

## STATUTES OF THE CHARTER OF EUROPEAN RURAL COMMUNITIES

### NAME AND HEADQUARTERS

#### Article 1

1. The association is named: Charter of European Rural Communities.
2. It has its headquarters at the municipality of CISSÉ (France).

#### Article 2

1. The objective of the association is to:
  - a. promote the cooperation and communication among the inhabitants of the Member States of the European Union;
  - b. Inform the citizens about the customs and lifestyles of other countries of the EU;
  - c. Enable the inhabitants of the Charter to launch joint projects.
2. The Charter will reach those objectives by:
  - a. organising meetings of the network where all members are represented with a delegation;
  - b. calling up thematic conferences where members can participate;
  - c. setting up common projects related to the priorities of the European Union;
  - d. stimulating bilateral contacts among individuals and groups.

### DURATION

#### Article 3

1. The association is envisaged for an unlimited duration.
2. The financial year of the association is the calendar year, under condition that the first financial year starts with the foundation (and ends on the thirty-first of December the following year).

### MEMBERS

#### Article 4

1. The charter should try to have one member from each member state of the European Union.
2. The members are the municipalities or their representatives in a foundation "Friends of Europe" who are registered in writing as members to the Presidium and are accepted by the members' Mayors' Meeting. This is manifested by a signed declaration of that municipality.

#### Article 5

1. The membership finishes:
  - a. by member's cancellation;
  - b. by association's cancellation;
  - c. by dismissal.
2. Cancellation of membership by the member itself is only possible at the end of a financial year. It is made in writing to the administration with at least four weeks notice.
3. Cancellation of membership on behalf of the union can be fulfilled at the end of the running financial year and by the Presidium:
  - a. when on the first of November a member, after being ordered in writing several times, did not meet his financial obligations in that financial year to the association;

- b. when a member has ceased requirements of membership, as stated at that time in statutes and regulations.
4. Cancellation is always made in writing, stating the reasons of cancellation.
5. Deprivation of membership can be expressed when a member acts opposable to the statutes, regulations or decisions of the association or when a member harms the union in a senseless manner. This is made by the Presidium which informs the member of the decision by stating the reasons, as quickly as possible.
6. When membership ends in the course of a financial year, the annual contribution remains indebted by the member, unless the Presidium decides otherwise.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### Article 6

Every member owes an annual contribution. The sum of the contribution is fixed by the members' Mayors' Meeting.

## PRESIDIUM

### Article 7

1. The Presidium includes at least five and at most <sup>nine</sup> eight persons, respectively being representatives of five to eight different members.
2. Cissé, the French member of Charter will always be part of the Presidium, since the Charter has been founded there.
3. The president is elected to office at the members' Mayors' Meeting.
4. The president is assisted by an employee of his community who is appointed to the secretary.
5. The Presidium elects among its members a vice-president who is appointed to the management of finances.
6. The Presidium elects among its members a second vice-president.
7. When the president is absent for a long period, the vice-president takes responsibility for the tasks of the president. The second vice-president takes responsibility then for the tasks of the vice-president.
8. When the vice-president is away for a long period, the second vice-president takes responsibility for his tasks.
9. The members' Mayors' Meeting fixes the number of members of the Presidium.
10. The members of the Presidium are named for a period of four years at longest. One year is specified as period between two successive annual member's Mayor's Meetings. The members of the Presidium tender their resignation following a procedure established by the Presidium itself. A member of the Presidium who is resigning according to the procedure is immediately eligible again.
11. If the number of members of the Presidium is less than the minimum stated in Article 7, Paragraph 1, the Presidium remains however operational. The Presidium calls a members' Mayors' Meeting as soon as possible where appointment to the vacant post is addressed.
12. In assemblies and in decision-making processes of the Presidium, Articles 10 to 13 of the statutes are in effect.

### Article 8

1. The Presidium is, with the preliminary agreement of the members' Mayor's Meeting, competent to decide to sign contracts of acquisitions, abalienation or encumbrance of property of register and to sign contracts where the association is involved as deposit or united co-customer in credit, takes cognizance of a third part or gets involved in a guaranteed debt of other people.

2. The Presidium represents the union.
3. The competence of presentation belongs to the president and vice-president(s).

## **MEMBERS' MAYORS' MEETING**

### Article 9

Members' Mayors' Meetings take place in the community where the union is established statutorily, or in another community or country as specified by the Presidium.

### Article 10

1. All members, as well as those who are invited by the Presidium and/or by the members' Mayors' Meeting, have access to this assembly. A suspended member has access to the assembly where the decision of suspension is made and is permitted to take the floor.
2. Except for a suspended member, every present member has one single vote in members' Mayors' Meeting.
3. An unanimous decision of all members who have the right to vote, even when they are not together in an assembly, has the same authority as a decision of the members' Mayors' Meeting, provided that it is taken with the knowledge of the Presidium. This decision can also be made writing.
4. The president presides over the manner of voting in members' Mayors' Meetings.
5. All decisions, on which there is no written requirement for majority by law or by these statutes, are made by an absolute majority of issued votes. A hung vote on any issue is postponed. As for the people, with parity of votes fate decides. On elections between more than two members that do not result in an absolute majority, voting is repeated between the two members with the biggest number of votes, if necessary after an intermediate vote.

### Article 11

1. Members' Mayors' Meetings are chaired by the president or in his /her absence by the vice-president. If no member of the Presidium is present, the assembly appoints a chairperson.
2. Minutes of speeches of members' Mayors' Meeting will be written by the secretary or by a person appointed by the president. These minutes will be accepted in writing during the same Mayors' Meeting, or as quickly as possible after meeting, and is witnessed and signed by the president and the vice-president of the meeting.

### Article 12

1. The financial year of the association is the same as the calendar year. Every year at least one Members' Mayors' Meeting takes place within less than six months after the end of the financial year, except for continuation of this term by Member' Mayors' Meeting. In this Mayors' Meetings, the Presidium presents its annual report on the procedure of the association and on its strategy.  
It presents the balance sheet for approval and the condition of incomes and expenditures with an explanatory text in the Members' Mayors' Meeting. These documents are signed by the members of the Presidium; when a signature is missing of one or more persons, it is recorded stating the reasons. At the end of term every member has the right in law to ensure the collective managers execute their obligations.
2. If, regarding the precedent article, a statement of a certified public accountant as read in article 2.393 indent 1 of the Civil Code is not produced, Members' Mayors' Meeting appoints each year a commission of at least two members who cannot be part of the Presidium.

3. To the commission, the Presidium is required to present all demanded information for their review, to present the treasury and stocks and to provide the books and documents of the Mayors' Meeting.
4. The commission examines documents named in Article 12, Paragraphs 1 and 3.
5. When according to the commission examination requires further specific accounting expertise, assistance can be provided by an expert at the expense of the union. The commission makes a report of its results in the Members' Mayors' Meeting.

#### Article 13

1. Members' Mayors' Meetings are called by the Presidium as often as it considers it desirable or is obliged by virtue of law.
2. In the written request of at least a tenth of members who have the right to vote, the Presidium is obliged to call Members' Mayors' Meeting, taking place in less than four weeks after the presentation of request. If, within fourteen days, they do not follow up the request, the applicants can undertake the convocation of Members' Mayors' Meeting such as fixed in Article 13, Paragraph 3 or by an announcement in, at least, one popular newspaper. Then the applicants invite persons other than members of the Presidium to preside the Mayors' Meeting and to write down the minutes.
3. The call up of Members' Mayors' Meeting is made by communication written to the voters in a period of at least seven days. The agenda is listed in the invitation.

### **MODIFICATION OF THE STATUTES**

#### Article 14

1. The modification of statutes can be made only by a decision of Members' Mayors' Meeting, in which they are notified that they will offer a modification of statutes.
2. Those who make a proposal in Members' Mayors' Meeting for a modification of statutes are obliged to provide an exact copy of this proposal to the members for their examination at least five days before the day of the meeting, submit it for inspection in an appropriate location, till the end of the day when the meeting took place.
3. Members' Mayors' Meeting can only decide to modify the statutes with a majority of at least two thirds of issued votes.
4. The modification of statutes comes into force only after a public notary deed is made. Each of the members of the committee is competent to get the act of modification of statutes.
5. Article 14, Paragraphs 1 and 2 is not applicable if in the Members' Mayors' Meeting all those who have the right to vote are present or represented and if the decision of modification of statutes is made with the unanimity of votes.
6. The members of the Presidium have the obligation to give evidence in the offices of the register of the Chamber of Commerce, a genuine copy of the act of the modification of statutes and an entire and permanent text of statutes, such as they are formulated after modification.

### **DISOLUTION AND PAYMENT OF DEBT**

#### Article 15

1. Article 14, Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 5, is applicable in accordance with a decision of Members' Mayors' Meeting for the dissolution of the association.
2. The Members' Mayors' Meeting decides the manner of the decision heard in the previous paragraph, for credit balance, and having into account, as much as possible, the objective of the association.
3. The settlement is fulfilled by the Presidium.

4. After dissolution the association continues as long as necessary for the settlement of its property. During the settlement the articles of statutes remain in force as long as possible. The documents and announcements which emanate from the association must show the words "in liquidation" beside its name.
5. The settlement finishes at the moment when there are no more benefits known by the liquidator.
6. The books and documents of the dissolved association must be kept for ten years after the settlement. The documentor is the one, who as such, is pointed out by the liquidators.

## REGULATIONS

### Article 16


1. Members' Mayors' Meeting can fix and change one or more regulations, in which topics are regulated that are not or not completely regulated in these statutes.
2. Regulations cannot be made up with dispositions opposite to law or these statutes.
3. Decisions with fixing and modification of regulations are applicable in accordance with what is stated in Article 14, Paragraphs 1, 2 and 5.

## FINAL CLAUSE

### Article 17

In the association all competences, which are not given to other organs by law or statutes, return to the Members' Mayors' Meeting.

The President



DI Karl Grammanitsch

Charter of European Rural Communities  
Occurred changes in the Presidium of the Charter.

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In accordance with the dispositions of Article 5 of the law of July 1st, 1901 and Article 3 of its implementing decree of August 16th, 1901, during the meeting of the members of the Charter of European Rural Communities from the 25<sup>th</sup> till the 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2013 in SAMUEL (Portugal), and the head office which is in the Town hall of Cissé 86170, 2, rue du Plat d'Etain (FRANCE), which was declared on July 23rd, 1991 under N°8805, following modifications were made:

### STATUTES:

They have been changed; the text is appended to the present statement.

### COMPOSITION OF THE PRESIDIUUM :

#### President:

GRAMMANITSCH DI Karl  
Born on 18-08-1954 in Vienna (Austria)  
Austrian nationality  
Residing: See 2/8  
2291 LASSEE (A)  
(Mayor of Lasse)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice president:  
 FLACHBARTOVA Judr. Valéria  
 Born on 23-05-1955 in Kosice (Slovakia)  
 Slovakian nationality  
 Residing: 133 Stoska  
 04425 MEDZEV (SK)  
 (Mayor of Medzev)
  
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice president, Treasurer:  
 PEDROSA Teresa Margarida Vaz  
 Born on 25-08-1974 in Sé Nova, Coimbra  
 Portugese nationality  
 Residing: Rua Serradas de S. João, No 1  
 3130 119 SAMUEL (PT)  
 (Mayor of Samuel)
  
- Verifiers of the accounts:  
 MAJERUS Lucien  
 Born on 21-02-1945 in Pétange (Grand duchy of Luxemburg)  
 Luxembourgian nationality  
 Residing: 3 rue Josy Conrad  
 9908 TROISVIERGES (L)  
 (Former Mayor of Troisvierges)  
  
 SAVIN Annette  
 Born on 19-07-1946 in Poitiers (France)  
 French nationality  
 Residing: 6 route de furigny  
 86170 CISSE (F)  
 (Mayor of Cissé)
  
- Active members:  
 JOHNSEN Jette  
 Born on 24-10-1946 in Odense (Denmark)  
 Danish nationality  
 Residing: Oskarsvej 12  
 4700 NAESTVED (DK)  
 (International consultant at the city hall of Naestved)
  
- Treasurer:  
 Frank Holle  
 Born on 22-04-1968 in Bremen (Germany)  
 German nationality  
 Residing: Hepstedter Straße 9  
 27412 TARMSTEDT (D)  
 (Mayor of Tarmstedt)