



EUROPEAN  
MOVEMENT

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE EUROPEAN MOVEMENT**

*Approved at a General Meeting of the Movement  
on 25 November 2006  
at City University, Northampton Square, London N1  
as amended by AGMs on 25 November 2017 and 23 November 2019;  
amended by Special General Meeting on 11 September 2021*



# CONSTITUTION OF THE EUROPEAN MOVEMENT UK

## Contents

1.	Nature.....	3
2.	Objects .....	4
3.	Activities .....	4
5.	Structure.....	5
6.	General Meetings .....	5
7.	The National Council .....	8
8.	The National Executive.....	11
9.	The Branches Forum.....	13
10.	Membership.....	14
11.	Branches .....	15
12.	Young European Movement.....	15
13.	Councils of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and .....	16
14.	President, Vice-Presidents, Chair and Officers.....	17
15.	Representation on the National Council .....	18
16.	Elections Timetable For the Electronic Ballot .....	19
17.	Term limits.....	19
18.	Votes of No Confidence, Removal of Officers and Deemed Resignations .....	20
19.	Finance.....	20
20.	Sections.....	21
21.	Company .....	21
22.	Notices in Writing.....	21
23.	Amendment of Constitution .....	21
24.	Dissolution.....	22

## 1. Nature

1.1 The European Movement of the United Kingdom ("the Movement" or "EM") is an unincorporated association consisting of such persons as may declare their support for its objects, have been admitted to membership according to the procedures set out in this Constitution and subscribe to the funds of the Movement.

1.2 The Movement may cooperate in the attainment of its objects with that Company limited by guarantee known as European Movement of the United Kingdom Ltd. (company number 551817), or with any other company falling within the provisions of paragraph 22 of the Constitution (and the expression “the Company” is used in the Constitution to describe any company referred to in this paragraph).

## 2. Objects

The objects of the Movement shall be:

2.1 To further the aims of European unity with the United Kingdom playing a full part.

2.2 To advocate reforms which would make the European Union more effective and democratic, and more committed to exercising its weight and influence to benefit the wider world.

2.3 To reflect the diversity of the UK through enabling inclusion and participation.

The European Movement is determined to reflect the diverse society we will be when we re-join the European Union. This means that we actively support the full engagement and participation of all UK citizens and residents regardless of age, gender and gender identity, sex and sexual orientation, marital status, race, religion or belief, socio-economic status, disability or health condition, pregnancy and maternity.

## 3. Activities

The Movement may do all such things as may reasonably advance the objects, including:

3.1 Informing public opinion about Europe and the European Union and developing, publicising and carrying out policies and proposals for the promotion, advancement and maintenance of understanding, cohesion, co-operation and unity amongst the countries and peoples of Europe and between them and the rest of the world;

3.2 Supporting and maintaining a network of affiliated branches throughout the United Kingdom, all as more specifically hereinafter provided for;

3.3 Maintaining links with appropriate organisations with particular reference to the international European Movement;

3.4 Undertaking such educational and social activities as may advance the objects;

3.5 Campaigning and lobbying for the promotion of European union.

## 4. Powers

4.1 In furtherance of its objects and its activities, the Movement shall have power to acquire, deal with in any manner and dispose of property whether real or personal,

heritable or moveable and to incur liabilities, all as it thinks fit, and that by any of the following means:

- a) it may do so on its own account and through agents on its behalf, to the extent permitted by law;
- b) it may do so through the medium of the Company or other person as Trustee or Trustees;
- c) it may do so by entering into contractual or other arrangements with the Company whereby the Movement is given the use of property belonging to the Company and that on such terms as may be agreed between the Company and the Movement;
- d) it may enter into contractual or other arrangements with the Company whereby the Movement engages the Company as principal to carry out any objects or activities of the Movement and to enter into contacts and incur liabilities in connection therewith;
- e) and the Movement shall have power to transfer or cause to be transferred to the Company as principal any property of which the Movement may be owner or beneficial owner or in respect of which the Movement is entitled to a conveyance, and that by way of gift or at such consideration as may be agreed between the Movement and the Company

4.2 In exercising these powers, the Movement may

- a) raise money by subscriptions, donations, and in any other lawful manner;
- b) enter into any contracts insofar as it may consider it necessary or convenient to do so for the promotion of its objects;
- c) do all such other things as in the opinion of the Movement are necessary or desirable for, or conducive to, the achievement of any of its objects.

## 5. Structure

5.1 For the attainment of the foregoing objects, the functions of the Movement shall be carried out by and through the following bodies and committees:

- a) General Meeting
- b) National Council
- c) National Executive
- d) Branches Forum

## 6. General Meetings

6.1 The members of the European Movement acting in General Meeting shall determine the policies of the Movement and, so far as not otherwise provided for in this constitution or delegated by them to the National Council, shall take charge of the conduct of the Movement's affairs.

6.2 All individual members shall be entitled to participate in General Meetings.

6.3 The National Executive shall convene an Annual General Meeting at least once in each calendar year, such Annual General Meeting to be held no more than 18 calendar months after the previous General Meeting.

The business to be discussed at the Annual General Meeting shall include:

- a) Presentation of the National Council's Annual Report on Activities and a report from the Branches Forum Chair on branch activity.
- b) Consideration and approval, if thought fit, of the Annual Accounts of the Movement.

6.5 The National Executive may, and upon such a request as is referred to in 6.6 shall, convene a Special General Meeting for the purpose of considering such matters as may be specified in the calling notice, and any other matters as may competently be discussed.

6.6 No fewer than one hundred individual members may by written request addressed to the Chair, failing whom the Secretary, of the Movement require the National Executive to convene a Special General Meeting. The request shall contain notice of the business sought to be discussed. The National Executive shall be bound to convene the Special General Meeting so as to be held within 70 days of the date of receipt of the request.

6.7 Save as otherwise provided in 6.10, members shall be sent Notice of General Meetings ("calling notice") at least 56 days before the scheduled meeting. The calling notice shall specify:

- a) details of the time and location of the meeting;
- b) draft agenda (which, in the case of Special General Meetings requested in terms of 6.6, shall include the business specified in the request);
- c) an explanation of how to submit motions for consideration by the meeting.

6.8 Subject to the provisions of 25.1, a Motion for consideration by the meeting may be submitted to the Secretary at least 35 days before the meeting by an individual member as proposer together with at least one seconder; or by a branch, the Branches Forum, the National or Regional Councils, or an affiliated group or sections, which motions so submitted shall not require a seconder.

6.9 Members shall be sent Notice of the full agenda ("final Agenda Notice") including all submitted motions at least 28 days prior to the meeting.

6.10 In relation to any Special General Meeting convened under 6.5 or 6.6 where the National Executive judges there to be special urgency, such meeting shall be convened by calling notice sent not less than 14 days prior to the meeting, which notice shall specify:

- a) details of the time and location of the meeting;

- b) the agenda (which, in the case of Special General Meetings requested in terms of 6.6, shall include the business specified in the request);
- c) an explanation that motions for consideration by the meeting may be submitted and be dealt with as emergency motions specified under 6.15.

6.11 Both the calling notice and the final agenda notice shall be sent to members at their respective last known postal or e-mail address. That any person entitled to attend the General Meeting, through mistake, inadvertence or any other accidental cause or any cause outwith the control of the Movement or its officers, committees or bodies, may not have received the calling notice and final agenda notice or either of them shall not invalidate the meeting nor any business conducted thereat.

6.12 A General Meeting shall be chaired by the President, failing whom by a member nominated by the National Executive failing whom a member elected by the meeting. The person chairing the meeting shall have a deliberative and a casting vote.

6.13 The quorum of the meeting shall be thirty individual members.

6.14 Save as otherwise specified herein, voting shall be by a simple majority of those present and voting where presence (for all EM meetings) means attendance at the meeting in the format specified for that particular meeting.

6.15 Emergency motions may be accepted at any time in the sole discretion of the Chair of the meeting provided that the same shall have been submitted in writing and the Chair judges that there exist special circumstances which precluded their prior submission under 6.8.

6.16 Amendments to motions may be accepted by the Chair of the meeting at any time prior to a vote on the motion if they are, in the view of the Chair, relevant to the subject matter of the original motion and are not contradictory to its original intent.

6.17 There may from time to time be adopted such standing orders for the conduct of General Meetings as may be approved by the members in General Meeting, provided only that no provision of the standing orders shall conflict with any provision of the Constitution.

6.18 All AGMs, SGMs, and meetings of the National Council, National Executive and Branches Forum may be convened as hybrid meetings (i.e. both in person and via telephone and/or video, e.g. Zoom) or exclusively by telephone and/or video according to prevailing circumstances. The decision as to type of meeting will be made by the Chair – unless objections are raised by members that represent a quorum for the meeting in question.

## 7. The National Council

7.1 Between General Meetings, the policy and decision-making body of the European Movement shall be the National Council.

7.2 The functions of the National Council shall include the following:

- a) to ensure the implementation of the decisions and policies of the membership as adopted by General Meetings;
- b) to formulate and adopt policy between General Meetings and to be responsible for such policy decisions to the members in General Meeting;
- c) to adopt the Annual Budget and Forward Plan;
- d) to elect the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and up to four additional members of the National Executive;
- e) to appoint prominent supporters as patrons of the European Movement;
- f) to adopt the Annual Report on Activities for submission to the Annual General Meeting;
- g) to adopt the Annual Accounts of the Movement for submission to the Annual General Meeting;
- h) to discipline, suspend and expel members;
- i) to oversee the Movement's administration including policies relating to its office, personnel, staffing levels and recruitment procedures;
- j) to maintain links with the International European Movement.

7.3 The following shall be the voting members of the National Council:

- a) Chair of the Movement;
- b) two Vice-Chairs of the Movement;
- c) Treasurer;
- d) Secretary;
- e) Chair of the Branches Forum;
- f) President of the Young European Movement or their surrogate;
- g) two further representatives of the Young European Movement;
- h) up to 6 members from each of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to be appointed by the respective Council in each nation.
- i) 36 representatives of the affiliated branches throughout the UK to be elected by all their Chairs or nominated representatives – all such electors to be current members of the European Movement.
- j) 54 representatives in total: elected directly by all EM members in each of the 9 regions from separate lists of at least 3 men and at least 3 women with a provision that those elected shall also include at least one BAME candidate and one candidate under the age of 35 in each region in either of the two lists
- k) If neither of these two categories is elected within the 54 in any one or more region, up to an additional 9 full voting representatives who are



identified as BAME or under the age of 35 may be co-opted by the National Council

- m) all such persons elected or co-opted must be current members of EM
- n) all voting shall be through an electronic system approved by the National Council.
- o) The Secretary shall be the Returning Officer and set out rules for the election in accordance with this Constitution unless the National Council otherwise determines.

7.4 The National Council may co-opt additional members with full voting rights as follows:

- a) one person nominated by such pro-European group within the Conservative Party as the National Council may designate;
- b) one person nominated by such pro-European group within the Labour Party as the National Council may designate;
- c) one person nominated by such pro-European group within the Liberal Democrat Party as the National Council may designate;
- d) one person nominated by such pro-European group within the Green Party as the National Council may designate
- e) a representative from of each of such parliamentary groups and affiliated organisations as the National Council may consider appropriate;
- f) such other persons with such specific skills as the National Council may judge desirable;

provided that any person so co-opted shall be a member of the EM throughout their tenure.

7.5. If a person is co-opted to the position of Treasurer or Secretary, they shall become a voting member of the National Council for so long as they retain that office by virtue of their co-option.

7.6 The National Council may from time to time invite other persons to participate in such meetings or parts of meetings of the National Council as it may in its discretion determine, provided that no such invited person shall be entitled to vote at said meeting.

7.7 Additionally, the President and Vice-Presidents of the Movement may attend and participate in the meetings of the National Council, but they shall not be eligible to vote at said meetings.

7.8 the National Council shall meet on at least four occasions in each calendar year enabling members to attend, at their choice, in combination either physically in person or electronically. Meetings of the National Council may be called:

- a) by resolution of the National Council, upon such date as the National Council may determine;

- b) by the Chair of the European Movement upon such date as the Chair may determine;
- c) upon a written request by at least 30 voting members of the National Council addressed to the Chair, failing whom the Secretary. The Secretary shall call the meeting to take place within 21 days of the receipt of the request.

7.9 There shall be sent a Notice calling a meeting of the National Council ("calling notice") at least 7 days before the date of the meeting. The calling notice shall include:

- a) details of the time and location of the meeting;
- b) an agenda together with (so far as reasonably practicable) the draft minutes of the previous meeting and any papers, reports and other documents to be discussed at the meeting

7.10 The calling notice shall be sent to each member at their nominated e-mail address, failing which, their postal address. That any person entitled to attend the meeting, through mistake, inadvertence or any other accidental cause or any cause outwith the control of the Movement or its officers, committees or bodies may not have received the calling notice shall not invalidate the meeting nor any business conducted thereat.

7.11 Meetings of the National Council will be chaired by the Chair of the Movement. If the Chair of the Movement is not available then a member of the National Council will be elected to chair the meeting. The Chair (or substitute Chair) of any National Council meeting shall have a deliberative and a casting vote.

7.12 The quorum shall be thirty voting members.

7.13 Voting shall be by a simple majority of those members who are present and voting.

7.14 All elections shall be by secret ballot.

7.15 Candidates shall have the right to scrutinise the method of election and be provided with evidence of its result.

7.16 The National Council may establish such subcommittees or working groups as it feels necessary to fulfil its responsibilities, (provided however that at least one of the members of such subcommittees or working groups shall be a member of the National Council) and shall appoint the Chair of such subcommittees or working groups.

7.17 The National Council may from time to time adopt such standing orders for the conduct of its meetings and those of its subcommittees and working groups as it may consider expedient, provided only that no provision of such standing orders shall conflict with any provision of the constitution.

## 8. The National Executive

8.1 Under the supervision of the National Council, to which it is accountable, the National Executive shall:

- a) implement the policies of the Movement as the same shall have been determined by the members in General Meetings and by the National Council;
- b) oversee the organisation, co-ordination and administration of the Movement, including its office and any staff;
- c) prepare a draft Annual Report on Activities for the consideration of the National Council under paragraph 7.2 (f)
- d) through the Treasurer, be responsible for the financial administration of the Movement and prepare the draft Annual Accounts for consideration by the National Council under paragraph 7.2 (g);
- e) perform such other functions as may from time to time be delegated to it by the National Council.

8.2 The following shall be voting members of the National Executive:

- a) Chair of the Movement;
- b) two Vice-Chairs;
- c) Treasurer;
- d) Secretary;
- e) up to four members elected by the National Council;
- f) Chair of the Branches Forum;
- g) President of the Young European Movement or the President's substitute.
- h) one representative each from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to be elected by their respective Councils
- i) Diversity Officer

8.3 The National Executive shall have no power of co-option.

8.4 The National Executive may from time to time invite other persons to participate in such meetings or parts of its meetings as it may in its discretion determine, provided that no such invited person shall be entitled to vote at said meeting.

8.5 For the purposes of the Constitution, and of the Articles of Association of the Company, the voting members of the National Executive listed under 8.2(a) to 8.2(i), above shall be deemed to be the Officers of the Movement and hence, pursuant to paragraph 3 of the Articles of Association of the Company, be members of the Company.

8.6 The National Executive shall meet on at least eight occasions in each calendar year. Meetings of the National Executive may be called:

- a) by resolution of the National Executive, upon such date as the National Executive may determine;
- b) by the Chair of the European Movement upon such date as they may determine;
- c) upon a written request by at least five members of the National Executive addressed to the Chair, failing whom to the Secretary. The Secretary shall call the meeting to take place within 21 days of the receipt of the request.

8.7 There shall be sent to all members of the National Executive a Notice calling a meeting of the National Executive ("calling notice") at least 7 days before the date of the meeting. The calling notice shall include:

- a) details of the time and location of the meeting;
- b) an agenda together with (so far as reasonably practicable) the draft Minutes of the previous meeting and any papers, reports and other documents to be discussed at the meeting.

8.8 Additionally, there shall be sent at least 7 days before the date of the meeting to all members of the National Council a copy of the calling notice including the agenda for the meeting, and, as soon as reasonably practicable after the meeting, a copy of any Minutes which may have been approved at the meeting, which shall then be sent to the National Council.

8.9 The calling notice shall be sent to each person entitled to receive it at their nominated e-mail address, failing which, their postal address. That any person entitled to attend the meeting, through mistake, inadvertence or any other accidental cause or any cause outwith the control of the Movement or its officers, committees or bodies may not have received the calling notice shall not invalidate the meeting nor any business conducted thereat.

8.10 The National Executive will be chaired by the Chair of the European Movement, failing whom a Vice-Chair, failing whom by a member elected by the meeting. The Chair of the meeting shall have a deliberative and a casting vote.

8.11 The quorum shall be five voting members.

8.12 Voting shall be by a simple majority of those members who are present and voting.

8.13 The National Executive may from time to time adopt such standing orders for the conduct of its meetings as it may consider expedient, provided only that no provision of such standing orders shall conflict with any provision of the constitution.

## 9. The Branches Forum

9.1 The Branches Forum shall:

- a) provide a place for all branches to share their views about the work of the European Movement;
- b) advise the National Council on membership recruitment and retention, branch development and support, and membership services;
- c) review recent and proposed national campaigns involving grass roots activities.

9.2 The Branches Forum shall consist of the chairs or their nominated representatives of each affiliated branch of the Movement (with full power to each of such chairs to appoint a replacement in the event of their absence), a Chair and Secretary together with one further representative appointed by each of the three Councils of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and, according to the rules of each of those Councils as they apply from time to time. The officers of the European Movement shall have the right to attend and participate as non-voting members. The Forum may at its discretion allow others to attend and speak.

9.3 The Branches Forum shall elect a Chair and a Secretary. Any member of the European Movement who has held office as Chair of a Branch within the three years ending with their election shall be eligible for election as Chair of the Branches Forum, and any member of the European Movement who has held office within a Branch within the three years ending with their election shall be eligible for election as Secretary. The Chair of the Branches Forum shall, for so long as they hold that office, be a member of the National Council and the National Executive.

9.4 There shall be at least two meetings of the Branches Forum each calendar year called by its Chair, and notified to branches by either the Chair or Secretary.

9.5 Additionally, meetings of the Branches Forum may be called upon a written request by at least six branches addressed to the Branches Forum Chair or the Secretary. The meeting shall take place within 35 days of the receipt of the request.

9.6 There shall be sent to all members of the Branches Forum a Notice calling a meeting of the Branches Forum ("calling notice") at least 21 days before the date of the meeting. The calling notice shall include:

- a) details of the time and location of the meeting;
- b) an agenda together with (so far as reasonably practicable) the draft Minutes of the previous meeting and any papers, reports and other documents to be discussed at the meeting.

9.7 The calling notice shall be sent to each person entitled to receive it at their nominated e-mail address, failing which, to their postal address. That any person entitled to attend the meeting, through mistake, inadvertence or any other accidental cause or any cause outwith the control of the Movement or its officers, committees or

bodies may not have received the calling notice shall not invalidate the meeting nor any business conducted thereat.

9.8 The term of the Branches Forum Chair shall coincide with the two-year term of the National Council and the National Executive. The Chair will be elected by a secret ballot conducted by an independent returning officer nominated by branches or failing him/her the outgoing Branches Forum Chair. Filling of a casual vacancy for the Chair is provided for in 14.9.

9.9 The quorum shall be 25% of voting members.

9.10 Voting shall be by a simple majority of those members who are present and voting.

9.11 The Branches Forum may from time to time adopt such standing orders for the conduct of its meetings as it may consider expedient, provided only that no provision of such standing orders shall conflict with any provision of the Constitution.

## 10. Membership

10.1 Membership of the Movement shall be open to all persons who declare their support for its objects.

10.2 Applications from persons to join the Movement may be referred by any officer or member of the Movement to the National Executive, who may reject such application without any explanation being given.

10.3 The National Council may from time to time make such rules for such classes of membership, including life, family, corporate, affiliate and associate membership, the mode of approval of such members and all other things touching thereon as the National Council may judge expedient, providing, however that nothing in such rules shall derogate from or be in conflict with the Constitution.

10.4 There shall be maintained a central list of all members (of whatever class) of the Movement.

10.5 The National Council shall determine annually subscription rates for all classes of members.

10.6 All members of whatever class shall have the right to receive calling notices for general meetings, to submit motions, and to participate in its deliberations. Only individual members in good standing for at least one month shall be eligible to stand for election, to vote at general meetings and to participate in ballots for the officers and National Council.

10.7 Membership of the European Movement shall be deemed to have lapsed 90 days after a written reminder that a membership subscription is overdue for payment has been sent to the member in question. Upon the expiry of said period of 90 days, if the subscription remains unpaid, the member shall cease to be a member and to enjoy the rights of membership attaching to the class of which they are a member (declaring that, for the avoidance of doubt, until the expiry of the said period without payment of arrears, the member shall continue to enjoy the full rights attaching to membership of that class).

10.8 The National Council may make such Rules as it may consider appropriate to discipline, or suspend or expel members who, in the judgement of the National Council have acted or are acting inconsistently with the constitution and any standing orders of the European Movement, who break its rules, or who publish any statement or who are guilty of any conduct which is detrimental to its standing or reputation. These Rules shall be known as the Code of Conduct – as annexed to this document.

## 11. Branches

11.1 There may be branches of the Movement, which shall be such bodies (whether or not incorporated) as shall have been recognised as branches by the Movement according to the following procedure in 11.2.

11.2 To be and to remain eligible for recognition, branches shall sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Council – as set out in the Annexed Branch MoU as adopted by the National Council. The recognition and withdrawal of recognition of a branch shall be by decision of the National Council.

11.3 The recognition and withdrawal of recognition of a branch shall be by decision of the National Council.

11.4 Local groups wishing to become a branch shall inform the Chair of the Branches Forum of their wish to affiliate, and shall furnish such information as may be required to demonstrate the matters referred to in paragraph 11.2 or 11.3 as appropriate. The Chair of the Branches Forum shall make a recommendation to the next meeting of the National Council concerning the application.

11.5 The branch shall notify to the Chair of the Branches Forum any change in its status, activities and/or constitution, and shall, when required to do so, furnish to the Chair such information as the Chair may reasonably require to demonstrate the continued eligibility for affiliation of the branch

## 12. Young European Movement

12.1 There may be an affiliated youth movement to be known as the Young European Movement ("YEM") which shall be such unincorporated association as shall have been recognised as the YEM by the National Council according to the following procedure.

12.2 To be and to remain eligible for recognition, the YEM shall:

- a) have a constitution having objects similar to and compatible with the objects of the Movement;
- b) have a democratic constitution with annual elections to a committee with at least a Chair, and a Secretary and Treasurer with all YEM members being eligible to vote;
- c) have reached agreement with the National Executive as to those who are eligible to be members including eligibility according to age;
- d) have a bank account in the name of the YEM and have agreed to submit (and have submitted) to the Treasurer of the Movement an annual account of its financial transactions;
- e) to demonstrate and continue to demonstrate a commitment to an annual level of activity;
- f) to maintain such minimum membership as the National Council may require, and to submit to the Secretary of the Movement a list of current members when required to do so.

12.3 The recognition and any withdrawal of recognition of YEM shall be by decision of the National Council.

12.4 YEM shall furnish to the EM Secretary from time to time such information as may be required to demonstrate the matters referred to in paragraph 12.2.

12.5 YEM shall notify to the EM Secretary any change in its Constitution, and shall, when required to do so, furnish to the EM Secretary such information as the EM Secretary may reasonably require to demonstrate its continued eligibility for affiliation.

12.6 All members of YEM shall be deemed also to be members of the Movement for so long as YEM is affiliated to the European Movement

### 13. Councils of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and

13.1 The National Council shall recognise Councils for each of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and provided that, in the reasonable view of the National Council of the EM, they each conform to the following minimum requirements:

- a) they each have a constitution having objects similar to and compatible with the objects of the Movement;
- b) they each have a democratic constitution with regular elections to a committee with at least a Chair, and a Secretary and Treasurer with all members of the relevant Council being eligible to vote;



- c) they each cover that nation (but only that nation) of the United Kingdom whose name they bear;
- d) they each have a bank account in their respective names and meet such reasonable requirements of financial reporting as the National Council of the European Movement may require;
- e) they each demonstrate and continue to demonstrate a commitment to an annual level of activity;
- f) they each maintain such minimum membership as might be agreed from time to time (and, failing agreement, as may reasonably be required by the National Council) and submit to the EM Secretary a list of current members when reasonably required to do so.

13.2 Each such Council shall notify to the EM Secretary any change in its Constitution, and shall, when required to do so, furnish to the EM Secretary such information as the EM Secretary may reasonably require to demonstrate the matters referred to in 13.1

13.4 All members of each such Council shall be deemed also to be members of the Movement for so long as that National Council is recognised by the Movement.

## 14. President, Vice-Presidents, Chair and Officers

14.1 The National Council shall elect a President and may elect Vice-Presidents of the Movement.

14.2 The Chair and two Vice-Chairs (minimum of one man/woman) will be elected by the European Movement membership as a whole for a term of two years. Candidates may also stand for election for the general membership of the National Council, but that candidature is voided if they are elected as (Vice-) Chair. Candidates must be nominated by at least 10 serving members of the National Council.

14.3 The term of office of each of the Chair and Vice-Chairs shall commence at the end of the AGM immediately following their election.

14.4 In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the office of Chair, the Senior Vice-Chair shall become the Acting Chair until such time as the Movement's membership shall elect a successor as Chair, which successor shall hold office for the remainder the term of office of the Chair who has resigned.

14.5 The Vice-Chair with the highest number of votes shall be the Senior Vice-Chair. In the event of an equality of votes, or where there are only two candidates, a ballot of the National Council shall take place to determine who is to be the Senior Vice-Chair. In the event of a casual vacancy occurring for Vice-Chair, the National Council shall elect a replacement to serve out the remainder of the relevant term of office.

14.6 The Treasurer and Secretary shall each be elected by the National Council for a term of two years using an electronic voting system and according to such rules as may be approved from time to time by the National Council. For the avoidance of doubt, it is expressly declared that a Candidate for such nominated office need not be a member of the National Council at the time of their nomination but must be nominated by at least 10 serving members of the National Council. Should such an officer resign, the National Council shall elect by secret ballot a replacement to serve out the remainder of their term of office by means of the rules laid down by the National Council for the original election.

14.7 The term of the Secretary and Treasurer shall commence immediately on their election at the first National Council meeting after the election of the Chair and Vice Chairpersons.

14.8 Each of the members of the National Executive elected by the National Council from amongst its members shall be so elected by means of the single transferable vote system and according to such rules as may be approved from time to time by the National Council. The term of office shall be two years. In the event of a casual vacancy occurring for National Executive members, the National Council shall elect a replacement to serve out the remainder of the relevant term of office.

14.9 In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the office of Branches Forum Chairman or Secretary, the branch representatives on the National Council shall elect a replacement to serve until the next meeting of the Branches Forum.

14.10 The President of YEM shall be elected and hold office according to rules laid down in its Constitution; provided however that a President who is unable or unwilling regularly to attend meetings of the National Council may nominate a substitute to take the President's place on the National Council.

## 15. Representation on the National Council

15.1 Up to eighteen representatives of the Councils of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales shall be elected and hold office according to rules laid down in their respective Constitutions.

15.2 The term of office of each of the branch representatives shall commence immediately on their election and shall extend until the declaration of the result of the next election for that office, which declaration shall be made at or shortly prior to the meeting of the National Council first occurring after the second Annual General Meeting following the date of the election;

15.3 The term of office of each of the directly-elected members shall extend until the end of the second Annual General Meeting following the date of their election;

15.4 In the event of a casual vacancy, there shall be elected that candidate who, upon a recount of the votes originally cast (under exclusion of the votes cast for the person who shall have left office) shall be elected, provided that where there is no such person the vacancy shall remain unfilled. The person so elected shall be elected only until the expiry of the original term.

15.5 The two additional representatives of YEM shall be elected and hold office according to the rules laid down in the constitution of YEM.

15.6 The terms of office for co-opted members of the National Council shall last from the moment of their co-option until the close of the next following Annual General Meeting at which the Chair of the Movement is declared elected.

## 16. Elections Timetable For the Electronic Ballot

16.1 The ballot to elect the elected members of the National Council shall be conducted according to the following timetable and in accordance with such rules as may be laid down by the National Council from time to time, which rules shall comply with the following principles:

- a) Members shall be sent an electronic call for nominations at least 56 days before the Annual General Meeting at which the result is to be declared, said electronic call to be sent with the calling notice for the meeting;
- b) Nominations shall be sent so as to be received by the Returning Officer by 12 noon on the day 35 days before the meeting;
- c) Members shall be sent candidate details and ballot papers at least 28 days before the meeting, said papers to be sent with the agenda for the meeting.
- d) The ballot shall close 7 days before the AGM.

16.2 The foregoing provision shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the ballot for the thirty-six branch representatives, which ballot shall be held immediately before the ballot for National Council members as the ballots specified in said provision, save only that the candidate details and ballot papers will be sent only to the nominated elector (as defined in 15.2) for each of the branches.

## 17. Term limits

17.1 No officer or elected member of the National Council shall serve for more than three consecutive terms in the same office nor in the same capacity as a member of the National Council, nor shall they be eligible to stand for re-election to that office or as an elected member of the council in that same capacity until the expiry of one further term of office.

## 18. Votes of No Confidence, Removal of Officers and Deemed Resignations

18.1 A General Meeting may pass a resolution of no confidence in any officer or ordinary member of the National Executive or in the National Executive as a whole by means of a three-quarters majority of those present and entitled to vote at the meeting at which the relevant motion is voted upon. Written notice of such a motion (which shall require a proposer and a seconder who shall be persons entitled to vote at the meeting at which the motion is to be voted upon) shall be given to the Secretary no later than 35 days before the date of the Meeting.

18.2 The National Council, by a majority of three-quarters of those present and entitled to vote at the meeting may remove from office, for good cause, any officer who has been elected by the National Council. Notice of any such motion shall be given to the Secretary at least 14 days before the meeting and notice of the motion shall be sent to all members of the National Council at least 7 days before the meeting.

18.3. In the event that such a motion as is referred to in 19.1 and 19.2 is carried, the officer concerned shall be deemed to have left office immediately; and in relation to the office concerned there shall be treated as having arisen a casual vacancy, which shall be filled as soon as reasonably practicable in manner provided for in the Constitution as applicable to the office concerned.

18.4 Any voting member of the National Council who fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the National Council without having given a reason which, in the opinion of the third such meeting, is sufficient and acceptable shall be deemed to have resigned, and a casual vacancy shall be taken to have arisen.

## 19. Finance

19.1 The Treasurer shall cause there to be kept and maintained full books of account and shall cause there to be presented to the National Executive and to the National Council such periodic management accounts as those bodies may require. Additionally, the Treasurer shall cause there to be presented to the Annual General Meeting annual accounts of the transactions of the Movement with its funds, all as more particularly provided for elsewhere in this Constitution.

19.2 The Annual Accounts shall be duly examined and approved by an independent auditor or an independent examiner, who shall be appointed by the members in General Meeting.

19.3 The National Council shall make such rules for the financial management of the Movement as shall ensure compliance with 20.1 and 20.2 and as shall also facilitate good and efficient financial administration of the Movement. In the event of a referendum on EU affairs (or similar political event), the National Council shall make

such rules that ensure the European Movement, and both its branches and affiliates comply fully with relevant electoral law - especially on donations and spending.

## 20. Sections

20.1 The National Council may make rules providing for the forming and running of sections comprised of members having shared interests or backgrounds.

## 21. Company

21.1 The Movement may utilise a Company incorporated under the Companies Acts (including company number 551817) for the purpose of pursuing the objectives of the Movement and that by the carrying out of whatever actions in pursuance of those objectives as the Movement may consider desirable;

21.2 The Members of the Company shall be the persons who are fully paid individual, youth, unwaged and low income members of European Movement

21.3 A Member of the Company shall cease to be a Member on ceasing to pay the annual membership fee applicable for their class of membership

## 22. Notices in Writing

22.1 Where the constitution makes provision for any notice or other communication to be given in writing, the same shall be as effectual if communicated by fax, e-mail or similar electronic means.

## 23. Amendment of Constitution

23.1 The Constitution may be amended by a motion (or any amendment thereof) carried by a three-fourths majority of the members present and voting at a General Meeting, provided however that a minimum of 28 days' notice of such motion shall have been given in writing to members.

23.2 That any person entitled to attend the meeting, through mistake, inadvertence or any other accidental cause or any cause outwith the control of the Movement or its officers, committees or bodies may not have received notice of the motion shall not invalidate the proceedings following upon the notice of the Motion.

## 24. Dissolution

24.1 The Movement may be dissolved by means of a motion to that effect carried by a three-fourths majority of the members present and voting at a General Meeting, provided however that a minimum of 56 days' notice of such motion shall have been given to members in writing advising them of the proposal of dissolution.

24.2 In the event that such a resolution for the winding-up of the Movement is passed, the Treasurer or such other person or persons as the General Meeting may appoint shall proceed to wind up its affairs and, for that purpose shall be deemed to be granted all powers as may be necessary and if upon the winding up or dissolution of the Company there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall be paid to or distributed among Members of the Company.

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