

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

A N D A N T E

European Alliance of Catholic Women's Organisations
Alliance européenne d'organisations féminines catholiques
Europäische Allianz katholischer Frauenverbände
Alianza europea de organizaciones femeninas católicas

STATUTES

Article 1

Name, Legal form, Duration and Seat of Association

- 1.1. Andante European Alliance of Catholic Women's Organisations is established as an international not for profit organisation. The Association Andante European Alliance of Catholic Women's Organisations will hereafter be referred to as "the Association".
- 1.2. The Association will be governed under German Law.
- 1.3. The Association's registered office is in Düsseldorf, Germany.
- 1.4. The Association has been registered in the Register of Associations at the Amtsgericht of Düsseldorf, as VR-Nr 9808.

Article 2

Objectives, Aims and Activities

- 2.1. The objectives of the Association are to promote the presence, participation and co-responsibility of Catholic women in European society and in the Church.
- 2.2. In order to fulfil these objectives, the Association sets the following goals:
 - 2.2.1. acknowledging common values across the different cultures;
 - 2.2.2. working for the Common Good from a female perspective;
 - 2.2.3. the just participation of women in Society and Church.
- 2.3. The means to achieve the goals of the Association may include the following activities:
 - 2.3.1. lobbying secular and ecclesiastical institutions in Europe;
 - 2.3.2. sharing information on issues in the areas of interest of its member organisations;
 - 2.3.3. supporting common projects;
 - 2.3.4. organising conferences, seminars, workshops and providing training;
 - 2.3.5. disseminating information including publishing activities.
- 2.4. The Association shall exclusively and directly pursue the attainment of the Common Good as defined in the paragraph "tax-deductible aims" of the Tax Law.
 - 2.4.1. The Association has no commercial purpose. It is not established to serve its own benefits.
 - 2.4.2. The funds of the Association will only be used for statutory purposes. The members of the Association will not receive any allowances at the expense of the Association.
 - 2.4.3. No person will be refunded for expenses that are not in accordance with the purpose of the Association, or by disproportionate recompense.

Article 3

Membership

- 3.1. Membership of the Association shall be open to Catholic women's organisations in Europe which subscribe to the objectives of the Association.
- 3.2. Membership shall be open to mixed Catholic organisations of women and men in Europe which subscribe to the objectives of the Association, on condition that their delegates at the General Assembly of the Association be women.
- 3.3. Organisations wanting to join the Association shall address an application for membership to the Coordinating Committee, which may decide to grant them a provisional membership status. Pending confirmation of this decision by the General Assembly, these organisations

will, as regards membership rights and obligations, be treated as regular member organisations.

- 3.4. A member organisation shall be allowed to secede from the Association at any time, by virtue of a written notification.
- 3.5. An organisation will cease to be a member of the Association if it has ceased to pay its membership fee over two years.
- 3.6. A member organisation which violates its obligations defined in the Statutes, and/or pursues activities which cause injury to the interests, reputation and rights of the Association, shall be liable to exclusion from membership by the General Assembly.

Article 4

Voting Rights of Member Organisations

- 4.1. Member organisations have the right to nominate up to three delegates at the General Assembly of the Association. However, each delegation holds only one vote.
- 4.2. Member organisations may be represented at the General Assembly by a delegate of another member organisation holding a written proxy. An organisation shall hold only one proxy.

Article 5

Bodies of the Association

- 5.1. The governing bodies of the Association shall be:
 - 5.1.1. the General Assembly;
 - 5.1.2. the Coordinating Committee.
- 5.2. In pursuance of the objectives of the Association and in accordance with the present Statutes, the Coordinating Committee may appoint Commissions. At least two of the Commissions' members shall be members of the Coordinating Committee, one of whom will be the Chair of the Commission.
- 5.3. In pursuance of the objectives of the Association there may also be Working Groups. These may be appointed by either the Coordinating Committee or the General Assembly. At least one member of a Working Group shall be a member of the Coordinating Committee.

Article 6

The General Assembly

- 6.1. The General Assembly is the supreme body of the Association. It is constituted by the delegates of the member organisations.
- 6.2. The General Assembly:
 - 6.2.1. sets the general guidelines for the Association for the period up to the next ordinary General Assembly;
 - 6.2.2. approves the report of activities of the Coordinating Committee;
 - 6.2.3. adopts amendments to the Statutes;
 - 6.2.4. elects and dismisses the members of the Coordinating Committee;
 - 6.2.5. ratifies the election of the Chair by the Coordinating Committee;
 - 6.2.6. decides on applications for membership and on the exclusion of member organisations;
 - 6.2.7. adopts internal regulations of the Association submitted by the Coordinating Committee;
 - 6.2.8. determines membership fees;
 - 6.2.9. approves the annual budget and financial report of the Association submitted by the Coordinating Committee;
 - 6.2.10. decides on participation of the Association as a member of other organisations;
 - 6.2.11. decides on dissolution of the Association;
 - 6.2.12. rules on other issues which are not within the responsibility of the Coordinating Committee.
- 6.3. The ordinary General Assembly shall be summoned by the Coordinating Committee at least once every three years. The invitation shall be accompanied by the agenda and information on the date and venue. Member organisations shall be notified via post and/or electronic communication (fax, internet facilities) at least 12 weeks prior to the proposed date of the General Assembly.

- 6.4. The General Assembly will be quorate if more than 50% of the member organisations are represented by their delegates. If the General Assembly is not quorate, decisions can be taken. However, these decisions shall be submitted to the member organisations within one month after the General Assembly for confirmation by means of a written procedure.
- 6.5. It is the Association's intention to take decisions by consensus. If no consensus can be reached, the General Assembly decides by a simple majority of the member organisations present, or represented by a proxy, at an ordinary or extraordinary General Assembly, unless otherwise stipulated by these Statutes.
- 6.6. Valid decisions can only be made in accordance with items on the agenda.
- 6.7. In cases that call for immediate action, the Coordinating Committee may convoke an extraordinary General Assembly, or organise a postal or electronic vote (written procedure). Amendments of these Statutes or decisions on the dissolution of the Association shall only be adopted at an ordinary or extraordinary General Assembly.
- 6.8. If in cases that call for immediate action, the Coordinating Committee decides not to summon an extraordinary General Assembly or not to provide for a written procedure, an extraordinary General Assembly may be convoked, or a written procedure organised, at the request of one third of the member organisations.
- 6.9. Amendments to these Statutes or decisions on the dissolution of the Association shall be adopted by a majority of two thirds of all member organisations present, or represented by a proxy, at an ordinary or extraordinary General Assembly.
- 6.10. Minutes will be signed by the minutes taker together with the Chair.

Article 7

The Coordinating Committee

- 7.1. The Coordinating Committee is the executive body of the Association. It shall manage the affairs of the Association in accordance with the Statutes and the decisions and guidelines of the General Assembly.
- 7.2. The Coordinating Committee is composed of five to nine members, elected by the General Assembly for a mandate of three years. The members of the Coordinating Committee may be elected for three consecutive mandates.
- 7.3. If the number of Coordinating Committee members between two consecutive meetings of the General Assembly becomes less than five, the Coordinating Committee shall arrange an election by written procedure, putting forward candidates in consultation with the member organisations.
- 7.4. The members of the Coordinating Committee shall elect among themselves a Chair.
 - 7.4.1. The Coordinating Committee shall prepare job descriptions for its members.
- 7.5. The Coordinating Committee may appoint other persons for specific tasks.
- 7.6. The Coordinating Committee shall:
 - 7.6.1. summon the General Assembly and prepare its agenda,
 - 7.6.2. prepare priorities, strategic plans and activity documents,
 - 7.6.3. prepare internal rules, including the organisational structure,
 - 7.6.4. decide on the membership of the Working Groups instituted by the General Assembly,
 - 7.6.5. submit proposals to the General Assembly with respect to the admission or the exclusion of organisations as members of the Association,
 - 7.6.6. prepare the budget and the financial report for submission to the General Assembly for approval,
 - 7.6.7. decide on any loans, credits or investments of the Association,
 - 7.6.8. submit proposals to the General Assembly for discussion and decision by the General Assembly.
- 7.7. Unless otherwise stipulated by the Statutes, the Coordinating Committee shall take decisions by a simple majority of its members.
- 7.8. Decisions related to loans, credits and investments on behalf of the Association shall be adopted by unanimous vote.
- 7.9. The Coordinating Committee shall as far as possible perform its tasks by means of electronic communication (teleconferences, fax, internet facilities).

Article 8 The Chair

- 8.1. The Chair shall preside at the meetings of the Coordinating Committee.
- 8.2. The Chair has a casting vote.
- 8.3. The Chair shall be responsible for the coordination of the Coordinating Committee's work.

Article 9 Legal representation vis-à-vis third parties

- 9.1. The Coordinating Committee elects, from among its members, three members who may validly represent the Association, both inside and outside the Association. At least two of these elected members shall sign together.

Article 10 Language

- 10.1. The working languages of the Association are English, French and German. If possible, documents addressed to the General Assembly and to member organisations shall be translated to other languages. If possible, translation service shall be provided at meetings in which member organisations take part.

Article 11 Finances

- 11.1. The Association's revenues include:
 - 11.1.1. membership fees;
 - 11.1.2. grants, donations and contributions of juridical persons and individuals;
 - 11.1.3. yields derived from its assets;
 - 11.1.4. public subsidies;
 - 11.1.5. revenues derived from activities authorized by law and related to the statutory goals of the Association.
- 11.2. The revenues of the Association may exceed its expenditure for the purpose of creating financial reserves.
- 11.3. Grants, donations and contributions shall only be accepted if the Association's independence is not affected and if they will be used in accordance with the statutory aims of the Association.
- 11.4. The bank accounts of the Association shall be maintained at a bank designated by the Coordinating Committee. Cheques drawn on this account and payment orders relating to it shall be signed by the appointed persons.
- 11.5. Annual accounts shall be examined by member organisations of the Association before submission to the General Assembly.
- 11.6. In case of dissolution of the Association, or if the tax privileged purposes cease to exist, the net assets shall be used for tax privileged purposes, preferentially for the member organisations and their charities. Decisions as to the future use of the net assets will not be implemented before permission of the Finanzamt has been obtained.

Article 12 Final Provisions

- 12.1. The present statutes are adopted in German. The German version will be normative for the translation in any other language.
- 12.2. For questions not regulated by these Statutes, the provisions of the German Civil Code shall be applicable.
- 12.2. The Association shall become a legal entity under German Law.

These Statutes (German version) were approved at the first General Assembly, held on 7th May 2006 in Budapest, and amended at the third General Assembly, held on 17th and 18th April 2010 in Strasbourg.

They were registered as VR 9808 in the Register of Associations of Düsseldorf on 18th January 2007. The amended Statutes were registered as VR 9808 in the Register of Associations of Düsseldorf on 8th November 2010.

