



**European Federation of
Homeopathic Patients' Associations**



STATUTES

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I. Title, Headquarters, Aims

Article 1: Title

An international association pursuing a non-profit aim has been formed under the title of “*European Federation of Homeopathic Patients’ Associations - E.F.H.P.A.*”

This association is governed by the provision of Title III of the Belgian Law of 27th July 1921 as amended by the Law of 2nd May 2002 on the non-profit associations, the international non-profit associations and the foundations (articles 46.a and 57).

Article 2: Headquarters

At the founding of EFHPA the headquarters of the association were located at: 1050 Brussels Clos du cheval d'argent 9.

The headquarters may be moved anywhere in Europe by ordinary decision of the Council and be published in the “Annexes du Moniteur Belge”.

Article 3: Aim

The association is entirely an international non-profit making association with the following aims:

- to bring together European associations of patients using homeopathic medicine and of patients using alternative and complementary medicine provided homeopathy is included in their aim;
- to defend the rights and interests of homeopathic patients living within Europe;
- to promote and defend the quality of the science of medical homeopathy with the European authorities;
- to defend the practice of homeopathy within medicine with the European authorities;
- to assist all the people it represents in their local activities;
- to promote the harmonisation of the practice of homeopathy in Europe;
- to promote the integration of homeopathy in European healthcare;
- to represent both individuals, as well as local, regional and national organisations throughout Europe which share the same aims.

The association works to achieve its aims by defending the interests of patients of the European Union using homeopathic medicine in collaboration with private European organisations pursuing the same or similar aims.

It will carry out the necessary steps with the European authorities who have decision-making power in the field of homeopathic medicine, the free exercise and free establishment of homeopathic practitioners in the European Union and the registration of Homeopathic remedies.

II. Membership

Article 4: Admission to membership

1. The association is opened to Belgians and other nationalities.
The members of the association are organisations having legal right of existence and activity in their country of residence. Individuals can be admitted as associate members without voting rights.
2. Admission of new members is governed by the following conditions:
 - a. Application must be made to the Council.
 - b. Applicants must submit a copy of their statutes with an English translation of the articles concerning their aims, their membership and a list of their activities as well as the postal address of their headquarters, phone and fax number and e-mail address.

Article 5: Resignation and Exclusion of members

1. Members are free to resign from the association at any time by sending their written resignation to the Council.
2. Exclusion of members from the association can be proposed by the Council to the General Assembly. Exclusion must be voted by the latter with at least a two-thirds majority of the votes either present or represented.

The member whose exclusion is being considered must have the opportunity to defend him/herself in the General Assembly.

A member who ceases to belong to the association loses any financial rights with regard to the association.

Article 6: Resources

Every other year, the General Assembly decides the amount of the membership fee for the two forthcoming years. This cannot exceed the maximum of 1.000 €.

III. The General Assembly

Article 7: General Assembly

The General Assembly is fully empowered to accomplish the aims of the federation. All full members have voting rights.

The following activities are expressly reserved as powers of the General Assembly:

- a. Admission and exclusion of members,
- b. Approval of budgets and accounts,
- c. Decisions on funding of the Federation
- d. Election and dismissal of Council Members,
- e. Amendment of statutes or by-laws of the Federation,
- f. Dissolution of the Federation.

The general assembly consists of all full-members, that is to say the organisations having legal right of existence and activity and acting in the countries which are registered and admitted as such.

Only full-members have a full vote. Each member has one vote. Associate members can attend the general assembly with an advisory vote.

Article 8: Frequency of meetings

The General Assembly rightfully meets under the chairmanship of the President of the Council (it can appoint another member of the Council to the chair) every other year at the venue indicated on the notification.

Notice of the meeting is given by the Secretary of the Council and is sent out at least 2 months prior to the meeting and contains the agenda for the meeting. Proposals for the agenda must be submitted to the council 3 months prior to the meeting.

An Extraordinary General Assembly may be called at any time by the President of the Council or at the request of 1/3 of the full members acting jointly. However, such a request is only valid if it is made in writing, signed by all the applicants and is accompanied by a definite and precise objective for the proposed extraordinary general meeting.

The members will be convened to the General Assembly by a letter signed by the secretary which will be sent at least one month before the date of the meeting. This call for a meeting will contain the agenda.

Each year, the Council will approve the accounts of the past financial year and will put to vote before the General Assembly the accounts of the two past financial years.

Article 9: Voting

Each member may be represented by proxy at a General Assembly. However, if a country is represented by more than one association, these have to agree between each other to cast but one vote.

Each member is only permitted to represent by proxy up to three other full members. The General Assembly requires a quorum of 50 percent of the members either present or represented. Should a General Assembly meeting not be quorate, a new meeting of the General Assembly is called for the same reasons, and this meeting may validly proceed whatever the numbers of members present or represented.

Article 10: Decisions

Excluding the exceptions provided for in these statutes, decisions are taken by a majority vote of full members either present or represented, and these decisions are communicated to the membership as a whole.

Only items on the agenda will be debated.

Each country has one vote. If one country is represented by more than one association, these must agree between themselves to cast the vote for this country.

Decisions of the General Assembly are recorded in the minutes and signed by the President, Secretary and Treasurer. The minutes are held by the Secretary and are available to all members.

The minute book will be kept by the Secretary.

IV. Amendments to the Statutes/By-laws – Dissolution

Article 11:

Any proposal to amend the statutes or by-laws or to dissolve the Federation must come from the Council or from at least 50 percent of the full membership of the Federation.

The Council must give at least three months' notice to the membership of a General Assembly that is to deliberate such a proposal. Such a General Assembly is only quorate if at least two thirds of the full members with voting rights are present or represented.

No decision can be made without at least a two-third majority of votes.

If the meeting does not have a quorum of two thirds of the full membership, then a new meeting will be called for the same purpose, which will be quorate regardless of the number of members either present or represented.

Any amendments to the statutes will only take effect after being submitted to the Minister of Justice of the Kingdom of Belgium and having been published to the "Annexes du Moniteur belge"

The General Assembly will decide the method of dissolution and liquidation of the association.

The potential credit balance after liquidation will have to be assigned to a non-profit aim.

V. Administration

Article 12: Council

The association is governed by a Council comprising at least 3 and at most 25 members. Members of the Council are elected by the General Assembly and have a tenure of office of four years, which is renewable.

Members of the Council can be removed by a two-third majority vote of members either present or represented at a General Assembly meeting.

Article 13: Officers

The Council will elect from their midst the following Officers: A President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

It may also elect a Vice-President and any other members in charge of a special office as defined by the by-laws.

Article 14: Meetings

The Council will meet at least once a year or a special meeting will be called if an Officer has been asked for such a meeting by another member of the Council.

The dates of meeting must be circulated at least 30 days before the date of the proposed meeting. A Council member may be represented by proxy by another Council member, but any Council member may only represent one other Council member by proxy.

The Council may only proceed providing there is a quorum of 50 percent of members present or represented.

Each member of the Council can call a meeting. The Secretary will send notice of the meeting with the agenda to the members of the Council one month prior to the meeting.

Article 15: Powers

The Council has full enabling powers other than those specifically reserved for the General Assembly.

It may delegate daily management to its President or to another member of Council or to another person who has been proposed. Moreover, it can confer special enabling powers to other or several persons.

Article 16: Voting – Minutes

The decisions of the Council are taken by a majority vote of those Council members either present or represented. In the event of equality of voting the President has a casting vote.

The decisions are recorded in the minute book, signed by the President and the Secretary and the minutes are held by the Secretary who will make them available to the membership of the association.

The minute book will be kept by the Secretary.

Article 17: Actions

Any actions in which the association becomes engaged shall be signed by three Council members, who shall not be required to prove to any third party the powers conferred on them for this end.

Article 18: Legal actions

Any legal actions, whether as plaintiff or defendant, will be dealt with by the Council represented by the President, or another Council member whom the Council shall appoint for the purpose.

VI. Budgets and Accounts

Article 19:

The financial year ends on the 31st December. The Council must submit the accounts for the year just ended and the budget for the forthcoming two years for the approval of the General Assembly.

VII. General Measures

Article 20:

Anything that is not covered by the present statutes and notably any applications made to the Belgian Administration will be settled in accordance with the letters of the law.

The founders are:

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