

1 **INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN PEOPLE’S PARTY**

2
3 By and under supervision of the Political Assembly, the following additional organs and
4 bodies with decision-making powers will be established and function within the association.
5 The rules regarding the functioning and composition of these organs and bodies, as well
6 as other rules relating to the functioning of the association which are not set out in the by-
7 laws, will be set out in these Internal Regulations.

8
9 Having regard to article 10 of the by-laws, the organs of the association are the following:

- 10
11 (i) the Presidency
12 (ii) the Political Assembly
13 (iii) the Congress

14
15 Having regard to the rules set out in these Internal Regulations, the bodies of the
16 association are the following:

- 17
18 (i) the EPP Summit
19 (ii) the International Secretaries Steering Committee
20 (iii) the EPP Ministerial Meetings
21 (iv) the Working Groups fora and *ad hoc* Committees
22 (v) the Ethics Committee

23
24 **I. ON THE CONGRESS**

25
26 **a. Composition**

27 The members of Congress are:

- 28
29 - Members of the EPP Presidency;
30 - Presidents of Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties and Member
31 Associations;
32 - Delegates of Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties and Member
33 Associations
34 - Heads of State or Government of Member States of the European Union, who are
35 members of an Ordinary Member Party;
36 - Individual Members of the Association (cf. article 5, (4) of the by-laws);
37 - Members of the European Commission provided they are members of an Ordinary
38 Member Party;
39 - Presidents of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary
40 Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European Committee of the
41 regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST provided that they are a
42 member of an Ordinary Member Party or an Associated Member Party;
43 - Delegates of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary
44 Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European Committee of the
45 regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST, provided that they are
46 member of an Ordinary Member Party or Associated Member Party.
47

48
49 The overall number of delegates shall be decided upon by the Political Assembly prior to
50 convening the Congress.

51
52 Delegates of Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member Associations,
53 the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE, the

54 OSCE and NATO, the European Committee of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and
55 EURONEST respectively form delegations.

56
57 They must, in the composition of their delegation, give priority to their representatives at
58 the Political Assembly.

59
60 The number of delegates from each Ordinary Member Party, Associated Member Party and
61 Member Association is calculated in accordance with the number of delegate members of
62 the Political Assembly. Members *ex officio* are not taken into account.

63
64 Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties are entitled to a minimum of
65 three delegates. Member Associations and the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at
66 the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European Committee of
67 the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST are entitled to six delegates.

68
69 The following are invited to the Congress as guests:

- 70
71 - three representatives of each Observer Member Party, in accordance with article 5
72 bis of the by-laws;
73 - two representatives of each EPP Partner and each Associated Entity, in accordance
74 with article 5 bis of the by-laws;
75 - Presidents of the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the
76 European Committee of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST;
77 provided they are member of an Ordinary Member Party, Associated Member Party,
78 Observer Member Party or EPP Partner.
79 - members of the Presidency of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the
80 Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European Committee
81 of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST;
82 - parliamentarians of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament who are not
83 Individual Members of the association;
84 - all former Presidents and Secretaries-General of the party;
85 - Supporting Members.

86
87 The President has the right to invite other personalities to the meetings of the Congress.

88
89 **b. Functioning**

90
91 The Congress meets at least every three years. It is convened by a decision of the Political
92 Assembly which determines the venue, date, agenda and regulations of the Congress.
93 Convening of the Congress is the responsibility of the President on behalf of the Political
94 Assembly.

95
96 The Political Assembly debates and approves the draft EPP Congress document.

97
98 Notice shall be made in writing and contain the venue, date and proposed agenda. It must
99 be dispatched, together with a copy of the regulations of the Congress, four weeks prior
100 to the Congress. Organizations that have delegates are responsible for informing them.

101
102 The venue and date of an ordinary Congress, as well as the number of delegates per
103 delegation, must be communicated at least two months in advance.

104
105 The Political Assembly can decide to convene an extraordinary Congress. At the request of
106 the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament or at least one-third of the Ordinary
107 Member Parties and Associated Member Parties, the Political Assembly shall convene an

108 Extraordinary Congress. The time period set out in the previous paragraphs shall be
109 reduced to minimum three weeks.

110
111 The Congress can validly take decisions if it has been correctly convened and if the simple
112 majority of its members are present. Failure to reach a quorum can only be established by
113 a formal motion, introduced during the Congress meeting itself.

114 A formal motion, preventing valid deliberation of the Congress, may be introduced by:

- 115
116 - the presidency of the Congress; or
117 - at least seven Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties from five
118 different countries; or
119 - the Presidency of the EPP Group in the European Parliament.

120
121 If a formal motion has not been introduced, the Congress can validly deliberate, regardless
122 of the fact that the attendance quorum has not been reached.

123
124 If a formal motion has been introduced, and the Congress is thus unable to make a valid
125 deliberation, the President shall, after consultation with the EPP Presidency, determine the
126 date and agenda of an extraordinary Congress. The stipulations concerning the notice and
127 notice period shall not apply. This extraordinary Congress can validly deliberate, regardless
128 of the attendance quorum.

129
130 Decisions shall be taken with a simple majority of the votes cast by the members of the
131 Congress present. Decisions on modifications to the by-laws are governed by article 27 of
132 the by-laws. Each member of Congress has one vote. Abstentions and blank votes are not
133 considered to be valid votes.

134
135 The Congress normally meets in public. On the request of the Congress Presidency, the
136 Congress may decide, by simple majority, to meet "in camera".

137
138 ~~By derogation to the preceding rules on the functioning of the Congress, a Congress can~~
139 ~~be validly held by at least two members of the Presidency, in the presence of a notary,~~
140 ~~without any convening notice or quorum being required, in case a special meeting of the~~
141 ~~Congress is required to adopt modifications to the by-laws of the association which must~~
142 ~~be recorded in a notarial deed pursuant to applicable law, provided that these modifications~~
143 ~~have been previously approved by a Congress convened and held in accordance with the~~
144 ~~functioning of an ordinary meeting of the Congress (or by the Political Assembly, pursuant~~
145 ~~to the transitional provisions of the by-laws to the extent such transitional provisions grant~~
146 ~~such powers to the Political Assembly):~~

147
148 **~~II. — ON THE POLITICAL ASSEMBLY~~**

149
150 ~~Following Article 15 b) of the EPP by-laws, the number of the delegates and voting rights~~
151 ~~of the Associated Member Parties and Member Associations are assigned by the Presidency.~~
152 ~~The number of delegates shall be limited to a maximum of 2 besides the Party Chairman.~~

153
154
155 **~~III. II. ON THE EPP SUMMIT~~**

156
157 **a. Competences**

158

159 The EPP Summit prepares the position to be taken by the EPP Heads of State and of
160 Government at the European Council and issues recommendations on the strategy and
161 political orientation of the association.

162
163 **b. Composition**

164
165 The EPP Summit is composed of:

- 166
167 - the members of the EPP Presidency;
168 - the members of the European Council (Heads of State or Government), a Vice-
169 President of the EC to represent the members of the Commission in the absence
170 of the President, as far as he or she is a member of an EPP Ordinary Member
171 Party;
172 - Presidents of parties in coalition governments in EU Member States in cases where
173 the Head of Government is not a member of an EPP Ordinary Member Party;
174 - the President of the largest opposition party in each Member State of the European
175 Union.
176 Where EPP Ordinary Member Parties candidate only in complementary regions, the
177 President of each party is invited.

178
179 The President has the right to invite other personalities to the meetings of the EPP Summit.

180
181 The President will report to the Political Assembly on the outcome and general direction of
182 the EPP Summit.

183
184 **IV. ON THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIES STEERING COMMITTEE**

185
186 The Secretary General chairs the 'International Secretaries Steering Committee', an *ad hoc*
187 consultative body that will assist, when necessary, the work of the institutional bodies of
188 the association. All international, external or related Secretaries of the EPP member parties
189 and partners as well as the Secretaries General of the EPP Associations have the right to
190 participate in this Committee.

191
192 **V. ON THE EPP MINISTERIAL MEETINGS**

193
194 The association organizes on a regular basis EU Ministerial Meetings prior to the EU Council
195 meetings on relevant EU policy sectors proposed by the EPP Presidency in order to improve
196 political coordination and policy synergy in the Council. At the recommendation of the EPP
197 President, EPP Vice-Presidents or other outstanding EPP political personalities may chair
198 such meetings if they have relevant policy experience and expertise. On those policy areas
199 where co-decision is required the European Commissioner, provided he belongs to an EPP
200 Member Party, may be invited as well as Members of the European Parliament of the EPP
201 Group who will participate following the recommendations of the Presidency of the EPP
202 Group in the European Parliament.

203
204 **VI. ON THE WORKING GROUP CHAIRMEN**

205
206 The Members of the Presidency should commit themselves in the bodies of the party, e.g.
207 working groups, fora, ad-hoc committees. In case of vacancies, the Presidency together
208 with the Secretary General will appoint a high profile EPP personality to Chair a working
209 Group. In case of poor performance by an appointed working Group Chairperson, the
210 Presidency and the Secretary General have the right to replace the Chairperson with a new
211 appointment.
212

The Members of the Presidency and the members of the Political Assembly may suggest or request the creation of a ~~specific~~ specific Working Group to discuss issues of particular relevance for the EU and its international position.

Member Parties who do not participate in two consecutive meetings of the Working Group Meetings, will not be able to present and/or vote amendments to EPP Working Group documents or resolutions in the two following Working Group Meetings.

~~VII. ON THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS~~

~~The association has the right to establish Bilateral Agreements with parties, organizations, think tanks, NGOs, civil society organizations, unions, etc., as an instrument to develop broader relations. The specific terms of the Agreement have to be accepted by the Presidency and approved by the Political Assembly. At the proposal of the Presidency, the Political Assembly has the right to revoke a Bilateral Agreement if the terms of the Agreement have been breached.~~

VIII. ON THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

~~a. Associations eligible to become Member Associations~~

~~Recognition as a Member Association presupposes that:~~

- ~~— the association has legal personality in the Member State in which its seat is located;~~
- ~~— national sections, linked to an Ordinary Member Party of the association, exist in at least half the Member States of the EU;~~
- ~~— the activities of the association are performed on the basis of by laws governing their operation, internal responsibilities and the right of representation;~~
- ~~— their activities and the positions taken are in line with the EPP Program, the EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics and the party's political directives.~~

~~The EPP Member Associations must clearly indicate in their name their relationship to the association. As a general rule, the Member Associations must accept the participation of the corresponding national associations of the Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties.~~

~~b.a. Admission as a Member Association~~

Associations wishing to be recognised should apply to the Presidency in writing.

The application must include:

- the program of the association;
- the by-laws of the association;
- and information concerning the organization and the number of members;
- evidence that the recognition requirements set forth in ~~section IX, a) the by-laws~~ are satisfied.

The Presidency must submit the application to the members of the Political Assembly at least one month prior to its examination.

The Political Assembly may decide to hear representatives of an applicant association.

Commented [A1]: EUB: As the article on bilateral agreements concerns the competences of the Presidency and the Political Assembly, we have moved this to the by-laws.

Commented [A2]: EUB: As the eligibility criteria (former section a) concern the conditions and formalities related to the entry of the Member Associations, we transferred this to the by-laws.

~~On the proposal of the Presidency, and after having heard the association concerned, the Political Assembly may revoke its recognition of an association.~~

~~e.b.~~ **Relationship between Member Associations and third parties**

The EPP Member Associations are autonomous organisations and should act as separate legal entities through their own bodies.

The Member Associations clearly indicate in their name their relationship to the association in a way that no confusion is created over the fact that the Member Association is a separate legal entity operating independently from the association.

The Member Associations should give due consideration to the interests of the association and other Member Associations.

The Member Associations should observe the guidelines which the Political Assembly has adopted to increase transparency as to the relationship between the association and the Member Associations and to contribute to the good governance of the association and the Member Associations.

IX. ON THE BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS

At the first meeting of each odd-numbered year, the Political Assembly elects two Internal Auditors who may not be members of the EPP Presidency. Their mandate lasts two years.

X. ON THE MEMBERSHIP

a. Admission

During its preliminary examination of the membership application as mentioned in articles 5, 5bis, 6 and 19,vii of the ~~by-Laws~~by-laws, the Political Assembly may decide to hear a representative of the applicant party.

The Secretary General in accordance with the President transmits the application for advice to the EPP Working Group on 'EPP Membership'.

The Political Assembly will take a decision on the application on one of its next meetings following the receipt of the advice of the EPP Working Group on 'EPP Membership'.

~~b. Suspension~~

~~The suspension of a member as defined in article 9 of the by-Laws may only be decided by the Political Assembly after hearing the member concerned.~~

~~If the member fails to turn up for the hearing, the Political Assembly is authorized to decide on the suspension of the member.~~

~~Until the Political Assembly has lifted the suspension of the suspended members:~~

~~(i) — Suspended members lose their right to propose candidates for positions within the association; and~~

~~(ii) — Ex officios and members of an organ or body of the association, who were appointed or elected based on their membership of the concerned suspended member, lose their right to participate as well as their speaking and voting rights within all organs and bodies of the association; and~~

Commented [A3]: EUB: The exclusion of a member is covered by the by-laws. We suggest avoiding overlap where possible.

Commented [A4]: EUB: We have transferred the consequences of not turning up at the hearing (former section b and c) and the consequences of a suspension (former section b) to the by-laws, as this concerns the rights of the members. The other sentences that were deleted, were already covered in the by-laws.

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~~(iii) Individual members of the concerned suspended member, as defined in article 5(4) of the by-laws, lose their right to participate within the organs and bodies of the association and their speaking and voting rights within all organs and bodies of the association, it being understood that they have to continue to comply with their membership obligations during the whole time of the suspension. In case of such a suspension, article 13, §7, last sentence of the by-laws shall not apply.~~

~~e- Exclusion~~

~~The exclusion of a member as defined in article 9 of the by-Laws may only be decided by the Political Assembly after hearing the member concerned. If the member fails to turn up for the hearing, the Political Assembly is authorized to decide on the exclusion of the member.~~

~~d-b. Supporting members~~

The Presidency may also grant the title of Supporting Member to other persons or associations. They do not enjoy the same rights as the members mentioned in article 5 and article 5bis of the by-laws but may be invited by the President to attend meetings of certain organs or bodies of the association.

XI. ON THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

a. Membership Fees of EPP Ordinary Member Parties

The annual Membership Fees of the EPP Ordinary Member Parties is based on:

- a) a basic sum calculated on the basis of the votes obtained by that party in the last European Elections
- b) a basic sum per member of that party in the EPP Group in the European Parliament

The basic calculation is made for the first budget following European Elections, on the proposal of the Treasurer and the Secretary General and after approval of the Political Assembly.

When a modification in Membership Fees is necessary, it is possible to vote for either a modification of basic sum a) or for a modification of basic sum b) or for a modification of both sums.

~~b. Membership Fees for Associated Member Parties, Observer Member Parties and EPP Partners based in the European Union~~

~~On the proposal of the Treasurer and Secretary General, the Membership Fees of EPP Associated-Observer Member Parties based in the European Union, is calculated by the Political Assembly on the basis of 50% of the votes obtained by these Associated-Observer Member parties during the last national elections. The Associated-Observer Member Parties based in the European Union will start paying Membership Fees immediately after their admission as an Associated-Observer Member Party, *pro rata temporis*. The same procedure is for 50 % applied to Observer Member Parties and EPP Partners.~~

~~e- Membership Fees for Member Associations~~

~~The Membership Fees of EPP Member Associations are determined by the Political Assembly upon proposal of the Treasurer and Secretary General.~~

Commented [A5]: EUB: We added a reference to the competence of the Presidency to grant the title of Supporting Member in the by-laws.

Commented [A6]: EUB: As the Member Associations do not pay any membership fees, we have deleted this paragraph.

374
375
376 **d-c. Contribution of and Supporting Members**
377

378 Supporting Members based in the European Union contribute to the financing of the EPP.
379 The contribution is at least 20 euro.

380
381 **e-d. General Stipulations**
382

383 Membership Fees are fixed in euro; they are payable without deduction of incurred costs.
384 Membership Fees are adjusted annually in line with Belgian inflation levels.

385
386 **f. Arrears**
387

388 ~~Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Observer Member Parties and EPP~~
389 ~~Partners which accumulate arrears in the payment of their annual Membership Fee~~
390 ~~equivalent to one year of membership fee lose their speaking and/or voting rights within~~
391 ~~the organs and bodies of the association as well as their right to propose candidates for~~
392 ~~positions within the association, until they have paid off their arrears.~~

393
394 ~~The Presidency has to propose to the Political Assembly to exclude Ordinary, Associated~~
395 ~~and Observer Member Parties which accumulated arrears for two years.~~

396
397 ~~Interest, equivalent to double the relevant year's annual inflation rate in Belgium, will be~~
398 ~~added to the amount of the arrears. A list outlining the current Membership Fees' situation~~
399 ~~will be distributed at each meeting of the EPP Political Assembly.~~

400 **g-e. Subventions to Member Associations**
401

402 1. The association in so far as possible supports the activities of its Member Associations.
403 The nature and conditions of this support are determined by the EPP authorities responsible
404 for the budget and follow the decisions of the Bureau of the European Parliament and
405 article 210 of the RAP with regard to 'support to third parties'.
406

407 2. Each Member Association submits each year by the 1st February at the latest to the EPP
408 Secretary General the budget and action programme of the year to come and the activity
409 report of the previous year. As soon as completed, it also furnishes its accounts and balance
410 sheet of the previous budgetary year. The balance sheet and accounts are to be
411 accompanied by the report of the financial auditors and the minutes of the meeting at
412 which this report was approved.
413

414 3. Following this, each member association is entitled to a reimbursement to a maximum
415 amount of 60.000€ of proven expenditures with regard to the organisation of events and
416 administrative costs. In order to obtain reimbursements of these costs the associations
417 must produce all supporting documents including invoices, bank statements and detailed
418 cost overviews.
419

420 4. A detailed list of eligible and non-eligible expenditures will be provided to each member
421 association.
422

423 5. On all invitations to the activities and on all publications concerning the activities of the
424 Member Associations for which reimbursement is requested the EPP logo must be
425 prominently displayed.
426

426
427 **h-f. Financial support to related organizations**

Commented [A7]: EUB: As the paragraph "Arrears" (former section f) undoubtedly concerns the rights and obligations of the members, we have transferred this to the by-laws.

428
429 Should the EPP Political Assembly decide to give annual financial support to other related
430 organizations, these organizations should follow the same procedure as described above,
431 in section g.

432
433 **g. Administration of Resources**

434
435 The EPP Treasurer and Secretary General are entrusted by the EPP Presidency and Political
436 Assembly with the proper administration and use of the financial resources of the
437 association. To that purpose they will draft Internal Financial Regulations that will be
438 submitted for the approval of the Presidency.

439
440 **h. Decisions on the accounts and budget**

441
442 In accordance with article 12 and article 24 of the by-laws, any member of the EPP
443 Presidency who is a Member of the European Commission or President of the European
444 Parliament shall abstain from taking part in the deliberation and voting process regarding
445 the annual accounts and budget of the association.

446
447 **XII. ON THE EPP MERIT AWARD**

448
449 The EPP Presidency has the right to grant an "EPP Merit Award" to individuals that have
450 made an outstanding contribution in promoting the association. The EPP Presidency will
451 receive nominations and examine them on a case-by-case basis before granting the Award.

452
453 **XIII. ON THE WILFRIED MARTENS FUND**

454
455 The association will participate in the 'Wilfried Martens Fund' established together with the
456 KU Leuven University.
457 The Wilfried Martens Fund is created to honour the memory and legacy of the late
458 association's President Wilfried Martens. The Wilfried Martens fund shall present a yearly
459 report on its activities and finances to the Political Assembly.

460
461 **XIV. ON THE ROBERT SCHUMAN INSTITUTE**

462
463 The Robert Schuman Institute is recognized as the training institute of the European
464 People's Party and will be supported by the European People's Party. The Robert Schuman
465 Institute shall present a yearly report on its activities and finances to the Political Assembly.

466
467 **XV. ON THE LGBT+ ALLIANCE**

468
469 The LGBT+ Alliance is created as a network of conservative, Christian-democrat, and
470 liberal-conservative LGBT-groups in Europe to provide an LGBT voice in the centre-right
471 policies. The Alliance shall present a yearly report on its activities and finances to the
472 Political Assembly.