 The Council shall consist of all full, affiliate members and individual members' delegates as  
231 well as the members of the Bureau.

232 In accordance with the rules laid down in the Internal Regulations, third parties may be granted  
233 the right to take part in a meeting of the Council. They may voice their opinion but do not have  
234 voting rights.

235 The decisions taken by the Council shall be binding on all members, including those absent,  
236 dissenting or abstaining from voting, as well as suspended members.

237 The following powers are restrictively reserved to the Council:

- 238 a) approval of the annual accounts, the annual report, the budget, the membership fees  
239 and any other form of financing as proposed by the Bureau;
- 240 b) admission, disaffiliation, suspension and expulsion of full or affiliate members;
- 241 c) approval and amendments to the Internal Regulations;

- 242 d) preparation of the common political programme for the European elections to be  
243 approved by the Congress;
- 244 e) interpretation of the Articles of Association and the Internal Regulations;
- 245 f) upon proposal of the Bureau, appointment and dismissal of the Secretary-General;
- 246 g) nomination, dismissal and determination of the basic fee of the auditor(s);
- 247 h) amending the Annex I to the Articles of Association on the logo of the Association and  
248 the Annex II to the Articles of Association on the list of full members (member parties)  
249 of the Association.

250 Article 21 – Notices and meetings

251 The Council is convened by the Bureau each time this is necessary for the interests of the  
252 Association or upon written request of one quarter of the full members who have fulfilled their  
253 membership obligations.

254 At least two meetings of the Council must be held every year.

255 The notice is sent by mail, facsimile, email or any other written means. For the rest, the rules  
256 related to the agenda, timetable and conduct of the meetings of the Council will be laid down  
257 in the Internal Regulations.

258 Article 22 – Representation

259 Full, affiliate and individual members' delegates, appointed in accordance with the rules laid down  
260 in the Internal Regulations will represent full, affiliate and individual members at the Council.

261 Each full member will have as many votes as delegates. Individual members will have as many  
262 votes as delegates, stipulated in the Internal Regulations.

263 Article 23 – Proceedings, quorums and votes

264 The delegates shall sign an attendance list of full, affiliate and individual members prior to the  
265 meeting, under the name of the member they represent.

266 Unless otherwise provided for in the Articles of Association, a Council may validly proceed if  
267 at least one third of the full members are present who have fulfilled their membership  
268 obligations. Where this quorum is not reached, a new meeting of the Council shall be called  
269 no earlier than 15 calendar days after the first meeting. The second meeting of the Council  
270 shall be entitled to validly take decisions, irrespective of the number of present full members.

271 Unless otherwise provided for in the Articles of Association, decisions of the Council shall be  
272 taken with a simple majority of the votes cast. Abstentions shall not be taken into account and,  
273 in the case of a written vote, blank and invalid votes shall not be counted in the votes cast. In  
274 the case of a tie vote, the decision will be rejected.

275 Decisions of the Council may also be taken by circular letter, in accordance with the rules laid  
276 down in the Internal Regulations. Decisions taken by circular letter are deemed to be taken at  
277 the registered office of the Association and are deemed to come into force on the date  
278 mentioned on the circular letter.

279 Article 24 – Minutes

280 The decisions of the Council are recorded in minutes. The minutes are approved during the  
281 next meeting of the Council and signed by the Chair of the approving Council.

282 The minutes are kept in a register, at the members' disposal at the registered office of the  
283 Association. A copy of the minutes is also sent to all full and affiliate members.

284 **CHAPTER VI – BUREAU**

285 Article 25 – Composition, powers and elections

286 The Bureau shall consist of 11 members, elected by the Congress, amongst whom a  
287 President, nine Vice Presidents and a Treasurer. Members of the Bureau cannot serve more  
288 than three consecutive mandates of two years each in the same position and no more than eight  
289 years in total.

290 Bureau members serve the Association as a whole and are not representatives of their  
291 national member parties. In this right they are entrusted with voting rights as further specified  
292 in the Internal Regulations.

293 In accordance with the rules laid down in the Internal Regulations, third parties may be invited  
294 to take part in a meeting of the Bureau, as observers. Observers may voice their opinion but  
295 do not have the right to vote.

296 Unless specifically decided otherwise by the Congress, the term of office will take effect  
297 immediately and expire at the end of the second meeting of the Congress taking place after the  
298 election.

299 The function of member of the Bureau is not remunerated. Reasonable expenses supported  
300 by appropriate documentary evidence will be reimbursed.

301 The Bureau shall be vested with the power to undertake any act necessary or useful to achieve  
302 the purpose and objectives of the Association, except for those powers that the Act or these  
303 Articles of Association reserve to the Council or the Congress.

304 Each member of the Bureau shall present an activity report in the capacity of Bureau member  
305 to be included in the dossier for each meeting of the Congress and Council.

306 The Bureau may delegate, under its responsibility, part of its powers for particular or specific  
307 purposes to an attorney-in-fact.

308 The Bureau may set up advisory and working groups for any purpose it thinks fit. The composition,  
309 terms of reference and the rules of procedure of such advisory and working groups will be laid  
310 down in the Internal Regulations.

311 The Congress can grant the title of Honorary President of the Association.

312 ***Elections***

313 Ballots shall be secret. In addition to their own personal vote, voting delegates may also be  
314 allocated a maximum of one proxy vote per election, meaning that a maximum of two votes  
315 per delegate can be cast. Abstentions, blank and invalid votes will not be counted among the  
316 votes cast.

317 a) Election of the President and the Treasurer.

318 The President and the Treasurer are elected separately, by a majority of more than 50% of the  
319 votes cast. If there are more than two candidates, and no one obtains more than 50% of the  
320 votes cast, a second round takes place between the two candidates who obtained the most  
321 votes.

322 b) Election of Vice Presidents.

323 The Vice Presidents are elected on a single ballot paper. Delegates can choose as many  
324 candidates as they wish to up to the maximum number of vacancies to be filled.

325 The candidates with the most votes are elected in the order of the amount of votes. Only  
326 candidates reaching the quorum defined as follows are elected: 1/the positions available, i.e.  
327 that for 2 positions the quorum will  $1/2 = 50\%$  of the ballots cast (and not of total votes), for 3  
328 positions  $1/3=33,33\%$  of the ballots cast, for 4 positions  $1/4 =25\%$  of the ballots cast, etc.

329 In case of only one vacant position for a round of election, the principle of simple majority shall  
330 be used, as is the case with the position of President and Treasurer.

331 Candidates failing to obtain the quorum in the first round can run in the second round where  
332 there will be no quorum. Those obtaining the highest number of votes are elected until all  
333 vacant mandates are filled.

334 If two or more candidates obtain the same number of votes for the last vacant mandate, an  
335 extra round will be arranged between those candidates to determine who will fill the mandate.

336 In the event that a sitting Vice President or Treasurer runs for the position of President, an  
337 additional mandate would become vacant should that person be elected President.

338 Candidates for election to the Bureau must be a member of, and be nominated by, their full  
339 member party of the Association that has paid its annual membership fee. The candidate's  
340 Party leader, Secretary General or President, must send a signed letter of nomination  
341 addressed to the Secretary General.

#### 342 Article 26 – Vacancy before term

343 In the event that a vacancy occurs, a new member of the Bureau shall be elected at the next  
344 Congress with a two-year mandate according to the election procedure as outlined in Article  
345 25.

#### 346 Article 27 – Dismissal

347 The mandate of the member of the Bureau automatically ends if the member joins a competing  
348 party at national or European level.

349 A member of the Bureau may be dismissed on the grounds of, but not limited to, unethical  
350 behaviour, conflict of interest, or non-participation in the Association's business.

351 At the request of at least seven full members from at least five countries who have fulfilled their  
352 membership obligations, the Bureau can be instructed to put the proposal on the agenda of  
353 the next meeting of the Congress.

354 The Bureau member can exercise his/her right to be heard.

355 The Council shall decide on the dismissal of a member of the Bureau with a two-thirds majority  
356 of the votes cast.

#### 357 Article 28 – Notices and meetings

358 The Bureau shall meet at least two times a year.

359 Meetings of the Bureau shall be called by the President or by three members of the Bureau.

360 The meetings of the Bureau shall be chaired by the President or, in his/her absence, by another  
361 member of the Bureau, appointed by his/her peers.

362 The notice calling the meeting shall contain the place, date, time, agenda and, as the case  
363 may be, working documents. It must be sent to all members of the Bureau by letter, facsimile

364 or e-mail or any other written means, at least eight calendar days prior to the date of the  
365 meeting.

366 Article 29 – Proceedings, quorums and votes

367 Decisions shall be valid when at least half of the members of the Bureau are present. Where  
368 this quorum is not reached, a new meeting of the Bureau shall be called no earlier than eight  
369 calendar days after the first meeting. The second meeting of the Bureau shall be entitled to  
370 take valid decisions irrespective of the number of members of the Bureau present.

371 The Bureau may only deliberate on the matters set out in the agenda, unless all present  
372 members of the Bureau decide unanimously to discuss other matters.

373 Each member of the Bureau will have one vote. A member of the Bureau may not grant a  
374 power-of-attorney to another member of the Bureau.

375 The decisions of the Bureau shall be taken with a simple majority of the votes cast. Abstentions  
376 shall not be taken into account and, in the case of a written vote, blank and invalid votes shall  
377 not be counted in the votes cast. In the case of a tie vote, the Chair of the meeting shall have  
378 a casting vote.

379 Decisions may also be taken by circular letter, by conference call or videoconference. Decisions  
380 taken by conference call or videoconference are deemed to take place at the registered office of  
381 the Association and are deemed to come into force on the date of the meeting.

382 Article 30 – Minutes

383 Decisions taken by the Bureau shall be recorded in minutes. The minutes are approved during  
384 the next meeting of the Bureau and signed by the Chair of the next approving meeting.

385 The minutes are kept in a register, at the disposal of the members of the Bureau at the  
386 registered office of the Association. A copy of the minutes is also sent out to all members of  
387 the Bureau.

388 **CHAPTER VII – MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION**

389 Article 31 – The Secretary General

390 The Council shall delegate the daily management of the Association to the Secretary General  
391 upon proposal of the Bureau. The Bureau defines the scope and financial limitations of the  
392 daily management powers of the Secretary General.

393 The term of office of the Secretary General shall be for a maximum period of two years,  
394 renewable.

395 The Secretary General shall be remunerated, according to a decision of the Bureau.  
396 Reasonable expenses supported by appropriate documentary evidence will also be  
397 reimbursed.

398 The Secretary General may delegate a part of his/her powers for particular or specific purposes  
399 to a third party, under his/her responsibility.

400 **CHAPTER VIII - REPRESENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

401 Article 32

402 The Association shall be validly represented with respect to all acts, including court  
403 proceedings, by either the President or any two members of the Bureau acting jointly, who  
404 shall not be obliged to offer proof to third parties of a prior decision of the Bureau.

405 The Secretary General shall individually represent the Association with respect to all acts of  
406 daily management, including court proceedings, and shall not be obliged to offer proof to third  
407 parties of a prior decision of the Bureau.

408 The Association is also validly represented by an attorney-in-fact, within the limits of his power-  
409 of-attorney.

410 **CHAPTER IX – AUDIT**

411 Article 33

412 The audit of the financial situation, the annual accounts and the verification that the  
413 transactions set out in the annual accounts comply with the Regulation and the Articles of  
414 Association as well as the financial rules of the European Parliament, shall be entrusted to one  
415 or several auditors appointed by the Council chosen among the members of the Institute of  
416 Auditors (*Institut des Réviseurs d'Entreprises/ Instituut der bedrijfsrevisoren*).

417 **CHAPTER X – INTERNAL REGULATIONS**

418 Article 34

419 The Council shall adopt and may amend the Internal Regulations of the Association. The  
420 Internal Regulations regulate the functioning of the Association and its bodies in general and  
421 may not conflict with the Articles of Association.

422 **CHAPTER XI - FINANCIAL YEAR, BUDGET AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

423 Article 35

424 The financial year shall coincide with the calendar year.

425 Article 36

426 The Bureau shall prepare the annual accounts at the end of each financial year. The Treasurer,  
427 on behalf of the Bureau, shall also issue an annual report justifying the management of the  
428 Association. This annual report shall include comments on the annual accounts for the purpose  
429 of presenting the evolution of the Association and the Association's activities.

430 The Association in relation to bookkeeping, accounts, donations, privacy and protection of  
431 personal data respects Regulation (EC) n°45/2001 as well as the Directive 95/46/EC regarding  
432 the protection of personal data.

433 The annual report and the auditor's report shall be presented to the Council for approval,  
434 together with the draft annual accounts.

435 **CHAPTER XII – FINANCING**

436 Article 37

437 The Association shall secure its financing by:

- 438 (i) the payment of membership fees, as provided in Article 7;  
439 (ii) resources granted by any authority and more in particular the European authorities;  
440 (iii) the remuneration of any service rendered by the Association to its members or third  
441 parties;  
442 (iv) the payment of royalties for the use of intellectual property rights owned by the  
443 Association;  
444 (v) donations;  
445 (vi) any other form of authorised financial resource.

446 In any event, the financing of the Association will have to strictly comply with the conditions  
447 and obligations relating to the funding of political parties as set out in the Regulation.

448 The membership fees must be paid before the 1<sup>st</sup> April of each year.

### 449 **CHAPTER XIII – LIMITED LIABILITY**

#### 450 Article 38

451 The members of the Association, the members of the Bureau and the persons entrusted with  
452 the daily management of the Association will not be personally liable for the obligations of the  
453 Association.

454 The liability of members of the Bureau or persons entrusted with daily management is limited  
455 to the proper performance of their mandate.

### 456 **CHAPTER XIV - AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION, DISSOLUTION 457 AND LIQUIDATION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

#### 458 Article 39 – Amendments to the Articles of Association

459 Any proposal to amend these Articles of Association shall only be valid if proposed by the  
460 Bureau or one third of the full members.

461 The proposed amendments to the Articles of Association must be attached to the notice calling  
462 the meeting of the Congress.

463 An attendance quorum of at least two-thirds of the full members who have fulfilled their  
464 membership obligations is required for decisions regarding amendments to the Articles of  
465 Association.

466 Where this quorum is not reached, a new meeting of the Congress shall be called no earlier  
467 than 15 calendar days after the first meeting. The second meeting of the Congress shall be  
468 entitled to take valid decisions irrespective of the number of full members present.

469 Decisions regarding amendments to the Articles of Association shall be taken with a majority  
470 of two-thirds of the votes cast.

471 Any decision relating to the amendments to the Articles of Association shall be submitted to  
472 the Authority and published in the Official Journal.

#### 473 Article 40 – Dissolution and liquidation of the Association

474 The Association may be dissolved voluntarily by a decision of the Congress with a majority of  
475 four-fifths of the votes cast.

476 In the event that the Association is dissolved, the Congress shall decide by a simple majority  
477 of the votes cast on (i) the appointment, powers and remuneration of the liquidators, (ii) the

478 methods and procedures for the liquidation of the Association and (iii) the destination to be  
479 given to the net assets of the Association.

480 The net assets of the Association will have to be allocated to a non-profit purpose.

481 **CHAPTER XV – FINAL PROVISIONS**

482 Article 41

483 These Articles of Association shall be written in French and English. The French version is the  
484 official version of the Articles of Association and shall take precedence.

485 Article 42

486 Anything not provided for in these Articles of Association and in the Regulation will be  
487 submitted to the laws of the Member State in which the Association is located.

488

489 Annex I: Logo

490 Annex II: Member parties list