

Statutes of Autism-Europe
Approved by the Annual General Meeting - 6 May 2023

I NAME HEADQUARTERS, DURATION

ARTICLE 1: CONSTITUTION

- 1.1 The Association shall be known as the “Association Internationale Autisme-Europe”.
- 1.2 The Association shall be governed by (i) the provisions of Title III of the Code of Companies and Associations , (ii) these statutes, and (iii) the internal rules of the Association
- 1.3 The Association, which is non profit making, was created by founder members, associations acting as legal entities and created in accordance with the laws and customs of their respective countries of origin. They have agreed to abide by the articles of Association. These articles have been signed by their respective qualified representatives.
- 1.4 Its headquarters shall be located in Belgium. Its present address is in the Brussels Region. The headquarters may be transferred elsewhere in Belgium, Belgium, in compliance with the legal provisions in force concerning the use of languages, by ordinary resolution of the Council, notice of which shall be given within one month in the Moniteur Belge.
- 1.5 The duration of the Association is unlimited. It may be dissolved anytime according to Article 11 of these Statutes.

ARTICLE 5: COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SECRETARIAT

5.1 COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

There shall be a Council of at least 32 and at most 43 persons half of which be elected every two years. The Council shall meet twice each year, notice of such meeting to be given by the President or in default by a Vice-President to be advertised three months months in advance, by post or email, giving notice of the venue, agenda, date, and time. Members of the Council shall be elected for a four year term and allowed to be re-elected

- 5.1 .1 Each country member of the European Economic Area (EEA) has the right to one representative of a Full or an Affiliated member on the Council of Administration. At least half plus one Members sitting on the Council shall be representatives of Full or Affiliated members.
- 5.1.2 Within the Council there shall be one seat reserved for a National representative from each country member of EEA, two seats reserved for Associated Members, seven seats for Individual Members, two of which reserved for people on the autistic spectrum. The remaining seats, including any unfilled National seats, shall be open to all Members to apply for.
 - All candidates must notify the headquarters of the Association at least one month in advance of the GA of their intention to stand as candidate.

- All candidates shall put forward a brief statement setting out what they have previously achieved towards the aims of Autism-Europe and what they will attempt to do should they be elected.
- 5.1.3 Member of AE who are located in a single Country should present a single candidate for the election as the “National Representative” of that country at the AE council. Should the Members from that country fail to make a decision on who shall be the single candidate, then the decision shall be taken at the General Assembly by a vote involving all Members present and represented.
- 5.1.4 To ensure the European representativeness of Autism Europe, no country of the European Economic Area can have more than five (5) members per country within the Council. If the nationals of the same country cannot decide on the choice of those who will be candidates to be members of the Council, the decision shall be taken at the General Assembly by a vote involving all Members present and represented. No more than two (2) seats can be occupied by representatives of Non-European members in the Council.
- 5.1.5 A “country” is defined by its recognition as an independent state by the United Nations Organization.
- 5.1.6 The responsibility of the members of the Council shall be restricted to the terms of their mandate.
- 5.1.7 While representatives are members of the Council, they are expected to act in the best interests of all people throughout Europe who are affected by autism and to play a full part in the deliberations of the Council.
- 5.1.8 In the event of vacancy a Council member may be co-opted. His/her continuation to the post is subject to ratification by the next General Assembly.
- 5.1.9 A quorum of the Council shall be one third of its members present or represented.
- 5.1. 10 The Council shall elect from the representatives elected to the Council of Administration, a President who shall hold office for a period of four years. The President cannot be re-elected more than once. The President shall present his/her Executive Committee for the approval of the Council of Administration. After approval of their nomination by the Council of Administration, the President and the members of the Executive Committee remain members of the Council of Autism Europe until the end of their mandate.
- 5.1.11 In its regulations, the Council shall agree on the structure and level of fees that will be proposed to the general Assembly for approval. The council shall agree as well on the practical aspects regarding the operation of the association and verify eligibility criterion of Council members.
- 5.1.12 The Council shall have vested initial management and administrative powers other than those reserved to the General Assembly. The decisions of the Council shall be recorded in a minute signed by a member of the Committee and kept by the Secretary at the disposal of the members of the Association.
The Secretary General submits an activity report to the General Assembly. The Treasurer submits a financial report to the General Assembly.

- 5.1.13 The Council may delegate the day-to-day management, as well as the representation of the association with respect to such management, to one or more persons, who may or may not be members of the Council of Directors.

The Council determines whether they act alone, jointly or collectively.

The day-to-day management includes both acts and decisions which do not exceed the needs of the daily life of the association and acts and decisions which, either because of the minor interest they represent or because of their urgent nature, do not justify the intervention of the Council of Directors.

The delegates to the day-to-day management may, as far as this management is concerned, grant special mandates to any agent.

The Council of Directors determines the powers and remuneration of the delegates for daily management. It may revoke their mandates at any time.

- 5.1.14 Observers which may exclusively be recognized experts on autism or future members of the Council may attend the General Assembly and meetings of the Council at the request of the Executive Committee, and then at the discretion of the Council and Assembly, provided that the competences of the invited observers are relevant regarding the subjects to be dealt with during the meeting.

5.2 THE EXECUTIVE

- 5.2.1 The Executive Committee shall be in post for four years. It shall have all powers and responsibilities entrusted to it by the Council of Administration. It shall include:
- a President
 - one or more Vice Presidents
 - a Secretary
 - a Treasurer

The President must be a member of the Council. The other members of the Executive Committee will be the former President at least for one mandate and members preferably chosen from the Council, but when this is not possible (for example because of lack of appropriate skills), the President may approach others AE members.

- 5.2.2 Should a member of the Executive Committee step down during his/her tenure of office for any of the reasons set out in 3.4 above, the President shall be empowered to find a replacement
- 5.2.3 Half plus one members of the Executive Committee must be parents of persons with autism or self advocates with autism, including the President and the Vice-President(s). Apart from the President, all members of the Executive Committee must have different nationalities.
- 5.2.4 The Executive Committee shall meet on the initiative of the President or in default of a Vice President as often as needed.

5.3 OTHER POINTS

- 5.3.1 For the secretariat of the association, the Council is authorized to hire all necessary staff for the day to day management of the association. The staff will work under the responsibility of the President and the other members of the Executive Committee.
- 5.3.2 Both the Council and the Executive Committee may delegate their powers on a case by case basis to a member of the Council.
- 5.3.3 The Council and the Executive Committee shall endeavor to make decisions by consensus, in the absence of which decisions shall be on simple majority with each person attending, having a single vote. In the event of a tie the President shall have the casting vote.

VI AMENDMENT OF THE ARTICLES AND DISSOLUTION

ARTICLE 11: AMENDMENT OF THE ARTICLES AND DISSOLUTION

- 11.1 Without prejudice to the provisions of the Companies and Associations Code any resolution to amend the articles of Association or to dissolve the Association must be initiated by the Council or by a notice in writing signed by two thirds of the votes of the members.
- 11.2 The Council shall give 3 months notice of any such resolution and of the date of the Assembly at which it shall be discussed.
- 11.3 No resolution shall be valid unless passed by a two thirds majority of the members present or represented.
- 11.4 Amendments of these articles shall only become effective once the provisions set out in the provisions of the Companies and Associations Code regarding notice have been fulfilled
- 11.5 Arrangements regarding the distribution of any remaining assets of the Association following dissolution and the liquidation of the Association shall be made by the General Assembly, to organizations with aims similar to that of the Association.

VI GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 12

- 12.1 All matters not provided for in these articles, particularly with regard to publications in the annexes to the Moniteur Belge, shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Companies and Associations Code.
- 12.2 The French language text is the only authentic text.