## EUROSMART

## INTERNATIONAL NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION

## Square de Meeûs, 35 - 1000 BRUSSELS BELGIUM

## 

## CONSOLIDATED ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

## 2025

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# FORMATION

**Article 1.** EUROSMART (hereinafter the “Association”) is an international not-for-profit association. Said Association is subject to the Belgian Companies Code on Companies and Associations of 23 March 2019.

The Association, which represents the Digital Security Industry, is committed to expanding the Digital Security market and developing Smart Secure Devices and Secure Software and their related standards. The Association is committed to continuously improve the quality, the tamper resistance to potential attacks and the security of these Smart Secure Devices and Secure Software.

A Smart Secure Device is a smart object which contains a secure IC (integrated component) and embedded software and supports provisioning of personal and non-personal data by the issuer or other relying parties; the main purpose is to offer human to machine as well as machine to machine security services such as encryption, data integrity, user electronic identification and electronic authentication, biometric services and secure storage. It comes in multiple form factors such as traditional smart card, smart USB token, smart micro SD, wearable, HSM (Hardware security module), embedded and integrated secure element.

A Secure Software is a piece of code running on any professional or commercial device. It is designed to be resistant to potential attacks in order to protect the essential assets such as personal and biometric data, keys, and trusted execution. It integrates privacy by design principle and is certified by third party certification body.

The Association will not make any direct or indirect profit distributions.

The Association is formed in order to achieve the following objectives:

1. Promote European values in the digital world:
   1. Privacy by design and by default;
   2. Security by design and by default;
   3. Encryption by design and by default;
2. Contribute to the leadership of the European Cybersecurity Industry;
3. Promote strong digital identity by:
   1. Contributing to the European and International Standardisation efforts;
   2. Communicating on the benefits of strong digital identity to the relevant stakeholders;
   3. Designing specific technical documents and reports to improve interoperability;
4. Fight against fraud on physical documents;
5. Promote Smart Secure Devices and Smart Secure Devices systems by:
   1. Encouraging open system design;
   2. Encouraging interoperability of components and systems;
   3. Promoting high security image around Smart Secure Devices applications;
   4. Defending the reputation and ethics of the Digital Security Industry including by fighting counterfeiting or violations of intellectual property rights.
   5. Standardise Smart Secure Devices, Secure Software, and Smart Secure Devices systems by:
      1. Orienting the content of standards and promoting European standards world-wide;
      2. launching initiatives for building common specifications for future applications and protection profiles;
6. Provide a forum for the exchange of marketing and technical data by:
   1. Generating statistics and market surveys;
   2. studying specification of common interest;
7. Define a consistent range of quality and security levels by:
   1. defining test standards for component integrity and quality;
   2. approving access to laboratories for testing;
   3. proposing certification schemes to the community;
8. Guide international and national bodies, such as inter alia:
   1. working on trade issues;
   2. initiating European R & D projects;
9. Monitor and guide the national, European and International legislations in all relevant topics;
10. Inform and educate institutions, prescribers and end-users;
11. Develop a network of expertise.

**Article 2. Activities**To achieve its objectives, the Association will undertake, among other initiatives, the following activities to promote and advocate for the Digital Security Industry and represent the interests of its members:

1. **Advocating for the Digital Security Industry:** Actively engaging with policymakers (including the EU Commission, Parliament, and Council) and relevant stakeholders (such as public authorities, expert groups, standardization bodies, fora, and consortia) through written contributions, responses to public consultations, and meetings, to provide expertise and promote the industry’s interests.
2. **Monitoring and Analyzing Regulations:** Conducting ongoing regulatory monitoring and analysis of European, national, and international legislation that could impact the Digital Security Industry.
3. **Raising Awareness and Educating:** Informing and educating institutions, prescribers, and end-users about the value and importance of digital security.
4. **Building Expertise and Networks:** Establishing a robust network of expertise through regular meetings with members and fostering collaborations with other technical organizations.
5. **Driving Innovation through Research:** Supporting and contributing to European research and development (R&D) projects to advance the Digital Security Industry.
6. **Developing and supporting the edition of Technical Standards, Specification and other technical contributions:**
   1. Editing and maintaining technical documents that address industry needs and challenges.
   2. Providing expertise and contributing to various fora, consortia, and European and international standardization organizations.
   3. Participating actively in EU expert groups and European public-private initiatives to support collaborative efforts and shared goals.
   4. Editing and contributing to certification schemes to benefit the broader community.

The objectives and activities of the Association will be in accordance with national and European competition laws and regulations.

# DURATION

**Art. 3.** The Association is established for an unlimited period.

# REGISTERED OFFICE

**Art. 4.** The Association’s registered office is located in the Brussels region. The registered office may be transferred by a decision of the simple majority of the Board.

# MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

**Art. 5. Membership types**

The Association is made up of:

1. Senior members;
2. Executive members;
3. Full members;
4. Associate members.

Unless indicated otherwise in these Articles of Association (including Annex A), the members shall have the same rights and duties.

Executive members belong to one of the following colleges:

1. “Vendors and national printers”.
2. “Testing Inspection Certification, security accreditation companies and laboratories”. Members declaring belonging to this college shall realize the majority of their turnover within these activities.
3. “Small and Medium Enterprise” (SME). Members declaring belonging to this college shall meet the criteria for SMEs pursuant to EU recommendation 2003/361.

Full members belong to the following college:

1. “Small and Medium Enterprise” (SME). Members declaring belonging to this college shall meet the criteria for SMEs pursuant to EU recommendation 2003/361.

Executive and Full members can only belong to one single college. Should they meet the criteria to belong to several colleges, they shall declare the college to which they belong each year under conditions defined in the Rulebook of the Association. They may notice any changes in membership under conditions defined in the Rulebook of the Association.

Art. 5a) Senior members

Composition

The following companies are Senior members:

* **Idemia Identity & Security France SAS**
* Infineon Technologies AG ;
* NXP Semiconductors N.V. ;
* STMicroelectronics N.V. ;
* Thales DIS France SAS.

Rights and benefits

Senior members are entitled to appoint a representative acting as permanent member of the Board. In addition, the rights and benefits as described in Annex A, which is part of these Articles of Association, apply.

**Art. 45b) Executive members**

Composition

Executive members are solutions and services providers in the smart security area. They are:

* Smart Secure Devices manufacturers, including Smart Cards manufacturers;
* Smart Secure Devices integrated circuit manufacturers;
* Manufacturers of terminals Smart Secure Devices accepting devices;
* Manufacturers of equipment accepting Secure Devices (including personalisation machines);
* System integrators, software or service houses industrialists;
* System integrators;
* Technology providers, in the field of biometry encryption, blockchain, digital identity, trust services, cybersecurity, border control;
* Start-ups and SMEs of the Digital Security Industry ecosystem;
* Security and functional evaluation and test laboratories; or
* Security accreditation and certification companies

Rights and benefits

Executive members are entitled to present a candidate for a rotating Board seat. In addition, the rights and benefits as described in **Annex A**, which is part of these Articles of Association, apply.

Art. 5 c) Full members

Composition

Full members are solutions and services providers in the smart security area. They are Start-ups and SMEs which meet the criteria for SMEs pursuant to EU recommendation 2003/361 of the Digital Security Industry ecosystem including:

* Smart Secure Devices manufacturers, including Smart Cards manufacturers;
* Smart Secure Devices integrated circuit manufacturers;
* Manufacturers of terminals Smart Secure Devices accepting devices;
* Manufacturers of equipment accepting Secure Devices (including personalisation machines);
* System integrators, software or service houses industrialists;
* System integrators;
* Technology providers, in the field of biometry encryption, blockchain, digital identity, trust services, cybersecurity, border control, cloud service providers;
* Security and functional evaluation and test laboratories; or
* Security accreditation and certification companies.

Notwithstanding the provisions of article 4 c) members that do not fulfil the SME criteria and that were Full members for the year 2021 (i.e., immediately before Full membership was limited to SMEs), could continue to benefit from this membership category unless the member concerned subsequently obtains membership for a different membership category, in which case the member can only revert to Full membership if it then meets the SME criteria. The General Assembly may decide to suspend the application of this provision for one year – that may be renewed - when reviewing the annual membership fees proposed by the Board.

Rights and benefits

The rights and benefits as described in **Annex A**, which is part of these Articles of Association, apply.

Art. 5 d) Associate members

Composition

Associate members are non-for-profit legal entities such as universities, educational institutions, public and governmental agencies and professional associations. They have an interest to stay abreast of the digital security technology and can benefit to the Association’s expertise and global activity.

Rights and benefits

Associate members are non-for-profit legal entities that could bring their expertise in different areas related to digital security. Those non-profit organisations that have the interest and ability to join are entitled to do so. Rights and benefits as described in **Annex A**, which is part of these Articles of Association, apply. In addition, Associate members may give presentations on behalf of the Association (only after approval of the Board).

# EXECUTIVE AND FULL MEMBERS SUBSIDIARIES STATUS

**Art. 5 e)** The Executive and Full members subsidiaries (i.e., 50% or more of their shares are held by an Executive or Full member company) may join the Association as Executive or Full members.

# MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

Art. 5 f) Impact of mergers and acquisitions on Board seats

The number of Board seat per member company is restricted to one. In case a Senior or Executive member merges with another Senior or Executive member and each of them is holding a permanent or rotating Board seat, the new merged entity will retain only one of the two Board seats. The Board will propose a change of the Articles of Association in **Art. 5a)** to reflect the new situation. The proposed change needs to be approved by the Extraordinary General Assembly.

In case a Senior member is acquired by another company, the membership level of the acquired Senior member will be reconsidered and, if appropriate, the Board will propose a change to the Articles of Association to update the list of Senior members as defined in **Art. 5a)**. When reconsidering the membership level of the acquired Senior member, the Board shall take the membership status of the acquiring company into account. The proposed change to the Articles of Association needs to be approved by the Extraordinary General Assembly.

# ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS

**Art. 6.** Any application for membership shall be presented in writing to either the President, any Board member or the Director General of the Association.

The application of any company or organisation which fulfils the conditions set up in **Art. 5 a)- f)** to be a member will be evaluated and approved by the Association’s Board by simple majority. If the application is accepted, the General Assembly will be informed accordingly.

Rejections of applications for membership shall be in writing and shall state the reasons, therefore.

Applicants to whom membership is denied shall be heard by the General Assembly if they request so in writing, and their application shall be submitted to a second vote to the General Assembly thereafter.

# RESIGNATION, REMOVAL AND SUSPENSION FROM MEMBERSHIP

**Art. 7.** Any member may leave the Association, upon payment of fees due and written notice of its resignation to the Board three months before the end of the accounting period.

Membership of a company shall be reviewed by the Board in case of merger or change of control to check that the company still carries out an activity in line with the Association’s admission requirements.

In case a Senior member undergoes mergers or acquisitions, **Art. 5 f)** applies.

Members who have resigned or been excluded may not claim any right on the Association’s property nor may they recover any sums paid by them, either in the form of fees or in any other form.

Reasons for suspension or removal of membership:

The membership rights and benefits, as defined in Annex A, of a member may be suspended or it may be excluded if this member seriously fails in its obligations, if it is engaging in activities that are contrary to the objectives of the Association, or if it causes or threatens to cause serious disruption in the operation of the Association, including, but not limited to:

* Undermining the objectives of the Association as set out in **Art. 1**;
* Injuring the reputation and/or the activities of the Association as set out in **Art. 2**;
* Exposing the Association and/or one or several members of the Association to any legal risks that result from the application of an EU or non-EU law;
* Breach of the member’s confidentiality obligations, as set out in **Art. 8**;
* Breach of the member’s obligations regarding the intellectual property rights, as set out in the Association’s IPR policy;
* Breach of its obligations regarding the payment of fees, as set out in the Association’s Rulebook.

Procedure for the suspension of a membership

As the Board is made aware of one or several reasons for suspending a member as further described above , the following will occur:

* The Board may decide, by a simple majority of its voting members who are present or represented at the meeting to prepare a written warning communication to the offending member concerned. This written warning should be sent by the President and/or the Director-General. It will outline reason(s) for suspending the member concerned, and when possible, it will enjoin the member to cease such activities immediately;
* The member that is under consideration for suspension is provided the opportunity to answer the charges at a meeting of the Board;
* Following this, the Board may decide by a simple majority of its voting members who are present or represented at the meeting, to suspend the membership for a term not exceeding one year, or until the issue is solved.

Suspension of membership if fees have not been paid

Any member which has not paid its fee within the delay defined in the Rulebook is automatically suspended and charged for any other cost, including legal costs, borne by the Association resulting from such delay. the Board may waive by a majority of its voting members who are present or represented at the meeting such a suspension based on individual circumstances.

The suspension shall remain as long as the fees, as well as any other cost, including legal cost, borne by the Association as a result of the delay have not been fully paid to the Association.

Removing a membership which is suspended

When the Board wishes to remove a suspended member, it may decide by a simple majority of its voting members who are present or represented at the meeting, to bring a membership removal request to the General Assembly.

If the General Assembly decides to dismiss the membership removal process, the suspension shall cease. The Board may take another suspension decision only on a new ground.

If the membership is suspended because of outstanding fees, and the General Assembly decides to dismiss the membership removal process, the suspension shall remain until the fees, as well as any other cost, including legal costs, borne by the Association as a result of the delay have not been fully paid to the Association.

Procedure for the removal of a membership

Any member which is subject to a removal procedure has a defence right before the General Assembly which shall invite the member concerned to defend itself before taking a final decision.

The General Assembly, deliberates on the removal procedure by a two thirds majority of the votes of members with voting rights who are present or represented at the meeting.

Reasons for the membership removal shall be given in writing if that member has so requested in writing.

The voting rights of the member involved in a removal or suspension procedure

The member involved in a removal procedure does not take part in the General Assembly’s vote and deliberations related its potential membership removal and cannot be represented.

If the member involved in a suspension procedure is a member of the Board, or is represented within the Board, the relevant Board member does not take part in the Board vote and deliberations related to the membership suspension.

Owed fees following suspension or removal

In the case of a membership suspension or removal, the membership fee of the current fiscal year remains due and cannot be refunded.

New application following a membership removal

A member that has been removed may reapply for membership one year after the date of its removal.

# CONFIDENTIALITY

**Art. 8.** Members of the Association will refrain from using, copying or disclosing without prior permission any confidential information brought to their knowledge within the framework of the Association's activities or belonging to other members.

The activities of the Association are confidential and designed as member benefits. Members cannot disclose to third parties the contributions received from other members and the documents produced by the Association except as defined in Annex of the Rulebook related to the classification of documents or in the case of a legal procedure (of which the concerned member concerned must inform the Board as soon as possible, so as to discuss the most restrictive compliant disclosure).

# 

# THE BOARD

Art. 9. Composition of the Board

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Option 1***   * *5 permanent seats instead of 6* * *3 rotating seats* * *Deletion of the 2 year-term limitation* | ***Option 2***   * *5 permanent seats instead of 6* * *4 rotating seats instead of 3* * *Deletion of the 2 year-term limitation* | ***Option 3***   * *5 permanent seats instead of 6* * *4 rotating seats instead of 3* * *Deletion of the 2 year-term limitation* * *No college* |
| The Board is composed of 5 (five) permanent Board seats and 3 (three) rotating Board seats. Senior members as defined in **Art. 5 a)** have a permanent Board seat. Rotating Board seats are open to Executive members.  The Board consists of a President, Vice-Presidents and a Treasurer. The President is appointed as defined in **Art. 12**. All other Board members are Vice-Presidents.  The Treasurer is appointed within the Board. He/she is appointed by the Board by simple majority of all Board member (permanent seats and rotating seats) who are present or represented at the meeting, for a term of one year-term which may be renewed. The Treasurer cannot be President at the same time.  The rotating Board members are elected by the General Assembly for a one-year term of office which may be renewed. Each candidate for a rotating Board seat shall provide a supporting letter from the employing member company confirming that the candidate will get the resources (budget and time) required to act as a Board member. In addition, the letter shall state that both the member company and the Board member are committed to actively contribute to the work and to act in the interest of the Association.  The 3 (three) rotating seats are allocated as follows:   * One seat for an Executive member belonging to the college “SME”; * One seat for an Executive member belonging to the college “laboratory”; * One seat for an Executive member belonging to the college “vendors”;   If there are no declared candidates from a particular college, the seat is allocated to the candidate which has not been elected within its college but has received the most votes cast amongst all the other non-elected candidates. | The Board is composed of 5 (five) permanent Board seats and 4 (four) rotating Board seats. Senior members as defined in **Art. 5 a)** have a permanent Board seat. Rotating Board seats are open to Executive members.  The Board consists of a President, Vice-Presidents and a Treasurer. The President is appointed as defined in **Art. 12**. All other Board members are Vice-Presidents.  The Treasurer is appointed within the Board. He/she is appointed by the Board by simple majority of all Board member (permanent seats and rotating seats) who are present or represented at the meeting, for a term of one year-term which may be renewed. The Treasurer cannot be President at the same time.  The rotating Board members are elected by the General Assembly for a one-year term of office which may be renewed. Each candidate for a rotating Board seat shall provide a supporting letter from the employing member company confirming that the candidate will get the resources (budget and time) required to act as a Board member. In addition, the letter shall state that both the member company and the Board member are committed to actively contribute to the work and to act in the interest of the Association.  The 4 (four) rotating seats are allocated as follows:   * One seat for an Executive member belonging to the college “SME”; * One seat for an Executive member belonging to the college “laboratory”; * One seat for an Executive member belonging to the college “vendors”; * One seat for an Executive member belonging to any college which has not been elected within its college but has received the most votes cast amongst all the other non-elected candidates.   If there are no declared candidates from a particular college, the seat is allocated to the candidate which has not been elected within its college but has received the most votes cast amongst all the other non-elected candidates | The Board is composed of 5 (five) permanent Board seats and 4 (four) rotating Board seats. Senior members as defined in **Art. 5 a)** have a permanent Board seat. Rotating Board seats are open to Executive members.  The Board consists of a President, Vice-Presidents and a Treasurer. The President is appointed as defined in **Art. 12**. All other Board members are Vice-Presidents.  The Treasurer is appointed within the Board. He/she is appointed by the Board by simple majority of all Board member (permanent seats and rotating seats) who are present or represented at the meeting, for a term of one year-term which may be renewed. The Treasurer cannot be President at the same time.  The rotating Board members are elected by the General Assembly for a one-year term of office which may be renewed. Each candidate for a rotating Board seat shall be an Executive member, it shall provide a supporting letter from the employing member company confirming that the candidate will get the resources (budget and time) required to act as a Board member. In addition, the letter shall state that both the member company and the Board member are committed to actively contribute to the work and to act in the interest of the Association. |

Art. 10. Responsibility of the Board

The Board is responsible to ensure the Association’ official representation, the efficient implementation of the General Assembly’s decisions and the implementation of the annual budget approved by the General Assembly.

Any day-to-day management and operational work of the Association is handled by the Board. As such, the Board:

* Decides to create and close Committees, Working Groups and Task Forces;
* Defines the long-term Action plan (three years);
* Guides the definition and implementation of the Committee roadmaps;
* Decides in case of deadlock within a Committee;
* Proposes the annual budget to the General Assembly;
* Proposes the amount of the annual membership fees to the General Assembly;
* Validates the application of new memberships;
* Acknowledges the resignation of membership upon payment of fees due and written notice of its resignation;
* Approves the annual budget for all purchases, transfers of property, rentals, borrowings and lending necessary to the activities of the Association, with or without mortgage;
* Adopts and amends the Rulebook of the Association;
* Decides on special welcome fees to new members;
* In case of crisis management, the Board decides on the official position the Association should take, the strategy of communication and the possible actions of the Association. The Board can seek for Committee or General Assembly support;
* Validates white papers, technical papers, position papers, letters and communication content prepared by the Committee and/or the Brussels Office;
* Validates press releases prepared by the Committee and/or the Brussels Office;
* Decides on members’ participation and speaking slots to public events on the proposal of the Communication Committees. The Board decides which slots to take and who is entitled to make the presentation;
* Validates the organisation of events proposed by a Committee and/or the Brussels Office;
* Draws up the annual accounts for the previous financial year and submits them to the General Assembly for approval;
* Prepares the budget for each financial year and submits it to the General Assembly for approval.

Art. 11. Board meetings

Board meetings take place on a regular basis. They take place either virtually (conference call) or face-to-face. Board members attending virtually shall be considered to be present at that meeting for the purpose of determining whether the quorum has been reached and their votes shall be taken into account in order to determine whether the required majority has been reached.

Board meetings are convened by the Director General or the President at least 5 (five) working days before the meeting.

The Director General of the Association shall attend all Board meetings without voting right. Every decision taken by the Board shall be documented by the Director General and meeting minutes shall be approved by the Board at the following Board meeting. All decisions will be presented to the General Assembly for information.

The President takes the Chair. In case the President is not present at the meeting, a Vice-President as appointed by the majority of the members present at the Board meeting takes the Chair.

The decisions of the Board are taken by simple vote majority of the attending or represented Board members, provided that at least half of the Board members attend the meeting or are represented, in person or by conference.

Board decisions can also be approved by unanimous written resolutions of all Board members (I;e. without a meeting being held).

Any Board member may give a proxy to another Board member empowering the proxy holder to represent the Board member and vote in his/her name. A Board member cannot receive more than one proxy.

Proxy documents shall be addressed through electronic format to the Director General before the start of the meeting. To be valid, the proxy document shall be signed and dated, mention the name of the proxyholder and the date(s) of the Board meeting(s).

Art 12. Representation

Notwithstanding the general representation powers of the Board of directors acting as a collegial body, the Association is validly represented in all legal proceedings and vis-à-vis third parties by the President and the Director General acting jointly;

The Association is also validly represented by the Director General within the limits of the day-to-day management of the Association or by attorneys-in-fact within the limits of the powers granted by the Board.

# RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS

Art. 13. The President

The President acts on behalf of the Association, subject to prior approval by the Board.

The President shall have the authority as determined in the Rule Book of the Association.

The President is appointed amongst the permanent Board members, following a rotation principle. If no agreement emerges between eligible candidates, the next President is elected by a simple majority of votes cast of all voting Board members who are present or represented at the meeting.

The President is appointed for a one year-term that can be renewed for a maximum of two consecutive terms of office in total.

Art. 14. The Director General

The Director General runs the daily operations of the Association as described in a separate job description document. Amongst other tasks he or she takes minutes of both the Board and General Assembly meetings. For the benefit of the members, he or she keeps a special register which contains the resolutions of the General Assembly. He or she carries out all useful formalities in this function.

# NON-REMUNERATION

**Art. 15.** Members of the Board and the General Assembly receive no remuneration for their services.

Expenses and outlays incurred in the course of duty, other than travel and accommodations expenses linked to the attendance to the Board Meetings, Committees and General Assembly could be reimbursed upon request and upon Board approval with proof of disbursement under special circumstances.

# FINANCING

**Art. 16.** The Association’s funds come from:

* annual fees paid by members;
* gifts or subsidies from private individuals or public or private organisations ;
* charges paid by members for taking part in special programmes and specific activities ;
* sums received from funds, subsidies, services invoiced by the Association and receipts not forbidden by law and in the limits of the Association objectives.

The use of these funds will be determined by the General Assembly in pursuance of the objectives of the Association and accounted for by the Treasurer.

# MEMBERSHIP FEES

**Art. 17.** The membership fees are proposed by the Board and submitted to the General Assembly approval as part of the budget for every calendar year.

The Board shall do its best effort to inform the General Assembly members of any proposal to change the membership fees at least 6 months before the fiscal year they will be applicable.

If the General Assembly decides on an increase in the membership fees, each member has the right to resign from the Association within three months after the decision of the General Assembly. If the General Assembly meeting cannot be held, or if no decision can be reached, the amounts for the previous year automatically remain in force.

# LIABILITY FOR FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

**Art. 18.** The Association is liable for its obligations and undertakings. No member of the Association may, under any circumstances, be held personally liable for such obligations and undertakings.

# ACCOUNTING PERIOD

**Art. 19.** The budget of the Association is drawn up for the period from the 1st of January to the 31st of December of each year.

# ACCOUNTS

**Art. 20.** Accounts will be kept so as to produce annually an income statement and a balance sheet which must be approved by the General Assembly.

# THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Art. 21. Composition

The General Assembly of the Association is made up of Senior, Executive and Full members. Associate members are invited but without voting right.

Art. 21 a) General Assembly Meeting

The General Assembly meets as often as the interests of the Association require and at least twice a year. Convocations to attend will be circulated to all members at least four weeks in advance. Any member may propose agenda items to the Board within one week, i.e., three weeks prior to the General Assembly meeting. The agenda is fixed by the Board, by simple majority vote. The final agenda will be circulated at least two weeks prior to the General Assembly Meeting.

The President, assisted by the Board, takes the Chair. In case the President is not present at the meeting, a Senior member is appointed as a Session chairman by the simple majority of the voting members present or represented at the General Assembly meeting to take the Chair.

General Assembly Meetings can be convened by the President, by at least two of the members of the Board, by one third of the General Assembly or by the statutory auditor, if any.

General Assembly meetings can be held either physically and/or remotely through digital channels. In such a case, the Director General shall inform the members that they will have the possibility to participate remotely through digital channels. Members attending through digital channels shall be considered to be present at that meeting for the purpose of determining whether the quorum has been reached and their votes shall be taken into account in order to determine whether the required majority has been reached. In order for such remote participation to be valid, the Association must be able to verify, through the digital channels used, the capacity and identity of the (representative of the) member concerned. The Association’s Rulebook may impose additional conditions for the use of digital channels in order to participate remotely to a General Assembly meeting provided the purpose of these additional conditions is to guarantee the security of the digital communication channel used. Without prejudice to any additional conditions or restrictions which may be imposed by law, the digital channels must at least enable the concerned to follow directly, simultaneously and continuously the discussions taking place within the General Assembly meeting and to exercise their right of vote on all matters regarding which the General Assembly is requested to take a decision. Moreover, the digital channel must enable the members to participate to the General Assembly’s deliberations and to ask questions unless the Board justifies in the convocation the reason why it cannot provide such digital communication channel. The convocation to the General Assembly meeting must include a clear and precise description of the procedure enabling a remote participation to the meeting. The minutes of the General Assembly meeting must mention the problems and technical incidents which have prevented or disturbed the remote participation to the General Assembly meeting or the vote. The officers of the General Assembly are not entitled to participate through digital channels.

Art. 21 b) General Assembly Quorum

The attendance or representation of one half of the voting members of the General Assembly is required for its decisions to be valid. A member (other than an Associate member) may be represented by another member (other than an Associate member) and may accept up to two proxies from another member (other than an Associate member). Should the quorum not be reached, a new General Assembly Meeting will be convened after an interval of at least two weeks. Its deliberations shall be valid irrespective of the number of voting members present or represented.

Decisions at the General Assembly are by simple majority vote of the voting members present or represented.

The General Assembly may admit to its meetings any person useful to its deliberations, but without voting right.

Art. 21 c) Decisions through electronic voting and unanimous written resolutions

If appropriate, the President, after having consulted the Board, may decide that the members are also authorised to vote before a meeting of the General Assembly on the items which are on the agenda of the meeting of the General Assembly through an electronic vote. In such a case, the electronic voting system put into place by the Association must enable it to verify the quality and identity of the voting members. The voting procedure and instructions will enable to vote in favour (yes), against (no) or to abstain. Whenever the electronic voting procedure is applied, the President, assisted by the Director General, shall ensure that all Senior, Executive and Full members are aware that a vote is sought by electronic procedure. If the President or the relevant person sending the email invitation for the purpose of the electronic vote receives an “out-of-office” message accompanied by the request to address another person/address for urgent matters, then he/she must forward that message to the address indicated. The invitation to the electronic voting shall set out clearly the timescale for such electronic voting. Members should be given an appropriate period of time to prepare the vote, with a minimum of 10 working days as from the issuance of the invitations to vote. All practicalities of such electronic voting shall be clearly specified in the convocation to the General Assembly meeting. The electronic vote is secret. The President, assisted by the Director General, will inform all Senior, Executive and Full members of the outcome of the vote within 3 working days after the end of the electronic procedure and at the earliest at the end of the vote during the General Assembly meeting.

Resolutions by members can be approved outside of a meeting of the General Assembly by unanimous written resolutions of all Full members. The Executive Director circulates the written resolutions and sets a deadline for the (electronic and/or wet ink) signing of the resolutions. The practical organisation of the unanimous written resolutions shall take place on the basis of the principles set out in the Rulebook.

Art. 21 d). Meeting minutes

The minutes of General Assembly meetings, together with the duly signed attendance sheets, are recorded by the Director General in the minute book and signed by the President and a member (other than an Associate member).

The Director General may deliver certified copies.

Art. 21 e). Powers of the General Assembly

The General Assembly approves the long-term strategy (three years) of the Association and decides on the resources to be employed.

The General Assembly approves the overall annual budget, transfers of property, rentals, borrowings and lending necessary to the activities of the Association, with or without mortgage.

The General Assembly receives reports on the Boards activities and decisions, approves the accounts of the preceding financial year, vote the budget for the coming financial year, fixes the amounts of annual fees, ratifies any decision taken by the Board on the creation or closure of Committees and debates all the items on the agenda.

Senior, Executive and Full members have weighted voting rights as described in **Annex A**.

The representative of each member at the General Assembly is its permanent representative in the Association, or another employee of the same corporate body duly accredited by a written proxy from the permanent representative.

Each member shall appoint its permanent representative and notify such appointment to the Association.

Senior, Executive and Full members may give a proxy to another Senior, Executive or Full member empowering it to represent it and vote in its name at the General Assembly meeting. A Senior, Executive or Full member cannot receive more than two proxies from other Senior, Executive or Full members.

If the General Assembly cannot be held in accordance with the rules or if no decision can be reached, the budget for the following year will be the same as that for the preceding year, as an interim measure.

# EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

**Art. 22.** Only an Extraordinary General Assembly meeting is empowered to make any alteration to the Articles of Association or to decide to dissolve the Association.

The Extraordinary General Assembly meeting is convened by the Board or at the request of fifty per cent of the Association’s Senior and Executive members, and the quorum should be at least two thirds of Senior and Executive members present or represented, unless otherwise stated in **Art. 22** and **Art. 23**.

The Extraordinary General Assembly is convened under the same rules as the General Assembly.

# ALTERATION TO THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

**Art. 23.** The Articles of Association may be altered by the Extraordinary General Assembly meeting on the proposal of the Board or of at least one fourth of the Association's voting members.

The General Assembly’s deliberations are only valid if two thirds of the Association’s voting members are present or represented.

Should this quorum not be reached, a new Extraordinary General Assembly meeting is convened after an interval of at least two weeks. It then deliberates on the same agenda, irrespective of the number of voting members present or represented.

Decisions are taken by two thirds majority of the votes of the voting members present or represented.

Modifications of the Articles of Association are published in the Annexes of the Belgian State Gazette.

# DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

**Art. 24.** The Extraordinary General Assembly may resolve to dissolve the Association and provide for the attribution of any property it may possess (after fulfilment of its liabilities) on the proposal either of the Board or of at least one half of the Association’s Senior and Executive members.

It determines the conditions of the liquidation. It designates among the members one or several liquidators responsible for liquidating the Association’s property, invested with wide-ranging powers to realise its assets and discharge its liabilities.

After achievement of liquidation operations and, if needed allocation of running costs representing the outstanding financial commitments, the assets in excess will be allocated to not-for-profit associations with similar or related objectives, in accordance with the General Assembly resolutions. Members have no rights on the Association assets included partial or total reimbursements of payments or cash donations made by members to help the Association.

The Extraordinary General Assembly meeting’s deliberations and decisions regarding the dissolution of the Association are only valid if two thirds of the Association’s voting members are present or represented. Should this quorum not be reached, a new Extraordinary General Assembly meeting is convened after an interval of two weeks. It may then deliberate irrespective of the number of voting members present or represented.

Dissolution requires a two-thirds majority of the votes of the voting members present or represented.

Dissolution of the Association must be published in the Annexes of the Belgian Monitor.

# MINUTES OF MEETINGS

**Art. 25.** The minutes of General Assembly meetings and the duly signed attendance sheets and unanimous written resolutions are recorded by the Director General in the minute book and signed by the President and a member of the Board.

The Director General may deliver certified copies to third parties.

# RULE BOOK

**Art. 26.** The General Assembly may draw up a Rule Book (i.e. internal rules as described under Article 2:59 of the Belgian Code on Companies and Associations) to complete the present Articles of Association by setting out the rules and regulations governing the internal affairs of the Association and its organs. The latest version of the Rule Book is dated 1st September 2022.

# IPR POLICY

Art. 27. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy

In the IPR policy of the Association is modified it has to be adopted by the General Assembly by a majority of at least 71% of member votes before it becomes effective. This IPR policy is based on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory (FRAND) terms and conditions. The latest version of the Rule Book is dated 27th October 2021.

# ANTITRUST COMPLIANCE

Art. 28. Antitrust Compliance Guidelines

A separate document describing the Association’s Antitrust Compliance will be created and adopted by the General Assembly by single majority vote. Any amendments to the Antitrust Compliance Guidelines must be decided by the General Assembly by single majority vote. The Association and its members shall at all times comply with the Antitrust Compliance Guidelines. More in general, the Association and its members are committed to comply with antitrust rules at all times.

# FORMALITIES

**Art. 29.** The President, on behalf of the Association, is responsible for carrying out all the formalities of registration and publication required by current legislation.

The bearer of the present Articles of Association has full powers to carry out these formalities.

# WRITTEN FORM

# DELEGATION

**Art. 30.** Without the prior consent of the General Assembly, no member is entitled to delegate or assign any of its rights or obligations under these Articles of Association or under any separate instrument deriving from these Articles of Association, to a third party.

# SEVERABILITY

**Art. 31.** If any provision of these Articles of Association is or becomes legally ineffective, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be affected thereby. Any ineffective or inadmissible provision shall be replaced by a legally effective provision that comes as close as possible to the intentions of the members.

# UNSPECIFIED PROVISIONS IN ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

**Art. 32.** Any provision concerning the Association and not specified in the Articles of Association shall be settled in accordance with the Code on Companies and Associations of 23 March 2019.

**ANNEX A: OVERVIEW ON RIGHTS AND BENEFITS FOR EACH MEMBERSHIP LEVEL**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MEMBERSHIP LEVEL: | SENIOR | EXECUTIVE | FULL | ASSOCIATE |
| Number of Board seats: | 5 | 3 / 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Type of organization: | List of companies as defined in Art. 5a | Companies matching the criteria defined in Art. 5b | Companies matching the criteria defined in Art. 5c | Organisations matching the criteria defined in Art. 5d |
| **RIGHTS AND BENEFITS** | | | | |
| Number of votes: |  |  |  |  |
| Board level | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| General Assembly (GA) | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA) | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Committee / Subcommittee / Task force | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Eligible for permanent Board seat: | Yes | No | No | No |
| Eligible for rotating Board seat: | No | Yes | No | No |
| Presidency: | Yes | No | No | No |
| Treasurer: | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Voting Right at the General Assembly: | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| Participation in the General Assembly: | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Committees or Subcommittees or Task forces, Directors, Co-directors and Vice-directors: | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Committees or Subcommittees or Task forces, participation: | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Right to propose initiatives: | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Publish dedicated articles on relevant use cases and technologies: | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| Lead specific advocacy campaigns: | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Receive electronic newsletter: | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Benefit from preferred status in Eurosmart marketing material: | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| Web appearance on Eurosmart website (logo and link to company web site): | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |