

FECRIS statutes

Amended version of the statutes (except the Official Name and Purpose) of 15/05/2015 (Marseilles)

TITLE I

CONSTITUTION-PURPOSE-REGISTERED OFFICE-NEUTRALITY

Article 1: OFFICIAL NAME

A non-profit association with declared international scope and governed by the French Law of 1 July 1901 and the French Decree of 16 July 1901 is established in Paris, under number 1127 and bearing the official name of: FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES CENTRES DE RECHERCHE ET D'INFORMATION SUR LE SECTARISME (F.E.C.R.I.S.) (English equivalent: *European Federation of Centres of Research and Information on Cults and Sects*), hereinafter referred to as the "Federation".

Article 2: PURPOSE

To bring together representative associations whose goal it is to defend individuals, families and democratic societies against the illegal machinations of organisations of a harmful sectarian and/or totalitarian nature. For this purpose, the Federation designates as a sect (or cult) or guru any organisation or individual trading in creeds and destabilizing behavioural techniques and using tools such as mind manipulation, abuse of trust, absence of consent.

To intensify the systematic exchange of information and experiences between the member associations, in particular at the request of one of them.

To represent the member associations vis-à-vis the European institutions; to alert the competent bodies and institutions in EU countries, and possibly in non-EU ones, to any of the practices mentioned above.

To encourage universities and researchers in general to conduct work in this field, providing them with the experience of member associations in this matter; to develop a full range of services promoting the association's goals, in particular concerning the publication of such research work.

To archive the documentation for which the Federation owns the copyright.

Article 3: REGISTERED OFFICE

The Federation's registered office is 26A, Rue Espérandieu, 13001 Marseilles, France. It may be relocated elsewhere by decision of the Board, subsequently ratified by the General Assembly.

Article 4: FECRIS' NEUTRALITY AND ETHICS

The Federation's work is not carried out at religious or political levels, as the Federation wishes to perform its work in complete independence; it requires that its members provide proof of the same neutrality.

The Federation's member associations carry out their work using their own resources and in strict compliance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, European and national legislation, in accordance with the human rights' declarations listed above.

The Federation may represent the interests of a member association or provide it with assistance before a national or European court and, in the same vein, may support an initiative of a member association vis-à-vis an individual State.

TITLE II

COMPOSITION AND RESSOURCES

Article 5: MEMBERS

The Federation is made up of:

- founding associations, i.e. founding members
- associations with the same goals which joined the founding members to become full members with the same rights and obligations as the founding members
- correspondent associations, whether natural or legal persons
- honorary members, whether natural or legal persons

All founding or full members must be legal entities in their respective countries.

Members and correspondent associations must inform the Federation's Board of any change in their statutes and/or in the composition of their boards. They present their activity report once a year.

Are called "Correspondent associations" the associations or natural persons pursuing the same objectives and having the same ethics as members, but not yet fulfilling the conditions to become members.

They have a consultative role and have no voting rights.

They pay a reduced membership fee set annually by the General Assembly.

Article 6: ADMISSION OF CORRESPONDENT ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERS

New members and correspondent associations shall submit their applications to the Board at the latest one month before the next General Assembly, allowing them to be checked for conformity. The General Assembly will then decide on whether these associations are to be approved.

The admission of correspondent associations, natural or legal persons, must be sponsored by a member association.

Associations wishing to become members must be sponsored by two member associations. They must first acquire the status of a correspondent for one year after which they will have to apply for admission as a member by favourable decision of 75 % of votes of the General Assembly.

Legal or natural persons may be appointed as honorary members by the General Assembly on a majority vote by virtue of their merits and the services they have rendered to the Federation (they will only have a consultative role).

Correspondent associations and members must comply with certain formalities specified in the internal rules of procedure.

Article 7: LOSS OF MEMBER OR CORRESPONDENT STATUS

Member status is lost by:

- resignation, subject to two months' notice and to the member having fulfilled his financial obligations for the period up to when his resignation takes effect
- Expulsion by the Board for non-payment of membership fees despite reminder(s) (exception: an agreement reached with the Board). Should it prove impossible to contact the non-paying member or correspondent association, the absence of any communication with FECRIS management for a period of more than 2 years shall be considered as a resignation.
- A serious reason, such as a breach of these statutes, or the amendment of a member's statutes in a way making them incompatible with those of the Federation, or for any deed or behaviour detrimental to the Federation's reputation.
- Member and Correspondent associations must inform the Board of any change of their statutes or the composition of their Board; similarly, they must present an activity report each year. Failure to do so may be considered as a criterion for loss of member or correspondent status.
- In the case of any projected exclusion, the Federation's President shall communicate the possibility thereof to the legal or natural person (whether a member or correspondent association) in question three months in advance, explicitly stating the grounds for exclusion. On the basis of the response provided, the Board shall rule on the exclusion. In the case of its deciding in favour of exclusion, this will need to be ratified in the next General Assembly by a majority of the votes cast. The Board decision suspends all the rights of the member or correspondent association in anticipation of General Assembly ratification. The latter makes the exclusion final. A member ceasing to belong to the Federation loses its entitlement to the social fund.

Article 8: RESOURCES

The Federations resources consist of membership fees, grants, donations and gratuities paid in accordance with legal provisions.

TITLE III

ADMINISTRATION AND FUNCTIONING

Article 9: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A General Assembly takes place at least once a year.

All Federation members must receive a convening notice at least thirty days in advance, issued by the Secretary General at the request of the President. Only full members are entitled to vote.

The convening notice must be sent out three months in advance when the statutes are to be amended, in the case of any exclusion of a member, or dissolution. The agenda shall be included in the convening notice.

The founding or active members will be represented at general meetings and other meetings of FECRIS by the person of their association they have designated. Each representative of an active member association cannot hold more than one proxy at meetings.

The General Assembly may only validly deliberate on items listed in the agenda sent out together with the convening notice. Resolutions are taken by a simple majority (except in specific cases listed in these statutes) of votes cast by attending or represented members. In the case of a tie vote, the President has the casting vote.

The President, assisted by Board members, chairs the meeting and reports on the association's situation and activities.

The Treasurer reports on his work and submits the annual accounts (balance sheet, profit and loss statement and any appendices) for approval by the General Assembly. The General Assembly sets the annual membership fees to be paid by the different membership categories.

The General Assembly elects the Board members for a 3-year term of office by majority vote, via a secret ballot unless a vote by show of hands is requested by one of the members and accepted by all members. Candidates for Board posts must declare their candidacy at least 15 days before the General Assembly and must detail their objectives.

Elected Board members then elect the Bureau: this is made up of the President, possible Vice-Presidents (optional), the Secretary-General and the Treasurer in accordance with the modalities set forth in the Article concerning the Board.

The new President, assisted by the Board, then continues with the General Assembly agenda. In the case of an amendment to the statutes or dissolution, a two-thirds majority of votes cast in the General Assembly is required.

The General Assembly has the following powers, namely

- to set the annual membership fee
- to amend the statutes
- to appoint and dismiss directors
- to approve budgets and the annual accounts, to admit new members and correspondent associations
- to exclude a member or correspondent association
- to dissolve the Federation.

In urgent cases and with the prior consent of the majority of members, a ballot may be held by e-mail or fax, except when amending the statutes or dissolving the Federation. Outside experts may be invited to the General Assembly by member associations subject to the President's prior consent. General Assembly resolutions are binding for all members, even when not attending or represented.

ARTICLE 10: EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

An Extraordinary General Assembly may be convened under the same conditions as an Ordinary General Assembly when needed or at the request of a majority of Board members or of founding and full members.

In the case of the Extraordinary General Assembly not achieving a quorum of half of the founding or full members (whether present or represented), a new Extraordinary General Assembly shall be similarly convened within 15 days. The latter shall validly and definitively rule on the motions in question, independent of the number of members present or represented, by a majority of votes cast.

Article 11: BOARD (OF DIRECTORS)

The Federation is managed by a Board made up of a maximum of 12 members. Members are elected for a 3-year term of office by the General Assembly on the proposal of member associations. The Board is made up of a President, a Secretary-general and a Treasurer who form the Bureau and a number of other directors who, apart from their advisory responsibility, take on various tasks. The CA may also optionally appoint one or two Vice-presidents.

The General Assembly will ensure that, wherever possible, the Board best reflects the multinational representation of the Federation. Applicants to the Board must be members of correspondent or member associations represented in FECRIS, but a maximum of three directors will be selected from members of the Scientific Committee, which is empowered by the CA.

This Council is the governing body, the executive organ of decisions of the General Assembly to which it reports once a year. It manages current affairs and ensures the smooth functioning of the Federation. It is the think tank for proposal, action and decision.

Minutes must be taken of all meetings. These are to be signed by the President and the Secretary-General or the Treasurer.

The Board meets at least once a year prior to the Annual General Assembly. Meetings are convened by the President or at the request of three of its members. In the cases of a vacancy, and where necessary, the Board may provisionally arrange for a replacement. Definitive replacement takes place at the next General Assembly. The powers of the members elected in such a way end with the expiry of the mandate of the replaced members.

Decisions are taken by majority vote; in the case of a tie vote, the President has the casting vote. Any Board member not attending three consecutive meetings without an excuse will be considered dismissed. The functions of President and Treasurer cannot be exercised by one and the same person. All decisions are taken by a show of hands, with the exception of the election of Board members - unless a vote by show of hands is requested by one of its members and accepted by all.

Board members may not represent more than one other absent member.

External experts may be invited to Board meetings by member associations and a Board member subject to prior consent by the President.

Article 12: ROLE OF DIRECTORS

The President represents the Federation in all civil affairs, and especially in legal affairs. He informs the Board which then mandates him to institute any legal proceedings as plaintiff or defence.

In no case may the Federation be held responsible for the activities, writings and declarations of the associations under its umbrella.

Only the President, in agreement with the Board of the Federation, may enter into a commitment on behalf of the latter. The vice-Presidents represent FECRIS solely on an *ad hoc* basis and for specific missions defined by the President.

The Secretary-General is responsible for communications between the association's various bodies, from the President to the members. He keeps records of all decisions taken by the various bodies. He may take over ad hoc tasks assigned to him by the President.

The Treasurer, under the supervision of the President, is responsible for financial issues, applications for grants, possible sponsorship deals and certain administrative tasks. He has access to and can execute all financial transactions involving the association's bank account.

Article 13: ACCOUNTS

The association's financial year generally closes on 31 December of each year, unless a specific necessity arises where the President decides otherwise in agreement with the Board.

The Board must submit the accounts of the closed financial year and the provisional budget for the coming financial year to the General Assembly for approval. Board members shall not receive any remuneration for their work, though

may be reimbursed for their expenses subject to the President consent.

Article 14: AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

Any motion aimed at amending the statutes or the dissolution of the Federation must come from the Board. The Board must inform Federation members at least three months in advance of the date of the General Assembly which will take a decision on any such motion.

For a resolution to be valid, half of the founding and full members must be present or represented. No resolution will be passed when not supported by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast. However, should the General Assembly not achieve a quorum of two-thirds of its founding and full members, a new General Assembly will be convened under the same conditions as stated above within 15 days. The latter shall definitively and validly rule on the motion in question, regardless of how many members are present.

Amendments to the statutes or the dissolution of the Federation shall only take effect after publication in the Official Gazette.

TITLE IV DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article 15: DISSOLUTION

In the case of dissolution, one or more liquidators will be appointed by the General Assembly, and the assets of the Federation, where applicable, shall be awarded, in accordance to Article 9 of the Law of 1 July 1901 and the Decree of 16 August 1901, to an association with a similar purpose.

Article 16: GENERAL PROVISIONS

The Federation shall issue internal rules of procedure.

Documents concerning the Federation's functioning may be consulted by members at the Federation's registered office.

Anything not provided for in these statutes is governed by legal provisions. In the case of any dispute, the competent court is that of the Federation's registered office.

Date :will take effect on date of official registration

Secretary-General

President