

Statutes of EUFORES A.I.S.B.L. (international non-profit-making organisation)
European Forum for Renewable Energy Sources
Forum Européen des Energies Renouvelables
(EUFORES)

PART I. – Name, registered office and duration

Art. 1. The organisation is an international non-profit-making organisation, called the European Forum for Renewable Energy Sources, le Forum Européen des Energies Renouvelables. The acronym in all languages is EUFORES. It is governed by the provisions of Part III of the Belgian law dated 27th June 1921 on non-profit-making organisations, international non-profit-making organisations and foundations.

Art. 2. The organisation's registered office is located at 63-65 rue d'Arlon, 1040 Brussels. Any change of address of the organisation's registered office shall have to be published in the schedules of the Moniteur Belge.

Art. 3. EUFORES has been set up for an unlimited duration.

PART II. – Purpose and activities

Art. 4. The aims of EUFORES as non-profit-making organisation are:

- Promotion of renewable energy sources in the European Union as a key solution as regards sustainable development. EUFORES also acknowledges the importance of energy efficiency and its link with renewable energy sources.
- Improvement of renewable energy and energy efficiency policies at European, national and regional levels.
- Support of members of European, national and regional parliaments in their policy work in those areas.
- Development, management, and maintenance of a network between members of the European Parliament and members of the parliaments of European Union Member States.
- Development, management, maintenance and promotion of a strong and active group of members of the European Parliament.
- Creation of links between the parliamentary network and external partners where necessary and promising and creation of effective communication and cooperation channels (network-in and network-out).
- Enhancement of the European policy-development process through the integration of members of national parliaments in the initial phases of the process (from implementation to agenda-setting and policy making).

The organisation shall meet its aims by means of activities in the following scope:

- By organising exchanges between members of parliaments and (inter-)parliamentary meetings, working groups, conferences and other events.
- By keeping members of parliament in the European Union informed regarding current developments in the area of renewable energy sources.
- By facilitating exchanges between the parliamentary network and international, European, national and regional institutions and organisations.

- By cooperating with institutions and organisations at an international, European, national, regional and local level.
- By initiating, coordinating and taking part in studies and projects on scientific, technological, sociological, legal and political matters.
- By publishing and disseminating information.
- By engaging in all other activities which could further the aims of EUFORES.

PART III. – Membership, entry and cessation of membership

Art. 5. EUFORES' members fall into the following categories:

Full members:

- a) Members of parliament: members of the European Parliament and members of national and regional parliaments in the European Union.
- b) Honorary Presidents and honorary members: former Presidents of EUFORES can be appointed Honorary Presidents by the General Assembly.
The Board of Presidents can appoint honorary members. The latter are to be natural persons who contribute – through their capacity, their independence or their activities – to the development of the organisation and to fulfilment of the latter's aims as set forth in article 4.

Supporting members:

- c) Members who are not members of a parliament or who are members of parliament in non-EU countries:
These members can be natural persons or legal entities who/which support the development of renewable energy sources and the aims of EUFORES.

Art. 6. Applications to join the organisation must be submitted to the Secretary-General. In their application, legal entities must state the name of the person who will represent them. The Board of Presidents reserves the right to reject an application for membership.

Art. 7. A member's membership ceases when it, he or she resigns from the organisation, is expelled therefrom, or dies (in the case of a legal entity, when it is liquidated). Resignations shall take place at the end of a calendar year; they must be sent in writing to the Secretary-General of the organisation and must be received by the latter before 1st October. Members can only be expelled by the General Assembly voting to do so by a two-thirds majority of the votes of members there present or represented. A member can be deemed to have resigned should that member not pay the membership fee due from it, him or her, within two months of a reminder being sent.

PART IV. – Membership fees

Art. 8. Membership fees are to be paid within two weeks of a request for payment being sent. For members who join up to 30th September, a membership fee for the full year must be paid. If a member joins after, no membership fee is due in respect of the rest of that year.

Art. 9. Members in categories a) and c) as set forth in art. 5 shall pay an annual membership fee. The amount thereof and the particulars thereof are set forth in the internal rules and regulations.

PART V. – The General Assembly (the organisation's main decision-making body)

Art. 10. EUFORES shall be run by the General Assembly of members, governed by the Board of Presidents, managed by the Secretary-General and advised by the Advisory Committee.

Art. 11. A resolution of the General Assembly is in particular required as regards:

- a) Approval of the annual activity report submitted by the Board of Presidents;
- b) Approval of budgets and accounts and reports by accredited external auditors;
- c) Discharge to be granted to the President and to the Vice-Presidents;
- d) Appointments and removals of the President and of the two Vice-Presidents;
- e) Changes to the statutes of and the liquidation of EUFORES;
- f) Expulsion of a member;
- g) Resolutions in all of the cases in which the organisation's statutes or legislation make it mandatory.

Art. 12. Ordinary general assemblies shall be held at least once in each calendar year. Extraordinary general assemblies can be held at any time on foot of a decision made by the Board of Presidents or when the holders of at least one-fifth of voting rights request in writing that such an assembly shall be held. In the latter case, the Secretary-General must call an extraordinary general assembly within two months following receipt of the request by the members. General assemblies shall be held in places decided by the Board of Presidents.

Art. 13. General assemblies are called by the Board of Presidents by means of an ordinary letter sent via the post office, by fax, by email or delivered by hand, at least fourteen days before the date of the assembly. Members are responsible for notifying any change in their contact details to the EUFORES secretariat as soon as possible. The invitation to attend shall contain the agenda of the assembly. If the General Assembly is to approve the activity report, the annual accounts for the previous year and the budget for the next one, these documents shall be attached to the invitation to attend.

Any proposal which has been signed by the holders of at least one-twentieth of the voting rights of members shall be put on the agenda.

Art. 14. A member can have himself/herself represented at a general assembly by another member who also has a voting right. The former may have himself/herself represented by another member who/which bears a duly-signed written power of attorney, provided that the former has notified the Secretary-General thereof in writing at any time up to and including the day before the day on which the General Assembly is to be held.

Art. 15. The General Assembly is made up of all the full members. It is chaired by the President of the Board of Presidents or, should the latter be unable to attend, by a President designated to that end by the Board of Presidents.

Supporting members may attend general assemblies unless the Board of Presidents decides otherwise. At general assemblies, supporting members only have the right to speak in an advisory capacity, to the exclusion of a voting right.

Art. 16. At the General Assembly, full members have equal individual voting rights.

Art. 17. Resolutions are taken by means of a simple majority voting system, in relation to the members who/ are present or represented at assemblies, unless it is set forth otherwise in legislation or in the present statutes. Voting shall take place by means of a secret ballot should a full member or the statutes so decide or set forth. Should a vote be tied, the vote of the President or of the Vice-President acting in the former's capacity shall be the deciding factor.

Art. 18. The assembly may only validly make resolutions regarding points listed in the agenda.

Art. 19. The Secretary-General shall draw up minutes of the General Assembly, which are signed by the Secretary-General and by the President. They are sent to all the members of EUFORES within a period of six weeks following the General Assembly.

PART VI. – *The Board of Presidents (the organisation's administration body)*

Art. 20. The Board of Presidents manages the affairs of the organisation and represents it in all legal and extrajudicial affairs. All the powers which are not expressly assigned to the General Assembly by virtue of the law or of the organisation's statutes fall within the jurisdiction of the Board of Presidents. The Board of Presidents is made up of a President and two Vice-Presidents. All the members of the Board of Presidents shall be members of EUFORES and members of the European Parliament – at least at the time at which they are appointed.

Art. 21. The members of the Board of Presidents are appointed by the General Assembly using a simple majority voting system in relation to the members who are present or represented at such assemblies. Voting takes place by means of a secret ballot. Presidents shall be elected no later than eighteen months after European Parliament elections, and also at the General Assembly which takes place immediately subsequently to the midterm of the legislative period of the European Parliament. The maximum term of office of Presidents is four years, and outgoing President and the Vice-Presidents can be re-elected.

Art. 22. Members of the Board of Presidents are removed by the General Assembly using a simple majority voting system, in relation to the members present and represented at such assemblies. Voting takes place by means of a secret ballot. In such cases, the General Assembly shall replace the member of the Board of Presidents who has been removed in accordance with the terms of art. 21, sub-paragraph 1.

Art. 23. The term of office of a member of the Board of Presidents also ends should he or she resign or die. In such cases the remaining members of the Board of Presidents shall appoint a temporary member to the Board of Presidents. The definitive successor shall be appointed – in accordance with the terms of art. 21, sub-paragraph 1 – at the General Assembly which follows the temporary appointment.

Art. 24. The Board of Presidents takes decisions using a simple majority voting system. Each of its members has one (1) vote.

Art. 25. Meetings of the Board of Presidents can be called by the President or by the Secretary-General, the latter acting on the orders of the former. The Board of Presidents shall meet at least four times a year, and shall also meet when the President deems it necessary, or if two members of the Board require it. Honorary Presidents shall be invited to attend meetings. They do not have voting rights at such meetings.

Art. 26. Presidents do not receive remuneration for carrying out their duties. However expenses incurred during the course of their duties may be reimbursed to them by EUFORES.

Art. 27. The Board of Presidents can delegate part of its powers to one or more Presidents or to third parties.

In such cases, the scope of the powers of the person or persons representing it shall be stipulated, as shall the period for which the said powers are delegated.

Art. 28. The Board of Presidents appoints the Secretary-General, who shall attend the meetings of the former.

Art. 29. Unless stipulated otherwise in the minutes of the Board of Presidents, a President may validly sign acts which have been validly approved by the Board without having to produce a document outlining the corresponding decision made by the Board of Presidents. Consequently, the organisation shall be represented in all acts, including those involving public civil servants, members of certain professions (e.g. bailiffs, notary publics, stockbrokers, etc.) whose members are officially appointed, or court officers.

- Either by a President, acting alone, who does not have to produce evidence of a prior resolution by the Board of Presidents in relation to third parties, and the latter includes the honourable Chief Registrars of Mortgage Registries.

- Or, solely in the context of the organisation's day-to-day operations, by the Secretary-General, acting alone, or by any person to whom powers have been delegated in this respect by the Board of Presidents, within the scope of the powers which are delegated thereto.

Furthermore, the organisation is validly bound by the actions of special representatives who act within the scope of the powers that have been delegated to them.

Part VII. – The Advisory Committee

Art. 30. The Advisory Committee shall exchange ideas and views with the Board of Presidents regarding policy developments and strategies in the area of renewable energy sources, and also regarding EUFORES' options in relation to strategy and operations.

Art. 31. Any supporting member may act as a member of the Advisory Committee if he/she/it is resident/has its registered office in the European Union and if he/she/it meets the requirements set out in EUFORES' internal rules and regulations.

Art. 32. The Advisory Committee shall hold a meeting with the Board of Presidents at least three times a year.

Part VIII. – The Secretary-General

Art. 33. The Secretary-General is in charge of the day-to-day operations of the organisation and represents the latter in relation to the said operations. He or she shall also carry out the following duties:

- a) Prepare, under the supervision of the Board of Presidents, an annual work programme and an annual budget;
- b) Manage EUFORES' administration and finances and each year submit a financial report and an activity report to the Board of Presidents;
- c) Assist the Presidents at meetings of the General Assembly, at meetings of the Board of Presidents and at meetings between the Advisory Committee and the Board of Presidents;
- d) Represent the President of EUFORES, at his or her request, at internal EUFORES meetings and as regards his or her external activities;
- e) And, in general, carry out all the specific tasks and specific assignments assigned to him or her by the Board of Presidents.

Part IX. – Changes to statutes, liquidation

Art. 34. No changes may be adopted unless a two-thirds majority of the votes of members present or represented at general assemblies is forthcoming.

However, changes regarding the organisation's purpose and activities (art. 4), with a view to which the organisation was set up, can only be adopted should a four-fifths majority of the votes of members present or represented be forthcoming.

Art. 35. The General Assembly may only validly pass a resolution regarding the liquidation of the organisation should at least a majority of the full members of the organisation take part in the assembly, whether the latter be present or represented thereat.

The General Assembly may only validly pass a resolution taken regarding the liquidation of the organisation should a four-fifths majority of the votes of members present or represented thereat be forthcoming.

If a majority of the full members are not present or represented at the initial assembly, a second assembly may be called which may validly pass a resolution, regardless of the number of members present or represented thereat, and come to a decision regarding a proposal to wind up the organisation. The second assembly may not be held less than two weeks after the first assembly. A decision regarding winding up the organisation may only be taken if the majority provided for in sub-paragraph 2 is forthcoming.

If it is decided to wind up the organisation, the General Assembly shall appoint the liquidator or liquidators, shall determine the powers of the latter, and shall indicate how EUFORES' net assets are to be employed, given that the legal entity or the legal entities to which shall be assigned the organisation's net assets after liquidation shall be non-profit-making entities and shall have to work towards goals similar to those of EUFORES.

Part X. – Miscellaneous provisions

Art. 36. The President of EUFORES shall submit to ordinary general assemblies a report by accredited external auditors on the accounts for the previous year.

Art. 37. The organisation's internal rules and regulations shall be drawn up by the Board of Presidents. The internal rules and regulations must be sent to members upon request.

Art. 38. The organisation's operating period begins on the 1st of January and ends on the 31st of December.

Art. 39. Anything not expressly provided for in the present statutes, notably the particulars regarding publication in the *Moniteur Belge*, shall be governed by the terms of Part III of the Belgian law dated 27th June 1921 on non-profit-making organisations, international non-profit-making organisations and foundations.