

**UNION EUROPEENNE FEMININE  
EUROPÄISCHE FRAUEN-UNION  
EUROPEAN UNION OF WOMEN  
Statut ONG auprès du Conseil de l'Europe.**

**Council Meeting 2005/Beme (CH)  
Our Constitution English version**

**CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE I - NAME**

**The name of the Association shall be the EUROPEAN UNION OF WOMEN (EUW)**

**ARTICLE II - FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES**

**The Union - in association with political and civic organizations of the free peoples of Europe, which equally subscribe to the spiritual and moral values that form the basis of Christian principles - stands for the safeguard of human dignity and freedom and the maintenance of the cultural heritage of Europe, as well as for social and economic progress, safeguarding the rights of the individual.**

**The Union serves the strengthening of peace on the basis of justice and the free cooperation of the peoples in Europe and in the world**

**ARTICLE III – AIMS**

**There fundamental principles shall be realized through strengthening and deepening of the participation of women on political and civic life in European nations and in European and international organizations. It is a special responsibility of the Union to establish and increase contacts between women of the European nations.**

**ARTICLE IV – ORGANIZATION**

**The Union shall be an economically and financially independent association with its own constitution and standing orders.**

**The Union shall be organised in national sections in all countries of Europe. The official languages of the Union shall be English, French and German. The working language shall be English.**

**The headquarters of the Union shall be in the country of residence of the chairman holding office.**

**ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP**

**Sec. 1 Composition**

**The national sections shall be members of the Union. Each country may be represented by one section only. The national sections shall be composed of women who shall be members of political or civic organizations which support the principles of the Union. Only such persons may hold office in the Union. In case of doubt, the Council of the Union shall determine whether the principles of such an organization are in accordance with Article II, after consultation with the national section concerned. (Article IX, 3 n)**

**Women in support of its aims may also join the Union by becoming a member of their national section.**

## **Sec. 2 Admissions**

**Applications for admission to the Union shall be submitted with the relevant documentation to the Board of the Union. After scrutiny it shall be forwarded to the Council by the Executive for decision.**

**The applicant, as well as each national section, shall have the right of appeal to the General Assembly within three months of this decision. In the event that no appeal is lodged within the said period, the decision of the Council on the application shall then come into force.**

## **Sec. 3 Admission of Further organization (new)**

**In the case of the intention of a national section to invite a further organization to join it, the Section should inform the Board and forward the necessary documents.**

## **Sec. 4 Withdrawal**

**Members shall have the right to give notice of withdrawal from membership. Such notice shall be at least six months before the end of the year and shall be submitted to the Board, which shall notify the other national sections.**

## **Sec. 5 Expulsion**

**The Board may, on its own decision or at the request of a national section stating its grounds, propose to the Council the expulsion of a member failing in its obligations. The Council shall decide the issue, after hearing the section concerned. There shall be the right of appeal to the General Assembly.**

## **Sec. 6 Further European organizations**

- a) EUW is a member of EWA (European's Women Association).**
- b) the elected chairman, the vice-chairman and the treasurer are members of the Steering Committee of EWA,**
- c) in addition two further members of the Board are to be elected by the Board to be sent to the Steering Committee of EWA,**
- d) at least two substitutes may be elected by the Board to attend the Steering Committee of EWA, if one of the nominated members cannot attend a meeting,**
- e) all members nominated for the Steering Committee have to be from different countries.**

## **ARTICLE VI - RIGHTS and DUTIES**

### **Sec. 1 Rights**

**National sections may :**

- a) send delegates to the Council,**
- b) appoint specialists to the commissions and to the Constitution and Election Committees and**
- c) submit motions to the Council and the Board, make proposals, state a position and make recommendations.**

### **Sec. 2 Duties**

**National Sections shall uphold the fundamental principles and interests of the Union, they shall endeavor to strengthen and extend its basic aims and shall strive towards their realization.**

**National sections shall**

- a) act in accordance with the Constitution and Standing Orders and**
- b) pay the quota as laid down regularly.**

## **ARTICLE VII – STRUCTURE**

**The structure of the Union shall compose**

- a) the Council and**
- b) the Board**

## **ARTICLE VIII - THE. COUNCIL**

### **Sec. 1 Composition**

**The Council shall be composed of :**

- the Board**
- three members of each national section.**
- the chairmen and vice-chairmen of commissions and committees.**
- the representatives of the Union at the Council of Europe and international organisations (UNESCO, ONU, OCDE...).**
- the auditors.**
- The members of commissions.**
- The members of national sections**
- The members of the EWA**
- Observers of like-minded organisations and political parties**
- Specialists on the invitation of the Board.**

### **Sec. 2 Meetings**

**The ordinary Council shall be held at least every two years, in one of the countries of which the national section has extended an invitation . The Board shall decide the place and date of the next session by a simple majority.**

**The Board shall convene the Council in writing at least six months in advance of the appointed date.**

### **Sec. 3 Rights**

**The Council shall be the government body of the Union; it shall delegate powers for the period between sessions to the Board .**

### **Sec. 4 Functions**

**The Council shall**

- a) receive the reports of :**

- the President**
- the chairmen of national sections**
- the chairman of commissions and committees**
- the treasurer or vice-treasurer regarding financial report and budget for two next years.**
- representatives of the Council of Europe and the United Nations,**

- b) grant the treasurer her discharge on the proposal of the auditors .**

- c) consider the resolutions and recommendations submitted and vote thereon,**

- d) determine the programme of activities,**

- e) elect the President and vice-president and treasurer and vice-treasurer of EUW in secret ballot .**

- f) Elect chairmen and vice-chairmen of commissions, after due consideration of proposals submitted by national sections and the recommendations of the Board thereon.**

**Chairman and vice-chairman shall on principle be eligible for elections up three times consecutively. Elections for chairmen and vice-chairmen shall be by a secret ballot.**

**g) elect on the proposal of the Board the chairman and vice-chairman of the Constitution and Elections Committees,**

**h) elect the auditors,**

**i) set up commissions on the proposals of the Board and, similarly, initiate working in co-operation between different commissions or disband commissions on proposals of the Board.**

**j) Vote amendments to the Constitution.**

**k) determine, on appeal, the admission or expulsion of members on proposals of the Board.**

**l) convene the Arbitrations Committee in accordance with Article XIII,**

**m) Decide the dissolution of the Union**

#### **Sec. 5 The right to vote**

**- the three delegates from each national section.**

**-the chairmen and vice-chairmen of commissions and committees.**

**-The auditors.**

**-The national section chairmen or their deputy.**

**-The treasurer and vice-treasurer.**

**-The representatives of the Union to the council of Europe and to the international organisations.**

**-The President and vice-president**

#### **Sec. 6 Extraordinary Sessions**

**On the decision of Council or on the proposal of the Board or on the written request stating the grounds therefore, submitted to the Board by one third of the members, an extraordinary Council shall take place within three months. At least two months notice shall be given. The Board shall be responsible for the preparation of such a Council.**

### **ARTICLE IX - THE BOARD**

#### **Sec. 1 Composition**

**The Board shall be composed of :**

**•the President**

**•the vice-presidents**

**•the treasurer or vice-treasurer**

**•the general secretary (not elected)**

**•the chairmen of national sections.**

**•The chairmen or vice-chairmen of commissions and committees.**

**•The delegates to European council and international organizations.**

**The members of the Board shall consider the interests of the Union as a whole. They shall not therefore represent nor be regarded as representing any particular country or organization.**

#### **Sec. 2 Meetings**

**The Board shall meet at least twice year. One half of its members shall constitute a quorum.**

**Decisions will be taken by a simple majority. The President has a casting vote.**

#### **Section 3 : Functions**

**The Board shall be primary responsible for the realization of the aims of the Union. In**

particular, the Board shall:

- a) carry out the Council's directions.
  - b) prepare the theme for the Council and the programme of work.
  - c) support the activities of the national sections.
  - d) stimulate the activity in the commissions and deliberate their findings
  - e) consider and forward resolutions submitted
  - f) consider proposals from the chairmen of commissions and pass these to the Council with recommendations thereon.
  - g) consider proposals from the chairmen of Constitution and Elections committees.
  - h) convene the council, prepare the agenda of it and chair the meetings.
- I) ensure the due observance of the constitution.

The board shall represent the Union to European and international organisations and Authorities.

#### **Section 4 : Elections to the Board**

Elections to the Board shall take place every two years in the Council.

The following shall be entitled to vote :

- a) the three delegates from each national section. All the national sections have three votes if a delegate is present.
- b) the members of the Board (except general secretary)

Elections for the

- President
- vice-president
- treasurer and vice-treasurer
- Chairmen and vice-chairmen of commissions.

will take place in secret ballots for each position and commission. A simple majority is necessary.

The President and vice-presidents, the chairmen and vice-chairmen will be eligible for elections three times consecutively. A vice-president or a vice-chairman elected three times could be elected president or chairman for The chairmen and vice-chairmen of Constitution and Election Committees are proposed by the Board to the Council and could be re-proposed without limitation.

The treasurer and vice-treasurer shall be eligible for re-election without limitation. commissions and

## **ARTICLE X - THE COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES**

### **Sec. 1 Commissions**

The Commissions study European and world-wide questions, taking into account the work of the Council of Europe - the European Union and the United Nation. Standing Orders, drawn up by the Council in accordance with Article VIII, shall apply to the composition and work of the commissions.

### **Sec. 2 Constitution Committee**

**The Constitution Committee shall consider proposals for amendment to the Constitution and to the Standing Orders for the Commission and Finance.**

**a) Composition**

**Each national section shall appoint one qualified member. In case of need, fois member may be replaced by a substitute. The Council shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among these members on the nomination of the Board**

**b) Meetings**

**The Committee shall meet as required: The chairman shall - through the General Secretary - notify all national sections of each meeting of the committee. The national sections shall have the right to submit proposals to the committee up to one month before the meeting.**

**The Chairman shall, through the general secretary, report the results of the meeting to the Board and the national sections.**

**Sec. 3 Elections Committee**

**a) The Union shall set up an Elections Committee; its composition and chairmanship shall be according to that laid down for the Constitution Committee.**

**b) The chairman of the Elections Committee shall accept nominations of candidates, with supporting statements, from the national sections for the Board and from the Board for the auditors. Substantial nominations shall reach the chairman, with the written consent of each candidate, four months before the Council meeting she shall immediately circulate the nominations and comments to National Sections six weeks before the Council meeting In the event of insufficient candidates for vacancies or should a constitutionally nominated candidate be unable to maintain her candidature, further nominations may be submitted to the chairman of the Elections Committee, in writing by those entitled to nominate, up to a day before the elections,**

**The Election Committee shall meet immediately before the Council meeting; it shall be responsible for checking the mandates of the delegates, for the preparation of the elections, their direction and the counting of votes. No candidate for the Board may serve on the Elections Committee.**

**c) In preparation of a Council meeting in accordance with Article VIII, Section 4 f) concerning the appointment of chairman and vice-chairmen of commissions, the chairman of the Elections Committee shall receive substantiated nominations in writing two months before the Council meeting; these shall be submitted by the chairman of the Elections Committee to the Board for comment; it shall then instruct the Elections Committee to submit a schedule of candidatures to the Council.**

**Sec.4 : International Europe Alive is regarded like a commission according to its status which is appended to this constitution.**

**ARTICLE XI - FINANCE**

**The treasurer and vice-treasurer are elected for two years in a secret ballot by the international council. The treasurer and vice-treasurer had to be from the same country member. The treasurer and vice-treasurer shall be eligible for re-election without limitation of length of service, except for gros misconduct. Authorized signatories belong to the President, the Treasurer and vice-treasurer.**

**Sec. 1**

**The Treasurer or vice-treasurer shall submit an annual statement of accounts and budget to the Board. They will be instructed by the Board to submit these to the international Council.**

## **Sec. 2**

**The Treasurer or vice treasurer shall propose to the Board the amount of quota to be paid annually by the members of the European Union of Women. The decision of the Board shall be submitted to the international council for vote.**

## **Sec. 3**

**The auditors shall examine the accuracy, admissibility and good management of the financial affairs of the European Union of Women. They shall report to the international Council and shall recommend the discharge of the treasurer or vice-treasurer. For further details see the Finance Standing Orders**

## **ARTICLE XII - CORRESPONDENCE**

**The chairman shall be authorized to sign on behalf of the Union: In case of need a vice-chairman may deputize.**

## **ARTICLE XIII - ARBITRATION COMMITTEE**

**An Arbitration Committee shall be empanelled in order to resolve differences within the Union; it shall be composed of three impartial persons, of whom at least two shall be legal experts. Should the need arise these three impartial persons shall be appointed by the Council on the nomination of the Board ; they shall elect the Chairman from among their number. Representatives of the contending parties (e.g. of national sections) may attend the meeting of the Arbitration Committee and represent their interests. The Committee shall make its decision by simple majority. There shall be no right of appeal.**

## **ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

**This Constitution may be amended at a meeting of the Council by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.**

**Proposals for amendment may only be considered by the Council if circulated to the national sections by the general secretary at least three months in advance.**

**An amendment adopted by the Council shall come into force forthwith.**

## **ARTICLE XV - DISSOLUTION**

**The decision to dissolve the Union shall rest with the Council and shall require a two thirds majority of those present and voting.**

**In the event of a voluntary dissolution, the assets of the Union shall be divided between the individual national sections in proportion to the funds contributed by them.**

**In the case of “force majeure”, the funds shall be retained by the country in which they are held and distributed to charitable organizations.**

**16 th General Assembly**

**Brighton June 1985**

**Amended 17 th General Assembly Vienna July 1987**

**Amended 20 General Assembly Dresden August 1995**

**Amended 25 th General Assembly, Graz July 2003.**

**Amended 27th International Council, Berne 2005**

**Amended 30th International Council, Athens 2011**