



EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF
SCIENCE FILM

STATUTE of the European Academy of Science Film

August 2015

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§ 1. Name, Domicile and Field of Activity

- (1) The name of the Association is „European Academy of Science Film – Verein zur Förderung des wissenschaftlichen Films“.
- (2) The Organization is headquartered and registered in Austria at the following address: A-2103, Propst-Peitzl-Str. 54. The academy operates in Austria and other European countries.

§ 2. Objectives

- (1) Preamble

The “European Academy of Science Film” is an association with the aim of promoting and supporting science films and science film festivals throughout Europe. The academy pursues exclusively and directly non-profit-making objectives. The academy acts selflessly and does not primarily pursue its own business interests. Funds of the academy may only be used for purposes in accordance with its statutes. Funds of the academy are raised primarily through its members’ fees, sponsors, public contributions as well as monetary and non-monetary benefits. The members do not receive financial contributions from means of the academy. The organs act honorary and free of charge and are fully responsible for the earmarked usage of the funds.

- (2) The objectives of the Academy are:

- a. den Europäischen Wissenschaftsfilmpreis zu verleihen. To strengthen the European Science Film in its importance.
- b. To form political policy positions and statements dealing with science communication and support their representation throughout Europe.
- c. To promote a European network of science communicators, filmmakers, film producers and festival organizers in Europe.
- d. To promote and continue exchange of experiences between members.
- e. To co-operate with other organizations on both national and international levels
- f. To encourage the provision of science films for an interested audience including pupils, teachers, students and scientists.
- g. To award the European science film prize.

§ 3. Activities for Accomplishing the Aims of the Academy

- (1) The aims of the EURASF shall be reached by ideal and material means, as mentioned in paragraph 2 and 3.
- (2) Ideal means shall be:
 - a. To organize and execute public symposiums, events and courses on topics dealing with science communication.
 - b. To prepare and organize the awarding of the European Science Film Prize.
- (3) The required financial resources shall be raised through:
 - a. Membership fees
 - b. Public support
 - c. Cultural sponsorship

§ 4. Types of Membership

- (1) EURASF shall consist of ordinary, extraordinary, honorary and supporting members.
- (2) Ordinary members are those who contribute fully to the activities of the academy. Persons who support the activities of the academy especially by paying an increased membership fee may become supporting members. Honorary membership may be conferred on all persons distinguished by special services undertaken for the benefit of EURASF. Extraordinary members are those who support the academy and identify themselves with its aims but do not satisfy the criteria for ordinary members. The status of honourable member recognises special merits for the academy.

§ 5. Joining the Academy

- (1) Ordinary Members of the academy are all founding members, as well as members, who apply for membership. All Persons who were awarded or nominated for a European Science Film Prize are eligible without further requirements and will become members after the entrance of the application.

The request for ordinary membership may be filed by all citizens of a European country, who operate in one of the sections, named in the appendix (see appendix 3). Usually it is required, that the applicant had worked professionally at least twice in one of these sections.
- (2) The board of the academy shall decide on the admission of ordinary, extraordinary and supporting members. Admission may be declined without statement of reasons.
- (3) Before the official constitution of the academy, preliminary memberships are granted by the proponents. These memberships are valid only after the constitution of the academy.
- (4) Honorary membership shall be conferred by the General Assembly of Members upon request of the Board.

§ 6. Cancellation of Membership

- (1) Membership is cancelled by death (or in the case of legal persons by loss of civil status as a legal person), by voluntarily retirement of a member or by exclusion.
- (2) The board must be informed in writing about the intention to terminate membership. Termination of membership is valid when the board received the written notice.
- (3) The board may exclude a member if this member has – after two reminders (in writing or per e-mail to the e-mail address communicated to the academy) and the granting of a reasonable period for settling – not paid the membership fee due after six months. Exclusion does not exonerate the required payment of arrears.
- (4) The board may also exclude members because of gross neglect of membership duties or because of dishonourable behaviour.
- (5) Removal of honourable membership status may be agreed by the General Assembly for reasons listed in paragraph 4 following an application by the board.

§ 7. Rights and Duties of Members

- (1) Members shall be entitled to participate in all events of the academy and to use the facilities of the academy. Each ordinary and honourable member have active and passive voting rights in the General Assembly.
- (2) It is the duty of all members to support the activities of the academy as much as possible and to refrain from any activities that may be detrimental to the aims and standing of the academy. Members shall be required to observe the Statutes and the decisions of the Organs of the academy. Ordinary members and extraordinary members are required to pay their membership contributions in due time and to the full amount as set by the General Assembly.

§ 8. Organs of the Academy

Organs of the academy are the General Assembly (see sections 9 and 10), the board (see sections 11 to 13), the Auditors (14) and the Arbitration Council (15).

§ 9. The General Assembly

- (1) The General Assembly is the assembly of members as defined in the „Vereinsgesetz 2002“ (Austrian Act on Association 2002). It comprises all members. Ordinary General Assemblies shall be held once each year.
- (2) Extraordinary General Assemblies must be convened within four weeks if the board decides accordingly, or if at least one tenth of the ordinary members demands in writing that such an extraordinary meeting be convened, specifying the requested subjects for discussion, or if the Auditors demand that such an extraordinary meeting be convened.

- (3) To both ordinary and extraordinary General Assemblies all members are required to receive a written invitation per e-mail (to the e-mail address communicated to the academy) by the board at least two weeks beforehand. An agenda must be included.
- (4) Requests to the General Assembly of Members shall be submitted in writing or per e-mail to the board not later than three days before the meeting.
- (5) Decisions, with the exception of decisions to convene an extraordinary General Assembly, can only be made to items included in the agenda.
- (6) All members have the right to attend the General Assembly. Only ordinary and honorary members have voting rights. Every member has one vote. Voting rights may be transferred to another member by means of a written proxy.
- (7) The General Assembly is entitled to make decisions if at least one tenth of all members with voting rights are present. If this situation cannot be met, then the General Assembly is entitled to make decisions to the same agenda, but after a period of 30 minutes has elapsed.
- (8) Elections and decisions of the General Assembly generally require a single majority. Decisions altering the Statutes of the academy or its termination require a two thirds majority of all votes cast.
- (9) The General Assembly is chaired by the Chairperson of the board, in his/her absence by the Deputy Chairperson. Should the Deputy Chair also be absent, the oldest member of the board is given the responsibility of chairperson of the Assembly.

§ 10. Powers of the General Assembly of Members

The General Assembly of Members shall dispose of the following non-transferable powers:

- a. accepting the financial plan;
- b. acknowledgement of the annual report and the financial report;
- c. election, approval and dismissal of members of the board and the auditors;
- d. agreement to legal relationships between members of the academy and the auditors;
- e. formal approval of the board;
- f. setting the membership fees for ordinary and extraordinary members;
- g. granting and removing honourable memberships;
- h. making decisions on changes in statutes and termination of the academy;
- i. consultation and decision on any other items on the agenda.

§ 11. The Board

- (1) The board consists of six to twelve members and is comprised of the chairman and his/her deputy, a cashier and his/her deputy, a secretary and his/her deputy and up to two further members.
- (2) The board is elected by the General Assembly. When a member of the board retires, the board has the right to co-opt another eligible member with retrospective approval by the following General Assembly. Should the board be unable to deal with this by co-option or is otherwise unable to act, the financial auditor must immediately convene an extraordinary General Assembly for the election of a new board. Should the financial auditor be unable to act or is not available, any ordinary member who is aware of the situation has the duty to apply for a curator at a respective court of law. The curator then has to convene the General Assembly.
- (3) The board is elected for two years. Re-election is possible. Every position must be executed personally.
- (4) The board convenes at the initiative of the chairman. Should the chairman be unavailable meetings are initiated by the deputy or, if unavailable, by any other member of the board.
- (5) The board can make decisions if all board members have been invited and at least half of them are present.
- (6) board decisions require a single majority. If the vote is split, the chairman's vote is decisive.
- (7) The board is chaired by the chairman, in his/her absence by the deputy chairman. If the deputy chairman is also prevented, the oldest board member present or the board member elected by the other board members acts as the chairman.
- (8) The function of a board member terminates by death, after the normal term of duty (see paragraph 3), by dismissal (see paragraph 9) or resignation (see paragraph 10).
- (9) The General Assembly can dismiss the entire board or any of its members at any time. The dismissal becomes valid after election of a new board or board member respectively.
- (10) Board members can resign in writing at any time. The declaration of resignation is to be directed to the board, or in the case of the entire board resigning, to the General Assembly. Resignations are in force only after election or co-option of replacement(s) (see paragraph 2).

§ 12. Tasks of the Board

The board is the head of the academy. It is the "managing body" as defined in the „Vereinsgesetz 2002“ (Austrian Act on Association 2002). The board's tasks are those which these statutes do not attribute to any other organ of the academy. Specifically these are:

- (1) production of the financial plan, the board report and the financial report;
- (2) preparation of the General Assembly;
- (3) call of the ordinary or extraordinary General Assembly;
- (4) administration of the academy's assets;

- (5) admission and dismissal of ordinary, extraordinary and supporting members;
- (6) employment and dismissal of academy employees.

§ 13. Tasks of the Members of the Board

- (1) The chairman is in charge of the day-to-day management and operations of the organization. The Secretary supports the president in conducting the academy's business.
- (2) The chairman is the academy's representative. Written statements of the academy are only valid with the chairman's and the secretary's signature, in financial matters with the signature of the chairman and the treasurer. Legal relationships between members of the board and the academy have to be approved by a further member of the board.
- (3) Legal proxies to represent the academy in external affairs and signature rights may be given only by the officers mentioned in paragraph 2.
- (4) In emergency situations the chairman is entitled to act alone in matters usually confined to the General Assembly or the board; these actions must be endorsed by the respective organ of the academy retrospectively.
- (5) The chairman presides over both the General Assembly and the board.
- (6) The secretary keeps the minutes of the meetings of the General Assembly and the board.
- (7) The treasurer is responsible for the financial matters of the academy.
- (8) Whenever the chairman, the treasurer or the secretary is absent, their deputies can act in their case.

§ 14. Auditors

- (1) Two financial auditors are elected by the General Assembly for the duration of two years. Re-election is possible. The auditors must not be members of the board. The financial auditors may not be part of any body – with the exception of the General Assembly – whose activities are object of the audit.
- (2) The auditors are responsible for the continual supervision of the day to day business activity and audit the financial report. They submit their report to the General Assembly.
- (3) Legal acts between auditors and the academy need the approval of the General Assembly. Incidentally the auditors are subject to the regulations set down in section 11, paragraph 8 to 10.

§ 15. Arbitration

- (1) The internal arbitration panel of the academy is charged with settling all disputes arising in connection with the academy's affairs. It is an "arbitral institution" under the Act on Association of 2002 but is not an arbitration board under Section 577 ff of the Code of Civil Procedure (German acronym "ZPO, civil process order").
- (2) The arbitration panel shall be composed of three ordinary members of the academy. It shall be convened by having one party in dispute nominate one member as an arbitrator to the board in writing. After a request by the board issued within a period of seven days, the other party in dispute shall in its turn nominate one member of the arbitration panel within a period of 14 days. After being duly informed by the board within a period of seven days, the arbitrators nominated shall elect a third ordinary member within another period of 14 days to chair the arbitration panel. In case of a voting tie, lots shall be drawn to choose a chairperson among the nominees. The members of the arbitration panel may not be part of any body – with the exception of the General Assembly – whose activities are the object of the dispute.
- (3) The arbitration panel shall take its decision after hearing both parties in dispute in the presence of all its members and with a simple majority of votes. Its decisions shall be taken to the best of its knowledge and belief and shall be binding within the context of the academy.

§ 16. Dissolution of the Academy

- (1) The dissolution of the academy may only be decided by a General Assembly of Members. The quorum for resolutions shall be two thirds of the members present.
- (2) In case of dissolution, the General Assembly of Members shall decide on the disposal of the part of the property of the academy that remains after discharge of all liabilities. This property shall be conveyed to an organization with the same or a similar objective as EURASF or to a charitable organization.

Appendix 1

Regulation of membership fees of EURASF

- a. The board through a simple majority decides upon the amount of the membership dues.
- b. The fees shall be as low as possible to promote the growth of a powerful organization.
- c. The membership fees are the main source of finances of EURASF. They shall relate to the financial situation of the members and can alter in the amount as long as differences in purchasing power exist among the countries in Europe.
- d. Members from the countries belonging to the group „Centre“ and the group „East“, according Appendix 2 “List of Countries”, can assert a reduction of 50%.
- e. The board can decide on a further reduction for members form the countries belonging to the group „East“.
- f. The board decides on which country belongs to which group of the “List of Countries”.

Appendix 2

List of Countries

List of countries with access to EURASF

Gruppe WEST

- Norway
- Finland
- Sweden
- Denmark
- Scotland
- England and Wales
- Ireland
- Germany
- Netherlands
- Belgium
- Luxembourg
- France
- Austria
- Switzerland
- Italy
- Spain
- Portugal

17 countries

Gruppe CENTRE

- Poland
- Czechia
- Slovakia
- Hungary
- Slovenia
- Croatia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Yugoslavia
- Albania
- Macedonia
- Greece

11 countries

Gruppe EAST

- Russia
- Estonia
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Belarus
- Ukraine
- Moldova
- Romania
- Bulgaria

9 countries

TOTAL: 37 countries

Appendix 3

Membership ordered in occupational groups (Sections)

(1) Film & TV

- a. Science journalism – print (at least 2 years experience, 2 published work samples)
- b. Science journalism – TV (at least 2 film credits, opening or end titles)
- c. Science journalism – web (at least 2 years experience, 2 published work samples)
- d. Director science film – (at least 2 film credits, opening or end titles)
- e. Producer science film – (at least 2 film credits, opening or end titles)
- f. Editor science film – (at least 2 film credits, opening or end titles)
- g. Festival maker

(2) Science and Research

An academic degree and an occupation at a university facility or an academic institution is required.

- a. Doctoral candidate
- b. Ph.D. student
- c. Post-doc
- d. Professor
- e. Junior scientist/Researcher/Group leader
- f. Senior scientist/Researcher/Group leader