

STATUTES

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Article 1**Name, Membership, Office, Working language, Financial year**

- (1) The name of the association regulated by these Statutes is European Herbal Infusions Association, EHIA.
- (2) Full membership is open to national herbal infusion associations or appropriate associations of the member countries of the European Union (EU). Associate membership is open to associations from non-EU member countries. In case that such an association does not exist in a country, associated membership may also be granted to a single company, if decided in the General Assembly.
- (3) Membership is only open to associations or companies which are concerned with the interests of
 - a) whole sale trade and international trade
 - b) manufacturing including packingof herbal material used for beverages and plant extracts, provided that the material is not specifically used as medicine.
- (4) The office of the association and it's Secretariat is situated in one of the EU countries, as decided by the General Assembly. The working language is English.
- (5) The financial year is the calendar year.

Article 2

Objects

The EHIA has for its objects mainly:

- (1) To establish a common general policy and to make known and protect effectively, by collective discussion and action, the viewpoint of the Herbal Infusions Trade and Industry;
- (2) to make contact with current EU-officials and other organisations and to collaborate constructively with them and representatives of other organisations in any matter related to the Herbal Infusions Trade and Industry;
- (3) to ensure a close contact between members and to inform them about any matters related to Herbal infusions trade and industry, especially on the development of EU legislation;
- (4) to perform generally everything, which is in the interest of the Herbal Infusions Trade and Industry.

Article 3

Organisation

The bodies of the EHIA are the General Assembly and the Management Committee.

Article 4

General Assembly

- (1) The General Assembly consists of delegations, one only designated by each country. In cases where in some countries there may exist more than one national Herbal Infusions group, these groups must agree among themselves to designate a single representative in respect of all groups in that country. In voting, each delegation can only exercise one vote, cast by the leader of the delegation.
- (2) Only full members are entitled to vote (one country = one vote). For decisions concerning only internal matters of the association simple majority will suffice, whereas for all other matters (esp. those concerning the EU or any legislative or quasi-legislative matter) a three quarters majority is necessary.
- (3) Voting in accordance with the above may be made by those present or by proxy vote sent in to the Secretary in writing prior to the meeting and then indicated to the meeting.
- (4) In case, members are asked to vote by mail, a subject of decision will be regarded as accepted by those members which have not submitted a negative opinion to the Secretariat within one month's time.
- (5) The General Assembly notably has the followings powers:
 - a. to propose some subjects for initiation;
 - b. to confirm the activities of the Management Committee and the Committees and Working groups mentioned under (h.);
 - c. to decide on the admission of members and on the cancellation of membership;

- d. to decide on amendments of the Association's Statutes and to decide on its dissolution;
 - e. to elect EHIA's President and Vice President as provided in Art. 6;
 - f. to appoint the Secretary, who is to be chosen from a country whose National Association is a full EHIA member, and to appoint an Honorary or Professional Auditor;
 - g. to approve the Annual Accounts at the Annual General Assembly and to approve any change of subscription for the financial year;
 - h. to establish special Committees and Working groups.
- (6) The General Assembly has to be held at least once a year and will meet as often as the interests of the EHIA necessitates. The notice concerning the meeting which must contain the agenda and include all resolutions to be discussed, shall be issued at least four weeks before the date of the General Assembly; in case of urgency this notice may be reduced if regarded necessary by the Management Committee.

Article 5

Management Committee

- (1) The Management Committee consists of the President, the Vice President, the Chairmen of the Committees and the Secretary.
- (2) The Management Committee has the following powers:
 - a. to represent the agreed policies of the European Herbal Infusions Association;
 - b. to act as a steering Committee to bring some items to the attention of the General Assembly so as to assist its discussion;
 - c. to ensure administration and finance of the organisation, including the preparation and submission of Annual Accounts, the budget and proposals of subscription changes to the Annual General Assembly;
 - d. to carry out decisions taken by the General Assembly, unless this is delegated to the Secretary;
 - e. to take any urgent measure with the object of defending the general interests of the organisation which must be immediately communicated to all full members in writing and then be ratified at the following General Assembly.

Article 6

Office of President

- (1) The office of EHIA's President is to be undertaken by a delegate from one of the EU member countries, proposed by his national group, following the procedure of rotation set out in paragraph (3) of this article.
- (2) The President will hold office for 2 years. His mandate cannot be renewed.
- (3) The President will be automatically chosen from a member country, according to the predetermined order (procedure of rotation) as set out below:
 - Italy
 - France
 - Belgium

- United Kingdom
 - Spain
 - Germany
 - Austria
 - Netherlands
 - any other countries which will obtain membership, and so on.
- (4) If a national group cannot provide a suitable person as a delegate for President or if they decide to omit their turn according to rotation, the next country will be asked to provide the President.
- (5) National groups who intend to omit their turn in Presidency should inform the Management Committee three months before the General Assembly. Under exceptional circumstances, the Management Committee may deviate from the rotation procedure set out for the nomination of the President.

Article 7

Office of Vice President

- (1) The Vice President shall be provided by the EU member country next to the country providing the President.
In order to ensure continuity the Vice President, in principle, will be prepared to take the office of President immediately after his term as Vice President has been completed.
- (2) For the office of Vice President, the provisions set out for the office of President in Art. 6, paragraphs 1 to 3 and 5 will apply accordingly.
- (3) If a national group decides not to propose for election to President the person who has been Vice President, they may propose another person from their national group for election to President. If this is not forthcoming, the next country in order will be asked to provide the President.
- (4) If a national group prefers to omit their turn according to rotation, the next country will be asked to provide the Vice President.

Article 8

Administration

- (1) The administrative work of the Association will be carried out where the Secretariat is situated.
- (2) The Secretary shall also act as EHIA's Treasurer and will account for income and expenditure undertaken on behalf of the Association and provide an audited Annual Balance Sheet. He will present the Annual Accounts at the Annual General Assembly.
- (3) The costs incurred by full members and associate members in attending meetings are to be the responsibility of those attending. EHIA's expenses arising from the organisation of such meetings will be divided on the participating members.
- (4) The Management Committee will already provide a roughly drafted budget to the members prior to the commencement of each financial year; on this basis the Secretary may submit preliminary accounts to the members at least to the amount of their last annual subscription. If however prior to the commencement of the next financial year the annual subscriptions have already been agreed at a General Assembly, they will be fully paid by the members at the commencement of that financial year.

Article 9

Resignation and Cancellation of membership

- (1) Each member or associate member can resign from the Association by means of a formal written declaration tendered to the Secretary at least six months before the end of the current financial year.
- (2) The resigning member remains bound by his financial obligations for the whole calendar or financial year in the course of which his resignation was tendered.
- (3) On decision of the General Assembly, a membership may be cancelled if the member has failed to pay the annual subscription within three month's time after the receipt of the invoice from EHIA's Secretariat. Paragraph 2 will apply accordingly.

Article 10

Revision of Statutes

The present Statutes can be modified only by means of a General Assembly provided that one month's notice of the proposal shall have been given in writing and circulated. In order to be effective any modification must receive a three quarters majority.

Article 11

Dissolution

Any proposal for winding up the organisation must emanate from the General Assembly. In order to be effective any such proposal must receive unanimity of those entitled to vote at a General Assembly. Any notice of a meeting having on its agenda the winding-up of the organisation must be addressed at least three months in advance, by registered letter, to each of the national groups.

Adopted in the General Assembly, Utrecht, 22nd June, 2007,
replacing the Statutes of 25th Sept. 1980, amended in 1981, 1987, 1990, 1995 and 1998