

STATUTES (by-Laws) OF THE EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY

PREAMBLE

Political Parties at European level contribute to forming European political awareness and to expressing the will of the citizens of the Union." (Article 10.4 of the Treaty on the European Union-Lisbon Treaty and Article 12.2 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union-the Charter).

On the basis

- of the Christian view of mankind and the Christian Democratic concept of society,
- of their joint will to create a federal European Union as a Union of free peoples and citizens conscious of their own responsibilities,

the Christian Democrat, Centrist and like-minded parties of the European People's Party as heirs of Europe's Founding Fathers accept these responsibilities and create an association. This association will be a member of the Christian /Centrist Democrat International (IDC-CDI), a worldwide organisation of Christian Democrats and like-minded political parties and the International Democracy Union (IDU), a worldwide organization of Conservative, Christian Democrat and like-minded political parties of the centre and centre right.

I. NAME – ADDRESS – OBJECTIVES - DURATION

Article 1 NAME – LEGAL BASE - LOGO

The association, an alliance of political parties at European level, is named "Parti populaire européen / Europese Volkspartij / Europäische Volkspartei / European People's Party", abbreviated as "PPE/EVP/EPP"). This name must always be preceded or followed by the words "parti politique européen/Europese politieke partij, European political party" or the abbreviation "PPEU/EUPP/EUPP".

The EPP pursues its aims, carries out its activities and is organized and financed in conformity with the conditions laid down in the Regulation (EU/EURATOM) No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and political foundations, as amended.

For the matters not regulated by the referred European Regulation the association is governed by the Belgian Code of Companies and Associations (hereinafter the "CCA").

The EPP does not pursue profit goals.

The logo of the association is defined in annex 1 to the by-laws.

Article 2 ADDRESS

The registered office of the association is established at Rue du Commerce 10, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.

The Presidency is authorized to transfer the registered office of the association to another location within this Region and to establish other offices and/or subsidiaries within or outside this judicial district.

Article 3 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the association is to:

- promote and foster close and ongoing collaboration among its members for the purpose of implementing their common policy at European level;
- encourage and organise unanimous action by its members at European level;

58 – work (i) to achieve free and pluralistic democracy, (ii) for respect for human rights,
59 fundamental freedoms and the rule of law on the basis of a common programme promote
60 the process of unification and federal integration in Europe as a constituent element of
61 the European Union.
62

63 In order to realize this purpose and in order to establish, develop, implement and promote its
64 policies, the association organizes several discussion and decision forums, major events and
65 fact finding missions according to strict democratic principles and issues publications of all
66 sorts.
67

68 The association is also authorised to execute all legal instruments (including real estate
69 transactions) directly or indirectly useful or necessary for the promotion and achievement of the
70 above-mentioned aims.
71

72 Through their national policies the member parties of the association support positions taken by
73 the association in the context of the European Union. In the context of national responsibilities,
74 they shall maintain their own name, their identity and their freedom of action. The association
75 is represented in the European Parliament by the Group of the European People's Party (Christian
76 Democrats) (Group of the EPP in the European Parliament).
77

78 Member parties oblige parliamentarians elected to the European Parliament on their list, and/or
79 sent to the like-minded or associated Groups at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the
80 OSCE and NATO, the European committee of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and
81 EURONEST, to join the EPP Groups therein.
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83 Article 4 DURATION

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85 The association is incorporated for an indefinite duration.
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87 **II. MEMBERSHIP**

88 89 Article 5 MEMBERS WITH VOTING RIGHTS

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91 The number of members is unlimited, but may not be less than two. Requests for membership
92 shall be submitted to the President and Secretary General in writing. They shall comprise a
93 statement on the adoption of the Political programme, the EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical
94 Behaviour in Politics, as well as the by-laws and the internal regulations of the association, in
95 addition to a copy of the by-laws and programme in its original language and in English of the
96 applicant party. The EPP President and Secretary General should be notified in writing of any
97 change in the by-laws of any member. The Presidency will transmit the application for
98 membership to the Political Assembly following the recommendation of the Working Group EPP
99 Membership.
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101 Without prejudice to article 5 *bis* and subject to what follows, the Political Assembly is authorised
102 to grant, at its own discretion, the applicant one of the following member status in the EPP: (1)
103 Ordinary Member Party, (2) Associated Member Party, (3) Member Association or (4) Individual
104 Member (as defined here below).
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106 (1) Ordinary Member Parties

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108 The member status of Ordinary Member Party can be granted to any Christian Democrat or like-
109 minded party, based in the European Union, which subscribes to the association's political
110 programme and the EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics, and which accepts the
111 association's by-laws and internal regulations.
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113 (2) Associated Member Parties

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115 The member status of Associated Member Party can be granted to any political party of Christian
116 Democrat or like-minded orientation, based outside the European Union, from states whose
117 applications for membership of the European Union have been introduced and / or states
118 belonging to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which subscribes to the objectives
119 referred to in article 3 of the by-laws and to the association's political programme and EPP Code
120 of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics, and which accepts the association's by-laws and
121 internal regulations. Associated Member Parties, or their representatives within the organs and
122 bodies of the association, shall not participate in decisions involving the policies and structure of
123 the European Union nor of its institutional system. If the state in which the Associated Member
124 Party is established effectively becomes a member of the European Union, such Associated
125 Member Party shall automatically become an Ordinary Member Party as from the date of the
126 adherence of such state to the European Union.

(3) Member Associations

130 The member status of Member Association can be granted to associations that fulfill the eligibility
131 criteria mentioned below and which subscribe to the EPP's political programme and EPP Code of
132 Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics and accept the EPP's by-laws and internal regulations.

133
134 Recognition as a Member Association presupposes that:

- 135 - the association has legal personality in the Member State in which its seat is located;
- 136 - national sections, linked to an Ordinary Member Party of the association, exist in at least
137 half the Member States of the EU;
- 138 - the activities of the association are performed on the basis of by-laws governing their
139 operation, internal responsibilities and the right of representation;
- 140 - their activities and the positions taken are in line with the EPP Program, the EPP Code of
141 Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics and the party's political directives.

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144 The EPP Member Associations must clearly indicate in their name their relationship to the
145 association. As a general rule, the Member Associations must accept the participation of the
146 corresponding national associations of the Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member
147 Parties.

148
149 The member status of Member Association has been granted to the following associations:

- 150 - European Democrat Students (EDS)
- 151 - European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW)
- 152 - Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP)
- 153 - Small and Medium Entrepreneurs of Europe (SME EUROPE)
- 154 - EPP Women (EPPW)
- 155 - European Seniors Union (ESU)

156 The way in which these Member Associations are integrated in the association is further
157 described in article VIII of the Internal Regulations.

(4) Individual Members

160
161 In addition, all members of the EPP Group in the European Parliament elected on a list of a
162 member party are also members ex officio of the association (hereinafter referred to as
163 "Individual Members"). Other members of the European Parliament can become Individual
164 Members of the association by decision of the Political Assembly on the proposal of the
165 Presidency of the association. The speaking and voting rights of the Individual Members within
166 the organs of the association are personal and inalienable.

167
168 If a candidate for membership in the association is a legal person within the meaning of the law
169 applicable to it, it must name in its application for membership a natural person who will
170 represent it in the association. The same provision applies if the candidate does not have legal
171 personality under the law applicable to it. It shall then designate a natural person who will act
172 on behalf of all members of the candidate member without legal personality, as its

173 representative. In case of a change of representation, the President of the association is
174 immediately informed in writing.

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176 Article 5 bis MEMBERS WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS

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178 Without prejudice to article 5 and subject to what follows, the Political Assembly is, on the
179 proposal of the Presidency, authorised to grant, at its own discretion, the applicant one of the
180 following member statuses without voting rights: (1) Observer Member Party, (2) EPP Partner
181 or (3) Associated Entities (as defined here below).

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183 (1) Observer Member Parties

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185 The member status of Observer Member Party can be granted to parties close to the EPP, from
186 (i) European Union Member States, (ii) states which have applied for European Union
187 membership as well as from (iii) European states that are members of the Council of Europe,
188 upon the condition of the adoption of the association's political programme and the EPP Code of
189 Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics, and the acceptance of the association's by-laws and
190 internal regulations.

191

192 (2) EPP Partners:

193 The member status of EPP Partner can be granted to any political party outside the EU
194 represented in an International Organization such as the Council of Europe, NATO, OSCE and /
195 or Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), upon the condition that such party has a likeminded EPP
196 orientation, accepts the association's by-laws (including the objectives referred to in article 3 of
197 the by-laws), internal regulations and political programme. Membership of the Centrist Democrat
198 International (IDC-CDI) and/or International Democracy Union (IDU) is a positive criteria.

199 (3) Associated Entities

200 The member status of Associated Entity can be granted to any entity based in a European Union
201 Member State or a third country whose activities and positions taken are in line with the EPP
202 program and which subscribes to the association's political programme and EPP Code of Conduct
203 on Ethical Behaviour in Politics and accepts the association's by-laws and internal regulations.

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205 The member status of Associated Entity has been granted to the Robert Schuman Institute, the
206 Wilfried Martens Fund and the LGBT+ Alliance.

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208 The way in which the Robert Schuman Institute, the Wilfried Martens Fund and the LGBT+
209 Alliance are integrated in the association is further described in articles XI, XII and XIII of the
210 Internal Regulations.

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212 Article 6 COMPLIANCE WITH CODE OF CONDUCT

213 Every application for the member status of Ordinary Member party, Associated Member Party,
214 Member Association, Observer Member Party, or Individual Member, who is not a member ex
215 officio of the association, must include a written statement confirming that the applicant
216 undertakes to comply with the values, principles and provisions set out in the association's EPP
217 Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics as approved and amended from time to time in
218 accordance with article 25 and 16 of the by-laws (hereinafter referred to as the "EPP Code of
219 Conduct").

220 The EPP Ethics Committee shall draw up a procedure to be applied as part of the application
221 process, with a view to verifying the compliance with the EPP Code of Conduct of any applicant,
222 having confirmed its adherence to the EPP Code of Conduct in accordance with this article.

223

224 Article 7 MEMBERSHIP FEES AND MEMBERSHIP PUBLICATION

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226 Ordinary Member Parties and Observer Member Parties based in the European Union individually
227 pay annual dues of no more than 500.000 (five hundred thousand) euros. The amount of the
228 dues is determined annually by the Political Assembly. Dues are payable within two weeks of
229 having been set and communicated by the Political Assembly to the members.

230

231 Members which accumulate arrears in the payment of their annual Membership Fee equivalent
232 to one year of membership fee lose their speaking and/or voting rights within the organs and
233 bodies of the association as well as their right to propose candidates for positions within the
234 association, until they have paid off their arrears.

235

236 The Presidency has to propose to the Political Assembly to exclude Members which accumulated
237 arrears for two years.

238

239 Interest, equivalent to double the relevant year's annual inflation rate in Belgium, will be added
240 to the amount of the arrears. A list outlining the current Membership Fees' situation will be
241 distributed at each meeting of the EPP Political Assembly.

242

243 Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member Associations, Observer Member
244 Parties publish the political programme and logo of the EPP on their websites, in a clearly visible
245 and user-friendly manner, from the date on which the Political Assembly granted them member
246 status and for the entire duration of their membership.

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248 Article 8 REGISTER AND EXCLUSIVITY

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250 The Presidency keeps a membership register at the registered office of the association. This
251 register lists the surname, first name, place of residence, date and place of birth of members or,
252 in the case of legal persons or de facto associations, the name, legal form, address of the
253 registered office, identity of the representative and, where applicable, the registration number
254 in accordance with existing legislation and/or regulations. All members may consult this register
255 at the registered office of the association.

256

257 The EPP membership is strictly exclusive. In no case may an EPP member as defined under
258 Articles 5 and 5 bis under Section II of the by-laws also be a member of any other Political Party
259 at European Level recognized under Regulation (EU/EURATOM) No 1141/2014 of the European
260 Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political
261 parties and political foundations, as amended.

262

263 A member of the EPP that is found to be also member of another Political Party at European
264 Level will be automatically excluded according to Article IX, c. of the EPP Internal Regulations.

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266 Article 9 RESIGNATION, SUSPENSION AND EXCLUSION

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268 Any member may resign from the association at any time. The member gives notice to the
269 Presidency of the decision to resign by written notification.

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271 Members that resign are obliged to fulfil their financial obligations toward the association for the
272 year during which the resignation is submitted and for all previous years.

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274 The suspension and the exclusion of a member EPP may only be decided by the Political Assembly.
275 It is not obliged to disclose its reasons. A proposal for the exclusion or suspension of a member
276 may only be submitted by the Presidency, or seven Ordinary or Associated Member Parties from
277 five different countries. The Presidency invites the member concerned to the meeting of the
278 Political Assembly and may hear the member concerned. If the member fails to turn up for the
279 hearing, the Political Assembly is authorized to decide on the exclusion, respectively suspension
280 of the member.

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- 282 Until the Political Assembly has lifted the suspension of the suspended members:
- 283 i. Suspended members lose their right to propose candidates for positions within the
- 284 association; and
- 285 ii. Ex officios and members of an organ or body of the association, who were appointed or
- 286 elected based on their membership of the concerned suspended member, lose their right
- 287 to participate as well as their speaking and voting rights within all organs and bodies of
- 288 the association; and
- 289 iii. Individual members of the concerned suspended member, as defined in article 5(4) of
- 290 the by-laws, lose their right to participate within the organs and bodies of the association
- 291 and their speaking and voting rights within all organs and bodies of the association, it
- 292 being understood that they have to continue to comply with their membership obligations
- 293 during the whole time of the suspension. In case of such a suspension, article 13, §7,
- 294 last sentence of the by-laws shall not apply.
- 295

296 The Political Assembly can take any action it deems appropriate against an Individual Member,

297 who is not a member ex officio of the association. A proposal for the exclusion of an Individual

298 Member who is a member ex officio of the association may only be submitted by the Presidency

299 of the EPP Group in the European Parliament.

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301 If a Member Party is not any more a viable political force in its respective country and, in

302 particular, has not been represented in regional or national or European Parliament(s) for two

303 consecutive parliamentary terms, the EPP Presidency can recommend to the Political Assembly

304 its suspension or exclusion, according to the procedures stated in the previous paragraphs.

305

306 If a member, other than an Individual Member who is a member ex officio of the association,

307 does not comply with the EPP Code of Conduct, the Presidency can, upon recommendation of

308 the EPP Ethics Committee, recommend to the Political Assembly the suspension or exclusion of

309 that member, according to the procedures stated above. In this case, the Political Assembly shall

310 investigate the alleged violations of the EPP Code of Conduct, invite the member concerned to a

311 hearing and render a reasoned decision.

312

313 If a member, other than an Individual Member, does not continuously publish the political

314 programme and logo of the EPP on its website in a clearly visible and user-friendly manner, the

315 EPP Presidency can recommend to the Political Assembly its suspension or exclusion, according

316 to the procedures stated above. In this case, the Political Assembly shall invite the member

317 concerned to a hearing and render a reasoned decision.

318

319 A member's affiliation ceases automatically upon death, disqualification, liquidation or in cases

320 of temporary administration, court-ordered settlement or insolvency. The affiliation of an

321 individual member ends automatically when this member is no longer a member of the European

322 Parliament and the affiliation of a Member Association ends automatically when this member

323 does no longer fulfil the criteria that were necessary for its preliminary recognition as a Member

324 Association as set out in these by-laws.

325

326 Members that resigned or were excluded and the legal successors of such members or of

327 deceased members have no claims on the assets of the association and may never be reimbursed

328 for dues paid, contributions or any other payments made to the association, unless otherwise

329 expressly provided for in the by-laws.

330

331 In no case may a member that resigned or was excluded demand the communication of or a

332 copy of the accounts, the placing of official seals on the property of the association or the drawing

333 up of an inventory.

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335 Article 9 (bis) STATEMENTS – MEMBERS LIST

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337 The EPP does not bear responsibility for statements issued on behalf of the EPP by members

338 without prior approval of the EPP President.

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340 The list of member parties as defined in article 5 and 5 *bis* is defined in annex 2 to the by-laws.
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III. ORGANS OF THE ASSOCIATION

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Article 10 ORGANS

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The organs of the association are:

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- (i) The Presidency
- (ii) The Political Assembly
- (iii) The Congress.

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The EPP strives towards equal participation of women and men in all its organs.

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IV. PRESIDENCY

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Article 11 COMPOSITION – ELECTION – INCOMPATIBILITIES – INVITEES – VOLONTARYTY – REPLACEMENTS

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The association is managed by the Presidency, the executive organ, within the meaning of article 10:9 of the CCA. The Presidency is composed of:

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- (i) the President of the EPP;
- (ii) the President of the European Commission, the President of the European Council, the High Representative on Foreign and Security Policy, the President of the European Parliament (to the extent that these persons are affiliated to the EPP);
- (iii) the Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament
- (iv) the President of the European Committee of the Regions to the extent that he/she is affiliated to the EPP or the Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Committee of the Regions only if the President of EcoR is not affiliated to the EPP;
- (v) the Honorary President(s);
- (vi) ten Vice-Presidents;
- (vii) the Treasurer; and
- (viii) the Secretary General.

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Except for the Honorary President(s) who are elected by the Political Assembly, and for the President of the European Commission, the President of the European Council, the High Representative on Foreign and Security Policy, the President of the European Parliament, the President of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament, who are *ex officio* members of the Presidency, the members of the Presidency are elected by the Congress by secret ballot and by separate vote, for a renewable term of three years.

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The Congress elects first the President who, subsequently, proposes to the Congress a Secretary General to be elected. Only representatives of Ordinary and Associated Member Parties are eligible for these functions.

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Candidates who obtain a simple majority of the valid votes cast are elected. Abstentions are not considered valid votes. Prior to the Congress, a special voting regulation for the election of the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary General and Treasurer, will be approved by the Political Assembly.

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Candidates for the functions of President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer must be nominated, in writing, to the Secretariat General, seven days prior to the date of the election. Presidents and Secretaries General are entitled, on behalf of Ordinary and Associated Member Parties and on behalf of Member Associations, to propose candidates provided that all candidates are member of an Ordinary or Associated Member Party. All Ordinary and Associated Member Parties and all Member Associations shall be informed of the names of the candidates not less than three days prior to the elections.

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399 The members of the Presidency may resign at any time, by giving notice to the Presidency of
400 the decision to resign by written notification. Their mandate is at any time revocable by the
401 Congress.

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403 Ceasing to be a member of an Ordinary or Associated EPP Member Party also constitutes
404 simultaneous resignation from the EPP Presidency.

405

406 If a mandate falls vacant, the Political Assembly shall in accordance with the previous paragraphs
407 of this article, elect a replacement following a call for candidatures. At the following Congress,
408 confirmation of this election is requested and the Congress determines the duration of the term
409 of office. Members of the Presidency may be re-elected.

410

411 Members of the Presidency whose terms of office are coming to an end must, before expiry of
412 the term, call a Congress for the purpose of electing new members of the Presidency. If they fail
413 to do so, they are obliged to remain in office until such time as a replacement can be found,
414 without prejudice to their responsibility for any damage caused by their omission.

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416 On the proposal of the President, and in accordance with the requirements of the agenda, the
417 following persons may be invited to attend meetings of the Presidency:

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- 418 - members of the European Commission who are member of a Member Party;
- 419 - The President and/or the President of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the
420 Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European committee of the
421 regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST.

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423 The Secretary-General of the EPP Group in the European Parliament is permanently invited.

424

425 The EPP President and/or Secretary General can attend, at will, any meetings of any organs of
426 EPP Groups and Associations.

427

428 The members of the Presidency are not remunerated for the exercise of their mandate, unless
429 decided otherwise by the Political Assembly.

430

431 In case the President would be prevented to fulfil his powers, as attributed to him by these by-
432 laws and the internal regulations, he will delegate one of the Vice-Presidents as his
433 representative.

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435 Article 12 POWERS – RESPONSIBILITIES

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437 The Presidency has the powers attributed to it by the law, these by-laws and the Internal
438 Regulations. Its competences consist inter alia of:

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- 440 - ensuring the implementation of decisions taken by the Political Assembly;
- 441 - preparing the annual accounts and budget;
- 442 - ensuring the permanent political presence of the EPP;
- 443 - monitoring the work of the General Secretariat, and more in particular the budget
444 management;
- 445 - issuing statements on behalf of the EPP in the framework of its political program further
446 to a decision of the Political Assembly;
- 447 - granting the title of Supporting Member in accordance with the internal regulations;
- 448 - proposing candidates for nomination as Honorary President to the Political Assembly;
- 449 - ensuring the coherence of membership policies between the EPP and EPP Groups in
450 international organisations, institutions, bodies and assemblies;
- 451 - adopting internal regulations for matters that fall within the scope of its competences;
- 452 - implementing the recommendations of the EPP Ethics Committee and formulating
453 proposals to the Political Assembly as to the further implementation by the Political
454 Assembly of these recommendations.

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456 Article 13 MEETINGS

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458 The members of the Presidency shall meet at least eight times annually, upon convocation by
459 the President, by letter, fax or email at the latest two weeks in advance, unless in case of
460 urgency. The meetings take place on the day and at the time and place stated in the convocation
461 notice. The notice also contains the agenda, which is fixed by the President. The Presidency may
462 only debate on the items on the agenda, unless all the members are present and unanimously
463 agree to deliberate and to approve the agenda set at that time.

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465 The Presidency shall validly deliberate if a majority of its members are present.

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467 In case of failure to achieve this quorum, a second meeting shall be convened with the same
468 agenda, which can validly deliberate, regardless of the attendance quorum.

469
470 Decisions shall be taken with a simple majority of the votes cast by the members of the
471 Presidency present. All members of the Presidency shall have one vote. In case of a tie, the
472 President has the casting vote. Abstentions and blank votes are not considered valid votes.

473
474 The meetings are chaired by the President.

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476 The Secretary General shall draw up the minutes of the meetings, which shall be kept at the
477 registered office of the association.

478
479 Membership of the Presidency is strictly personal, meaning that a representative of a member
480 of the Presidency will not be admitted to meetings. The mandate of the elected members of the
481 Presidency will automatically expire if, during the course of the year, a member has not
482 participated in at least half of the meetings.

483
484 On the proposal of the President, the Presidency may share work between its members or
485 mandate certain members for specific tasks and delegate specific powers to one or more of its
486 members.

487
488 Article 14 DECISION MAKING PROCESS

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490 If the President considers it advisable, the Presidency may approve a proposal by having all
491 members of the Presidency sign for approval a circular setting out the proposal.

492
493 In this case, the Presidency is not required to call a meeting. The circular must include the
494 following information:

- 495
496 - a statement that the text is a proposal for a decision of the Presidency;
497 - a statement that the decision shall only be approved if signed by all the members of the
498 Presidency;
499 - a statement that the decision may not be amended and that no reservations may be
500 expressed by members of the Presidency;
501 - a statement that all the members of the Presidency must return the document signed
502 and with the handwritten words "read and approved";
503 - a statement that the signed circular must be returned within ten days to the association.

504
505 The meetings of the Presidency may also be organized by video- or teleconference or any other
506 means of telecommunication, as long as all participants are able to express themselves and are
507 intelligible to all other participants.

508
509 **V. POLITICAL ASSEMBLY**

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511 Article 15 DEFINITION – COMPOSITION

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513 The Political Assembly is the strategic organ and the general assembly, within the meaning of
514 article 10:5 of the CCA, of the association.

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516 It is composed of:

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518 a. members *ex officio*:

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520 - members of the Presidency;
- 521 - members of the Presidency of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament;
- 522 - Presidents of Ordinary or Associated Member Parties, Member Associations or their
523 mandated representatives;
- 524 - Presidents of national delegations of member parties of the Group of the EPP in the
525 European Parliament;
- 526 - Members of the Presidency of the European Parliament, members of the European
527 Commission and the President or the first Vice-President of the European Committee of
528 the Regions, provided they belong to an Ordinary Member Party;
- 529 - Presidents of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies
530 of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European committee of the regions, Union for the
531 Mediterranean and EURONEST, provided that they are member of an Ordinary Member
532 Party or Associate Member Party.
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534 The mandate of these members of the Political Assembly ends when they lose the capacity in
535 which they became member of the Political Assembly.

536
537 b. delegated members:

- 538 - Representatives of Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties.
- 539 - The Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties shall nominate their
540 delegates together with an equivalent number of substitutes.
- 541 o The delegates and voting rights of Ordinary Member Parties are assigned
542 proportionally to the number of Individual Members of the association;
- 543 o The delegates and voting rights of the Associated Member Parties and Member
544 Associations are assigned by the Presidency. The number of delegates shall be
545 limited to a maximum of 2 besides the Party Chairman.
- 546 - Representatives (three) of the EPP Group in the European Committee of the Regions.
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548 The mandate of these members of the Political Assembly ends when the delegation by which
549 they became member of the Political Assembly comes to an end. The composition of the Political
550 Assembly is calculated by the Secretary General twice in a legislature of the European Parliament
551 (i): at the beginning and (ii) half-way through the European parliament legislature (any delay in
552 these calculations is limited to a maximum of six months). This calculation must be approved by
553 the Political Assembly.

554
555 c. non voting members

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557 - The Secretary General of the EPP Group in the European Parliament, and the equivalent
558 EPP Secretaries General of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the
559 Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European committee of
560 the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST;
- 561 - Two representatives of each Observer Member Party;
- 562 - One representative of each EPP Partner and each Associated Entity.
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564 On the proposal of the President, the Political Assembly may invite certain personalities to give
565 advice.

566
567 **Article 16 POWERS – RESPONSIBILITIES**

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569 The Political Assembly has the powers attributed to it by the law, these by-laws and the Internal
570 Regulations. Its competences consist inter alia of:

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- ensuring unity of action by the EPP and influencing the achievement of European policy in the spirit of its program;
 - stimulating and organizing systematic relations between national parliamentary groups and member parties in agreement with the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament;
 - adopting the annual accounts and the budget;
 - electing two Internal Auditors in accordance with article 24 of the by-laws;
 - deciding on the applications for membership as well as on the recognition of Member Associations;
 - deciding on the suspension and exclusion of members and revoking the recognition of Member Associations;
 - deciding on the amount of annual dues to be paid by the members;
 - convening the Congress;
 - formulating recommendations to the Congress as to modifications of the by-laws;
 - adopting the Internal Regulations in accordance with article 26 of the by-laws;
 - electing the Honorary President(s) on the proposal of the Presidency;
 - accepting candidature(s) of EPP candidate(s) for President of the EU Commission;
 - deciding on changes to annex 1 to the by-laws on the logo and annex 2 to the by-laws on the list of member parties;
 - appointing five members of the EPP Ethics Committee and electing its president;
 - approving the EPP Code of Conduct and any amendments thereof, upon the proposal of the EPP Ethics Committee;
 - approving the internal regulations of the EPP Ethics Committee, and any amendments thereof, upon the proposal of the EPP Ethics Committee;
 - implementing the recommendations of the EPP Ethics Committee upon the proposal of the Presidency;
 - reporting to its members on the compliance by the EPP members with the EPP Code of Conduct;
 - approving and revoking of Bilateral Agreements in accordance with article 21 *bis* of the by-laws.

602 The Political Assembly may establish standing commissions and ad hoc working groups to study
603 specific problems, and decide to dissolve them after having heard the president of the
604 commission or working group.

605 Article 17 MEETINGS - DECISION MAKING PROCESS

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607
608 On the invitation of the President, the Political Assembly meets at least four times annually,
609 whenever the object or the interest of the association so requires; an extraordinary meeting can
610 be held at the request of either one-third of the Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member
611 Parties, or of the Presidency of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament.

612
613 The Political Assembly shall validly deliberate if it is convened regularly, i.e. by letter, fax or
614 email at the latest two weeks in advance, unless in case of urgency, and if a simple majority of
615 its members are present. Failure to achieve this quorum can only be established on the basis of
616 a formal motion, introduced during the meeting itself of the Political Assembly. A formal motion,
617 preventing valid deliberation of the Political Assembly, may be introduced by at least seven
618 Ordinary Member Parties or Associated Member Parties from five different countries. If a formal
619 motion has not been introduced, the Political Assembly can validly deliberate, regardless of the
620 fact the attendance quorum has not been reached. If a formal motion has been introduced, and
621 the Political Assembly is thus unable to make a valid deliberation, the President shall convene a
622 second meeting with the same agenda, within at least two weeks and at most two months after
623 the introduction of the formal motion, which can validly deliberate, regardless of the attendance
624 quorum.

625
626 The convocation notice sets out the agenda. Meetings are held at the registered office of the
627 association or at the place stated in the notice of the meeting. The Political Assembly can be
628 held either physically or remotely, via video or telephone conference or any other means of

629 telecommunication, as long as all participants are able to express themselves and are intelligible
630 to all other participants (without prejudice to the specific provisions of applicable law, if any). In
631 a case of urgency, that needs to be dealt with immediately at the political assembly, the deadline
632 to list this topic on the agenda ends 3 days prior to the scheduled beginning of the political
633 assembly. All members of the political assembly must immediately be informed about the
634 addition on the agenda.

635
636 All decisions shall be taken by simple majority of the votes cast by the members of the Political
637 Assembly present. In case of a tie, the President has the casting vote. Abstentions and blank
638 votes are not considered valid votes

639
640 The meetings are chaired by the President.

641
642 The Secretary General shall draw up the minutes of the meetings, which shall be kept at the
643 registered office of the association. All members will receive copies of these minutes within four
644 weeks of each meeting.

645
646 The Political Assembly normally meets "in camera". On the request of the Presidency or of one
647 tenth of the delegates, the Political Assembly may decide to admit the public to the meeting.

648

649

650 **VI. CONGRESS**

651

652 Article 18 DEFINITION - POWERS

653

654 The Congress has the following competences:

655

- 656 - deciding on the political program of the EPP;
- 657 - deciding on modifications of the by-laws;
- 658 - electing the President, Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General and the Treasurer;
- 659 - deciding on the dissolution of the association;
- 660 - electing the EPP candidate for President of the EU Commission.

661

662 The composition and the functioning of the Congress are regulated in the Internal Regulations.

663

664 **VII. SECRETARY GENERAL**

665

666 Article 19 ELECTION – POWERS

667

668 The Congress elects, on the proposal of the President, a Secretary General, in charge of the day-
669 to-day management of the association, including the representation of the association within the
670 limits of the day-to-day management.

671

672 This day-to-day management includes inter alia:

673

- 674 (i) the management of the General Secretariat and exercise of the decisions taken by
675 the organs;
- 676 (ii) the supervision of the cooperation between the General Secretariats of Ordinary
677 Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Observers, Member Associations, EPP
678 Partners and the General Secretariat of the EPP Group in the European Parliament;
- 679 (iii) the drawing up, in agreement with the President, of agendas for meetings of organs,
680 the supervision of the convening of meetings, their preparation, and the writing of
681 minutes;
- 682 (iv) the responsibility to the Presidency and the Political Assembly for proper and
683 adequate budgetary management;
- 684 (v) the drawing up of a report of the activities of the General Secretariat and
685 organizational perspectives to the Political Assembly at the beginning of each year;

- 686 (vi) Chairs the working group on Statutory Changes. This working group will issue
687 recommendations to the EPP Presidency concerning the revision of the by-laws and
688 internal regulation prior to each Statutory Congress in accordance with article 26 and
689 27 of the by-laws;
690 (vii) verification of the documents of all new membership applications as referred to in
691 article 5, 5 bis and 6 and clearance, in accordance with the President, for transferral
692 to the Working Group EPP Membership
693

694 The secretary General is also entitled to implement decisions of the Presidency and in particular
695 to authorize an attorney at law to represent the association in judicial proceedings either as
696 applicant or defendant.
697

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699

700 **VIII. REPRESENTATION**

701

702 Article 20 PROCEDURE

703

704 All legal acts on behalf of the association not falling within the scope of the day-to-day
705 management or of a special delegation of powers, must be signed by the President or by two
706 members of the Presidency.
707

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710 **IX. WILFRIED MARTENS CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES**

711

712 Article 21 DEFINITION

713

714 The Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (hereinafter referred to as "WMCES") is the
715 official European political foundation of the European People's Party. The WMCES will function as
716 the sole and official think-tank of the EPP and shall, in particular, serve as a common European
717 framework for national foundations/think-tanks recognized by EPP member-parties.

718

719 WMCES is organized as a separate legal entity with separate financial accounts, operating in
720 accordance with its own by-laws and internal regulations.

721

722 **X. BILATERAL AGREEMENTS**

723

724 Article 21 bis DEFINITION

725

726 The association has the right to establish bilateral agreements with parties, organizations, think
727 tanks, NGOs, civil society organizations, unions, etc., as an instrument to develop broader
728 relations. The specific terms of each agreement have to be accepted by the Presidency and
729 approved by the Political Assembly. At the proposal of the Presidency, the Political Assembly has
730 the right to revoke a bilateral agreement if the terms of the agreement have been breached.

731

732 **XI. PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION**

733

734 Article 22 DEFINITION

735

736 The EPP is committed to comply with national applicable laws and EU regulations concerning the
737 protection of data and will collect only information that is strictly needed and relevant, and up-
738 to-date and will use appropriate controls to ensure the information is kept secure.
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740 **XII. FINANCIAL YEAR, ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET**

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Article 23.1 FINANCING

The EPP shall be financed by:

- The general budget of the EU in conformity with the Regulation (EU/EURATOM) No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of political parties at European level, as amended;
 - The annual membership fees determined in accordance with Articles 7 and 23.2;
 - **Contributions from supporting members;**
 - Donations;
- all in accordance with the Regulation (EU/EURATOM) No 1141/2014, as amended.

Article 23.2 MEMBERSHIP FEES

The conditions for the determination of the membership fees are strictly defined in the Internal Regulations. Membership fees and contributions are governed by the conditions and obligations relating to the funding of political parties at European level established in Regulation (EU/EURATOM) No 1141/2014, as amended.

Article 24 FINANCIAL YEAR – ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET

The association’s financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December.

At the end of each financial year, the Presidency closes the accounts for the year ended and establishes the budget for the following financial year in accordance with the applicable legal provisions; the annual accounts are submitted to the Political Assembly for approval.

The Treasurer will assist the Presidency in drawing up the accounts and the budget. He controls the budgetary management of the General Secretary and reports to the Presidency. He is responsible in particular for the financing of the association and its activities, by means of membership fees, donations or otherwise.

Every two years, the Political Assembly elects two Internal Auditors who may not be a member of the Presidency. The mandate of the Internal Auditors lasts two years and is renewable. The Internal Auditors are responsible for the verification of the annual accounts and report accordingly to the Political Assembly.

The surplus is added to the association’s assets and in no case may be paid to members in the form of dividends.

To promote transparency the EPP accounts will be drawn up and communicated in accordance to chapter 5 of Regulation (EU/EURATOM) No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014, as amended.

XIII. ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR IN POLITICS - ETHICS COMMITTEE - CODE OF CONDUCT

Article 25 ETHICS COMMITTEE – ELECTION AND POWERS

The EPP Ethics Committee is composed of five members appointed by the Political Assembly for a renewable term of three years. The chairperson of the EPP Ethics Committee shall be chosen and elected from among the members of the Presidency.

The EPP Ethics Committee drafts an EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics and submits it for approval to the Political Assembly.

The EPP Ethics Committee drafts its internal regulations and submits these for approval to the Political Assembly.

798 By subscribing to the EPP Code of Conduct, which is a prerequisite for EPP membership, Ordinary
799 Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member Associations, Observer Member Parties,
800 Individual Members, accept the responsibility to continuously act so as to maintain and enhance
801 public confidence in the integrity of the political process.
802

803 The competences of the EPP Ethics Committee include inter alia:

- 804 - drafting, as well as amending, if need be, the EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour
805 in Politics and submitting the EPP Code of Conduct and any subsequent amendments
806 thereto for approval to the Political Assembly;
- 807 - outlining the procedure to verify the compliance of applicants with the EPP Code of
808 Conduct;
- 809 - drafting, as well as amending, if need be, its internal regulations and submitting these
810 and any subsequent amendments thereto for approval to the Political Assembly;
- 811 - monitoring compliance with the EPP Code of Conduct;
- 812 - reporting on any alleged infringements of the EPP Code of Conduct;
- 813 - in case of non-compliance with the EPP Code of Conduct, making recommendations to
814 the Presidency to adopt proposals for a final decision on any appropriate measures to be
815 taken by the Political Assembly, including the suspension or exclusion of the concerned
816 member;
- 817

818 The Political Assembly may, upon the recommendation of the EPP Ethics Committee and a
819 proposal of the Presidency, request that a Member Party takes action against one of its members,
820 if it has determined that the respective member has acted in a way that is not compliant with
821 the EPP Code of Conduct.

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823 **XIV. INTERNAL REGULATIONS AND MODIFICATION OF INTERNAL REGULATIONS.**

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825 Article 26 INTERNAL REGULATIONS - MODIFICATION

826

827 At the proposal of the Presidency, the Political Assembly decides on the Internal Regulations in
828 which issues of internal order and of financial order not mentioned in these by-laws shall be set
829 out. In the Internal Regulations, some additional bodies will be created, such as the EPP Summit.
830

831 Proposals for modifications of the Internal Regulations may be introduced by the Presidency,
832 Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties or Member Associations; and by the EPP
833 Group at the European Parliament and the Presidents of the EPP, likeminded or associated
834 Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European
835 committee of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST, provided that they are
836 member of an Ordinary Member Party or Associated Member Party. Said proposals must be
837 submitted in writing to the Secretary General four weeks prior to the meeting of the Political
838 Assembly at which they will be considered and they must be notified to the members.
839

840 The Internal Regulations can also contain provisions that affect (i) the rights of the Ordinary
841 Member Parties, the Associated Member Parties, the Member Associations and the Individual
842 Members, (ii) the competence of the Presidency and the Political Assembly or (iii) the
843 organisation and working method of the Political Assembly, provided that such provisions must
844 be approved in accordance with the attendance and majority requirements necessary for an
845 amendment of the by-laws as set forth in Article 27.
846

847 The Presidency ensures that the Internal Regulations are brought to the attention of the
848 members.
849

850 The most recent version of the Internal Regulations dates from 11 July 2024. In the event of
851 amendments to these Internal Regulations, the Presidency may amend this reference to the date
852 of the Internal Regulations in the by-laws and publish this in the Belgian Official Gazette.
853

854 **XV. MODIFICATIONS OF THE BY-LAWS**

855

856 Article 27 BY-LAWS - MODIFICATION

857

858 Proposals for modifications of the by-laws may be introduced by the Presidency, Ordinary
859 Member Parties, Associated Member Parties or Member Associations and by the EPP Group at
860 the European Parliament and the Presidents of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at
861 the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European committee of the
862 regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST provided that they are member of an
863 Ordinary Member Party or Associated Member Party.

864

865 Proposals must be presented in writing to the Secretary General who will transmit them to the
866 Members of the Political Assembly for deliberation at least four weeks prior to the meeting at
867 which the Political Assembly will deliberate on those proposals.

868

869 Proposals shall be presented to the Congress for adoption only if they have obtained a two-thirds
870 majority of the votes cast in the Political Assembly. Approval of modifications to the by-laws
871 presented by the Political Assembly requires a simple majority of the votes cast by the members
872 of Congress present. The Congress may by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by the members
873 present overrule the proposals of the Political Assembly. Abstentions and blank votes are not
874 considered valid votes.

875

876 By derogation to the preceding rules, a Congress can be validly held by at least two members of
877 the Presidency, in the presence of a notary, without any convening notice or quorum being
878 required, in case a special meeting of the Congress is required to adopt modifications to the by-
879 laws of the association which must be recorded in a notarial deed pursuant to applicable law,
880 provided that these modifications have been previously approved by a Congress convened and
881 held in accordance with the functioning of an ordinary meeting of the Congress (or by the Political
882 Assembly, pursuant to the transitional provisions of the by-laws to the extent such transitional
883 provisions grant such powers to the Political Assembly).

884

885 **XVI. DISSOLUTION**

886

887 Article 28 REGULATION

888

889 The association is not dissolved as a result of the death, dissolution or resignation of a member,
890 provided the number of members is not less than two.

891

892 The association may be dissolved voluntarily by a decision of the Congress with a three-quarters
893 majority of the members present, in accordance with the rules applicable to its functioning, as
894 set out in the Internal Regulations.

895

896 In the event of voluntary dissolution, the Congress elects the liquidator(s). In the absence of
897 liquidator(s), the members of the Presidency will act as liquidators.

898

899 In the event of dissolution, the Political Assembly decides on the disposal of the assets. Such
900 disposal must serve a not-for-profit purpose.

901

902 **XVII. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

903

904 By derogation to article 27 of the by-laws, the Political Assembly is entitled to adopt
905 amendments to the by-laws of the association if such amendments are required or useful with
906 a view to implementing

907 (i) Regulation (EU/EURATOM) No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of
908 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political
909 foundations, as amended;

910 (ii) delegated acts of the European Commission as set out in article 36 of the Regulation
911 (EU/EURATOM) No 1141/2014, as amended, and;

912 (iii) current and future Belgian laws and regulations that, directly or indirectly, relate to any
913 aspect of the conversion of a European political party governed by Belgian law into a European
914 Political Party governed by the aforementioned Regulation.

915

916 The EPP Code of Conduct, approved by the Political Assembly 14 October 2019 shall be
917 communicated to all current Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member
918 Associations, Observer Member Parties, Individual Members and shall be binding upon those
919 members having continued their membership of the EPP beyond the date of entry into force of
920 the EPP Code of Conduct set forth in the notice communicated by the Political Assembly.

Annex 1. The logo of the association.

Annex 2. List of member parties

Annex 1
EPP logo

