



1 **ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe**
2 **Party, eupp**

3 **adopted by the ALDE Party Congress in Stockholm, Sweden on 28 May 2023**

4 **CHAPTER I - NAME, REGISTERED OFFICE, PURPOSE AND TERM OF THE**
5 **ASSOCIATION**

6 Article 1 – Name and logo

7 A European political party, is hereby incorporated under European law. Its name is
8 **“Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party”**, abbreviated as **“ALDE Party”**
9 hereinafter referred to as the **“Association”**. Both the full and the abbreviated names may
10 be used indistinguishably.

11 All acts, invoices, announcements, publicity, letters, orders and other documents issued by the
12 Association, shall indicate the full name or the abbreviated name of the Association preceded or
13 followed by the words “European party” (abbreviated EUPP), as well as the indication of the
14 registered office of the Association.

15 The Association is governed by the Regulation N°1141/2014 of the European Parliament
16 and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties
17 and European political foundations (the **“Regulation”**), as well by the Code of Companies
18 and Associations as introduced by the Act of 23 March 2019 (the **“Code”**) for the legal matters
19 that are not covered by the Regulation, as provided under Article 14 of the Regulation.

20 The logo of the Association is attached as Annex I to the Statutes.

21 Article 2 – Registered office

22 The registered office of the Association is located at B-1050 Brussels, rue d’Idalie, 11. The
23 registered office may be transferred to any other location in the EU by a decision of the
24 Bureau.

25 Article 3 – Purpose and objectives

26 The Association observes the values on which the Union is founded, as expressed in Article 2
27 TEU, namely respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and
28 respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

29 The Association has as non-profit purpose to bring together political parties and citizens in
30 Europe who, within the framework of liberal, democratic and reformist ideals, wish to contribute
31 to the European Union.

32 To achieve this purpose, the Association will:

- 33 - strengthen the liberal, democrat and reform movement in the European Union and
34 throughout Europe;
- 35 - seek a common position on all important matters affecting the European Union;

- 36 - inform the public and involve it in the construction of a united European democracy;
37 - support and co-ordinate its members in the context of the elections to the European
38 Parliament;
39 - promote the constitution of a Liberal, Democrat and Reform parliamentary group in all
40 international parliamentary assemblies;
41 - develop close working relationships with and among its members, their national
42 parliamentary groups, the parliamentary Group of the ALDE Party in the European
43 Parliament, in other international fora and Liberal International.

44 The Association may also validly set up a subsidiary dedicated to fundraising, sponsoring and
45 other related activities which contribute to collect private or public funds, provided that any
46 revenue paid by the subsidiary to the Association is used by the Association for the
47 achievement of its non-profit purpose and objectives.

48 The Association may carry out all operations and conduct all activities, in Europe, which
49 directly or indirectly increase or promote its purpose and objectives.

50 Article 4 – Term

51 The Association is incorporated for an unlimited period of time.

52 Article 5 – Youth Organisation

53 European Liberal Youth, abbreviated as LYMEC, is the associated youth entity of the
54 Association. They have the right to take part in the meetings of the Council and the Congress,
55 to voice their opinion and to vote, as specified in the Internal Regulations.

56 Article 6 – Foundation

57 The affiliated European political foundation of the Association is the European Liberal Forum.
58 It is formally affiliated to the Association and through its activities, within the aims and
59 fundamental values pursued by the European Union, underpins and complements the
60 objectives of the political party at European level.

61 Article 7 - Individual engagement

62 Citizens wishing to support the ALDE Party can establish an entity for that purpose but must
63 seek formal recognition by the Bureau.

64 **CHAPTER II - MEMBERS**

65 Article 8 – Criteria for membership, categories of members and rights and obligations of 66 members

67 Membership of the Association is open to all political parties in Europe that accept these
68 Articles of Association, the Internal Regulations of the Association, the policy programmes of
69 the Association and the Stuttgart Declaration.

70 The Association shall be composed of at least two full members. The Association shall consist
71 of full and affiliate members, natural persons or legal entities lawfully established in accordance
72 with the laws and customs of their country of origin.

73 If a candidate member is a legal entity and no natural person, in accordance with the laws and
74 the customs of its country of origin, it shall, in its written application for membership, appoint a
75 natural person, who will act on behalf and for the account of all the members of such candidate
76 member, in his/her capacity of common attorney-in-fact.

77 Full and affiliate members from an EU Member State shall pay a membership fee according to
78 the Internal Regulations. Full and affiliate members' delegates have the right to take part in the
79 meetings of the Council and the Congress, to voice their opinion and to vote as specified in
80 the Internal Regulations. Only full members have voting rights.

81 Member parties who hold no EU-citizenship or who are non-EU legal entities ("non-EU
82 members") can participate in the activities of the party and will be charged based on cost of
83 their engagement package. Non-EU members may not together vote in any body or committee
84 of the Association for a number of votes exceeding one third of the number of votes cast in
85 each ballot. When applicable, non-EU member votes shall be subject to proportional reduction
86 in the calculation of the results of the relevant ballot.

87 Article 9 – Members of the European Parliament

88 All members of the parliamentary group of the party elected on a list of a member party are
89 also affiliate members *ex-officio* of the Association. Other members of the European
90 Parliament can affiliate on an individual basis to the Association.

91 Article 10 – Register of members and members list

92 A register containing an up-to-date list of all full and affiliate members of the Association will
93 be held at the registered office.

94 Full and affiliate members may have access to the register at the registered office of the
95 Association.

96 The list of full and affiliate member parties of the Association is annexed as Annex II to the
97 Statutes.

98 Article 11 – Admission of members

99 Any application for full or affiliate membership shall be sent to the Bureau with all necessary
100 documentation evidencing that the applicant fulfils the membership requirements. The Bureau
101 shall submit the application and its preliminary report and opinion to the Council, which will
102 examine whether or not the application meets the membership requirements. The Council shall
103 take its decision with a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast. The decision of the Council to
104 admit or not the applicant shall be final, and the Council shall be under no obligation to justify
105 its decision.

106 Affiliate members can apply for full membership at any time.

107 Article 12 – Resignation of members

108 Any full or affiliate member may resign from the Association at any time by giving three months'
109 notice by registered letter addressed to the Secretary General. The resignation shall only come
110 into force at the end of the financial year, unless specified otherwise.

111 A resigning member will remain liable for its financial obligations *vis-à-vis* the Association until the
112 end of the financial year during which its resignation takes place.

113 Article 13 – Disaffiliation of members

114 If a full member fails to meet its financial obligations after a notice sent by the Secretary
115 General to settle its debts within a period of three months, the voting rights of the full member
116 will be suspended as from the end of the three months period.

117 If a full or affiliate member fails to meet its financial obligations, the membership rights will be
118 suspended until aforementioned financial obligations are met.

123 If a full or affiliate member fails to meet its financial obligations for two consecutive financial years,
124 it will be considered as having been disaffiliated as from the end of the meeting of the Council
125 that will have voted in favour of the disaffiliation. The disaffiliated member will remain liable for its
126 financial obligations until the end of that financial year.

127 Article 14 – Suspension of members

128 Any member may be suspended for any of the following reasons:

- 129 (i) not abiding by the Articles of Association or the Internal Regulations;
- 130 (ii) not abiding by the decisions of any body of the Association;
- 131 (iii) not fulfilling the conditions for membership anymore;
- 132 (iv) when it acts contrary to the interests and the values of the Association in general.

133 At the request of at least seven full members from at least five countries who have fulfilled their
134 membership obligations, the Bureau can be instructed to put the proposal on the agenda of
135 the next meeting of the Council.

136 Such request must be received in writing at least four weeks ahead of the Council meeting, in
137 the form of a letter addressed to the President of the Association from the respective party
138 leader, Secretary General or President, in which the detailed reasons for the request for
139 suspension are outlined. The Bureau may make a recommendation to the Council.

140 If suspended, the member loses its right to take part in the meetings of the Council and the
141 Congress, to voice its opinion and to vote as specified in the Internal Regulations and shall
142 remain liable for its financial obligations vis-à-vis the Association until the end of the financial
143 year during which its suspension takes place. The suspended member may, at the discretion
144 of the President, be invited to attend Council or Congress meetings without voting right.

145 The status of the suspended member shall be reviewed at the subsequent meeting of the
146 Council or after a period of at least six months.

147 A suspended member can regain its membership status upon the approval of the Council in a
148 subsequent meeting and if proven to have complied with the Articles of Association, Internal
149 Regulations, criteria for membership and any conditions determined by the Council. If not, the
150 Council may validly decide on the expulsion of the suspended member at the occasion of the
151 same meeting.

152 The decision to suspend a full or an affiliate member is taken by the Council with a majority of
153 50%+1 of the votes cast. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting of the Council, the Secretary
154 General shall send a copy of the decision to the suspended member by registered mail,
155 facsimile, email, or any other written means. The suspension decision shall set forth the
156 grounds on which the suspension is based but apart from that, the decision does not need to
157 be justified.

158 Article 15 – Expulsion of members

159 Any member may be expelled for any of the following reasons:

- 160 (i) not abiding by the Articles of Association or the Internal Regulations;
- 161 (ii) not abiding by the decisions of any body of the Association;
- 162 (iii) not fulfilling the conditions for membership anymore;

163 (iv) when it acts contrary to the interests and the values of the Association in general.
164 At the request of at least seven full members from at least five countries who have fulfilled their
165 membership obligations, the Bureau can be instructed to put the proposal on the agenda of
166 the next meeting of the Council.
167 Such request must be received in writing at least four weeks ahead of the Council meeting, in
168 the form of a letter addressed to the President of the Association from the respective party
169 leader, Secretary General or President of each party, in which the detailed reasons for the
170 request for expulsion are outlined. The Bureau may make a recommendation to the Council.
171 The full, affiliate or suspended member will be informed of a proposal for their expulsion by
172 registered mail, facsimile, email, or any other written means and shall be invited to participate
173 in the Council meeting. The letter sets forth the grounds on which the proposed expulsion is
174 based. If requested, it may also provide documentation for inclusion in the dossier for Council
175 members, which must be sent to the secretariat at least one week ahead of the Council
176 meeting.
177 The Council decides on the expulsion of full, affiliate or suspended members with a majority of
178 two-thirds of the votes cast.
179 The expulsion shall come into force immediately and the expelled member shall remain liable for
180 its financial obligations vis-à-vis the Association until the end of the financial year.
181 A member who has resigned, has been disaffiliated, or has been expelled shall have no claim
182 against the assets of the Association.

183 **CHAPTER III – BODIES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

184 Article 16 – The bodies of the Association

- 185 (i) The Congress;
- 186 (ii) The Council;
- 187 (iii) The Bureau.

188 **CHAPTER IV - CONGRESS**

189 Article 17 – Composition and powers

190 The Congress shall consist of all full and affiliate members' delegates as well as the members
191 of the Bureau.
192 In accordance with the Internal Regulations, third parties may be granted the right to take part
193 in a meeting of the Congress. They may voice their opinion but do not have the right to vote.
194 The decisions taken by the Congress shall be binding on all members, including those absent,
195 dissenting or abstaining from voting, as well as suspended members.
196 The following powers are restrictively reserved to the Congress:
197 a) election, dismissal and discharge of the members of the Bureau;
198 b) amendments to the Articles of Association;
199 c) dissolution and liquidation of the Association;
200 d) approval of the common political programme for the European elections;
201 e) election of a common top candidate(s) for the European elections.

202 Article 18 – Notices and meetings

203 The Council convenes the Congress. Congress shall meet at least once in each calendar year
204 and not more than 18 months must elapse between two meetings of the Congress.

205 The Bureau or the Council or at least one quarter of the full members may convene
206 extraordinary meetings of the Congress.

207 The notice is sent by mail, facsimile, email, or any other written means. For the rest, the rules
208 related to the agenda, timetable and conduct of the meetings of the Congress will be laid down
209 in the Internal Regulations.

210 Article 19 – Representation

211 Full and affiliate members' delegates, appointed in accordance with the rules laid down in the
212 Internal Regulations will represent full and affiliate members at the Congress.

213 Each full member will have as many votes as delegates. A delegate may cast two votes at
214 most.

215 Non-EU members' delegates will be limited to maximum 1/3 of the total number of delegates.

216 Article 20 – Proceedings, quorums and votes

217 The delegates shall sign an attendance list of full and affiliate members prior to the meeting,
218 under the name of the member they represent.

219 The Congress may validly proceed if at least one third of the full members who have fulfilled
220 their membership obligations are present. Where this quorum is not reached, a new meeting
221 of the Congress shall be called no earlier than 15 calendar days after the first meeting. The
222 second meeting of the Congress shall be entitled to validly take decisions, irrespective of the
223 number of full members present.

224 Decisions of the Congress shall be taken with a simple majority of the votes cast. Abstentions
225 shall not be taken into account, and, in the case of a written vote, blank and invalid votes will
226 not be counted in the votes cast. In the case of a tie vote, the decision will be rejected.

227 Article 21 – Minutes

228 The decisions of the Congress are recorded in minutes. The minutes are approved during the
229 next meeting of the Congress and signed by the Chair of the approving Congress.

230 The minutes are kept in a register, at the members' disposal at the registered office of the
231 Association. A copy of the minutes is also sent out to all full and affiliate members.

232 The minutes of the Congress may also be published in full or in part.

233 **CHAPTER IV - COUNCIL**

234 Article 22 – Composition and powers

235 The Council shall consist of all full and affiliate members' delegates as well as the members of
236 the Bureau.

237 In accordance with the rules laid down in the Internal Regulations, third parties may be granted
238 the right to take part in a meeting of the Council. They may voice their opinion but do not have
239 voting rights.

240 The decisions taken by the Council shall be binding on all members, including those absent,
241 dissenting or abstaining from voting, as well as suspended members.

242 The following powers are restrictively reserved to the Council:

- 243 a) approval of the annual accounts, the annual report, the budget, the membership fees
- 244 and any other form of financing as proposed by the Bureau;
- 245 b) admission, disaffiliation, suspension and expulsion of full or affiliate members;
- 246 c) approval and amendments to the Internal Regulations;
- 247 d) preparation of the common political programme for the European elections to be
- 248 approved by the Congress;
- 249 e) interpretation of the Articles of Association and the Internal Regulations;
- 250 f) confirmation of the Bureau's decision to appoint the Secretary General
- 251 g) nomination, dismissal and determination of the basic fee of the auditor(s);
- 252 h) amending the Annex I to the Articles of Association on the logo of the Association and
- 253 the Annex II to the Articles of Association on the list of full members (member parties)
- 254 of the Association.

255 Article 23 – Notices and meetings

256 The Council is convened by the Bureau each time this is necessary for the interests of the
257 Association or upon written request of one quarter of the full members who have fulfilled their
258 membership obligations.

259 At least two meetings of the Council must be held every year.

260 The notice is sent by mail, facsimile, email, or any other written means. For the rest, the rules
261 related to the agenda, timetable and conduct of the meetings of the Council will be laid down
262 in the Internal Regulations.

263 Article 24 – Representation

264 Full and affiliate members' delegates, appointed in accordance with the rules laid down in the
265 Internal Regulations will represent full and affiliate members at the Council.

266 Each full member will have as many votes as delegates.

267 Non-EU members' delegates will be limited to maximum 1/3 of the total number of delegates.

268 Article 25 – Proceedings, quorums and votes

269 The delegates shall sign an attendance list of full and affiliate members prior to the meeting,
270 under the name of the member they represent.

271 Unless otherwise provided for in the Articles of Association, a Council may validly proceed if
272 at least one third of the full members are present who have fulfilled their membership
273 obligations. Where this quorum is not reached, a new meeting of the Council shall be called
274 no earlier than 15 calendar days after the first meeting. The second meeting of the Council
275 shall be entitled to validly take decisions, irrespective of the number of present full members.

276 Unless otherwise provided for in the Articles of Association, decisions of the Council shall be
277 taken with a simple majority of the votes cast. Abstentions shall not be taken into account, and,
278 in the case of a written vote, blank and invalid votes shall not be counted in the votes cast. In
279 the case of a tie vote, the decision will be rejected.

280 Decisions of the Council may also be taken by circular letter, in accordance with the rules laid
281 down in the Internal Regulations. Decisions taken by circular letter are deemed to be taken at

282 the registered office of the Association and are deemed to come into force on the date
283 mentioned on the circular letter.

284 Article 26 – Minutes

285 The decisions of the Council are recorded in minutes. The minutes are approved during the
286 next meeting of the Council and signed by the Chair of the approving Council.

287 The minutes are kept in a register, at the members' disposal at the registered office of the
288 Association. A copy of the minutes is also sent to all full and affiliate members.

289 **CHAPTER VI – BUREAU**

290 Article 27 – Composition, powers and elections

291 The Bureau shall consist of 11 members, elected by the Congress, amongst whom a
292 President, nine Vice Presidents and a Treasurer. Members of the Bureau cannot serve more
293 than three consecutive mandates of two years each in the same position and no more than eight
294 years in total.

295 No more than 1/3 of the total number of Bureau members can be non-EU.

296 Member parties shall be mindful of the aim for a gender balanced Bureau.

297
298 The President and the Treasurer shall come from an EU Member State.

299 Bureau members serve the Association as a whole and are not representatives of their national
300 member parties. In this right they are entrusted with voting rights as further specified in the
301 Internal Regulations.

302 In accordance with the rules laid down in the Internal Regulations, third parties may be invited
303 to take part in a meeting of the Bureau, as observers. Observers may voice their opinion but
304 do not have the right to vote.

305 Unless specifically decided otherwise by the Congress, the term of office will take effect
306 immediately and expire at the end of the second meeting of the Congress taking place after the
307 election.

308 The function of member of the Bureau is not remunerated. Reasonable expenses supported
309 by appropriate documentary evidence will be reimbursed.

310 The Bureau shall be vested with the power to undertake any act necessary or useful to achieve
311 the purpose and objectives of the Association, including the nomination and termination of the
312 contract of the Secretary General, except for those powers that the Code or these Articles of
313 Association reserve to the Council or the Congress.

314 Each member of the Bureau shall present an activity report in the capacity of Bureau member
315 to be included in the dossier for each meeting of the Congress and Council.

316 The Bureau may delegate, under its responsibility, part of its powers for particular or specific
317 purposes to an attorney-in-fact.

318 The Bureau may set up advisory and working groups for any purpose it thinks fit. The composition,
319 terms of reference and the rules of procedure of such advisory and working groups will be laid
320 down in the Internal Regulations.

321 The Congress can grant the title of Honorary President of the Association.

322 **Elections**

323 Ballots shall be secret. In addition to their own personal vote, voting delegates may also be
324 allocated a maximum of one proxy vote per election, meaning that a maximum of two votes
325 per delegate can be cast. Abstentions, blank and invalid votes will not be counted among the
326 votes cast.

327 a) Election of the President and the Treasurer.

328 The President and the Treasurer are elected separately, by a majority of more than 50% of the
329 votes cast. If there are more than two candidates, and no one obtains more than 50% of the
330 votes cast, a second round takes place between the two candidates who obtained the most
331 votes.

332 b) Election of Vice Presidents.

333 The Vice Presidents are elected on a single ballot paper. Delegates can choose as many
334 candidates as they wish to up to the maximum number of vacancies to be filled.

335 The candidates with the most votes are elected in the order of the amount of votes. Only
336 candidates reaching the quorum defined as follows are elected: 1/the positions available, i.e.
337 that for 2 positions the quorum will $1/2 = 50\%$ of the ballots cast (and not of total votes), for 3
338 positions $1/3=33,33\%$ of the ballots cast, for 4 positions $1/4 =25\%$ of the ballots cast, etc.

339 In case of only one vacant position for a round of election, the principle of simple majority shall
340 be used, as is the case with the position of President and Treasurer.

341 Candidates failing to obtain the quorum in the first round can run in the second round where
342 there will be no quorum. Those obtaining the highest number of votes are elected until all
343 vacant mandates are filled.

344 If two or more candidates obtain the same number of votes for the last vacant mandate, an
345 extra round will be arranged between those candidates to determine who will fill the mandate.

346 In the event that a sitting Vice President or Treasurer runs for the position of President, an
347 additional mandate would become vacant should that person be elected President.

348 Candidates for election to the Bureau must be a member of, and be nominated by, their full
349 member party of the Association that has paid its annual membership fee. The candidate's
350 Party leader, Secretary General or President, must send a signed letter of nomination
351 addressed to the Secretary General.

352 Article 28 – Vacancy before term

353 In the event that a vacancy occurs, a new member of the Bureau shall be elected at the next
354 Congress with a two-year mandate according to the election procedure as outlined in Article
355 25.

356 Article 29 – Dismissal

357 The mandate of the member of the Bureau automatically ends if the member joins a competing
358 party at national or European level.

359 A member of the Bureau may be dismissed on the grounds of, but not limited to, unethical
360 behaviour, conflict of interest, or non-participation in the Association's business.

361 At the request of at least seven full members from at least five countries who have fulfilled their
362 membership obligations, the Bureau can be instructed to put the proposal on the agenda of
363 the next meeting of the Congress.

364 The Bureau member can exercise his/her right to be heard.

365 The Council shall decide on the dismissal of a member of the Bureau with a two-thirds majority
366 of the votes cast.

367 Article 30 – Notices and meetings

368 The Bureau shall meet at least two times a year.

369 Meetings of the Bureau shall be called by the President or by three members of the Bureau.

370 The meetings of the Bureau shall be chaired by the President or, in his/her absence, by another
371 member of the Bureau, appointed by his/her peers.

372 The notice calling the meeting shall contain the place, date, time, agenda and, as the case
373 may be, working documents. It must be sent to all members of the Bureau by letter, facsimile
374 or e-mail or any other written means, at least eight calendar days prior to the date of the
375 meeting.

376 Article 31 – Proceedings, quorums and votes

377 Decisions shall be valid when at least half of the members of the Bureau are present. Where
378 this quorum is not reached, a new meeting of the Bureau shall be called no earlier than eight
379 calendar days after the first meeting. The second meeting of the Bureau shall be entitled to
380 take valid decisions irrespective of the number of members of the Bureau present.

381 The Bureau may only deliberate on the matters set out in the agenda unless all present
382 members of the Bureau decide unanimously to discuss other matters.

383 Each member of the Bureau will have one vote. A member of the Bureau may not grant a
384 power-of-attorney to another member of the Bureau.

385 The decisions of the Bureau shall be taken with a simple majority of the votes cast. Abstentions
386 shall not be taken into account, and, in the case of a written vote, blank and invalid votes shall
387 not be counted in the votes cast. In the case of a tie vote, the Chair of the meeting shall have
388 a casting vote.

389 Decisions may also be taken by circular letter, by conference call or videoconference. Decisions
390 taken by conference call or videoconference are deemed to take place at the registered office of
391 the Association and are deemed to come into force on the date of the meeting.

392 Article 32 – Minutes

393 Decisions taken by the Bureau shall be recorded in minutes. The minutes are approved during
394 the next meeting of the Bureau and signed by the Chair of the next approving meeting.

395 The minutes are kept in a register, at the disposal of the members of the Bureau at the
396 registered office of the Association. A copy of the minutes is also sent out to all members of
397 the Bureau.

398 **CHAPTER VII – MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION**

399 Article 33 – The Secretary General

400 The Bureau shall delegate the daily management of the Association to the Secretary General.
401 The Secretary General must be member of an EU member party of the Association.

402 The Bureau defines the scope and financial limitations of the daily management powers of the
403 Secretary General.

404 The Secretary General shall be remunerated, according to a decision of the Bureau.
405 Reasonable expenses supported by appropriate documentary evidence will also be
406 reimbursed.

407 The Secretary General may delegate a part of his/her powers for particular or specific purposes
408 to a third party, under his/her responsibility.

409

410 **CHAPTER VIII - REPRESENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

411

412 Article 34

413

414 The Association shall be validly represented with respect to all acts, including court
415 proceedings, by either the President or two members of the Bureau acting jointly, one of them
416 must be either the President or the Treasurer, who shall not be obliged to offer proof to third
417 parties of a prior decision of the Bureau.

418

419 The Secretary General shall individually represent the Association with respect to all acts of
420 daily management, including court proceedings, and shall not be obliged to offer proof to third
421 parties of a prior decision of the Bureau.

422 The Association is also validly represented by an attorney-in-fact, within the limits of his power-
423 of-attorney.

424 **CHAPTER IX – AUDIT**

425 Article 35

426 The audit of the financial situation, the annual accounts, and the verification that the
427 transactions set out in the annual accounts comply with the Regulation and the Articles of
428 Association as well as the financial rules of the European Parliament, shall be entrusted to one
429 or several auditors appointed by the Council chosen among the members of the Institute of
430 Auditors (*Institut des Réviseurs d'Entreprises/ Instituut der bedrijfsrevisoren*).

431 **CHAPTER X – INTERNAL REGULATIONS**

432 Article 36

433 The Council shall adopt and may amend the Internal Regulations of the Association. The
434 Internal Regulations regulate the functioning of the Association and its bodies in general and
435 may not conflict with the Articles of Association.

436 **CHAPTER XI - FINANCIAL YEAR, BUDGET AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

437 Article 37

438 The financial year shall coincide with the calendar year.

439 Article 38

440 The Bureau shall prepare the annual accounts at the end of each financial year. The Treasurer,
441 on behalf of the Bureau, shall also issue an annual report justifying the management of the

442 Association. This annual report shall include comments on the annual accounts for the purpose
443 of presenting the evolution of the Association and the Association's activities.

444 The Association in relation to bookkeeping, accounts, donations, privacy, and protection of
445 personal data respects Regulation (EC) n°45/2001 as well as the Directive 95/46/EC regarding
446 the protection of personal data.

447 The annual report and the auditor's report shall be presented to the Council for approval,
448 together with the draft annual accounts.

449 **CHAPTER XII – FINANCING**

450 Article 39

451 The Association shall secure its financing by:

- 452 (i) the payment of membership fees, as provided in Article 8;
- 453 (ii) resources granted by any authority and more in particular the European authorities;
- 454 (iii) the remuneration of any service rendered by the Association to its members or third
455 parties;
- 456 (iv) the payment of royalties for the use of intellectual property rights owned by the
457 Association;
- 458 (v) donations;
- 459 (vi) any other form of authorised financial resource.

460 In any event, the financing of the Association will have to strictly comply with the conditions
461 and obligations relating to the funding of political parties as set out in the Regulation.

462 The membership fees must be paid before the 1st April of each year.

463 **CHAPTER XIII – LIMITED LIABILITY**

464 Article 40

465 The members of the Association, the members of the Bureau and the persons entrusted with
466 the daily management of the Association will not be personally liable for the obligations of the
467 Association.

468 The liability of members of the Bureau or persons entrusted with daily management is limited
469 to the proper performance of their mandate.

470 **CHAPTER XIV - AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION, DISSOLUTION 471 AND LIQUIDATION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

472 Article 41 – Amendments to the Articles of Association

473 Any proposal to amend these Articles of Association shall only be valid if proposed by the
474 Bureau or one third of the full members.

475 The proposed amendments to the Articles of Association must be attached to the notice calling
476 the meeting of the Congress.

477 An attendance quorum of at least two-thirds of the full members who have fulfilled their
478 membership obligations is required for decisions regarding amendments to the Articles of
479 Association.

480 Where this quorum is not reached, a new meeting of the Congress shall be called no earlier
481 than 15 calendar days after the first meeting. The second meeting of the Congress shall be
482 entitled to take valid decisions irrespective of the number of full members present.

483 Decisions regarding amendments to the Articles of Association shall be taken with a majority
484 of two-thirds of the votes cast.

485 Any decision relating to the amendments to the Articles of Association shall be submitted to
486 the Authority and published in the Official Journal.

487 Article 42 – Dissolution and liquidation of the Association

488 The Association may be dissolved voluntarily by a decision of the Congress with a majority of
489 four-fifths of the votes cast.

490 In the event that the Association is dissolved, the Congress shall decide by a simple majority
491 of the votes cast on (i) the appointment, powers and remuneration of the liquidators, (ii) the
492 methods and procedures for the liquidation of the Association and (iii) the destination to be
493 given to the net assets of the Association.

494 The net assets of the Association will have to be allocated to a non-profit purpose.

495 **CHAPTER XV – FINAL PROVISIONS**

496 Article 43

497 These Articles of Association shall be written in French and English. The French version is the
498 official version of the Articles of Association and shall take precedence.

499 Article 44

500 Anything not provided for in these Articles of Association and in the Regulation will be
501 submitted to the laws of the Member State in which the Association is located.

502

503 Annex I: Logo

504 Annex II: Member parties list