

## INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY

By and under supervision of the Political Assembly, the following additional organs and bodies with and without decision-making powers will be established and function within the association. The rules regarding the functioning and composition of these organs and bodies, as well as other rules relating to the functioning of the association which are not set out in the by-laws, will be set out in these Internal Regulations.

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

- (i) the Presidency
- (ii) the Political Assembly
- (iii) the Congress

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

- (i) the EPP Summit
- (ii) the International Secretaries Steering Committee
- (iii) the EPP Ministerial Meetings
- (iv) Enlarged Summits
- (v) Leaders' Retreat
- ~~(iv)~~(vi) the standing and ad hoc Working Groups ~~fora and ad hoc Committees~~
- ~~(v)~~(vii) the Ethics Committee
- (viii) Summer University

### I. ON THE CONGRESS

#### a. Composition

The members of Congress are:

- Members of the EPP Presidency;
- Presidents of Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties and Member Associations;
- Delegates of Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties and Member Associations
- Heads of State or Government of Member States of the European Union, who are members of an Ordinary Member Party;
- Individual EPP Group Members of the Association (cf. article 5, (4) of the by-laws);
- Members of the European Commission provided they are members of an Ordinary Member Party;
- Presidents of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European Committee of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST provided that they are a member of an Ordinary Member Party or an Associated Member Party;
- Delegates of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European Committee of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST, provided that they are member of an Ordinary Member Party or Associated Member Party.

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

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

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

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60 They must, in the composition of their delegation, give priority to their representatives at  
61 the Political Assembly.

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

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

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72 The following are invited to the Congress as guests:

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

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

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92 **b. Functioning**

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

98  
99 The Political Assembly debates and approves the draft EPP Congress document.

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

104  
105 The venue and date of an ordinary Congress, as well as the number of delegates per  
106 delegation, must be communicated at least two months in advance.

107  
108 The Political Assembly can decide to convene an extraordinary Congress. At the request of  
109 the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament or at least one-third of the Ordinary  
110 Member Parties and Associated Member Parties, the Political Assembly shall convene an  
111 Extraordinary Congress. The time period set out in the previous paragraphs shall be  
112 reduced to minimum three weeks.

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

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

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

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

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

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133 Decisions shall be taken with a simple majority of the votes cast by the members of the  
134 Congress present. Decisions on modifications to the by-laws are governed by article [2729](#)  
135 of the by-laws. Each member of Congress has one vote. Abstentions and blank votes are  
136 not considered to be valid votes.

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

## 140 141 **II. ON THE EPP SUMMIT**

### 142 143 **a. Competences**

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

### 148 149 **b. Composition**

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151 The EPP Summit is composed of:

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153 - the members of the EPP Presidency;  
154 - the members of the European Council (Heads of State or Government), a Vice-  
155 President of the EC to represent the members of the Commission in the absence  
156 of the President, as far as he or she is a member of an EPP Ordinary Member  
157 Party;  
158 - Presidents of parties in coalition governments in EU Member States in cases where  
159 the Head of Government is not a member of an EPP Ordinary Member Party;  
160 - the President of the largest opposition party in each Member State of the European  
161 Union.  
162 Where EPP Ordinary Member Parties candidate only in complementary regions, the  
163 President of each party is invited.

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

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167 The President will report to the Political Assembly on the outcome and general direction of  
168 the EPP Summit.

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**c. Enlarged Summit**

The Enlarged Summit is held at least once a year and issues recommendations on the strategy and political orientation of the association.

The Enlarged Summit is composed of:

- EPP Summit Members;
- Head of State or Government, as far as he or she is a member of an EPP Associated Member Party or a Partner Party;
- Presidents of parties in coalition government in cases where the Head of Government is not a member of an EPP Associated Member Party or a Partner Party;
- The president of the largest opposition party in non-EU Member States in which the association has Associated Member Parties or Partner Parties.

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

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

**III. LEADERS' RETREAT**

The Leaders' Retreat is an informal meeting focussed on discussing the long term EPP strategy. The Leader's Retreat is composed of members of the European Council, Heads of State or Government, a vice-president in the absence of the president of the European Commission, the president of the European Parliament, presidents of parties in coalition governments in EU Member States OR the highest-ranking member of the coalition government belonging to an EPP Ordinary Member Party in cases where the Head of Government is not member of an EPP Ordinary Member Party and the president of the largest opposition party in each Member State of the European Union.

The President has the right to invite other individuals to the meetings of the EPP Leaders' Retreat as deemed appropriate.

The President will report to the Political Assembly on the outcome and general direction of the EPP Leaders' Retreat.

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

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

**IVV. ON THE EPP MINISTERIAL MEETINGS**

The association organizes on a regular basis EU Ministerial Meetings prior to the EU Council meetings on relevant EU policy sectors proposed by the EPP Presidency in order to improve political coordination and policy synergy in the Council. At the recommendation of the EPP President, ~~EPP Vice Presidents or other outstanding EPP political personalities may chair such meetings if they~~ the Ministerial Meetings as a general rule should be co-chaired by the

~~co-legislators, being one Council member and one Member of the European Parliament, who have relevant policy experience and expertise in the relevant domain.~~

The following individuals can be invited to the Ministerial Meetings:

- ~~(i) On those policy areas where co-decision is required the European Commissioner, provided he belongs to an EPP Member Party, may be invited as well as;~~
- (ii) The EPP Vice President responsible for the corresponding portfolio;
- (iii) Members of the European Parliament of the EPP Group who will participate following the recommendations of the Presidency of the EPP Group in the European Parliament.

~~Additionally, the co-chairs may decide to convene exceptional Ministerial Meeting to discuss and align the political direction of the association, both in the short term and in the long term.~~

For such long-term strategic discussions, for example at the start of a Council presidency, co-chairs may decide to exceptionally open Ministerial Meetings to EPP Member Parties in opposition and/or Associated Member Parties,

## **VI. WORKING GROUPS**

Working Groups shall comprise representatives from Member Parties, Partner Parties, Member Associations and EPP Groups in Parliamentary Assemblies, in order to engage in long-term policy coordination and develop programmatic work.

Members of each Working Group are appointed by the Political Assembly or if the ad hoc Working Group is established by the Presidency, by the latter, upon nomination by Member Parties, Member Associations and or EPP Groups in Parliamentary Assemblies.

## **VII. ON THE WORKING GROUP CHAIRMEN**

Upon nomination of the Presidency, the Chairperson of the each Working Group is appointed by the Political Assembly or if the ad hoc Working Group is established by the Presidency, by the latter.

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

To ensure alignment and coordination across the association's various organs and bodies, the Working Group Chairpersons shall ensure appropriate coordination with the EPP Group, EPP Ministerial Meetings and EPP Summits.

The Members of the Presidency and the members of the Political Assembly may suggest or request the creation of a 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.

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**VIII. ON THE SUMMER UNIVERSITY**

The association organizes, in close cooperation with the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, an annual Summer University, where party members, including group leaders of EU institutions and parliamentary assemblies, chairs of the Ministerial Meetings and members of Working Groups, gather informally to discuss the activities of their various meeting formats and coordinate messaging.

**IXVI. ON THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

**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 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.

**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.

**VIIIX. 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.

**VIIIXI. 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, the Political Assembly may decide to hear a representative of the applicant party.



362 The Secretary General in accordance with the President transmits the application for advice  
333 to the EPP Working Group on 'EPP Membership'.  
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335 The Political Assembly will take a decision on the application on one of its next meetings  
336 following the receipt of the advice of the EPP Working Group on 'EPP Membership'.  
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### **b. Individual Members**

338 In addition to article 5ter of the by-laws, the Individual Members have the right to attend  
341 the Congress, have regular access to European political news and may attend the EPP  
342 networks in member states' capitals.  
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### ~~b. XII Supporting members~~

344 ~~The Presidency may also grant the title of Supporting Member to other persons~~  
348 ~~or associations. They do not enjoy the same rights as the members mentioned in~~  
349 ~~article 5 and article 5bis of the by-laws but may be invited by the President to~~  
350 ~~attend meetings of certain organs or bodies of the association.~~  
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## ~~IX.~~ **ON THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

### **a. Membership Fees of EPP Ordinary Member Parties**

352 The annual Membership Fees of the EPP Ordinary Member Parties is based on:  
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- 354 a) a basic sum calculated on the basis of the votes obtained by that party in  
355 the last European Elections
- 356 b) a basic sum per member of that party in the EPP Group in the European  
357 Parliament

358 The basic calculation is made for the first budget following European Elections, on the  
363 proposal of the Treasurer and the Secretary General and after approval of the Political  
364 Assembly.  
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366 When a modification in Membership Fees is necessary, it is possible to vote for either a  
367 modification of basic sum a) or for a modification of basic sum b) or for a modification of  
368 both sums.  
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### **b. Membership Fees for Observer Member Parties based in the European Union**

370 On the proposal of the Treasurer and Secretary General, the Membership Fees of EPP  
374 Observer Member Parties based in the European Union, is calculated by the Political  
375 Assembly on the basis of 50% of the votes obtained by these Observer Member parties  
376 during the last national elections. The Observer Member Parties based in the European  
377 Union will start paying Membership Fees immediately after their admission as an Observer  
378 Member Party, *pro rata temporis*.  
379

### ~~c. Contribution of Supporting Membership Contributions for Individual Members~~

380 ~~Supporting~~The membership fees for Individual Members ~~based~~are set annually by the  
385 Political Assembly, in the European Union contribute to the financing accordance with article  
386 Z of the EPP. The contribution is at least 20 euro by-laws.  
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**d. General Stipulations**

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

**e. Subventions to Member Associations**

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

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

3. Following this, each member association is entitled to a reimbursement to a maximum amount of ~~6070~~.000€ of proven expenditures with regard to the organisation of events and administrative costs. In order to obtain reimbursements of these costs the associations must produce all supporting documents including invoices, bank statements and detailed cost overviews.

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

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

**f. Financial support to related organizations**

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

**g. Administration of Resources**

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

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

In accordance with article 12 and article [2426](#) of the by-laws, any member of the EPP Presidency who is a Member of the European Commission or President of the European Parliament shall abstain from taking part in the deliberation and voting process regarding the annual accounts and budget of the association.

**XXIII.ON THE EPP MERIT AWARD**



444 The EPP Presidency has the right to grant an "EPP Merit Award" to individuals that have  
445 made an outstanding contribution in promoting the association. The EPP Presidency will  
446 receive nominations and examine them on a case-by-case basis before granting the Award.  
447

#### 448 ~~XI. ON THE WILFRIED MARTENS FUND~~

449 ~~The association will participate in the 'Wilfried Martens Fund' established together with the~~  
450 ~~KU Leuven University.~~

#### 451 ~~XIV~~

452 ~~The Wilfried Martens Fund is created to honour the memory and legacy of the late-~~  
453 ~~association's President Wilfried Martens. The Wilfried Martens fund shall present a yearly~~  
454 ~~report on its activities and finances to the Political Assembly.~~

#### 455 ~~XIII. ON THE ROBERT SCHUMAN INSTITUTE~~

456  
457 The Robert Schuman Institute is recognized as the training institute of the European  
458 People's Party and will be supported by the European People's Party. The Robert Schuman  
459 Institute shall present a yearly report on its activities and finances to the Political Assembly.  
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#### 463 ~~XIII~~XV. ON THE LGBT+ ALLIANCE EPP FARMERS

464 EPP Farmers aims to create a central platform for agricultural and rural issues within the  
465 EPP. This includes strengthening cooperation between agricultural associations and  
466 policymakers, advocating for farming in centre-right policies and ensuring that agricultural  
467 concerns are effectively represented within the EPP. EPP Farmers also enhances exchange  
468 and collaboration between national Parliament members, members of the European  
469 Parliament, Ministers of Agriculture, and national and regional party members involved in  
470 agricultural policy.  
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#### 472 ~~XVI. ON THE EPPride~~

473 The ~~LGBT+ Alliance~~ EPPride is created as a network of conservative, Christian-democrat,  
474 and liberal-conservative LGBT-groups in Europe to provide an LGBT voice in the centre-  
475 right policies. The Alliance shall present a yearly report on its activities and finances to the  
476 Political Assembly.  
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