

« FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN PROGRESSIVE STUDIES »
- abbreviated to 'FEPS'
European Political Foundation (EUPF)
1000 Brussels, 40 rue Montoyer.

Brussels State Register number : 0896.230.213

Constitution : following the act received by the Notary Michel Cornelis, in Anderlecht, November 13, 2007, published in the Moniteur Belge on March 17, 2008 under the number 08041733

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3rd amendment: following the act received by the Notary Jean-Pierre Marchant, in Uccle, June 28, 2017, filed for publication in the Official Journal of the European Union on September 4, 2017.

CHAPTER I : GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 - Name and logo

1.1 A European Political Foundation is incorporated under the name of "Foundation for European progressive studies" below also referred to as "FEPS", its abbreviated form in English.

1.2 This name may be translated into all the languages spoken in the European Union. Both the full name and its abbreviated form in the English language may be used interchangeably.

1.3 The association shall use as a logo

FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES
FONDATION EUROPÉENNE
D'ÉTUDES PROGRESSISTES



1.4 All acts, invoices, advertisements, publications and other documents emanating from the FEPS shall mention its name, full or abbreviated, preceded or followed immediately by the

words "European Political Foundation" or the abbreviation "EUPF", as well as the address of the FEPS headquarters and the association's logo.

1.5 The FEPS shall be governed by titles III and IIIquater of the Belgian law of June 27, 1921 concerning non-profit organisations, foundations, European political parties and the European political foundations as well as by the regulation 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of October 22, 2014 on the statutes and funding of European political parties and European political foundations.

Article 2 - Headquarters

2.1 The FEPS headquarters shall be located at 40, Rue Montoyer, 1000 Brussels, in the judicial district of Brussels.

2.2 They may be transferred to any other place within Belgium by decision of the General Assembly acting by a highly qualified majority, in accordance with the procedure laid down for the amendment of the statutes. The decision shall be published in the appendices of the Moniteur Belge.

Article 3 – Duration

The FEPS is established for an unlimited period.

Article 4 – Purpose and goals

4.1 The FEPS is the European Political Foundation affiliated to the Party of European Socialists (PES)

4.2 The FEPS shall have for objective the development of research, information and training in the areas of political, social, legal and economic science, and especially in the European and international dimensions of these disciplines.

4.3 The FEPS may perform all activities related directly or indirectly to these goals but may not engage in industrial or commercial operations and may not seek to provide its members with a material gain.

In General, it may not seek to make a profit.

4.4 It may:

- produce studies on specific political topics,
- organise conferences, seminars and workshops,
- publish and distribute publications promoting the work of the FEPS,
- organise training.

4.5 The FEPS shall pursue goals of international utility in accordance with the principles on which the European Union is founded, namely the principles of liberty, equality, solidarity, democracy, human dignity, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities as well as the rule of law. The FEPS shall have for objective to contribute to the development of progressive thinking and strengthen the ideas of Socialists, Social Democrats, Labour and Progressive Democrats, both within the European Union and within Europe as a whole.

CHAPTER II : MEMBERSHIP

Article 5 - Criteria for the admission of members, membership categories and rights and obligations of members

5.1 The FEPS shall be composed of full and advisory members and entities legally constituted according to the laws and customs of their countries of origin. The FEPS shall consist of at least three members. If a member has no legal status according to the laws and customs of his/her country of origin, he/she shall designate a natural person who shall act in the name and on behalf of all the members of the Member, as a common agent.

5.2 Full members shall have the right to take part in the meetings of the General Assembly, to assert their opinion and to vote. Advisory members shall have the right to take part in the meetings of the General Assembly, to assert their opinion but they shall not have the right to vote.

5.3 Full members of the FEPS shall be national political foundations, progressive movement "think tanks" and those close to the European Socialist Party and its members.

Organisations that are full members of the European Socialist Party shall be full members of the FEPS.

The European Socialist Party shall represent full member parties of the European Socialist Party in the FEPS.

5.4. All parties and organizations that comply with the political objectives of the FEPS specified under Article 4.4 of the present Statutes, may become advisory members of the FEPS .

5.5. All members of the FEPS shall accept and respect the statutes and, where appropriate, the internal regulations.

5.6 Without prejudice to articles 3 §2 and 11 of the law of May 2, 2002, full and advisory members shall not contract, as such, any personal obligation relative to the commitments of the FEPS.

5.7. Full members shall be required to pay their annual membership fees.

Article 6 – Register of members

A record containing an up-to-date list of all full and advisory members of the FEPS shall be kept at the FEPS headquarters. Full and advisory members shall have the right to have access to the register at the FEPS headquarters.

ARTICLE 7 - Admission of members

7.1 Any application to become a full or advisory member shall be sent to the Secretary General, accompanied by all necessary documents demonstrating that the candidate meets the conditions of eligibility. The Secretary General shall submit the application to the next General Assembly.

7.2. The General Assembly, after having checked whether or not the application fulfills the eligibility conditions, shall decide by a two-thirds majority vote. The decision of the General Assembly to admit a candidate or not shall be final and the General Assembly shall not be required to justify its decision.

Article 8 – Resignation and exclusion of members

8.1 Any full or advisory member may resign from the FEPS by addressing a letter in the name of the natural person legally representing the member, to the Secretary General who shall inform the Bureau and the next General Assembly. The resignation shall be effective immediately.

- Any member may be excluded for each of the following reasons:
 - failure to comply with the statutes or the internal regulations,
 - no longer meets the conditions for eligibility as a member,

The exclusion shall be decided by the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority vote. The exclusion shall take effect immediately. A resigning or excluded member shall have no right to claim on the assets of the FEPS.

- **The General Assembly shall have the right to exclude members who have not paid their membership fees.**

CHAPTER III – BODIES

Article 9

The bodies of the FEPS are:

- The General Assembly,
- The Bureau,
- The Scientific Board

CHAPTER IV – GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 10 – Composition and authority

10.1 The General Assembly shall be composed of all the full and advisory members of the FEPS. The members of the Bureau and of the Scientific Board shall be members of the General Assembly without the right to vote. Third parties may be invited by the Bureau to take part in the meetings of the General Assembly without the right to vote.

10.2 The General Assembly reserves the following powers :

- the election the President,
- the election of the Vice President (a maximum of 5), one of which will chair the Scientific Board and a second will act as Treasurer.
- the election, dismissal and discharge of the members of the Bureau,
- the election and the dismissal of the members of the Scientific Board,
- the adoption of an annual framework program,
- amendments to the statutes, the dissolution and the liquidation of the FEPS,
- approval of the accounts, the annual report and the budget,
- the amount of the membership fee,
- the admission and dismissal of the members,
- annual confirmation of membership.

10.3 Each full member shall be represented at the general assembly by up to two delegates, the composition of the delegation must be gender balanced.

10.4 Each full member may authorize another full member to vote on his behalf by proxy at the General Assembly; no full member may hold more than two proxies.

Article 11 – Meetings

11.1 The Annual General Assembly shall be held each calendar year and shall be convened by the President.

11.2 The agenda of the General Assembly, which serves as convocation, shall incorporate all points that have been forwarded by the Bureau or which have been suggested by at least 1/3 of its full members at least 10 days prior to the General Assembly. It shall contain the place, date and time of the General Assembly. The agenda shall be sent to all members, by letter, fax or electronic mail, at least 15 calendar days before the date of the General Assembly.

11.3. An Extraordinary General Assembly may be convened by the President or at the request of at least 1/3 of the members of the Bureau or at the request of at least 1/3 of all full members.

Article 12 – Decisions

12.1 The decisions of the Bureau shall be valid if at least one third of its full members are present. If this quorum is not reached, a new meeting of the General Assembly shall be convened at the earliest 15 calendar days after the first meeting. The decisions of the second meeting of the General Assembly shall be valid, whatever the number present.

12.2 Each delegate to the General Assembly shall have the right to one vote. Unless otherwise provided in the present statutes, decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by a simple majority of the votes.

12.3 Decisions taken by the General Assembly shall be recorded in minutes. The minutes shall be approved at the next Bureau meeting and signed by the President and the Secretary General. The minutes shall include an attendance list for the meeting. The minutes of all meetings shall be sent to all members and shall be kept in a register at the disposal of the members at the FEPS headquarters.

CHAPTER V – Bureau

Article 13 – Composition and authority

13.1 The Bureau shall be composed of the following members having a right to vote:

- ex officio members :

- the President of the FEPS, the Vice- Presidents and the Secretary General of the FEPS,
- the following ex-officio members (or their representatives) : the President or the Secretary General of the ESP, the President or the Secretary General of the S & D Group at the European Parliament, the President or the Secretary General of the Socialist Group at the European Committee of the Regions, the President or the Secretary General of YES, the President of the Women's' ESP;

- members elected by the General Assembly :

- 5 members chosen among the national political foundations and think-tanks that are full members of the FEPS.

13.2. Among the elected members of the Bureau, both sexes shall be represented (minimum of 40%).

The Bureau shall moreover be composed of members from at least a quarter of the member states of the European Union.

13.3 The members of the Bureau shall be elected for a term of one year, which shall expire at the closure of the following General Assembly. The members of the Bureau may be re-elected.

13.4 The Bureau reserves the following powers :

- decisions on the political strategy of the FEPS between General Assemblies,
- decisions concerning research programs
- the appointment of the Secretary General
- the approval of and the amendments to the internal regulations,
- the interpretation of the statutes and the internal regulations,
- the appointment of the external auditor
- the preparation of the accounts and the annual report.

Article 14 – Meetings

14.1 The Bureau shall be convened at least three times a year and whenever necessary in the interests of the FEPS.

14.2 Bureau meetings shall be convened by the President or at the request of 1/3 of the Bureau members.

14.3 The Bureau's agenda, which shall serve as convocation, shall include the place, date and time of the meeting. It shall be sent to all members of the Bureau, by letter, fax or electronic mail, at least eight calendar days before the date of the meeting.

14.4 The Bureau's meetings shall be chaired by the President or in his/her absence, by a Vice-President or another Member of the Bureau designated by the President.

Article 15 – Decisions

15.1 The decisions of the Bureau shall be valid if at least half of the members are present or represented. If this quorum is not reached, a new meeting shall be convened no earlier than eight calendar days after the first meeting. The decisions of the second Bureau meeting shall be valid irrespective of the number of Bureau members present

15.2 Each member of the Bureau shall have one vote. A member of the Bureau may not vote by proxy for another member of the Bureau. Decisions of the Bureau shall be taken by majority vote.

15.3 Decisions of the Bureau shall be recorded in minutes. The minutes shall be approved at the next Bureau meeting and shall be signed by the person chairing that meeting and by the Secretary General. The minutes shall include an attendance list for the meeting. The minutes of all meetings shall be sent to all members of the FEPS and shall be kept in a register at the disposal of the members at the FEPS headquarters.

Article 16 - Daily management: Secretary General

On the advice of the President, the Bureau shall appoint and revoke a Secretary General who shall be delegated responsibility for the day-to-day management and ensure the implementation of the decisions taken by the FEPS.

CHAPTER VI – SCIENTIFIC BOARD

Article 17 – Composition and Authority

17.1 The Scientific Board shall be composed of natural persons or legal entities elected by the General Assembly, regardless of whether they are members of the FEPS or not. Members of the Scientific Board shall be national political foundations or their representatives, think-tanks or their representatives, academics and other intellectuals.

17.2 The General Assembly shall seek a balanced representation of the two sexes within the Scientific Board.

17.3 Members of the Scientific Board shall be elected for a period of one year, terminating at the closure of the following General Assembly. They may be re-elected.

17.4 The Scientific Board shall be responsible for the scientific activity of the FEPS. It shall discuss programs, conduct research and respond to any scientific questions from the General Assembly or the Bureau.

Article 18 – Meetings

18.1 The Scientific Board shall meet at least twice a year.

18.2 Meetings of the Scientific Board shall be convened by the President or by the Bureau.

18.3 The agenda of the meeting, which shall serve as a convocation, shall contain the place, date and time of the meeting. It shall be sent to all members of the Scientific Board by letter, fax or e-mail at least eight calendar days before the date of the meeting.

18.4 Meetings shall be chaired by the President or, in his / her absence, by a Vice-President or a member of the Bureau designated for this purpose by the President.

Article 19 – The decisions of the Scientific Board

19.1 Each member of the Scientific Board shall have one vote. A member of the Scientific Board may not vote by proxy for another member. Decisions of the Scientific Board shall be taken by majority vote.

19.2 The decisions of the Scientific Board shall be recorded in minutes. The minutes shall be approved at the next meeting and signed by the person who chairs this meeting and by the Secretary General. The minutes shall include an attendance list for the meeting. The minutes of the meetings shall be sent to all the members of the FEPS and shall be kept in a register at the disposal of the members at the FEPS headquarters.

CHAPTER VIII – FINANCE

Article 20 – Finance of the FEPS

Funding for the FEPS is provided by:

- the general budget of the European Union
- membership fees paid by full members
- fees paid by members or by other organisations or individuals,
- donations,
- any other authorised form of finance

Article 21 – The financial year

The financial year shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

Article 22 – Accounts

The Bureau shall prepare the annual accounts at the end of each financial year. The Treasurer shall emit the annual report on behalf of the Bureau, justifying the accounts and management of the FEPS. The accounts, the annual report and the report of the statutory auditors shall be presented to the General Assembly for approval.

Article 23 - Auditing

The audit of the financial situation, the annual accounts and the verification that the operations described in the annual accounts comply with the law, the statutes and the regulations of the European Union shall be entrusted to one or more Commissioners appointed by the Bureau from among the members of the Belgian Institute of Auditors.

CHAPTER IX – REPRESENTATION AND LIMITED LIABILITY

Article 24 – Representation of the FEPS

24.1. The FEPS shall be validly represented in all its actions, including in court, either by the President or by any other agent acting within the limits of his / her mandate.

24.2. The Secretary General may validly represent the FEPS individually in all acts of daily management, including legal proceedings.

Article 25 – Limited liability

25.1. The members of the FEPS, the members of the Bureau and the persons in charge of the day-to-day management shall not be personally bound by the obligations of the FEPS.

25.2. The responsibility of the members of the Bureau or persons entrusted with the day-to-day management of the FEPS shall be limited to the proper execution of their mandate.

CHAPTER X – AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES, DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION

Article 26

26.1. Any proposal to amend the statutes and to dissolve the FEPS shall be submitted by the Bureau or at the suggestion of one third of the full members. Draft amendments to the statutes shall be sent to the members together with the agenda of the General Assembly.

26.2. A quorum of at least two-thirds of the full members shall be required for decisions relating to amendments to the statutes or the dissolution of the FEPS. If this quorum is not reached, a new General Assembly meeting shall be convened at least 15 calendar days after the first meeting. The decisions taken at the second meeting of the General Assembly shall be valid irrespective of the number of full members present.

26.3. All decisions relating to an amendment to the statutes and the dissolution of the FEPS shall require a majority of two-thirds of the votes. They shall be submitted to the Department of Justice and published in the appendices of the Moniteur Belge.

26.4. Should the FEPS be dissolved, 80% of the net assets of the association after liquidation shall be attributed to the European Parliament and 20% to members holding full membership at the date of liquidation, providing that the latter pursue non-profit-making aims and allocate the thereby obtained assets to non-profit-making ends.

CHAPTER XI – FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 27

The statutes shall be drawn up in French and in English. The French version shall be the official version of the statutes and shall prevail.

Article 28

All that is not regulated by the statutes shall be regulated by law and by regulation 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and by the Council on October 22, 2014 with regard to the statutes and finance of European political parties and European political foundations.