

Federation of European Academies of Medicine, international association

New statutes (signed on 16 December 2013, Brussels)

CONSTITUTION

Article 1. The denomination ‘Federation of European Academies of Medicine’ or ‘Fédération Européenne des Académies de Médecine, in abbreviated form ‘FEAM’, was adopted. The denominations can be used jointly or separately.

Each Academy or similar Institution is represented by one Member on the Council of the Federation.

Each of these Academies and Institution retains its autonomy.

MISSION

Art. 2. The mission of the Federation is to promote cooperation between national Academies of Medicine and Medical Sections of Academies of Sciences in Europe; to provide them with a platform to formulate and express their common position on European matters concerning human and animal medicine, biomedical research, education, and health; and to extend to the European authorities the advisory role that they exercise in their own countries on those matters.

LEGAL RULES

Art. 3. The Federation is governed by the rules of the Belgian law of 25 October 1919, modified by the law of 6 December 1954, relative to the civil status of international associations with a scientific objective.

MEMBERSHIP

Art. 4. 1° An Academy or a similar Institution of a European country, which is not yet represented within the Federation, can apply for admission or can be invited to join it.

The proposal is reviewed and the following conditions are taken into account:

- a) That this Academy or similar Institution is recognised as an adviser to its Government and, for the national Academies in the strict sense, is multidisciplinary.
- b) That it is composed of a limited number of Members, elected by their peers.

This review is reported to Council, which decides on acceptance by secret ballot, won by simple majority of the Members present.

National Academies, which are not located in the European Union (EU) but enjoy a relationship with the EU and meet the above selection criteria sub 1°) a) and b) and learned societies with a European dimension and whose Members are elected in accordance with the selection criteria of Academies, which are Members of the Federation, can belong to it.

2° The status of Member of the Federation is lost by withdrawal or following a decision by Council, decided by secret ballot, with a majority of two thirds of the Members present.

COUNCIL

Art. 5. The Council is the sovereign body of the Federation. Its competencies are the following: the approval of the budgets and of the accounts, the election and the revocation of the Officers, the modification of the statutes and the dissolution of the association.

Each Academy or similar Institution nominates one Member to sit on Council. Each country has one vote during deliberations.

The Federation meets at least once a year in Council, and more often, if needed, at the request of the President or on the initiative of a third of the Members.

Councils are held, in principle, alternatively in Brussels, headquarters of the Federation, and in a Member Academy.

The agenda is set by the President. It is communicated to the Members two months in advance with the notice convening the meeting.

Any Member can give any other Member, by any means of transmission, a proxy to represent him(her) on Council and to vote in his(her) place. Each Member can bear a maximum of two proxies.

The Council establishes a set of internal rules. The annual subscription fee is fixed by Council.

The minutes are kept in a dedicated file, which is accessible to the Members.

Members can take all the decisions, which fall within the discretion of Council, in person or in writing.

OFFICE

Art. 6. The Office has all the management and administration powers, subject to the prerogatives of Council. It can delegate some of its functions to one of its Members.

The Office of the Federation includes a President, a Past President, one or more Vice-Presidents, and a Treasurer, elected from the Members, by Council, by secret ballot, by simple majority of the Members present, each enjoying one vote and this on the proposal of the Members.

The President is elected one year in advance of the exercise of his(her) mandate. For the period 2014-2016, the Vice-President becomes President de facto. The President holds office for three years and cannot be renewed. At the end of his(her) mandate, the President becomes Past President de facto.

The Vice-President(s) is(are) elected for three years. Their mandates are renewable once.

The Treasurer is elected for three years.

The Office appoints an Executive Director.

The Office, or any of its Members, can be dismissed after deliberation of Council and by secret ballot, needing a majority of two thirds of the Members.

The Office can take valid decisions only if at least three of its Members are present or represented. Each Officer can give a proxy to any other Officer.

The minutes are kept in a dedicated file, which is accessible to the Members.

All actions except special proxy, which commit the Federation, are signed by two Officers.

HEADQUARTERS

Art. 7. The headquarters of the Federation are in Brussels, Palais des Académies, Rue Ducale 1, 1000 Brussels.

LANGUAGES

Art. 8. The official languages of the Federation are French and English. The working language is English. Legal documents are prepared in French and English.

RESOURCES

Art. 9. a) Resources are made up by annual subscriptions, subsidies, donations and legacies.

- b) The Treasurer manages the budget of the Federation. He/she presents the accounts every year for approval by Council. He/she oversees the financial situation and informs the Office on the availability of funds for ongoing and new activities. He/she is the lead Officer for fundraising.
- c) The financial year is closed on 31 December of each year.

MODIFICATIONS OF THE STATUTES

Art. 10. Any proposal for modification of the statutes must be proposed by at least three Members or by the Office, before the meeting of Council.

The proposal will feature on the agenda to be discussed and voted on.

DISSOLUTION

Art. 11. The dissolution of the Federation can be decided by Council, with a majority of two thirds of the Members.

Voting by post is not allowed.

In the event of dissolution, the Council nominates three liquidators of different nationalities and the assets of the Federation are given to one (or more) not-for-profit scientific institution, designated by Council.

LEGAL ACTIONS

Art. 12. Legal actions, as plaintiff or defendant, are conducted by the Office, represented by its President or any other Officer appointed by the Office.