

STATUTES (by-Laws) OF THE EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY

PREAMBLE

Political Parties at European level contribute to forming European political awareness and to expressing the will of the citizens of the Union." (Article 10.4 of the Treaty on the European Union-Lisbon Treaty and Article 12.2 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union-the Charter).

On the basis

- of the Christian view of mankind and the Christian Democratic concept of society,
- of their joint will to create a federal European Union as a Union of free peoples and citizens conscious of their own responsibilities,

the Christian Democrat, Centrist and like-minded parties of the European People's Party as heirs of Europe's Founding Fathers accept these responsibilities and create an association. This association will be a member of the Christian /Centrist Democrat International (IDC-CDI), a worldwide organisation of Christian Democrats and like-minded political parties and the International Democracy Union (IDU), a worldwide organization of Conservative, Christian Democrat and like-minded political parties of the centre and centre right.

I. NAME – ADDRESS – OBJECTIVES - DURATION

Article 1 NAME – LEGAL BASE - LOGO

The association, an alliance of political parties at European level, is named "[European People's Party](#) / Parti populaire européen / Europese Volkspartij / Europäische Volkspartei / ~~European People's Party~~",/"/, abbreviated as "[EPP/PPE/EVP/EPP](#)"-/"/. This name must always be preceded or followed by the words "parti politique européen/Europese politieke partij, European political party" or the abbreviation "[EUPP/PPEU/EUPP/EUPP](#)"-/"/.

The EPP pursues its aims, carries out its activities and is organized and financed in conformity with the conditions laid down in the Regulation (EU/EURATOM) No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and political foundations, as amended.

For the matters not regulated by the referred European Regulation the association is governed by the Belgian Code of Companies and Associations (hereinafter the "CCA").

The EPP does not pursue profit goals.

The logo of the association is defined in annex 1 to the by-laws.

Article 2 ADDRESS

The registered office of the association is established at Rue du Commerce 10, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.

The Presidency is authorized to transfer the registered office of the association to another location within this Region and to establish other offices and/or subsidiaries within or outside this judicial district.

Article 3 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the association is to:

- promote and foster close and ongoing collaboration among its members for the purpose of implementing their common policy at European level;
- encourage and organise unanimous action by its members at European level;

- 58 – work (i) to achieve free and pluralistic democracy, (ii) for respect for human rights,
59 fundamental freedoms and the rule of law on the basis of a common programme promote
60 the process of unification and federal integration in Europe as a constituent element of
61 the European Union.

62
63 In order to realize this purpose and in order to establish, develop, implement and promote its
64 policies, the association organizes several discussion and decision forums, major events and
65 fact finding missions according to strict democratic principles and issues publications of all
66 sorts.

67
68 The association is also authorised to execute all legal instruments (including real estate
69 transactions) directly or indirectly useful or necessary for the promotion and achievement of the
70 above-mentioned aims.

71
72 Through their national policies the member parties of the association support positions taken by
73 the association in the context of the European Union. In the context of national responsibilities,
74 they shall maintain their own name, their identity and their freedom of action. The association
75 is represented in the European Parliament by the Group of the European People’s Party (Christian
76 Democrats) (Group of the EPP in the European Parliament).

77
78 Member parties oblige parliamentarians elected to the European Parliament on their list, and/or
79 sent to the like-minded or associated Groups at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the
80 OSCE and NATO, the European committee of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and
81 EURONEST, to join the EPP Groups therein.

82 83 Article 4 DURATION

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85 The association is incorporated for an indefinite duration.

86 87 **II. MEMBERSHIP**

88 89 Article 5 MEMBERS WITH VOTING RIGHTS

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91 The number of members is unlimited, but may not be less than two. Requests for membership
92 shall be submitted to the President and Secretary General in writing. They shall comprise a
93 statement on the adoption of the Political programme, the EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical
94 Behaviour in Politics, as well as the by-laws and the internal regulations of the association, in
95 addition to a copy of the by-laws and programme in its original language and in English of the
96 applicant party. The EPP President and Secretary General should be notified in writing of any
97 change in the by-laws of any member. The Presidency will transmit the application for
98 membership to the Political Assembly following the recommendation of the Working Group EPP
99 Membership.

100
101 Without prejudice to article 5 *bis* and subject to what follows, the Political Assembly is authorised
102 to grant, at its own discretion, the applicant one of the following member status in the EPP: (1)
103 Ordinary Member Party, (2) Associated Member Party, (3) Member Association or (4)
104 [Individual EPP Group](#) Member (as defined here below).

105 106 (1) Ordinary Member Parties

107
108 The member status of Ordinary Member Party can be granted to any Christian Democrat or like-
109 minded party, based in the European Union, which subscribes to the association’s political
110 programme and the EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics, and which accepts the
111 association’s by-laws and internal regulations.

112 113 (2) Associated Member Parties

115 The member status of Associated Member Party can be granted to any political party of Christian
116 Democrat or like-minded orientation, based outside the European Union, from states whose
117 applications for membership of the European Union have been introduced and / or states
118 belonging to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which subscribes to the objectives
119 referred to in article 3 of the by-laws and to the association's political programme and EPP Code
120 of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics, and which accepts the association's by-laws and
121 internal regulations. Associated Member Parties, or their representatives within the organs and
122 bodies of the association, shall not participate in decisions involving the policies and structure of
123 the European Union nor of its institutional system. If the state in which the Associated Member
124 Party is established effectively becomes a member of the European Union, such Associated
125 Member Party shall automatically become an Ordinary Member Party as from the date of the
126 adherence of such state to the European Union.

127 128 (3) Member Associations

129
130 The member status of Member Association can be granted to associations that ~~fulfill~~^{fulfil}
131 the eligibility criteria mentioned below and which subscribe to the EPP's political programme and EPP
132 Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics and accept the EPP's by-laws and internal
133 regulations.

134
135 Recognition as a Member Association presupposes that:

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

143
144
145 The EPP Member Associations must clearly indicate in their name their relationship to the
146 association. As a general rule, the Member Associations must accept the participation of the
147 corresponding national associations of the Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member
148 Parties.

149
150 The member status of Member Association has been granted to the following associations:

- 151 - European Democrat Students (EDS)
- 152 - ~~European~~^{Europe} Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW)
- 153 - Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP)
- 154 - Small and Medium Entrepreneurs of Europe (SME EUROPE)
- 155 - EPP Women (EPPW)
- 156 - European Seniors Union (ESU)

157 The way in which these Member Associations are integrated in the association is further
158 described in article ~~VIII~~^{VIII} of the Internal Regulations.

159 160 (4) ~~Individual~~^{Individual} EPP Group Members

161
162 In addition, all members of the EPP Group in the European Parliament elected on a list of a
163 member party are also members ex officio of the association (hereinafter referred to as
164 "~~Individual~~^{Individual} EPP Group Members"). Other members of the European Parliament can become
165 ~~Individual Members~~^{EPP Group Member} of the association by decision of the Political Assembly
166 on the proposal of the Presidency of the association. The speaking and voting rights of the
167 ~~Individual~~^{Individual} EPP Group Members within the organs of the association are personal and inalienable.

168
169 If a candidate for membership in the association is a legal person within the meaning of the law
170 applicable to it, it must name in its application for membership a natural person who will
171 represent it in the association. The same provision applies if the candidate does not have legal
172 personality under the law applicable to it. It shall then designate a natural person who will act

173 on behalf of all members of the candidate member without legal personality, as its
174 representative. In case of a change of representation, the President of the association is
175 immediately informed in writing.

176

177

178 Article 5 bis MEMBERS WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS

179

180 Without prejudice to article 5 and subject to what follows, the Political Assembly is, on the
181 proposal of the Presidency, authorised to grant, at its own discretion, the applicant one of the
182 following member statuses without voting rights: (1) Observer Member Party, (2) EPP Partner
183 or (3) Associated Entities (as defined here below).

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185

186 (1) Observer Member Parties

187

188 The member status of Observer Member Party can be granted to parties close to the EPP, from
189 (i) European Union Member States, (ii) states which have applied for European Union
190 membership as well as from (iii) European states that are members of the Council of Europe,
191 upon the condition of the adoption of the association's political programme and the EPP Code of
192 Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics, and the acceptance of the association's by-laws and
193 internal regulations.

194

195 (2) EPP Partners:

196

197 The member status of EPP Partner can be granted to any political party outside the EU
198 represented in an International Organization such as the Council of Europe, NATO, OSCE and /
199 or Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), upon the condition that such party has a likeminded EPP
200 orientation, accepts the association's by-laws (including the objectives referred to in article 3 of
201 the by-laws), internal regulations and political programme. Membership of the Centrist Democrat
International (IDC-CDI) and/or International Democracy Union (IDU) is a positive criteria.

202

202 (3) ~~(3)~~ Associated Entities

203

204 The member status of Associated Entity can be granted to any entity based in a European Union
205 Member State or a third country whose activities and positions taken are in line with the EPP
206 program and which subscribes to the association's political programme and EPP Code of Conduct
207 on Ethical Behaviour in Politics and accepts the association's by-laws and internal regulations.

208

209 The member status of Associated Entity has been granted to the Robert Schuman Institute, the
~~Wilfried Martens Fund~~[EPP Farmers](#) and the ~~LGBT+ Alliance~~[EPPride](#).

210

211 The way in which the Robert Schuman Institute, the ~~Wilfried Martens Fund~~[EPP Farmers](#) and the
212 ~~LGBT+ Alliance~~[EPPride](#) are integrated in the association is further described in articles ~~XI~~, ~~XII~~[XIV](#),
213 [XV](#) and ~~XIII~~[XVI](#) of the Internal Regulations.

214

215 The last paragraph of article 5 shall apply also to (candidate) members without voting rights.

216

216 Article 5 ter INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

217

218 Citizens of European Member States may apply for Individual Membership of the association,
219 provided that they are a member of an Ordinary Member Party and have been nominated to that
220 end by the Working Group EPP Membership, and provided that the applicant accepts the
221 association's by-laws and internal regulations and subscribes to the association's political
222 programme. The status of Individual Member is granted by the Presidency at its own discretion
or in accordance with the delegation accorded by the Presidency to that end.

223 [The status of Individual Member does not confer voting right, but the Individual Members will](#)
224 [be entitled to receive information and participate in events as further set out in the Internal](#)
225 [Regulations.](#)

226

227 Article 6 COMPLIANCE WITH CODE OF CONDUCT

228 Every application for the member status of Ordinary Member ~~party~~Party, Associated Member
229 Party, Member Association, [EPP Group Member](#), Observer Member Party, [Associated Entity](#) or
230 Individual Member, who is not a member ex officio of the association, must include a written
231 statement confirming that the applicant undertakes to comply with the values, principles and
232 provisions set out in the association's EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics as
233 approved and amended from time to time in accordance with article [2527](#) and 16 of the by-laws
234 (hereinafter referred to as the "EPP Code of Conduct").

235
236 The EPP Ethics Committee shall draw up a procedure to be applied as part of the application
237 process, with a view to verifying the compliance with the EPP Code of Conduct of any applicant,
238 having confirmed its adherence to the EPP Code of Conduct in accordance with this article.

239

240 Article 7 MEMBERSHIP FEES AND MEMBERSHIP PUBLICATION

241

242 Ordinary Member Parties and Observer Member Parties based in the European Union individually
243 pay annual dues of no more than 500.000 (five hundred thousand) euros. The amount of the
244 dues is determined annually by the Political Assembly. Dues are payable within two weeks of
245 having been set and communicated by the Political Assembly to the members.

246

247 [Individual Members pay annual contributions of at least 20 euros and no more than 18.000](#)
248 [euros. The amount of the contribution is determined annually by the Political Assembly.](#)
249 [Contributions are payable within three months of having been set by the Political Assembly and](#)
250 [communicated to the Individual Members.](#)

251

252 Members which accumulate arrears in the payment of their annual Membership Fee equivalent
253 to one year of membership fee lose their speaking and/or voting rights within the organs and
254 bodies of the association as well as their right to propose candidates for positions within the
255 association, until they have paid off their arrears.

256

257 The Presidency has to propose to the Political Assembly to exclude Members which accumulated
258 arrears for two years.

259

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

263

264 Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member Associations, Observer Member
265 Parties publish the political programme and logo of the EPP on their websites, in a clearly visible
266 and user-friendly manner, from the date on which the Political Assembly granted them member
267 status and for the entire duration of their membership.

268

269 Article 8 REGISTER AND EXCLUSIVITY

270

271 The Presidency keeps a membership register at the registered office of the association. This
272 register lists the surname, first name, place of residence, date and place of birth of members or,
273 in the case of legal persons or de facto associations, the name, legal form, address of the
274 registered office, identity of the representative and, where applicable, the registration number
275 in accordance with existing legislation and/or regulations. All members may consult this register
276 at the registered office of the association.

277

278 The EPP membership is strictly exclusive. In no case may an EPP member as defined under
279 Articles 5, 5 bis and 5 bister under Section II of the by-laws also be a member of any other
280 Political Party at European Level recognized under Regulation (EU/EURATOM) No 1141/2014 of
281 the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of
282 European political parties and political foundations, as amended.
283

284 ~~A~~If a member of the EPP ~~that~~ is found to be also member of another Political Party at European
285 Level, the membership of the association will be automatically ~~excluded according to Article IX,~~
286 ~~€.~~ of the EPP Internal Regulations terminated.
287

288 Article 9 RESIGNATION, SUSPENSION AND EXCLUSION

289
290 Any member may resign from the association at any time. The member gives notice to the
291 Presidency of the decision to resign by written notification.
292

293 Members that resign are obliged to fulfil their financial obligations toward the association for the
294 year during which the resignation is submitted and for all previous years.
295

296 The suspension and the exclusion of a member may only be decided by the Political Assembly.
297 It is not obliged to disclose its reasons. A proposal for the exclusion or suspension of a member
298 may only be submitted by the Presidency, or seven Ordinary or Associated Member Parties from
299 five different countries. The Presidency invites the member concerned to the meeting of the
300 Political Assembly and may hear the member concerned. If the member fails to turn up for the
301 hearing, the Political Assembly is authorized to decide on the exclusion, respectively suspension
302 of the member.
303

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

- 305 i. Suspended members lose their right to propose candidates for positions within the
306 association; and
- 307 ii. Ex officios and members of an organ or body of the association, who were appointed or
308 elected based on their membership of the concerned suspended member, lose their right
309 to participate as well as their speaking and voting rights within all organs and bodies of
310 the association; and
- 311 ~~iii.~~ Individual members EPP Group Members of the concerned suspended member, ~~as defined~~
312 ~~in article 5(4) and Individual Members that are a member~~ of the ~~by-laws, concerned~~
313 suspended member lose their right to participate within the organs and bodies of the
314 association and their speaking and voting rights within all organs and bodies of the
315 association,
316 ~~iii.~~ it being understood that they have to continue to comply with their membership
317 obligations during the whole time of the suspension. In case of such a suspension, article 13,
318 §7, last sentence of the by-laws shall not apply.
319

320 The Political Assembly can take any action it deems appropriate against an Individual EPP Group
321 Member, who is not a member ex officio of the association. A proposal for the exclusion of an
322 Individual EPP Group Member who is a member ex officio of the association may only be
323 submitted by the Presidency of the EPP Group in the European Parliament.
324

325 If a Member Party is not any more a viable political force in its respective country and, in
326 particular, has not been represented in regional or national or European Parliament(s) for two
327 consecutive parliamentary terms, the EPP Presidency can recommend to the Political Assembly
328 its suspension or exclusion, according to the procedures stated in the previous paragraphs.
329

330 If a member, other than an Individual EPP Group Member who is a member ex officio of the
331 association, does not comply with the EPP Code of Conduct, the Presidency can, upon
332 recommendation of the EPP Ethics Committee, recommend to the Political Assembly the
333 suspension or exclusion of that member, according to the procedures stated above. In this case,
334 the Political Assembly shall investigate the alleged violations of the EPP Code of Conduct, invite
335 the member concerned to a hearing and render a reasoned decision.

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If a member, other than an [Individual EPP Group Member](#), does not continuously publish the political programme and logo of the EPP on its website in a clearly visible and user-friendly manner, the EPP Presidency can recommend to the Political Assembly its ~~suspension~~[suspension](#) or exclusion, according to the procedures stated above. In this case, the Political Assembly shall invite the member concerned to a hearing and render a reasoned decision.

A member's affiliation ceases automatically upon death, disqualification, liquidation or in cases of temporary administration, court-ordered settlement or insolvency. The affiliation of an ~~individual member~~[EPP Group Member](#) ends automatically when this member is no longer a member of the European Parliament and the affiliation of a Member Association ends automatically when this member does no longer fulfil the criteria that were necessary for its preliminary recognition as a Member Association as set out in these by-laws.

Individual Membership ends automatically:

- when the membership fee remains unpaid for a period of more than 3 months after the final payment date set out in article 7 of these by-laws;
- if the Individual Membership was granted based on the membership of an Ordinary Member Party, when the Individual Member is no longer member of that Ordinary Member Party; or
- upon decision by the Presidency at its own discretion and in the interest of the association, subject to the final decision of the Political Assembly.

Members that resigned or were excluded and the legal successors of such members or of deceased members have no claims on the assets of the association and may never be reimbursed for dues paid, contributions or any other payments made to the association, unless otherwise expressly provided for in the by-laws.

In no case may a member that resigned or was excluded demand the communication of or a copy of the accounts, the placing of official seals on the property of the association or the drawing up of an inventory.

Article 9 (bis) STATEMENTS – MEMBERS LIST

The EPP does not bear responsibility for statements issued on behalf of the EPP by members without prior approval of the EPP President.

The list of member parties as defined in article 5 and *5 bis* is defined in annex 2 to the by-laws.

III. ORGANS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article 10 ORGANS

The organs of the association are:

- (i) The Presidency
- (ii) The Political Assembly
- (iii) The Congress.

The EPP strives towards equal participation of women and men in all its organs.

IV. PRESIDENCY

Article 11 COMPOSITION – ELECTION – INCOMPATIBILITIES – INVITEES – VOLONTARYTY – REPLACEMENTS

393 The association is managed by the Presidency, the executive organ, within the meaning of article
394 10:9 of the CCA. The Presidency is composed of:

- 395 (i) the President of the EPP;
- 396 (ii) the President of the European Commission, the President of the European Council,
397 the High Representative on Foreign and Security Policy, the President of the European
398 Parliament (to the extent that these persons are affiliated to the EPP);
- 399 (iii) the Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament
- 400 (iv) the President of the European Committee of the Regions to the extent that he/she is
401 affiliated to the EPP or the Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Committee of
402 the Regions only if the President of EcoR is not affiliated to the EPP;
- 403 (v) the Honorary President(s);
- 404 (vi) ten Vice-Presidents;
- 405 (vii) the Treasurer; and
- 406 (viii) the Secretary General.

407
408 Except for the Honorary President(s) who are elected by the Political Assembly, and for the
409 President of the European Commission, the President of the European Council, the High
410 Representative on Foreign and Security Policy, the President of the European Parliament, the
411 President of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament [and the President of the European](#)
412 [Committee of the Regions](#), who are *ex officio* members of the Presidency, the members of the
413 Presidency are elected by the Congress by secret ballot and by separate vote, for a renewable
414 term of three years.

415
416 The Congress elects first the President who, subsequently, proposes to the Congress a Secretary
417 General to be elected. Only representatives of Ordinary and Associated Member Parties are
418 eligible for these functions.

419
420 Candidates who obtain a simple majority of the valid votes cast are elected. Abstentions are not
421 considered valid votes. Prior to the Congress, a special voting regulation for the election of the
422 President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary General and Treasurer, will be approved by the Political
423 Assembly.

424
425 Candidates for the functions of President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer must be nominated, in
426 writing, to the Secretariat General, seven days prior to the date of the election. Presidents and
427 Secretaries General are entitled, on behalf of Ordinary and Associated Member Parties and on
428 behalf of Member Associations, to propose candidates provided that all candidates are member
429 of an Ordinary or Associated Member Party. All Ordinary and Associated Member Parties and all
430 Member Associations shall be informed of the names of the candidates not less than three days
431 prior to the elections.

432
433 The members of the Presidency may resign at any time, by giving notice to the Presidency of
434 the decision to resign by written notification. Their mandate is at any time revocable by the
435 Congress.

436
437 Ceasing to be a member of an Ordinary or Associated EPP Member Party also constitutes
438 simultaneous resignation from the EPP Presidency.

439
440 If a mandate falls vacant, the Political Assembly shall in accordance with the previous paragraphs
441 of this article, elect a replacement following a call for candidatures. At the following Congress,
442 confirmation of this election is requested and the Congress determines the duration of the term
443 of office. Members of the Presidency may be re-elected.

444
445 Members of the Presidency whose terms of office are coming to an end must, before expiry of
446 the term, call a Congress for the purpose of electing new members of the Presidency. If they fail
447 to do so, they are obliged to remain in office until such time as a replacement can be found,
448 without prejudice to their responsibility for any damage caused by their omission.

449

450 On the proposal of the President, and in accordance with the requirements of the agenda, the
451 following persons may be invited to attend meetings of the Presidency:
452 - members of the European Commission who are member of a Member Party;
453 - The President and/or the President of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the
454 Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European committee of the
455 regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST.

456
457 The Secretary-General of the EPP Group in the European Parliament is permanently invited.

458
459 The EPP President and/or Secretary General can attend, at will, any meetings of any organs of
460 EPP Groups and Associations.

461
462 The members of the Presidency are not remunerated for the exercise of their mandate, unless
463 decided otherwise by the Political Assembly.

464
465 In case the President would be prevented to fulfil his powers, as attributed to him by these by-
466 laws and the internal regulations, he will delegate one of the Vice-Presidents as his
467 representative.

468 469 Article 12 POWERS – RESPONSIBILITIES

470
471 The Presidency has the powers attributed to it by the law, these by-laws and the Internal
472 Regulations. Its competences consist inter alia of:

- 473
474 - ensuring the implementation of decisions taken by the Political Assembly;
475 - preparing the annual accounts and budget;
476 - ensuring the permanent political presence of the EPP;
477 - monitoring the work of the General Secretariat, and more in particular the budget
478 management;
479 - issuing statements on behalf of the EPP in the framework of its political program further
480 to a decision of the Political Assembly;
481 - granting and revoking the title/status of Supporting Individual Member in accordance with
482 the internal regulations;
483 - proposing candidates for nomination as Honorary President to the Political Assembly;
484 - ensuring the coherence of membership policies between the EPP and EPP Groups in
485 international organisations, institutions, bodies and assemblies;
486 - adopting internal regulations for matters that fall within the scope of its competences;
487 - implementing the recommendations of the EPP Ethics Committee and formulating
488 proposals to the Political Assembly as to the further implementation by the Political
489 Assembly of these recommendations;
490 - Propose standing Working Groups to facilitate the discussion and preparation of
491 programmatic work in key areas that benefit from coordinated action
492 - establishing ad hoc Working Groups to react swiftly and efficiently to emerging
493 developments.

494 495 Article 13 MEETINGS

496
497 The members of the Presidency shall meet at least eight times annually, upon convocation by
498 the President, by letter, fax or email at the latest two weeks in advance, unless in case of
499 urgency. The meetings take place on the day and at the time and place stated in the convocation
500 notice. The notice also contains the agenda, which is fixed by the President. The Presidency may
501 only debate on the items on the agenda, unless all the members are present and unanimously
502 agree to deliberate and to approve the agenda set at that time.

503
504 The Presidency shall validly deliberate if a majority of its members are present.

505
506 In case of failure to achieve this quorum, a second meeting shall be convened with the same
507 agenda, which can validly deliberate, regardless of the attendance quorum.

508
509 Decisions shall be taken with a simple majority of the votes cast by the members of the
510 Presidency present. All members of the Presidency shall have one vote. In case of a tie, the
511 President has the casting vote. Abstentions and blank votes are not considered valid votes.

512
513 The meetings are chaired by the President.

514
515 The Secretary General shall draw up the minutes of the meetings, which shall be kept at the
516 registered office of the association.

517
518 Membership of the Presidency is strictly personal, meaning that a representative of a member
519 of the Presidency will not be admitted to meetings. The mandate of the elected members of the
520 Presidency will automatically expire if, during the course of the year, a member has not
521 participated in at least half of the meetings.

522
523 On the proposal of the President, the Presidency may share work between its members or
524 mandate certain members for specific tasks and delegate specific powers to one or more of its
525 members.

526
527 Article 14 DECISION MAKING PROCESS

528
529 If the President considers it advisable, the Presidency may approve a proposal by having all
530 members of the Presidency sign for approval a circular setting out the proposal.

531
532 In this case, the Presidency is not required to call a meeting. The circular must include the
533 following information:

- 534
535 - a statement that the text is a proposal for a decision of the Presidency;
536 - a statement that the decision shall only be approved if signed by all the members of the
537 Presidency;
538 - a statement that the decision may not be amended and that no reservations may be
539 expressed by members of the Presidency;
540 - a statement that all the members of the Presidency must return the document signed
541 and with the handwritten words "read and approved";
542 - a statement that the signed circular must be returned within ten days to the association.

543
544 The meetings of the Presidency may also be organized by video- or teleconference or any other
545 means of telecommunication, as long as all participants are able to express themselves and are
546 intelligible to all other participants.

547
548 **V. POLITICAL ASSEMBLY**

549
550 Article 15 DEFINITION – COMPOSITION

551
552 The Political Assembly is the strategic organ and the general assembly, within the meaning of
553 article 10:5 of the CCA, of the association.

554
555 It is composed of:

- 556
557 a. members *ex officio*:
- 558 - members of the Presidency;
 - 559 - members of the Presidency of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament;
 - 560 - Presidents of Ordinary or Associated Member Parties, Member Associations or their
561 mandated representatives;
 - 562 - Presidents of national delegations of member parties of the Group of the EPP in the
563 European Parliament;
 - 564

- 565 - Members of the Presidency of the European Parliament, members of the European
566 Commission and the President or the first Vice-President of the European Committee of
567 the Regions, provided they belong to an Ordinary Member Party;
568 - Presidents of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies
569 of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European committee of the regions, Union for the
570 Mediterranean and EURONEST, provided that they are member of an Ordinary Member
571 Party or Associate Member Party.
572

573 The mandate of these members of the Political Assembly ends when they lose the capacity in
574 which they became member of the Political Assembly.
575

576 b. delegated members:

- 577 - Representatives of Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties.
578 - The Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties shall nominate their
579 delegates together with an equivalent number of substitutes.
580 o The delegates and voting rights of Ordinary Member Parties are assigned
581 proportionally to the number of [Individual EPP Group](#) Members of the association;
582 o The delegates and voting rights of the Associated Member Parties and Member
583 Associations are assigned by the Presidency. The number of delegates shall be
584 limited to a maximum of 2 besides the Party Chairman.
585 - Representatives (three) of the EPP Group in the European Committee of the Regions.
586

587 The mandate of these members of the Political Assembly ends when the delegation by which
588 they became member of the Political Assembly comes to an end. The composition of the Political
589 Assembly is calculated by the Secretary General twice in a legislature of the European Parliament
590 (i): at the beginning and (ii) half-way through the European parliament legislature (any delay in
591 these calculations is limited to a maximum of six months). This calculation must be approved by
592 the Political Assembly.
593

594 c. non voting members

- 595
596 - The Secretary General of the EPP Group in the European Parliament, and the equivalent
597 EPP Secretaries General of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the
598 Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European committee of
599 the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST;
600 - Two representatives of each Observer Member Party;
601 - One representative of each EPP Partner and each Associated Entity.
602

603 On the proposal of the President, the Political Assembly may invite certain personalities to give
604 advice.
605

606 Article 16 POWERS – RESPONSIBILITIES

607

608 The Political Assembly has the powers attributed to it by the law, these by-laws and the Internal
609 Regulations. Its competences consist inter alia of:

- 610
611 - ensuring unity of action by the EPP and influencing the achievement of European policy
612 in the spirit of its program;
613 - stimulating and organizing systematic relations between national parliamentary groups
614 and member parties in agreement with the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament;
615 - adopting the annual accounts and the budget;
616 - electing two Internal Auditors in accordance with article [2426](#) of the by-laws;
617 - deciding on the applications for membership as well as on the recognition of Member
618 Associations;
619 - deciding on the suspension and exclusion of members and revoking the recognition of
620 Member Associations;
621 - [deciding on the provisional decision of the Presidency to revoke of the status of Individual](#)
622 [Member;](#)

- 623 - deciding on the amount of annual dues to be paid by the members;
- 624 - convening the Congress;
- 625 - formulating recommendations to the Congress as to modifications of the by-laws;
- 626 - adopting the Internal Regulations in accordance with article [2628](#) of the by-laws;
- 627 - electing the Honorary President(s) on the proposal of the Presidency;
- 628 - accepting candidature(s) of EPP candidate(s) for President of the EU Commission;
- 629 - deciding on changes to annex 1 to the by-laws on the logo and annex 2 to the by-laws
- 630 on the list of member parties;
- 631 - appointing five members of the EPP Ethics Committee and electing its president;
- 632 - approving the EPP Code of Conduct and any amendments thereof, upon the proposal of
- 633 the EPP Ethics Committee;
- 634 - approving the internal regulations of the EPP Ethics Committee, and any amendments
- 635 thereof, upon the proposal of the EPP Ethics Committee;
- 636 - implementing the recommendations of the EPP Ethics Committee upon the proposal of
- 637 the Presidency;
- 638 - reporting to its members on the compliance by the EPP members with the EPP Code of
- 639 Conduct;
- 640 - approving and revoking of Bilateral Agreements in accordance with article [2123 bis](#) of the
- 641 by-laws.

642
643 The Upon proposal of the Presidency, the Political Assembly may establish at the beginning of
644 the term, i.e. after a Statutory Congress, standing ~~commissions~~ Working Groups to facilitate the
645 discussion and preparation of programmatic work on policy areas. Standing Working Groups will
646 focus on key developments and core topics that benefit from coordinated action.

647 Upon proposal of the Presidency and without prejudice to article 12 of these by-laws, the Political
648 Assembly may establish ad hoc ~~working groups~~ Working Groups to study specific problems, and

649
650 Upon proposal of the Presidency, the Political Assembly may decide to dissolve ~~the~~ Working
651 Group after having heard the president of the ~~commission or working group~~ Working Group.

652 653 Article 17 MEETINGS - DECISION MAKING PROCESS

654
655 On the invitation of the President, the Political Assembly meets at least four times annually,
656 whenever the object or the interest of the association so requires; an extraordinary meeting can
657 be held at the request of either one-third of the Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member
658 Parties, or of the Presidency of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament.

659
660 The Political Assembly shall validly deliberate if it is convened regularly, i.e. by letter, fax or
661 email at the latest two weeks in advance, unless in case of urgency, and if a simple majority of
662 its members are present. Failure to achieve this quorum can only be established on the basis of
663 a formal motion, introduced during the meeting itself of the Political Assembly. A formal motion,
664 preventing valid deliberation of the Political Assembly, may be introduced by at least seven
665 Ordinary Member Parties or Associated Member Parties from five different countries. If a formal
666 motion has not been introduced, the Political Assembly can validly deliberate, regardless of the
667 fact the attendance quorum has not been reached. If a formal motion has been introduced, and
668 the Political Assembly is thus unable to make a valid deliberation, the President shall convene a
669 second meeting with the same agenda, within at least two weeks and at most two months after
670 the introduction of the formal motion, which can validly deliberate, regardless of the attendance
671 quorum.

672
673 The convocation notice sets out the agenda. Meetings are held at the registered office of the
674 association or at the place stated in the notice of the meeting. The Political Assembly can be
675 held either physically or remotely, via video or telephone conference or any other means of
676 telecommunication, as long as all participants are able to express themselves and are intelligible
677 to all other participants (without prejudice to the specific provisions of applicable law, if any). In
678 a case of urgency, that needs to be dealt with immediately at the political assembly, the deadline
679 to list this topic on the agenda ends 3 days prior to the scheduled beginning of the political

680 assembly. All members of the political assembly must immediately be informed about the
681 addition on the agenda.

682
683 All decisions shall be taken by simple majority of the votes cast by the members of the Political
684 Assembly present. In case of a tie, the President has the casting vote. Abstentions and blank
685 votes are not considered valid votes

686
687 The meetings are chaired by the President.

688
689 The Secretary General shall draw up the minutes of the meetings, which shall be kept at the
690 registered office of the association. All members will receive copies of these minutes within four
691 weeks of each meeting.

692
693 The Political Assembly normally meets "in camera". On the request of the Presidency or of one
694 tenth of the delegates, the Political Assembly may decide to admit the public to the meeting.

695
696
697 **VI. CONGRESS**

698
699 **Article 18 DEFINITION - POWERS**

700
701 The Congress has the following competences:

- 702
703 - deciding on the political program of the EPP;
704 - deciding on modifications of the by-laws;
705 - electing the President, Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General and the Treasurer;
706 - deciding on the dissolution of the association;
707 - electing the EPP candidate for President of the EU Commission.

708
709 The composition and the functioning of the Congress are regulated in the Internal Regulations.

710
711 **VII. SECRETARY GENERAL**

712
713 **Article 19 ELECTION - POWERS**

714
715 The Congress elects, on the proposal of the President, a Secretary General, in charge of the day-
716 to-day management of the association, including the representation of the association within the
717 limits of the day-to-day management.

718
719 This day-to-day management includes inter alia:

- 720
721 (i) the management of the General Secretariat and exercise of the decisions taken by
722 the organs;
723 (ii) the supervision of the cooperation between the General Secretariats of Ordinary
724 Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Observers, Member Associations, EPP
725 Partners and the General Secretariat of the EPP Group in the European Parliament;
726 (iii) the drawing up, in agreement with the President, of agendas for meetings of organs,
727 the supervision of the convening of meetings, their preparation, and the writing of
728 minutes;
729 (iv) the responsibility to the Presidency and the Political Assembly for proper and
730 adequate budgetary management;
731 (v) the drawing up of a report of the activities of the General Secretariat and
732 organizational perspectives to the Political Assembly at the beginning of each year;
733 (vi) Chairs the working group on Statutory Changes. This working group will issue
734 recommendations to the EPP Presidency concerning the revision of the by-laws and
735 internal regulation prior to each Statutory Congress in accordance with article [2628](#)
736 and [2729](#) of the by-laws;

- 737 (vii) verification of the documents of all new membership applications as referred to in
738 article 5, 5 bis and 6 and clearance, in accordance with the President, for transferral
739 to the Working Group EPP Membership
740

741 The secretary General is also entitled to implement decisions of the Presidency and in particular
742 to authorize an attorney at law to represent the association in judicial proceedings either as
743 applicant or defendant.
744

VIII. THE EPP SUMMIT AND MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

Article 20 EPP SUMMIT

745
746
747
748 In preparation of each European Council a EPP Summit shall be organized to provide advice on
749 the strategy and political orientation of the association. The composition will be further set forth
750 in the Internal Regulations.
751

752
753
754 The association may also organize Enlarged Summits and Leaders' Retreat.
755

Article 21 MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

756
757
758 The association organizes on a regular basis Ministerial Meetings prior to the EU Council
759 meetings, focussing on relevant EU policy sectors decided by the Presidency.
760

VIII-IX. REPRESENTATION

Article ~~20~~22 PROCEDURE

761
762
763 All legal acts on behalf of the association not falling within the scope of the day-to-day
764 management or of a special delegation of powers, must be signed by the President or by two
765 members of the Presidency.
766
767
768

~~IX-X.~~ WILFRIED MARTENS CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

Article ~~21~~23 DEFINITION

769
770
771
772 The Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (hereinafter referred to as "WMCES") is the
773 official European political foundation of the European People's Party. The WMCES will function as
774 the sole and official think-tank of the EPP and shall, in particular, serve as a common European
775 framework for national foundations/think-tanks recognized by EPP member-parties. and is
776 involved in the preparation of the Summer University.
777
778

779
780 WMCES is organized as a separate legal entity with separate financial accounts, operating in
781 accordance with its own by-laws and internal regulations.
782

~~X-XI.~~ BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Article ~~21~~23 bis DEFINITION

783
784
785 The association has the right to establish bilateral agreements with parties, organizations, think
786 tanks, NGOs, civil society organizations, unions, etc., as an instrument to develop broader
787 relations. The specific terms of each agreement have to be accepted by the Presidency and
788 approved by the Political Assembly. At the proposal of the Presidency, the Political Assembly has
789 the right to revoke a bilateral agreement if the terms of the agreement have been breached.
790
791
792

~~XI-XII.~~ PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION

795 Article [2224](#) DEFINITION

796

797 The EPP is committed to comply with national applicable laws and EU regulations concerning the
798 protection of data and will collect only information that is strictly needed and relevant, and up-
799 to-date and will use appropriate controls to ensure the information is kept secure.

800

801

802 **XII.XIII. FINANCIAL YEAR, ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET**

803

804 Article [2325.1](#) FINANCING

805

806 The EPP shall be financed by:

807 - The general budget of the EU in conformity with the Regulation (EU/EURATOM) No
808 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and
809 funding of political parties at European level, as amended;

810 - The annual membership fees determined in accordance with Articles 7 and [2325.2](#);

811 - Contributions from ~~supporting members~~;

812 Individual Members

813 - Donations;

814 all in accordance with the Regulation (EU/EURATOM) No 1141/2014, as amended.

815

816 Article [2325.2](#) MEMBERSHIP FEES

817

818 The conditions for the determination of the membership fees are strictly defined in the Internal
819 Regulations. Membership fees and contributions are governed by the conditions and obligations
820 relating to the funding of political parties at European level established in Regulation
821 (EU/EURATOM) No 1141/2014, as amended.

822

823 Article [2426](#) FINANCIAL YEAR – ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET

824

825 The association’s financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December.

826

827 At the end of each financial year, the Presidency closes the accounts for the year ended and
828 establishes the budget for the following financial year in accordance with the applicable legal
829 provisions; the annual accounts are submitted to the Political Assembly for approval.

830

831 The Treasurer will assist the Presidency in drawing up the accounts and the budget. He controls
832 the budgetary management of the General Secretary and reports to the Presidency. He is
833 responsible in particular for the financing of the association and its activities, by means of
834 membership fees, donations or otherwise.

835

836 Every two years, the Political Assembly elects two Internal Auditors who may not be a member
837 of the Presidency. The mandate of the Internal Auditors lasts two years and is renewable. The
838 Internal Auditors are responsible for the verification of the annual accounts and report
839 accordingly to the Political Assembly.

840

841 The surplus is added to the association’s assets and in no case may be paid to members in the
842 form of dividends.

843

844 To promote transparency the EPP accounts will be drawn up and communicated in accordance
845 to chapter 5 of Regulation (EU/EURATOM) No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the
846 Council of 22 October 2014, as amended.

847

848 **XIII.XIV. ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR IN POLITICS - ETHICS COMMITTEE - CODE OF**
849 **CONDUCT**

850

851 Article [2527](#) ETHICS COMMITTEE – ELECTION AND POWERS

852

853 The EPP Ethics Committee is composed of five members appointed by the Political Assembly for
854 a renewable term of three years. The chairperson of the EPP Ethics Committee shall be chosen
855 and elected from among the members of the Presidency.

856
857 The EPP Ethics Committee drafts an EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics and
858 submits it for approval to the Political Assembly.

859
860 The EPP Ethics Committee drafts its internal regulations and submits these for approval to the
861 Political Assembly.

862 By subscribing to the EPP Code of Conduct, which is a prerequisite for EPP membership, Ordinary
863 Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member Associations, [EPP Group Members](#),
864 Observer Member Parties, [Associated Entities and](#) Individual Members, accept the responsibility
865 to continuously act so as to maintain and enhance public confidence in the integrity of the
866 political process.

867
868 The competences of the EPP Ethics Committee include inter alia:
869 - drafting, as well as amending, if need be, the EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour
870 in Politics and submitting the EPP Code of Conduct and any subsequent amendments
871 thereto for approval to the Political Assembly;
872 - outlining the procedure to verify the compliance of applicants with the EPP Code of
873 Conduct;
874 - drafting, as well as amending, if need be, its internal regulations and submitting these
875 and any subsequent amendments thereto for approval to the Political Assembly;
876 - monitoring compliance with the EPP Code of Conduct;
877 - reporting on any alleged infringements of the EPP Code of Conduct;
878 - in case of non-compliance with the EPP Code of Conduct, making recommendations to
879 the Presidency to adopt proposals for a final decision on any appropriate measures to be
880 taken by the Political Assembly, including the suspension or exclusion of the concerned
881 member;

882
883 The Political Assembly may, upon the recommendation of the EPP Ethics Committee and a
884 proposal of the Presidency, request that a Member Party takes action against one of its members,
885 if it has determined that the respective member has acted in a way that is not compliant with
886 the EPP Code of Conduct.

887
888 **XIV.XV. INTERNAL REGULATIONS AND MODIFICATION OF INTERNAL**
889 **REGULATIONS.**

890
891 Article ~~2628~~ INTERNAL REGULATIONS - MODIFICATION

892
893 At the proposal of the Presidency, the Political Assembly decides on the Internal Regulations in
894 which issues of internal order and of financial order not mentioned in these by-laws shall be set
895 out. In the Internal Regulations, some additional bodies will be created, such as the EPP Summit
896 [and Ministerial Meetings](#).

897
898 Proposals for modifications of the Internal Regulations may be introduced by the Presidency,
899 Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties or Member Associations; and by the EPP
900 Group at the European Parliament and the Presidents of the EPP, likeminded or associated
901 Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European
902 committee of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST, provided that they are
903 member of an Ordinary Member Party or Associated Member Party. Said proposals must be
904 submitted in writing to the Secretary General four weeks prior to the meeting of the Political
905 Assembly at which they will be considered and they must be notified to the members.

906
907 The Internal Regulations can also contain provisions that [affect further elaborate on](#) (i) the rights
908 of the Ordinary Member Parties, the Associated Member Parties, the Member Associations [the](#)

909 [EPP Group Members](#) and the Individual Members, (ii) the competence of the Presidency and the
910 Political Assembly or (iii) the organisation and working method of the Political Assembly,
911 provided that such provisions [may not contradict these by-laws and](#) must be approved in
912 accordance with the attendance and majority requirements necessary for an amendment of the
913 by-laws as set forth in Article [2729](#).

914
915 The Presidency ensures that the Internal Regulations are brought to the attention of the
916 members.

917
918 The most recent version of the Internal Regulations dates from 11 July 2024. In the event of
919 amendments to these Internal Regulations, the Presidency may amend this reference to the date
920 of the Internal Regulations in the by-laws and publish this in the Belgian Official Gazette.

921 **XV-XVI. MODIFICATIONS OF THE BY-LAWS**

922 **Article [2729](#) BY-LAWS - MODIFICATION**

923
924
925
926 Proposals for modifications of the by-laws may be introduced by the Presidency, Ordinary
927 Member Parties, Associated Member Parties or Member Associations and by the EPP Group at
928 the European Parliament and the Presidents of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at
929 the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European committee of the
930 regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST provided that they are member of an
931 Ordinary Member Party or Associated Member Party.

932
933 Proposals must be presented in writing to the Secretary General who will transmit them to the
934 Members of the Political Assembly for deliberation at least four weeks prior to the meeting at
935 which the Political Assembly will deliberate on those proposals.

936
937 Proposals shall be presented to the Congress for adoption only if they have obtained a two-thirds
938 majority of the votes cast in the Political Assembly. Approval of modifications to the by-laws
939 presented by the Political Assembly requires a simple majority of the votes cast by the members
940 of Congress present. The Congress may by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by the members
941 present overrule the proposals of the Political Assembly. Abstentions and blank votes are not
942 considered valid votes.

943
944 By derogation to the preceding rules, a Congress can be validly held by at least two members of
945 the Presidency, in the presence of a notary, without any convening notice or quorum being
946 required, in case a special meeting of the Congress is required to adopt modifications to the by-
947 laws of the association which must be recorded in a notarial deed pursuant to applicable law,
948 provided that these modifications have been previously approved by a Congress convened and
949 held in accordance with the functioning of an ordinary meeting of the Congress (or by the Political
950 Assembly, pursuant to the transitional provisions of the by-laws to the extent such transitional
951 provisions grant such powers to the Political Assembly).

952 **XVI-XVII. DISSOLUTION**

953 **Article [2830](#) REGULATION**

954
955
956
957 The association is not dissolved as a result of the death, dissolution or resignation of a member,
958 provided the number of members is not less than two.

959
960 The association may be dissolved voluntarily by a decision of the Congress with a three-quarters
961 majority of the members present, in accordance with the rules applicable to its functioning, as
962 set out in the Internal Regulations.

963
964 In the event of voluntary dissolution, the Congress elects the liquidator(s). In the absence of
965 liquidator(s), the members of the Presidency will act as liquidators.

966

967 In the event of dissolution, the Political Assembly decides on the disposal of the assets. Such
968 disposal must serve a not-for-profit purpose.

969

970 **XVII-XVIII. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

971

972 By derogation to article [2729](#) of the by-laws, the Political Assembly is entitled to adopt
973 amendments to the by-laws of the association if such amendments are required or useful with
974 a view to implementing

975 (i) Regulation (EU/EURATOM) No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of
976 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political
977 foundations, as amended;

978 (ii) delegated acts of the European Commission as set out in article 36 of the Regulation
979 (EU/EURATOM) No 1141/2014, as amended, and;

980 (iii) current and future Belgian laws and regulations that, directly or indirectly, relate to any
981 aspect of the conversion of a European political party governed by Belgian law into a European
982 Political Party governed by the aforementioned Regulation.

983

984 The EPP Code of Conduct, approved by the Political Assembly 14 October 2019 shall be
985 communicated to all current Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member
986 Associations, [EPP Group Members](#), Observer Member Parties, [Associated Entities and](#) Individual
987 Members and shall be binding upon those members having continued their membership of the
988 EPP beyond the date of entry into force of the EPP Code of Conduct set forth in the notice
989 communicated by the Political Assembly.

Annex 1. The logo of the association.

Annex 2. List of member parties

Annex 1
EPP logo



990
991
992

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