

**STATUTES OF F.I.D.E.**  
**(International Federation for European Law)**  
**International Non-Profit Association**  
**Brussels**

**Identification Number: 0408.293.982**

**Article 1 – Legal form – Name**

The association is incorporated as an international non-profit association in accordance with the Belgian Companies and Associations Code (the “CCA”).

The association bears the name “International Federation for European Law” (“FIDE”).

**Article 2 – Purpose**

The purpose of the association is to bring together national associations devoted to the study and development of the law and institutions of the European Union.

In particular, the purpose of the association consists of the following:

1. To promote the objectives of the member associations, in particular by organising common events and by encouraging contacts and exchange of information between them.
2. To bring together legal professionals who are interested in European Union Law and the laws of the European countries.
3. To study together the solutions to the legal problems which occur in all areas due to the evolution of the structures and institutions of the European Union.
4. To make aware the importance of these problems to all those interested.

To fulfil these aims, one of the main tasks for the association is to organise a congress every other year.

To achieve the purpose of the association, the association maintains a close cooperation with the Young European Lawyers network.

**Article 3 – Registered office**

The registered office of the association is situated in the Brussels’ Region. The Steering

Committee can transfer the registered office of the association to any other location within Belgium. Furthermore, the association may set up administrative offices in one or several other towns of its choice. At any rate, an administrative office shall exist at the headquarters of each national association.

#### **Article 4 – Duration**

The association is incorporated for an unlimited duration.

#### **Article 5 – Membership**

National associations, devoted to the study and development of the law and institutions of the European Union, in a Member State of the EU or the EFTA, a former Member State of the EU or the EFTA, or a state aspiring to become a Member State of the European Union or the EFTA can be admitted by the Steering Committee as member associations of the association, either as a full member, an associate member or an observer.

Each state mentioned in the first paragraph may only have one member association of FIDE. In case of multiple eligible associations within a state, the Steering Committee is empowered to select the eligible association.

##### **5.1 Full members**

National associations established for this purpose in a Member State of the EU may become full members of FIDE.

Full members have all the rights and obligations described in the CCA and these statutes. In that capacity, full members are not liable for the obligations of the association.

##### **5.2 Associate members**

National associations established for this purpose in a Member State of the EFTA, a former Member State of the EU or the EFTA or in a state aspiring to become a member of the EU or the EFTA, may become associate members.

These associate members shall have the same rights and obligations as full members, except that the FIDE congress may not be organized consecutively by an associate member. The FIDE congress may be organized consecutively by full members.

##### **5.3 Observers**

Other international or national associations, the activity of which is devoted principally to the study and development of the law and institutions of the European Union, may be admitted by the Steering Committee as observers of the association.

Observers have all the rights and obligations described in these statutes. In that capacity, observers are not liable for the obligations of the association.

### **Article 6 – Resignation – suspension – exclusion**

The member associations may cease to be members of the association, without putting an end to the association, where:

- a. The member associations resign from the association by means of a notification to the Presidency.
- b. There is a decision at a Steering Committee meeting of the association, declaring the exclusion of the member association for breach of the obligations of the present statutes.

A declaration of expulsion is only possible by the same majority voting as for changing the statutes, provided for in Article 15.

The president of the member association to be expelled should be convened before a Steering Committee meeting, by registered post or e-mail at least one month in advance.

### **Article 7 – Presidency – composition**

The Presidency is the administrative organ of the association in the meaning of article 10:9 of the CCA.

The association is managed by the Presidency, who is authorized to perform the following acts:

- the preparation of the meetings of the Steering Committee and drafting of its minutes;
- the preparation of the annual accounts and budget in order to submit these for approval to the Steering Committee;
- the organisation of the FIDE-congress;
- all other powers reserved to the Presidency pursuant to the statutes or, as the case may be, internal rules.

The Presidency is appointed by the Steering Committee for a period of 2 years. Its mandate expires at the end of the bi-annual congress that takes place during the second year after its appointment. The Presidency can be dismissed at any time by the Steering Committee.

In exceptional circumstances, the Steering Committee may decide to extend the period of the current Presidency.

The Presidency runs the Secretariat of the association at the registered office.

### **Article 8 – Steering committee – composition – competences**

The Steering Committee is the general meeting within the meaning of article 10:5 of the CCA and is composed of all member associations.

Each member association can grant a proxy to another member association to participate in the Steering Committee.

The following powers can only be exercised by the Steering Committee:

- to the extent required by the CCA, the appointment and dismissal of the statutory auditor and the determination of his remuneration
- the approval of the annual accounts and the annual budget
- the appointment and dismissal of the Presidency
- the discharge of duties to the Presidency and, where applicable, the statutory auditor
- the amendment of the statutes
- the admission of new member associations
- the dissolution of the association
- the exclusion of a member association
- the internal management that is necessary or useful to achieve the purpose of the association, with the exception of those activities for which, in accordance with the CCA and the statutes, the Presidency is exclusively authorized
- all other powers reserved to the Steering Committee pursuant to the CCA, the statutes or, as the case may be, internal rules

Every full member and associate member shall appoint, as its representatives, up to a maximum of three of its members at every reunion of the Steering Committee.

Observers may, according to the same conditions, appoint up to a maximum of three observing participants to the Steering Committee, who shall not have any voting rights.

#### **Article 9 – Steering Committee – meetings**

The Steering Committee shall meet at least once a year.

The annual Steering Committee shall be held at the registered office or at the place indicated in the convocation.

The Steering Committee is convened by the Presidency or at the request of five (5) member associations. The convocation can take place in any form and contains the agenda of the Steering Committee. It shall be sent to all member associations at least 15 days prior to the date of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee shall suggest subjects to be examined by the member association for the preparation of the FIDE-congresses.

In addition, the Steering Committee shall assist the Presidency in organising the FIDE-congress, and any other events.

It shall decide on the publications, and as a general rule take all decisions and initiatives in conformity with the interests of the association. The Reports of the FIDE-congresses shall, together with other relevant documents, be archived. As long and as far as possible, such archiving should be at the Historical Archives of the European Union, Florence, Italy.

### **Article 10 – Steering Committee – quorum and voting**

A third of the total number of full members and associate members must be present at a Steering Committee for its proceedings to be valid.

Decisions shall be taken by the majority of the full members and associate members either present or represented.

In the event that less than a third of the total number of full members and associate members are present or represented at the first meeting, a second meeting can be convened that can validly deliberate and decide, as well as accept the changes with the majority specified above, irrespective of the number of full members or associate members present or represented. The second meeting may not be held earlier than after a period of fifteen (15) days after the first meeting

Each full member and each associate member has one vote, regardless of the number of its representatives at the meeting.

In the event of a tie in the voting, the Presidency shall have the casting vote.

The Presidency may invite to the meetings of the Steering Committee all persons whose professional competence would be useful to its work and it may set up, with the support of such persons, study committees for a specific purpose. Such persons shall, however, not have voting rights.

The minutes of the meetings of the Steering Committee shall be entered into a special register; they shall be signed by the Presidency.

The Steering Committee can deliberate by video or telephone conference, as long as all participants are able to express themselves and are intelligible to all other participants.

### **Article 11 – Honorary members**

The Steering Committee may appoint as honorary members all such persons who have significantly contributed to the European Union or the association.

Honorary members may be invited to participate in a consultative capacity at the meetings of the Steering Committee.

### **Article 12 – Funding – membership fees**

The resources of the association shall be made up:

- 1) From contributions of the member associations; the membership fees shall be fixed by the Steering Committee on the proposal of the Presidency. For that purpose, starting from the 2020 membership fees, the membership fees will be cumulatively corrected for the EU-wide HICP inflation rate every five years. To ensure that increases in fees will

never threaten the functioning or survival of national associations, any association that fears that a correction for inflation could threaten its functioning or survival may indicate this to the Presidency of the association, who, where necessary in consultation with the Steering Committee, could decide to exempt such a national association from an increase for a certain period.

- 2) From subsidies granted, in order to enable the association to fulfil its objectives.

### **Article 13 – No personal liability**

The member associations and their members, as well as the Presidency, are in no circumstance responsible for the obligations incurred by the association.

The association alone shall be responsible for all resources.

### **Article 14 – Internal rules**

The Steering Committee or, within its powers, the Presidency, may supplement or further specify the statutes by means of internal rules. Such internal regulations shall be adopted with the ordinary quorum and majority requirements, unless the statutes prescribe otherwise. Provisions of the internal regulations that affect the rights of the members of the association, the competence of the association bodies or the organization and working method of the Steering Committee, must be approved by the Steering Committee in accordance with the attendance and majority requirements necessary for an amendment of the statutes.

The Presidency ensures that the internal regulations are brought to the attention of the members. The most recent version of the internal regulations dates from 3 November 2021. The Presidency may amend the reference in the statutes to the date of the most recent version of the internal rules as it sees fit.

### **Article 15 – Modification of the statutes**

The statutes can only be modified on the proposal of the Steering Committee or of at least a third of the total number of full members and associate members.

A proposal to modify the statutes must be submitted to the Steering Committee at least fifteen (15) days before the delegates of the Steering Committee are called to come to a decision.

The Steering Committee can only validly deliberate and decide on an amendment to the statutes if at least two thirds of the total number of full members and associate members are present or represented. An amendment of the statutes must be approved with a majority of two thirds of the votes cast by the full members and associate members present or represented. In the event that less than two thirds of the total number of full members and associate members are present or represented at the first meeting, a second meeting can be convened that can validly deliberate and decide, as well as accept the changes with the majority specified

above, irrespective of the number of full members or associate members present or represented. The second meeting may not be held earlier than after a period of fifteen (15) days after the first meeting.

By derogation to the preceding rules on the functioning of the Steering Committee, a Steering Committee meeting can be validly held by the Presidency or its proxyholder(s), in the presence of a notary, without any convening notice or quorum being required, in case a special meeting of the Steering Committee is required to adopt modifications to the statutes of the association which must be recorded in a notarial deed pursuant to applicable law, provided that these modifications have been previously approved by a Steering Committee convened and held in accordance with the functioning of an (extra)ordinary meeting of the Steering Committee.

#### **Article 16 – Dissolution and liquidation**

The delegates of the Steering Committee meeting called to reach a decision on the dissolution of the association are specially convened to that effect. The dissolution shall be decided by quorum and by majority voting as provided for in Article 15.

In the event of a voluntary or a forced dissolution, the delegates of the Steering Committee meeting shall appoint one or several representatives in charge of the liquidation of properties belonging to the association and the use of the disposable assets.

The liquidation is only final once the results of the liquidation have been submitted to a ratification by the association.

#### **Article 17 – Representation**

The Presidency represents the association in all acts. The association is also validly represented towards third parties by special proxy holders within the limits of their powers.

#### **Article 18 – Financial year**

The financial year of the association runs from 1 January to 31 December.

#### **Article 19 – Accounting – Budget and annual accounts**

Each year the Presidency shall draw up the annual accounts of the association and prepare the budget for revenues and expenses in respect of the following year in accordance with applicable provisions of the CCA.

The annual accounts and the budget are submitted to the Steering Committee for approval at the annual Steering Committee.



## **TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

The Presidency shall be, on behalf of the Steering Committee, in charge of fulfilling all formalities laid down by the law of the headquarters of the association.