



STATUTES OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE

ARTICLE 1

- 1.1 The **European Society for Emergency Medicine** has been formed from the former Club of Leuven. It will use the abbreviated name of '**EuSEM**'.
- 1.2 The Society will be domiciled in the United Kingdom and will be subject to UK and EU law.
- 1.3 The Society will be a non-profit making organisation. No income or money of any sort received by the Society will be for pecuniary benefit of any member of the Society. Actual expenses and reasonable compensation for services rendered may be paid to a member who may incur such an expense or render such services.
- 1.4 The Society will be a European forum for physicians who work within a structure providing pre-, inter-, and/or in-hospital emergency medical care.
Non-physicians are eligible to apply to become Associate Members of the Society.
- 1.5 The European Society for Emergency Medicine has categories of individual membership and also incorporates the European Federation of National Societies of Emergency Medicine
- 1.6 The official language of the Society will be English.
- 1.7 Any reference to Europe within these statutes relates to countries within the geographic borders of Europe and is deemed to include Israel.

ARTICLE 2: OBJECTIVE OF THE SOCIETY

- 2.1 The objective of the Society is to promote the advancement of the specialty of Emergency Medicine in Europe.

ARTICLE 3: POWERS OF THE SOCIETY

In furtherance of the said objective, but not by way of limitation, the Society will have the following powers:

- 3.1 To foster and encourage teaching, training and research in Emergency Medicine within Europe.
- 3.2 To promote and facilitate the dissemination of information on Emergency Medicine, including meetings, courses, research and publications.
- 3.3 To encourage the development of standardised information systems and data banks in Emergency Medicine in Europe.
- 3.4 To encourage cooperation between European national societies of Emergency Medicine through the Federation.
- 3.5 To promote international collaboration in the field of Emergency Medicine.

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

Membership of the Society will be governed by the following provisions:

- 4.1 There shall be six (6) categories of membership of the Society – namely Members, Fellows, Honorary Fellows, International Members, Associate Members and National Society Affiliate Members:

- 4.1.1 Members, Fellows and Honorary Fellows shall be entitled to attend and vote at meetings of the Society on matters brought before the membership. Physicians enrolled in a specialist training programme in Europe are also eligible to become Members of the Society.
 - 4.1.2 International Members, Associate Members and National Society Affiliate Members will not have the right to vote at meetings and shall not participate in Society Committees unless individually co-opted.
 - 4.1.3 There is a reduced rate of membership fee for Members and Fellows from specified countries in Europe (list available from the Administrator) and for physicians enrolled in a specialist training programme in Europe.
- 4.2 Application may be made for the following categories of membership of the Society:
- 4.2.1 Members: Physicians, including those in training, who work within a structure providing pre-, inter-, and/or in-hospital emergency medical care in Europe.
 - 4.2.2 Fellows: The category of Fellowship of the Society is available on application and by election after no less than five years of Membership at the full rate of subscription (or the equivalent for reduced rate countries). Other persons who have made significant contributions to the field of Emergency Medicine in Europe may also be considered for election to the category of Fellowship of the Society after at least five years of membership. Fellows of the Society will be entitled to use 'FESEM' as post-nominal letters. New Fellows will receive a Certificate of Fellowship of EuSEM signed by the President and Honorary Secretary at the Annual General Meeting following their election.
 - 4.2.3 Honorary Fellows: Persons who have made outstanding contribution to the field of Emergency Medicine may be nominated by the Council for election as Honorary Fellows of the Society. Any such nomination shall be confirmed by unanimous vote of the membership at an Annual General Meeting and those who are elected to Honorary Fellowship are not required to pay an annual subscription. Previously elected Honorary Members will be automatically included in this category of Honorary Fellowship.
 - 4.2.4 International Members: Physicians practising outside Europe who work within a structure providing pre-, inter-, and/or in-hospital emergency medical care.
 - 4.2.5 Associate Members: Physicians and non-physicians who are interested in the practice of Emergency Medicine and who are not eligible for any other category of membership may apply to become an Associate Member of the Society.
 - 4.2.6 National Society Affiliate Members: Medical members of a National Society that is affiliated with EuSEM through the Federation in accordance with Article 9.1.

ARTICLE 5: MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 The management of the affairs of the Society shall be vested in its Council.
- 5.2 The manner of election of the Executive Committee and Council of the Society shall be provided in the Statutes.

ARTICLE 6: FINANCE

- 6.1 The Officers of the Society shall be authorised and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments in furtherance of the objective and powers of the Society.
- 6.2 The Society shall not participate in, or intervene in, any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for Public Office.
- 6.3 The Officers of the Society shall be empowered to invest the monies of the Society not immediately required for its objective, in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, subject to any conditions/consents which may be imposed or required by law.
- 6.4 The Society may make any charitable donation either in cash or assets for the furtherance of the objective and powers of the Society.
- 6.5 The Society shall be empowered to do all such other lawful things as shall further the objective and powers of the Society.

ARTICLE 7: DISSOLUTION

- 7.1 Upon any dissolution of the Society or any partial or entire liquidation of its property or assets, all of the Society's property of every nature and description shall, after making provision for discharge of all the liabilities of the Society, be paid over and transferred to such one or more organisations or institutions, the purposes of which are similar to those of the Society, as shall be selected by a majority of the persons who are Members or Fellows of the Society.

ARTICLE 8: ADDRESS

8.1 EuSEM Headquarters

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ARTICLE 9: RULES OF INDIVIDUAL and FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP

9.1 Individual Membership

Membership in the Society is a privilege arising from election thereto and is contingent on continuing compliance with the requirements of these Statutes and such other general requirements of membership as may be adopted from time to time by members of the Council. The potential member must show significant interest in Emergency Medicine and be of high moral and professional character. Individual members will belong to one of the following categories:

- 9.1.1 **Members:** Application for individual Membership shall be submitted in writing. The Membership Committee will consider this application and make suitable recommendation to Council. During the period that applicants who have paid their subscription are awaiting formal approval by Council, they shall be entitled to full rights of membership save that they shall not be able to vote in any election. Applications from physicians who are enrolled in a specialist training programme in Emergency Medicine in Europe should be supported by an accompanying letter from their Director of Training (or equivalent).
- 9.1.2 **Fellows:** Members may apply to the Society for election to Fellowship after no less than five (5) years of membership at the full rate of subscription. Other persons who have made significant and sustained contributions to the field of Emergency Medicine in Europe may also be considered for election to the category of Fellowship after at least five years of membership. Candidates for Fellowship will be expected to demonstrate their contributions to European Emergency Medicine. Such activities may include national EM development in Europe; development of teaching or research in their country or Europe-wide; significant contributions to European EM work such as curriculum development; or significant and sustained contributions to the European Journal of Emergency Medicine. Applications for Fellowship will be considered by a Fellowship Committee which includes the President and Honorary Secretary ex-officio and four other members who include Fellows and at least one Member of the Society. There will be no right of appeal against decisions of the Fellowship Committee and those who are not successful may not make further application within less than two years following the decision.
- 9.1.3 **Honorary Fellows:** Honorary Fellows may be nominated by the Council and shall be elected by unanimous vote of the membership at an Annual General Meeting of the Society.
- 9.1.4 **International Members:** Application for International Membership shall be submitted in writing. The Membership Committee will consider the application and make suitable recommendation to Council.
- 9.1.5 **Associate Members:** Physicians and non-physicians who are interested in the practice of Emergency Medicine and who are not eligible for any other category of membership may apply to become an Associate Member of the Society. Application for Associate Membership shall be submitted in writing with a supporting letter from two (2) Members or Fellows. The Membership Committee will then consider the application and make suitable recommendation to Council.

9.2 Federation Membership

Membership of the European Federation of National Societies of Emergency Medicine is available to national societies devoted solely to the promotion and development of the specialty of Emergency Medicine. Such countries must be within the geographic borders of Europe and the Society must be nationwide and endorse the aims and principles of EuSEM and its Policy Statement on Emergency Medicine in Europe. Application for membership of the Federation is to be made by the President or a senior officer of the Society and any such application will be considered by the Executive Committee of EuSEM before being submitted for final consideration by the Presidents of the Federation national societies at their annual meeting. Such annual subscription as is from time to time determined shall relate to the medical members only of each individual National Society. These medical members are then to be recognised as National Society Affiliate Members of EuSEM.

9.2.1 National Society Affiliate Members: National Society Affiliate Members are members of a national society which is a member of the Federation. They are nominated on a yearly basis by their national societies for Affiliate Membership of EuSEM.

ARTICLE 10: DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

- 10.1 The Council shall recommend to its members at the Annual General Meeting, annual dues and any special assessment according to the needs of the Society. Annual dues shall be payable in advance.
- 10.2 The Council of the Society will have the discretion to set special membership fees for members working in currency restricted countries in Europe...

ARTICLE 11: FAILURE TO PAY DUES

- 11.1 A member who has not paid dues within a period of one (1) year after billing shall, at the time of billing for the succeeding year, be notified of the forfeiture of membership unless all indebtedness to the Society is met within 60 days.

ARTICLE 12: DURATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- 12.1 Any member may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Honorary Secretary of the Society. Dues or assessments which have been paid shall not be refunded. Termination of membership status may be made if the Council determines it due to a good cause after a fair and impartial hearing. The Council will determine the procedure for disciplinary proceedings as necessary.

ARTICLE 13: MEETING OF MEMBERS

13.1 Time and Place

13.1.1 A meeting of members may be held at such a place within Europe as may be provided in the Notice of the Meeting. A meeting of the members shall be held every year as shall be fixed by the Council. Each person applying for Membership to the Society shall, as a condition of Membership, sign an irrevocable proxy form constituting the Council as its proxy for annual meetings of the Society.

13.1.2 Special meetings may be called by the President, the Honorary Secretary, the Council or by voting members having at least one twentieth of the votes entitled to be cast at such a meeting. Satellite meetings shall be timed not to conflict with attendance at scheduled meetings of the Society, its Council or its Committees. Proposed scheduling of satellite meetings should be reviewed by the Society's Secretariat.

13.2 Notice of Meetings

Written notice stating the time and the place of annual meetings shall be mailed not less than 60 days prior to the date of that meeting. Written notice stating the time and place of special meetings shall be mailed not less than 30 days prior to the date of that meeting. All mailings will be forwarded to each member whether or not entitled to vote at such meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the mail addressed to the member at his address as it appears on the records of the Society with postage thereon pre-paid.

13.3 Voting

A member, if entitled, may vote in person or by proxy, executed in writing by the member or his duly authorised attorney-in-fact. No proxy shall be valid after 11 months from the date of its execution unless provided in the proxy. Voting for Officers

shall be by secret mail ballot sufficiently in advance of an annual meeting for all members to receive ballot papers and return them to the office of the Honorary Secretary of the Society prior to that meeting.

13.4 Quorum

Members having at least one tenth or one hundred (100) of the votes entitled to be cast, whichever is the smaller, represented in person or by proxy shall constitute a quorum. The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast at the meeting at which a quorum is present shall be necessary for the adoption of any matter voted upon by the members except as otherwise specifically provided in these Statutes.

ARTICLE 14: OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

14.1 Officers

The Officers of the Society shall be:

- President
- President-Elect or the Immediate Past-President
- Vice-Presidents (2)
- Honorary Secretary
- Honorary Treasurer

14.2 Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Council shall consist of:

- President
- President-Elect or Immediate Past-President
- Vice-Presidents (2)
- Honorary Secretary
- Honorary Treasurer
- Editor of the European Journal of Emergency Medicine (ex-officio)
- Chairman of the UEMS Committee on Emergency Medicine (ex-officio)

The Committee shall have the power to execute the policies and directions of the Council, subject to formal approval by Council. The Committee shall oversee the financial affairs of the Society.

ARTICLE 15: COUNCIL

15.1 Composition

15.1.1 The Council shall consist of members of the Executive Committee (Article 14.2) and one (1) representative of any National Society which is a member of the Federation (Article 9.2) and which has a minimum number of Members or Fellows of EuSEM or which has more than one thousand (1,000) medical members. The minimum number shall be fifteen (15) members, or fifteen (15) per cent of the number of medical members of the National Society subject to a minimum number of forty (40) medical members, but these numbers may be subject to revision by the Council. Qualifying member countries shall be those countries where there exists a National Society devoted solely to the promotion and development of the specialty of Emergency Medicine. Such countries must be within the geographic borders of Europe and the Society must be nationwide and endorse the aims and principles of EuSEM and its Policy Statement on Emergency Medicine in Europe.

15.1.2 Application for representation on Council must be made by the President or nominated representative of the National Society to the President of EuSEM. The application will be subject to approval of the Executive Committee. If an individual country has more than one qualifying National Society approved by the Executive Committee, the representatives on Council from that country must share their vote at Council.

15.1.3 The representative on Council from a qualifying National Society would be expected to be an Officer or another senior and experienced member of the National Society who is able to speak with the full authority of their National Society Executive Committee or Council. Any such representative is required to be a Member or Fellow of EuSEM and appointment as a member of Council shall be subject to formal confirmation by the Executive Committee of EuSEM.

15.1.4 If the representative on Council of a National Society is appointed to the EuSEM Executive Committee, the National Society's seat on the EuSEM Council may be filled by a new representative of that National Society.

- 15.1.5 A National Society with more than 1,000 medical members enrolled in EuSEM as National Society Affiliate Members and which has the minimum number of Members as required in Article 15.1.1, may appoint a second Council member, unless there is a second National Society in that country also represented on Council.
- 15.1.6 Each National Society shall be responsible for the necessary costs incurred by its representative(s) in attending meetings of Council.
- 15.1.7 The Council shall also include the Chairperson of Sections for the duration of their office and Council may co-opt additional members for a specified period which would normally be no longer than one (1) year. Co-opted members shall not have the power to vote at meetings of Council.

15.2 **Vacancies**

If a vacancy occurs on the Council by virtue of death, incapacity, retirement or otherwise, the President, subject to approval by members of the Council, shall be entitled to select a person to fill the vacancy for the un-expired term.

15.3 **Council Meetings**

At the call of the President, the Council shall hold regular meetings as required. A meeting of Council shall always be held immediately in advance of the Annual General Meeting of the Society and there will normally be at least one other formal meeting each year. The Council shall hold special meetings at other times as the affairs of the Society make necessary or desirable upon the call of the President or any three (3) members of the Council. Members of the Council may participate in a meeting of the Council by means of conference telephone or by any means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to participate fully. Written notice of meetings of the Council shall be given not less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of such meeting.

15.4 **Powers and Duties**

The business of the Society shall be managed by the Executive Committee and the Council which may exercise all powers of the Society and do, on behalf of the Society, all such acts as may be exercised and done by the Society and which are not by law or these standing orders required to be exercised or done by the Society in general meeting. Resolution in writing signed by all members for the time being of the Council who are entitled to receive notice of and vote at meeting of the Council, shall be valid and effectual as if it had been at a meeting of the Council duly convened and constituted.

15.5 **Acts done in Good Faith**

All acts done in good faith by any meeting of the Council or by any person acting as a member of the Council shall notwithstanding it be afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment election or continuance in office of any person, or of some one or more of the members of the Council acting as aforesaid or that they or any of them were disqualified, be as valid as if all relevant persons had been duly appointed or elected or had duly continued in office and were qualified to be members of the Council.

ARTICLE 16: DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

16.1 **President**

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Society. He/she shall preside at meetings of the Council and meetings of members, shall be responsible for executing policies determined by the Council and shall act as principal spokesman for the Society. The President shall be ex officio without vote on all Committees of the Society.

16.2 **President-Elect or Immediate Past President**

The President-Elect or the Immediate Past President shall support the President in the execution of his/her duties and responsibilities and shall act for the President in his/her absence or disability.

16.3 **Vice-Presidents**

The two (2) Vice-Presidents shall have geographical responsibility, as determined from time to time by the Council. They will coordinate the activities of the Society within that geographical area and at the request of the President shall carry out whatever duties are appropriate to the working of the Society. The Vice-Presidents shall come from different countries.

16.4 **Honorary Secretary**

- 16.4.1 The Honorary Secretary shall be responsible for the maintenance of the corporate books and records of the Society other than financial records and for the preparation of Minutes of all meetings held by the members, the Council and the Executive Committee. In addition, he or she shall be responsible for preparation and distribution of the Annual Report of the Society, shall execute all official documents of the Society when an official secretarial signature is required, shall maintain the Seal of the Society, shall maintain a register of the members at the Society's headquarters, shall give or cause to be given notice of all meetings of the members, the Council and the Executive Committee and shall perform such other duties as provided by the Council.
- 16.4.2 The Honorary Secretary shall undertake any further duties as required by the Statutes or as may be determined from time to time by the President and the Council.

16.5 **Honorary Treasurer**

- 16.5.1 The Honorary Treasurer shall have the custody of the Society's funds and securities, shall keep full and accurate account of the seats and disbursements of funds belonging to the Society and shall deposit all monies and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Society in such deposits as may be ordered by the Council. He or she shall also disburse the funds of the Society as may be ordered by the Council and shall render to the President, or to the Council, at its regular meeting or when the Council so requires an account of the financial condition of the Society.
- 16.5.2 The Honorary Treasurer shall undertake any further duties as required by the Statutes or as may be determined from time to time by the President and the Council. The Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping a true account of the expenditure and income of the Society, and the matters in respect of which such expenditure and receipt takes place, and of the assets, credits and liabilities of the Society. The accounts shall be kept at such place or places as the Executive Committee may decide.

ARTICLE 17: NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

17.1 **Election of President-Elect**

- 17.1.1 The outgoing President shall continue to serve as an Officer of the Society and a member of the Executive Committee and Council until the end of the first Annual Meeting following that at which he/she ceased to be President. During this further year, the outgoing President will be known as the Immediate Past-President and will then be succeeded by a President-Elect who shall hold office for two (2) years before taking office as President (save that the first President-Elect shall hold office for one (1) year before succeeding the inaugural President).
- 17.1.2 The President-Elect shall be a Member or Fellow of the Society and shall be elected every three (3) years by a postal ballot of all members entitled to vote in which the single transferable voting system shall be used. He/she is expected to have experience in the affairs of the Society and will have been elected and served as a member of Council for at least two years before nomination for the post of Presidents-Elect. At least ninety (90) days before the next Annual Meeting, the Honorary Secretary shall send to all members a circular calling for nominations for this office. Each candidate shall be proposed by a Member or Fellow of the Society and seconded likewise. The nomination paper, together with the written consent of the candidate to his/her nomination must be received by the Honorary Secretary not less than sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting. Names of those nominated shall be given in the notice convening the Annual Meeting and postal ballot forms enclosed. Each postal ballot form shall be returned so as to reach the Honorary Secretary not less than fourteen (14) days before the Annual Meeting, failing which any votes cast on it shall be null and void. The result of the election shall be announced at the Annual Meeting.
- 17.1.3 The President-Elect shall serve for a period of two (2) years (one (1) year for the first President-Elect), shall succeed to the Presidency for three (3) years and shall then serve a further year as Immediate Past-President. Following this he/she shall be ineligible for re-election as President-Elect and President.

17.2 **Retirement or Resignation of President**

If the President shall retire or resign before completion of the full period of office, the Council shall request the Immediate Past-President or President-Elect, whichever is in post, to assume the office of President until the next Annual Meeting. The incoming President-Elect or the President-Elect already in office shall then assume the Presidency for the normal period of three (3) years.

17.3 **Election of Vice-Presidents**

17.3.1 The Vice-Presidents shall be Members or Fellows of the Society and shall be elected every three (3) years by a postal ballot of all members entitled to vote in which the single transferable voting system shall be used. At least ninety (90) days before the Annual Meeting, the Honorary Secretary shall send to all members a circular calling for nomination for these offices. Each candidate shall be proposed by a Member or Fellow of the Society and seconded likewise. The nomination paper together with the written consent of the candidate to his/her nomination must be received by the Honorary Secretary not less than sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting. Names of those nominated shall be given in the notice convening the Annual Meeting and postal ballot forms enclosed. Each postal ballot form shall be returned so as to reach the Honorary Secretary not less than fourteen (14) days before the Annual Meeting failing which any votes cast on it shall be null and void. The results of the election shall be announced at the Annual Meeting.

17.3.2 Each Vice-President shall serve for a period of three (3) years but may be re-elected for a further similar term of office. He/she may not serve for more than six (6) years as Vice-President of the Society.

17.4 **Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer**

17.4.1 The Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, each of whom must be a Member or Fellow of the Society, shall be elected by the Council at a regular meeting of the Council. Each candidate for those offices shall be proposed by a member of the Council and a signed proposal together with the written consent of the candidate to his/her nomination must be received by the Honorary Secretary before the elections.

17.4.2 The Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall serve for a period of three (3) years but may be re-elected for one (1) further term of office. If any of these officers should resign his or her office prior to the completion of his or her term, the Council shall elect a successor and notify this at the following Annual Meeting.

17.4.3 An Honorary Treasurer-Elect shall be elected by Council one (1) year in advance of the end of the term of office of the Honorary Treasurer. He or she shall attend meetings of Council as a non-voting member and shall assume office as Honorary Treasurer at the end of the annual meeting one (1) year following his or her election.

17.5 **No person to hold more than one office**

No person may at any time hold more than one of the offices specified in the Statutes.

17.6 **Officers ceasing to be a Member of the Society**

Any Officer who ceases to be a member of the Society shall automatically cease to hold office.

ARTICLE 18: COMMITTEES

18.1 **Committees**

The Society can establish Committees upon recommendation of the Council. Committees act in an advisory capacity to Council. Each Committee Chairperson shall supply a written Annual Report of the activities of the Committee to the Honorary Secretary. No member of a Committee, or the Committee as a whole, may enter into a contract or agreement binding the Society.

18.2 **Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee shall be composed of three (3) or more Members or Fellows of the Society. It shall receive, and review applications for membership and decide on and validate by itself all applicants for membership in the Society. In conjunction with the Honorary Treasurer it shall recommend methods of procedure with respect to members in arrears in their subscriptions... The Chairperson of the Membership Committee shall be a member of the Council.

ARTICLE 19: SECTIONS AND TASK FORCES

19.1 **Sections**

Council may approve the establishment of Sections with special interest to address aspects of Emergency Medicine which are core activities of the Society. Each Section shall have a Chairperson and a Committee of a minimum of six (6) members who should all be members of EuSEM. The Chairperson shall be nominated by members of the proposed Section who are members of EuSEM and shall be approved by Council. He or she shall attend meetings of Council in a non-voting capacity and will provide a report for each Annual General Meeting of the Society. The appointment of the Chairperson shall be for a period of three (3) years renewable for a further period of three (3) years but not thereafter. Colleagues, including those from other specialties, may be co-opted to the Committee to contribute to the work of the

Section if so required. Federation national societies are encouraged to nominate a representative to each Section. Such representatives should be members of the Society.

19.2 **Task Forces**

Council may from time to time approve the establishment of a Task Force to address a specific self-limiting issue relevant to Emergency Medicine. Each Task Force shall have a Chairperson appointed by Council and up to six (6) members who should be members of EuSEM. Colleagues, including those from other specialties, may be co-opted as required. The Chairperson of a Task Force shall provide an annual report for Council but shall not attend meetings of Council unless already a member of Council in another capacity. A Task Force will normally be expected to complete its work within three (3) years following its establishment.

ARTICLE 20: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

20.1 **Authority to Enter Agreements**

No member or group of members, Committee or Committee members, Officer or Council member may enter into a contract or agreement binding the Society. Only persons designated by the Executive Committee or the Council may undertake such an action.

20.2 **Seal**

The Society may have an official Seal which shall contain the words '**European Society for Emergency Medicine**'. This Seal shall be in the custody of the Honorary Secretary of the Society.

20.3 **Amendments to Statutes**

On resolution by a majority action of the Council or by a full written proposal signed by fifty (50) members entitled to vote or ten (10) per cent of the members, whichever is less, these Statutes shall normally be amended by a simple majority of votes cast by members at the Annual General Meeting of the Society. If Council deems it necessary to amend the Statutes at any other time this shall be done by either:

- a simple majority postal ballot of members, or
- a two-thirds majority vote of Council acting as proxy for the members.

When amendments are put to the vote at an Annual Meeting of the Society or by postal ballot, written notice of the proposed amendments shall be sent to all members thirty (30) days prior to the vote or ballot.

Should actions of Council be taken to alter any Statutes, the Statutes' modification would be presented to the general membership at the next Annual Meeting for ratification.

THESE STATUTES WERE FIRST APPROVED IN 1994

This amended version has been prepared following agreement in principle at the 2005 meeting of the Society in Leuven, Belgium to the changes incorporated herein. These changes were approved by Council and took immediate effect following formal approval by the Members of the Society at their Annual General Meeting in September 2005 in Nice, France.

Further amendments were formally approved by the Members of the Society at their Annual General Meetings in October 2006 in Heraklion, Crete, Greece and in September 2007 in Sorrento, Italy.

Additional amendments were formally approved by the Members of the Society at their Annual General Meeting in October 2010 in Stockholm, Sweden and by Council in March 2011.