

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE OF YMCAs (EAY)

CONSTITUTION

(Legally binding is the Czech version)

§ 1 Name, legal status and seat

The name of the Association is "EUROPEAN ALLIANCE OF YMCAs" (EAY) – (Evropská aliance YMCA), (herein referred to as "the Association").

It is an International Non-Governmental Organisation.

The seat of the Association is in Prague.

§ 2 Purpose

The continuing basis of the work and witness of the Association is that adopted in Paris in 1855 (herein referred to as "the Paris Basis") by the delegates of the Young Men's Christian Associations who were then led by God to bring it into being, viz.:

"The Young Men's Christian Association seek to unite those young men who, regarding Jesus Christ as their God and Saviour, according to the Holy Scriptures, desire to be His disciples in their faith and in their life, and to associate their efforts for the extension of His Kingdom amongst young men."

"Any differences of opinion on other subjects, however important in themselves, shall not interfere with the harmonious relations of the Constituent Members and Associates of the World Alliance."

§ 3 Status

The Association pursues exclusively and directly charitable and religious aims and objectives following the regulations on tax-reduction.

§ 4 Aims and Objectives

The Aims and Objectives of the Association are the following:

- a) to provide opportunities for the study and discussion of matters of common concern to its Members and to be the channel through which common policies and action for the European YMCAs presented and promoted, and
- b) to coordinate and to promote the strengthening and extension of YMCA work in Europe, and
- c) to encourage the participation of its Members in the work of the World Alliance of YMCAs, and
- d) to help in the interpretation and implementation of the policies of the World Alliance of YMCAs to its Members, and
- e) to coordinate and facilitate all aspects of cooperation between its Members and with other YMCA Area Committees, the YWCA and other relevant agencies.

§ 5 Realisation of the Aims and Objectives

The Aims and Objectives of the Constitution shall be realised through the establishment of a Christian community, the exchange of ideas and mutual service among its Members.

§ 6 Non-profit making Association

The Association is non-profit making.

§ 7 Use of financial resources

The financial resources of the Association may only be used in accordance with its Aims and Objectives.

Any liabilities of the Association shall be met exclusively from the assets of the Association.

§ 8 Use of expenses

No person or Member may profit from expenses which do not correspond with the Aims and Objectives of the Association.

§ 9 Membership

The Executive Committee shall decide on membership.

Membership is open to all YMCA Movements in Europe (a Movement with membership is herein referred to as a "Member"). Only one organisation from any one country may in general be accepted as a Member. An application for membership by any organisation from a country already represented by a Member shall only be considered with the previous consent of that Member.

An application for membership shall be made in writing. The applicant shall submit the following to the Association:

- a) a duly authenticated copy of its resolution of acceptance of this Constitution, containing an undertaking to abide by it,
- b) a copy of its Constitution,
- c) a copy of its registration by the authorities in its country where possible,
- d) evidence that its work and witness are in accord with the Paris Basis and other statements or principles as adopted by the World Alliance of YMCAs from time to time,
- e) a declaration that those in charge of it will give a Christian leadership.

The Executive Committee shall be informed in writing of a proposed withdrawal from membership. Withdrawal can only come into effect at the end of a calendar year with notice of three months in advance.

§ 10 Obligations and sanctions

Each Member is obliged to pay an annual contribution to the Association. The amount of the annual contribution shall be decided by the General Assembly.

Any Member not paying its annual contribution for the last year or earlier years, will – unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise due to special circumstances – lose its voting rights until an agreement with that Committee regarding payment of the outstanding contribution(s) has been reached and confirmed in writing.

Membership may at any time be revoked by the Executive Committee if in the opinion of that Committee a Member is not acting in harmony with this Constitution or is acting or is being conducted by its governing body in a manner which may bring itself, or the Young Men's Christian Association Movement generally, into disrepute. Membership may also be revoked by the Executive Committee if an agreement with the Committee regarding payment of any outstanding contribution(s) is not reached within a period of time, the duration of which is at the sole discretion of the Committee. Normally such an agreement should be reached not later than one year after the contribution(s) is due to be paid.

The Executive Committee may at any time reinstate voting rights that have been lost or membership that has been revoked.

§ 11 Financing

The financing of the Association shall be achieved by the following means:

- a) subscriptions, contributions and donations of its Members or others,
- b) income from programmes,
- c) contributions, donations, legacies and grants from institutions in agreement with applicable laws,
- d) income from the Association's property.

§ 12 General Assembly – summons, motions

The General Assembly shall be summoned by the President, or in his/her absence by the Vice President, or in his/her absence by the Treasurer or in his/her absence by the Recording Secretary, to be held not later than June in each year.

The summons and agenda are to be sent to the Members not later than six weeks prior to the commencement date of the General Assembly.

Members wishing to have motions considered at the General Assembly shall send these to the President at least twelve weeks prior to the commencement date of the Assembly.

§ 13 General Assembly – status and competence

The General Assembly is the supreme body of the Association and decides on any subject duly submitted to it and also on matters relating to the promotion of the work of the Association.

The following are under exclusive competence of the General Assembly:

- a) receiving the annual reports of activities,
- b) approving the balance sheet and the Auditor's report,
- c) the discharge of the Executive Committee from any responsibility,
- d) approving the budget for the coming year,
- e) electing the Executive Committee (see § 17), the Auditors (see § 20) and the Nominations Committee (see § 21),
- f) amending the Constitution (see § 22) and the dissolution of the Association (see § 23).

§ 14 General Assembly – quorum etc.

The General Assembly is quorate when no less than half of the total number of the Members eligible to vote are present. If no quorum is formed, the President, or in his/her absence the Vice President, or in their absence another member of the Executive Committee shall summon another meeting with the same agenda within three months giving a minimum notice of six weeks to all Members. This new General Assembly is quorate regardless of the number of Members present. The summons must include information relating to this absolute quorum.

The President, or in his/her absence the Vice President, or in their absence a person assigned by the General Assembly shall take the Chair.

The Recording Secretary, or in his/her absence another member of the Executive Committee, or in their absence another participant of the General Assembly shall take the minutes of the meeting.

The minutes of the General Assembly shall be signed by the Chairperson and the Recording Secretary.

§ 15 General Assembly – voting right

Each Member shall have one vote. The number of any abstentions shall not affect the result of the vote. In case of voting equality, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote.

Elections, as defined in § 13 e), shall be carried out by secret ballots if requested by a Member.

§ 16 Extraordinary Assembly

An Extraordinary Assembly shall be summoned by the President, or in his/her absence by the Vice President, or in his/her absence by the Treasurer or in his/her absence by the Recording Secretary if such shall be required by the Association. Such an Assembly shall also be summoned by the President, or in his/her absence by the Vice President, or in his/her absence by the Treasurer or in his/her absence by the Recording Secretary, on the written request of at least one fifth of the Members.

An Extraordinary Assembly is quorate when no less than half of the total number of the Members eligible to vote are present. If no quorum is formed, the President, or in his/her absence the Vice President, or in their absence another member of the Executive Committee shall summon another meeting with the same agenda within six weeks giving a minimum notice of four weeks to all

Members. This new Assembly is quorate regardless of the number of Members present. The summons must include information relating to this absolute quorum.

The President, or in his/her absence the Vice President, or in their absence a person assigned by the Extraordinary Assembly shall take the Chair.

The Recording Secretary, or in his/her absence another member of the Executive Committee, or in their absence another participant of the Extraordinary Assembly shall take the minutes of the meeting.

The minutes of the Extraordinary Assembly shall be signed by the Chairperson and the Recording Secretary.

Each Member shall have one vote. The number of any abstentions shall not affect the result of the vote. In case of voting equality, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote.

§ 17 Executive Committee – composition etc.

The Executive Committee shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, a Recording Secretary, five Assessors and (ex officio) the Secretary General.

The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly. The term of office is four years for the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer and the Recording Secretary and two years for the Assessors. If a member resigns, substitute elections until the end of the remaining period will be held at the next Assembly. Members of the Executive Committee shall hold their position until new elections take place.

The term of office of the Secretary General is not limited.

At least two of the members of the Executive Committee shall be thirty years of age or less when elected. The Committee shall consist of both sexes.

Members of the Executive Committee may serve for a maximum period of four consecutive terms, but no person may serve more than two consecutive terms in any one position.

A candidate for the Executive Committee must, when elected, belong to a Member.

Any two persons, decided by the Executive Committee, out of the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, the Recording Secretary and the Secretary General may legally represent the Association.

§ 18 Executive Committee – meetings, voting

The Executive Committee shall hold its meetings at least twice per year, and in addition whenever this is requested in writing to the President by at least three of the members of the Executive Committee.

The calling notice and agenda for meetings of the Executive Committee shall be delivered at least four weeks before the determined date of the meeting.

The Executive Committee is quorate when at least half of the members, excluding the Secretary General, are present.

If no quorum is achieved the meeting shall be reconvened as soon as possible after all members of the Executive Committee have been notified.

The Secretary General has no power to vote.

Decisions of the Executive Committee are taken by the majority of the votes of its members who are eligible to vote and who are present. The number of any abstentions shall not affect the result of the vote. In case of voting equality, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote.

Under exceptional conditions decisions may be adopted without the members of the Executive Committee, who are eligible to vote, coming together at a meeting. In such circumstances it is a

requirement that all members shall indicate their prior approval in writing of both the procedure and the proposed decision.

§ 19 Executive Committee – responsibilities

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the Association's interests and shall decide on every matter relating to the Association's activities except those which are under the exclusive competence of the General Assembly.

The Executive Committee shall appoint the staff of the Association and shall determine the terms of their employment.

§ 20 Auditors

Two Auditors and one Substitute Auditor shall be elected by the General Assembly. Their term of office is two years.

§ 21 Nominations Committee

A Nominations Committee, consisting of between three and five members, shall be elected by the General Assembly. Their term of office is two years. One of the members so elected shall be appointed the Chairperson by the Assembly.

All nominations have to be forwarded to the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee not later than sixteen weeks prior to the commencement date of the electing General Assembly.

The Nominations Committee shall submit to the General Assembly a proposal for the election of the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, the Recording Secretary, the Assessors and the Auditors.

§ 22 Amendments

This Constitution can only be amended by the General Assembly if the agenda specifying the proposed amendment(s) is sent to the Members at least eight weeks in advance of the commencement date of the Assembly.

Any amendment of this Constitution can only be decided by a General Assembly which is attended by at least two thirds of the Members eligible to vote. If such an Assembly is not quorate, the President, or in his/her absence the Vice President, or in their absence another member of the Executive Committee shall summon another meeting with the same agenda within three months giving a minimum notice of six weeks to all Members. This new General Assembly is quorate regardless of the number of Members present. The summons must include information relating to this absolute quorum.

Any amendment to this Constitution requires a three quarters majority of the total votes (including abstentions) given.

§ 23 Dissolution

The dissolution of the Association can only be effected in accordance with the conditions in § 22.

In case of the dissolution of the Association or of the abolition of the Aims and Objectives of the Association, all property and finances of the Association are consigned to the World Alliance of YMCAs for use in future development of YMCA work in Europe.

The Constitution was approved by the General Assembly of 15 May 1981.

The Constitution has been amended by the General Assemblies of 30 May 1987, 25 May 1990, 29 May 1992, 17 May 1996, 20 May 1998, 13 May 1999 and 25 May 2001.