

# **Statutes of the association Asatru Europe Network e. V. i. Gr.**

## **§ 1 Name and seat of the association, accounting year**

- 1) The Association shall bear the name Asatru Europe Network. After its foundation, it shall be registered in the register of associations and shall then be given the suffix "e. V.".
- 2) The association has its registered office in Cologne (Köln).
- 3) The financial year corresponds to the calendar year.

## **§ 2 Purpose of the association and its fulfilment**

- 1) The purpose of the Association is the promotion of art and culture, general education and public recognition in the field of Germanic and Scandinavian pagan traditions, hereinafter referred to as "Asatru". Furthermore, it promotes tolerance and international understanding in general.
- 2) The purpose of the Association is realised in particular by
  - a) the exchange of knowledge, skills, beliefs and religious practices in the field of Asatru
  - b) the mutual promotion and cooperation of inclusive Asatru organisations, groups and individuals in direct personal exchange as well as through exchange at organisational level in Europe and beyond
  - c) solidarity and cooperation in the planning and realisation of common goals, events and projects
  - d) the active mutual support of faiths and religious practices at European and international level
- 3) The document "Mission Statement" (written in English) is an extended description of the purposes of the association. It is an integral part of the Articles of Association and may only be amended by an ordinary General Assembly with a majority of three quarters.

## **§ 3 Mode of operation of the association**

- 1) The association is a non-profit organisation; it does not primarily pursue its own economic goals. It pursues exclusively and directly charitable purposes within the meaning of the German Tax Code as amended.
- 2) All activities are based on the commitment of all members to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the organisation's mission statement.
- 3) Members of extremist organisations of any orientation as well as members of racist and xenophobic organisations may not become members of the association. The association rejects any extremist endeavours.
- 4) The Association only accepts as members persons, groups and organisations that are committed to these principles.

#### **§ 4 Utilisation of the association's funds**

- 1) The Association's funds may only be used for statutory purposes. In their capacity as members, its members shall not receive any shares in the Association's assets or benefits from these funds.
- 2) No one may be favoured by the reimbursement of costs that do not correspond to the statutory purposes and activities of the Association.
- 3) The honorary members of the Executive Board may claim expense allowances for their activities, which may not exceed the applicable maximum limits based on the applicable flat rates under tax law.
- 4) The annual General Assembly decides on the amount of the previous year's expense allowances for the members of the Executive Board.
- 5) Members of the organisation who undertake trips as volunteers on behalf of and for the purposes of the organisation can claim reimbursement of expenses and travel costs within the scope of the flat rates applicable for tax purposes. The travel destination must be outside their place of residence. Participation in general meetings and regular events organised by the association does not entitle members to reimbursement of travel expenses. Reimbursement must be requested from the Executive Board, stating the purpose of the trip, the exact dates travelled and submitting all relevant receipts.

#### **§ 5 Membership and internal communication within the association**

- 1) Natural persons, groups and organisations that recognise the statutes of the association as well as its purposes and objectives as set out in §§ 2 and 3 and the Mission Statement may become members of the association. Natural persons must be at least 18 years of age and be of legal age in their country of residence.
- 2) There are the following types of membership:
  - a) personal or institutional supporting membership
  - b) full personal membership
  - c) full institutional membership
- 3) Communication within the Association shall be conducted in English.
- 4) Written communication within the Association shall be by simple email. All members are therefore obliged to provide the Executive Board with their current email addresses. In the case of institutional members, this also applies to their representatives. All members are also obliged to regularly monitor their email inboxes.

## **§ 6 Application and commencement of membership**

### 1) Personal membership

a) Applications for personal membership must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board of the Association. The Executive Board shall decide on the membership application. No reasons need to be given for refusal of membership.

b) After acceptance as a personal member, a sponsoring membership is initially established for a period of at least one year and one day. Once this period has elapsed, the Executive Board decides whether to convert the sponsoring membership into a full membership.

c) Personal members represent themselves at the General Assembly.

### 2) Institutional membership

a) In the case of institutional membership, a distinction is made between "groups" and "associations". This difference is described in § 10 of these Statutes of Association.

b) Applications for institutional membership must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board of the Association. The Executive Board can only accept the membership application with a unanimous vote. If the unanimous vote of the Executive Board cannot be achieved, the membership application shall be submitted to the next ordinary General Assembly for a final decision. Rejections of membership need not be justified either by the Executive Board or the General Assembly.

c) After acceptance as an institutional member, a sponsoring membership is initially established for a period of at least one year and one day. After this period has elapsed, the next ordinary General Assembly shall decide whether the sponsoring membership is to be converted into a full membership.

d) Institutional members are represented at the General Assembly by representatives appointed by themselves, who exercise their respective rights to speak and vote. Details can be found in § 10 of these Articles of Association.

## **§ 7 Termination of membership**

1) Membership of the association ends through resignation, cancellation of membership or expulsion from the association. In the case of personal membership, this can also end through the death of the member, in the case of institutional membership through dissolution or liquidation of the group or the association.

### 2) Termination of membership through resignation

a) Resignation from the association must be notified to the Executive Board in writing. Membership will be cancelled at the end of a financial year, after at least one month's notice has been given.

### 3) Termination of membership through exclusion

a) Members may be excluded from the Association by resolution of the General Assembly if they

1) demonstrably act contrary to the purposes or working methods of the association in accordance with §§ 2 and 3 or cause serious material or immaterial damage to the association,

2) demonstrably fail to fulfil their statutory obligations,

3) seriously or repeatedly damage the reputation or interests of the Association through their actions,

4) carry out or advocate practices or views that are incompatible with the UN Charter of Human Rights or the purposes and working methods of the Association on the basis of §§ 2 and 3 of the Articles of Association.

b) An application for expulsion from the association is made by the Executive Board. The application must be communicated to the member concerned in writing and in good time before the next ordinary General Assembly. The notice period is four (4) weeks for personal memberships and three (3) months for institutional memberships.

c) The member concerned must be given the opportunity to comment on the allegations made in writing or verbally at the General Assembly.

d) Upon notification of the application for exclusion from the Association, all rights of the member concerned shall be suspended until the General Assembly deciding on the exclusion.

e) If the General Assembly decides to exclude a member from the Association, the exclusion shall take effect immediately.

f) In the event that the member concerned was not present at the General Assembly that decided on the exclusion, the member must be informed of the exclusion in writing immediately after the decision.

g) The decision of the General Assembly to exclude a member cannot be contested.

### 4) Termination of membership through cancellation or termination of sponsoring membership

a) Membership of the Association may be cancelled by resolution of the Executive Board if the member is at least six (6) months in arrears with the payment of membership fees and a written reminder for payment has been sent.

b) Cancellation of membership shall take effect upon the decision of the Executive Board.

c) An institutional sponsoring membership is automatically terminated if the General Assembly rejects admission as a full member.

d) A personal sponsoring membership is automatically terminated if the Executive Board rejects admission as a full member.

e) Membership of the Association may also be terminated by resolution of the Executive Board if

- 1) the member has not informed the Executive Board of changes to his/her place of residence and/or email address within six (6) months,
- 2) the member has not been able to be contacted by post or email for at least six (6) months,
- 3) or a member dies or is declared legally incompetent.

## **§ 8 Rights and duties of all members**

- 1) Every member has the right to participate in all events organised by the Association and to take advantage of all services and offers made available by the Association.
- 2) Every full member is obliged to pay the membership fees in due time.
- 3) Each member has the duty to represent the objectives of the Association to the outside world within the scope of their possibilities and in particular to ensure that the ongoing operation of the Association is guaranteed.
- 4) This includes, but is not limited to:
  - a) The organisation and documentation of general assemblies.
  - b) The selection of a host country for the organisation as well as the implementation of the "International Asatru Summer Camp" (IASC), which is normally organised by the Association every three (3) years.

## **§ 9 Rights and duties of personal members**

- 1) Personal members have the right to participate in the general assemblies and have the right to speak there.
- 2) Personal full members have the right to vote in elections and ballots at the General Assembly.
- 3) Every personal full member has one voting right at the General Assembly.
- 4) A personal full member may transfer their voting rights to another personal full member if they are unable to attend the General Assembly. The transfer must be made in writing and must be submitted to the chairperson of the General Assembly or the Executive Board before the start of the General Assembly.
- 5) In addition to his own voting right, a personal full member may exercise one further voting right that has been transferred to him by another personal full member.

## **§ 10 Rights and duties of institutional members**

- 1) Institutional members have the right to send representatives to the General Assembly, who have the right to speak there.

2) Each institutional full member shall be represented at the General Assembly by representatives appointed by the association or group in question and may exercise its corresponding voting rights there.

a) "Associations" within the meaning of these Statutes are groups recognised in their respective countries as legal or tax-recognised entities with a constitution and a board of directors. They have the following number of voting rights:

1) Associations with up to 50 members: 3 voting rights

2) Associations with 51 to 150 members: 4 voting rights

3) Associations with 151 or more members: 5 voting rights

b) "Groups" within the meaning of these Statutes are local, regional or national associations of followers of Asatru that do not have the status of a legal or fiscal entity in their country. Groups have 2 voting rights regardless of the number of their members.

3) Each institutional full member shall appoint one or more representatives to represent the member at the General Assembly and exercise its right to speak and vote there. The number of delegated representatives of an institutional full member may not exceed the number of voting rights allocated to it in accordance with § 10, 2) , a) 1) to 3).

4) Each institutional member must keep the board of the association informed about events taking place in their association or group, such as general assemblies, events, developments and other activities.

## **§ 11 Membership fees**

1) Each member must pay the applicable annual membership fees. These are due after invoicing. Invoicing should normally take place in the first quarter of a billing year.

2) The amount of the annual membership fees shall be determined by the General Assembly.

3) The amount of the annual membership fees is staggered according to the type of membership and, in the case of institutional membership, according to the size of the association or group.

4) Further scales are conceivable. They are determined by the General Assembly.

5) The amount and scale of the annual membership fees are set out in the rules of procedure. The rules of procedure are considered an integral part of the articles of association and may only be amended by an ordinary General Assembly with a majority of three quarters.

6) The Executive Board is responsible for calculating and collecting membership fees. The rules of procedure may contain specific requirements in this regard.

## **§ 12 Bodies of the Association**

1) The bodies of the Association are

a) the General Assembly

b) the Executive Board

### **§ 13 The Executive Board**

- 1) The Executive Board of the Association consists of 5 persons who must either be full members in person or appointed by one or more full institutional members.
- 2) Two members of the Executive Board shall jointly represent the Association in court and externally.
- 3) All members of the Executive Board have equal rights. The Executive Board itself decides on the distribution of the tasks incumbent upon it. The General Assembly and all members must be informed on an ongoing basis about the distribution of tasks within the Executive Board.
- 4) The members of the Executive Board may receive an expense allowance for their activities. The General Assembly decides on the amount of this expense allowance, whereby the provisions of § 4 of these Articles of Association may not be violated.
- 5) The members of the Executive Board are elected individually by the General Assembly for a term of office of 3 years. A person's membership of the Executive Board ends automatically as soon as their membership as a personal full member of the Association is terminated by resignation, expulsion or cancellation; or the membership of the institutional full member which nominated the person is terminated by resignation, expulsion or cancellation.  
The re-election of members of the Executive Board and their premature deselection within a term of office by the General Assembly are permitted. A member of the Executive Board remains in office on an interim basis after the end of their regular term of office until this position on the Executive Board has been filled in accordance with the Articles of Association.
- 6) The term of office of a member of the Executive Board ends if he or she leaves the Association, is voted out of office by the General Assembly, resigns or dies. The resignation must be made with four (4) weeks' notice and must be declared in writing to at least one other member of the Executive Board.
- 7) If a member of the Executive Board leaves the Executive Board prematurely, the remaining members of the Executive Board are authorised to appoint a personal full member on a temporary basis to take over the duties of the departing member of the Executive Board until the next General Assembly can hold a regular election.

### **§ 14 Limitations on the Executive Board's power of representation**

- 1) The Executive Board's power of representation vis-à-vis third parties pursuant to Section 26 (2) BGB is restricted to the extent that the approval of the General Assembly is required for the acquisition and sale of real estate, the creation of land charges for real estate belonging to the Association, all disposals of real estate and the taking out and granting of loans.
- 2) The General Assembly may place further restrictions on the Executive Board's power of representation, which shall be set out in the rules of procedure.

### **§ 15 Duties of the Executive Board**

- 1) The Executive Board of the Association is responsible for the external and internal representation of the Association in accordance with Section 26 (2) BGB and for the general management of the Association. In particular, the following tasks are associated with this:
  - a) the convening and preparation of all general assemblies, including their agendas,
  - b) the application for and preparation of resolutions of the general assemblies,
  - c) the management of the Association's assets and the preparation of the annual financial reports
  - d) the admission of personal members and the administration of all association data
- 2) Non-substantive changes to the Articles of Association, such as formatting and spelling, as well as

additions and amendments to the Articles of Association prescribed by the licensing and tax authorities, can be decided unanimously by the Executive Board without requiring a resolution by the General Assembly. Such amendments must be announced to all members at the latest with the invitation to the next General Assembly.

#### **§ 16 Meetings and resolutions of the Executive Board**

- 1) The Executive Board meets as required. An appropriate notice period for Board meetings is set out in the rules of procedure. The Executive Board constitutes a quorum if it has been convened on time and at least three (3) of the five (5) members of the Executive Board are present.
- 2) Resolutions of the Executive Board are passed by a simple majority, unless otherwise required by the Articles of Association. In the event of a tie, a resolution is deemed to have been rejected.
- 3) Resolutions of the Board of Directors must be minuted. A permanent archive of minutes must be kept.

#### **§ 17 Duties of the General Assembly**

- 1) The General Assembly is the highest body of the Association. It is responsible for decisions on the following topics:
  - a) Amendments and additions to the Articles of Association
  - b) Amendments and additions to the Mission Statement and the Rules of Procedure
  - c) Establishing the amount of the annual membership fees
  - d) the exclusion of members
  - e) the election and deselection of members of the Executive Board
  - f) the adoption of the annual reports of the Association and the discharge of the Executive Board
  - g) the dissolution of the Association

#### **§ 18 Convening of the General Assembly**

- 1) The Executive Board must convene an ordinary General Assembly at least once a year.
- 2) The General Assembly must be convened by the Executive Board in writing at least four (4) weeks in advance and must include the provisional agenda. Convocation by email is permitted.
- 3) The invitation is deemed to have been delivered if it has been sent to the latest known address of a member, available to the Executive Board. The date of dispatch is decisive for compliance with the invitation deadline.
- 4) It is permissible to hold the General Assembly as a face-to-face meeting, as a virtual online meeting, or as a hybrid mixture of both. The decision on the format of the meeting and the technical and organisational preparation of the meetings in accordance with the Articles of Association are the responsibility of the Executive Board. No one has a justified claim to a specific meeting format.



5) The agenda of the Annual General Assembly must include at least the following items

- a) the activity report of the Executive Board on the past financial year
- b) the financial report of the Executive Board on the past financial year
- c) the auditors' report on the financial report and the cash audit
- d) the discharge of the Executive Board for the past financial year
- e) Resolutions on the admission of institutional members as supporting or full members, if pending
- f) Decisions on the expulsion of members, if pending
- g) the resolution on the amount of the annual membership fees
- h) the election or deselection of members of the Executive Board, if pending
- i) the election of at least two (2) cash auditors
- j) other agenda items from members, if pending
- k) other items on the agenda of the Executive Board, if pending

6) Any member of the Association may apply to the Executive Board to place additional items on the agenda of a General Assembly. This request must be received by the Executive Board at least four (4) weeks before the General Assembly. The Executive Board shall decide on the admission of agenda items that are received after this deadline.

7) If the Executive Board does not itself chair a General Assembly, it may appoint a person to chair the meeting. This chairperson is authorised to take measures within the framework of the Articles of Association, the rules of procedure and the applicable law to ensure the proper conduct of the General Assembly. This includes in particular, but is not limited to

- a) closing the list of speakers on an agenda item
- b) closing the discussion on an agenda item
- c) changes to the order of the agenda
- d) the limitation of speaking time for individual requests to speak

## **§ 19 The Extraordinary General Assembly**

1) The Executive Board must convene an Extraordinary General Assembly if

- a) at least 25 per cent of the total voting rights of the association demand this. The request must be addressed to the Executive Board in writing, stating the reason and grounds,
- b) or the interests of the association make this necessary

2) An Extraordinary General Assembly must be convened by the Executive Board in writing at least two (2) weeks in advance, stating the agenda. Paragraphs 3) and 4) of § 18 shall apply accordingly.

## **§ 20 Quorum of the General Assembly**

- 1) The General Assembly is quorate irrespective of the number of voting rights represented there, provided it has been convened in due time and form.
- 2) If the dissolution of the association is to be resolved, at least one third of the total voting rights of the association must be represented at the meeting in addition to being summoned in due time and form.

## **§ 21 Adoption of resolutions by the General Assembly**

- 1) Depending on the format of the meeting, resolutions of the General Assembly are passed by a show of hands, a suitable online voting system or a mixture of both. A simple majority of the voting rights represented decides the vote.
- 2) Elections to the Executive Board of the Association shall be held in accordance with applicable law. A secret ballot is an option for the organisation of elections to the Executive Board. Details can be found in the rules of procedure.
- 3) Amendments or additions to the Statutes, the Mission Statement or the Rules of Procedure require the approval of at least three quarters of the voting rights represented.
- 4) The dissolution of the Association requires the approval of at least four-fifths of the voting rights represented.

## **§ 22 Minutes of the General Assembly**

- 1) The minutes of the General Assembly shall be taken by a person appointed by the Executive Board before the start of the meeting. The minutes must be kept at least as a record of the results.
- 2) The minutes must be signed by the secretary and the chairperson of the meeting.
- 3) Minutes of the General Assembly must be made available to the members in a suitable form in a timely manner.
- 4) Stylistic and non-substantive amendments to minutes and the correction of obvious errors may be made by the minute-taker or the chair of the meeting even after the minutes have been published. The changes must be identified in subsequent versions of the minutes and the amended minutes must be made available to the members in a suitable form in a timely manner.
- 5) Objections to minutes or resolutions passed by the General Assembly must be submitted to the Executive Board in writing within one month of their initial publication. If no objection is lodged, minutes are deemed to have been accepted after the objection period has expired and further objections will not be considered.
- 6) The next General Assembly shall decide on amendments to the minutes in important cases that could not be resolved by the procedure described above.

## **§ 23 Dissolution of the Association or termination of its activities for other reasons**

- 1) The association can only be dissolved by an extraordinary General Assembly convened solely for this purpose.
- 2) The liquidation of the Association shall be dissolved by the members of the Executive Board who were in office at the time of the dissolution or termination of its activities.

3) In the event of the dissolution of the Association or the termination of its activities for other reasons, the assets of the Association shall be transferred to a public corporation or an association recognised as a non-profit organisation which is dedicated to the promotion of science and research, art and culture as well as public education in the field of the pre-Christian religion of the Germanic tribes. The dissolving General Assembly shall determine the specific recipient.

## **§ 24 Data protection**

1) The organisation works on the basis of the applicable legal provisions on data protection.

2) The currently valid version of the association's privacy policy applies, which is continuously adapted to the legal framework. It must be made available to members in a suitable form.