

Statutes of the Registered Association

“Biodynamic Federation - Demeter International”

§ 1 Name, Seat, Financial Year

- (1) The Association carries the name "Biodynamic Federation - Demeter International". It is registered in the Register of Associations under VR 2817.
- (2) The Association is registered in Darmstadt, Germany.
- (3) The financial year of the Association begins on January 1st and ends on December 31st.

§ 2 Purposes, Activities, Non-Profit Status

- (1) The Federation works for the Biodynamic impulse
 - a) Its basis is the Biodynamic agricultural method, originated by Dr Rudolf Steiner in his “Agricultural Course”, given in Koberwitz in 1924, and further developed in practice and research.
 - b) It strives to realise the vision of the Biodynamic Movement of an agriculture of the future in its five dimensions (as articulated in its Vision, Mission and Values)
- (2) The Federation works in the spirit of its four principles as follows:
 - a) Solidarity:
 1. To enable and support the worldwide development of the Biodynamic movement to actively communicate Biodynamic principles to consumers and authorities, in civil society and politics.
 - b) Equality:
 1. to strengthen national member organisations through international coordination, based on federalist and democratic principles.
 2. To ensure that cooperation, participation and trust-building are ongoing and active processes.
 - c) Subsidiarity:
 1. To recognise and value the individual, local, regional and national richness of members in shaping and developing the Federation.
 - d) Clarity:
 1. Open exchange, clear communication and transparent decision-making are all preconditions to building trust and confidence amongst its members.
- (3) The Federation works on the realization of the goals of these statutes in the following fields:

- a) ecology
 - b) human development
 - c) social relations
 - d) economic value creation
 - e) cosmic and spiritual influences
- (4) The Federation works for the benefit of its members, licensees, the members and licensees of member organizations and third parties not directly involved. It does not aim to make a profit. It does not have economic activity as a primary purpose.
- (5) The Federation resolutely opposes racist, anti-constitutional and xenophobic aspirations and other discriminatory or inhuman behaviour. The Federation opposes efforts that combine the ecological food industry with extremist ideas.

§ 3 Membership and duties of the members

- (1) Membership shall be limited to organisations or associations of natural or legal persons. Membership of natural persons, sole proprietorships or groups of companies is not possible.
- (2) Membership in the Federation implies a double membership, each member is also automatically a member of IBDA, the "International Biodynamic Association" which is registered in Dornach, Switzerland.
- (3) Member organisations must have the purpose of supporting Biodynamic agriculture in general and/or promoting the "Demeter" trademark and/or implementing a certification programme for Demeter and Biodynamic certification. In addition, they should:
- a) guarantee the participation of their members or licensees,
 - b) ensure transparency regarding decisions and finances,
 - c) strive for trustful leadership,
 - d) have a fundamental democratic structure with appropriate decision-making bodies and processes,
 - e) and have independent finance for its own structures.
- (4) A Membership Committee will consider all applications for new membership on the basis of the criteria above. New members will be recommended by the Membership Committee to the Members' Assembly with a two-thirds majority vote. This committee works on the basis of the criteria mentioned above. Further details are governed by the Standing orders in their currently valid version.
- (5) Each member is obliged to promote the purposes of the Federation, and to participate in its decision-making. In particular, each member is obliged to implement the resolutions of the Members' Assembly that are intended to be obligatory for all members into their organisation within the defined time frames.
- (6) All members must recognise the International Standards for Demeter and Biodynamic Certification, the requirements for certifying organizations and the Fee scale of the Biodynamic Federation – Demeter International as binding.

- (7) Each member is obliged to pay the fixed contributions. Further details are regulated by the Standing Orders and the Fee scale of the Federation in their currently valid form.
- (8) The Supervisory Board or the Accreditation Council can convert the membership into a passive membership for three years at the most when a member significantly violates the Statutes or Standing Orders. Passive members have no voting rights.
- (9) Membership ends with bankruptcy or dissolution of the member, by written resignation to the General Secretary or by exclusion from the Federation by a resolution of the Members' Assembly with a majority of 2/3 of the votes cast.

§ 4 Contributions and standing orders

- (1) The Federation's work is made possible by contributions, grants and the practical collaboration of its members.
- (2) The amount of contributions and its criteria are fixed by the Members' Assembly in a Fee scale.
- (3) The Members' Assembly can decide on Standing Orders which are binding for the members on the initiative of the Supervisory Board or the committees.

In particular, standing orders can be established which regulate:

- How and under which circumstances the trademarks of the Federation can be used, protected and defended;
- Which method of certification has to be applied;
- The appeal procedures against decisions of organs or committees of the Federation and how they are to be applied;
- The binding procedure of mediation which will be applied in cases of dispute or conflict.

Standing orders can include sanctions in cases of sustained disturbance.

§ 5 Bodies, Committees and Procedural Rules

- (1) Bodies of the Federation are the Members' Assembly, the Supervisory Board and the Executive Board.
- (2) In addition, the Members' Assembly elects and appoints committees to carry out the work as described in the aims of the Federation (as set out in §2). These committees organise the decision-making process within the Federation and advise the Supervisory Board, the Executive Board and the Members' Assembly.
- (3) These elected and appointed committees are:
 - a) A committee for advice, research and training (International Committee for Advisory, Research and Training)
 - b) A committee for international marketing activities (International Marketing Committee)
 - c) A committee for lobbying and public relations (International Committee for Lobbying and Public Relations)
 - d) A committee for international Standards' work (Standards Committee)

- e) A committee for the accreditation of national certification organisations (Accreditation Council)
 - f) A committee for the certification decisions of the ICO (International Certification Committee)
 - g) A committee for trademark protection (Trademark Committee)
 - h) A Membership committee
 - i) An Appeals committee
- (4) Further committees and working groups may be established at the request of the Supervisory Board or a committee or a group of 10 members by the Members' Assembly in accordance with the purposes of the Federation.
- (5) Decisions of the organs and committees can be taken in person, in writing or in telephone conferences. All decisions in both bodies and committees should be taken by absolute majority (>50%) of the votes cast, unless the Statutes or the Standing Orders define a different requirement. Abstentions count as votes cast. In elections, candidates do not need to be members of member organisations but need to be natural persons. Candidates who receive the most votes are elected, as long as each individual has a majority of votes cast. Elections and votes must be confidential upon request of one member. If requested and supported by a quarter of the votes possible, votes should be cast for each office individually.
- (6) If not all seats are filled in any given election, another election can take place electronically with new candidates within two months.
- (7) Decisions of all bodies and committees are valid only if at least half of the members who may vote are present, either personally or through a proxy, or have participated in writing in the case of a postal vote.
In the case in which a body or a committee has no quorum, it will be invited to consider the relevant issue again. This time the vote is valid if at least one quarter of the members or their proxies cast a vote.
Decisions must be recorded and signed by the chair and the minute taker.
- (8) Elected members serve for three years unless these statutes define another term. Members of organs and committees remain in office after their term until a new election or the nomination of a successor. If an elected member resigns prematurely, the remaining members continue the work until a successor is elected.
- (9) Details of the nomination, election and voting procedures, discharge and dismissal of bodies or committees as well as their respective working methods, formation of opinions, composition, appeal procedures and cooperation between organs shall be governed by the Standing Orders in their currently valid form.

§ 6 The Members' Assembly

- (1) The Members' Assembly can take the initiative in all matters of the Federation. It is the supreme body of the Federation. The Members' Assembly is a delegates' assembly.
- (2) The Members' Assembly is responsible for the following tasks:

- a) To confirm the budget for the next financial year drawn up by the Supervisory Board;
 - b) To receive the annual reports of the Supervisory Board, the Executive Board and the committees addressed in § 5 (2 and 3);
 - c) To discharge the Supervisory Board and the Executive Board of its duties for the past period;
 - d) To elect the members of the Supervisory Board and the committees referred to in § 5 (2 and 3);
 - e) To elect the President and the Vice-President from the elected members of the Supervisory Board on proposal of the Supervisory Board;
 - f) To decide on amendments to the Statutes, to the Standing Orders and to the Fee scale;
 - g) To confirm the Demeter Standards referred to in §3 (6);
 - h) To decide on the termination of the Federation;
 - i) To decide on the admission of new members and to decide on the exclusion or suspension of existing members;
 - j) To determine the place and time of the next Members' Assembly;
 - k) To appoint two persons to audit the books.
- (3) The membership of the Federation is structured in national groups. There can be as many national groups as there are recognized countries in the world. National groups can consist of one or more members. Every national group elects one delegate according to § 5 (4 and 5) of these statutes for a term of three years. §5(6) also applies. Each delegate must be a natural person. Only delegates have the right to participate at Members' Assemblies. The Assembly can accept guests.
- (4) Each delegate has one vote. This is independent of the number of members that the delegate represents. Delegates can participate fully in the Members' Assembly only if the General Secretary has been informed of their election 14 days before the Members' Assembly and if their proxy has been signed by all members of the national group. The proxy is valid for the whole term of the delegate. If a national group does not nominate a delegate, this does not affect the quorum of the Members' Assembly. It will be continued as an abstention.
- (5) An ordinary Members' Assembly shall take place at least once a year. Members will be notified in writing of the Members' Assembly and the agenda by the Supervisory Board at least twelve weeks in advance. The invitation will be sent to members and delegates (as far as they are elected). Additions to the agenda are possible up until 10 days before the Assembly but members and delegates must be notified of these additions in writing.
- (6) An extraordinary Members' Assembly can be convened by the Supervisory Board if it is in the best interests of the Federation or if it is requested by a quarter of the members in writing, stating the purpose and reasons.
- (7) Amendments to the Statutes, the aims of the Federation, the Fee scale and to the Standing Orders each require a two-third majority of the votes cast.

§ 7 The Supervisory Board

- (1) Between the Members' Assemblies the Supervisory Board is entrusted with the supervision and strategic management of the Federation. Resolutions passed by the Supervisory Board between the Members' Assemblies may be reviewed and renewed by the Members' Assembly.
- (2) The Supervisory Board appoints an Executive Board. It is obliged to observe and to execute the decisions of the Members' Assembly.
- (3) The tasks of the Supervisory Board are in particular the following:
 - a) It appoints and dismisses an Executive Board;
 - b) It sets targets, accompanies and reviews the Executive Board;
 - c) It develops and implements strategies decided upon by the Members' Assembly;
 - d) It drafts a budget;
 - e) It agrees on budget deviations;
 - f) It convenes and chairs the Members' Assembly;
 - g) It reports to the Members' Assembly.
- (4) The Supervisory Board shall consist of a maximum of eight members. The candidates for a Supervisory board election are proposed by a nominating committee. To the Supervisory Board who presents it to the Members' Assembly. The Supervisory Board assures that a candidate of the Section for Agriculture at the School of spiritual science, Anthroposophical Society, is in the suggested candidates to the Members' Assembly.
- (5) The Supervisory Board recommends a president and a vice-president from amongst its members to the Members' Assembly for election. The president can be re-elected only once.
- (6) Two members of the Supervisory Board are jointly responsible for the relationship between the Supervisory and the Executive Boards.

§ 8 The Executive Board

- (1) The Supervisory Board nominates the Executive Board for a term of three years. At the end of this period, the Executive Board continues to execute its tasks until a new Executive Board is in place. If Executive Board members retire during this term, the Supervisory Board can nominate a replacement. If a replacement is not nominated, the remaining Executive Board members should continue to carry out the work.
- (2) It shall have at least two members.
- (3) Out of the Executive Board members, the Supervisory Board nominates a General Secretary.
- (4) The Executive board is chaired by the General Secretary.
- (5) It executes the current business within the scope of the approved budget.
- (6) It prepares the budget, the accounts and the final accounts.
- (7) The Executive Board represents the Federation in and outside court. The members of the Executive Board can represent the Federation on their own. In the internal relationship the principle of four eyes should be respected.

§ 9 Committee for Advisory, Research and Training

- (1) The committee advises the Board and the Members' Assembly in all questions related to advisory, research and training
- (2) The committee consists of a minimum of six and a maximum of 10 members

§ 10 International Marketing Committee

- (1) The committee advises the Board and the Members' Assembly in all questions related to marketing
- (2) The committee plans and realizes marketing projects that support the member organizations in their marketing activities and strengthen the Demeter trademark and the Biodynamic movement in the markets.
- (3) The committee consists of a minimum of six and a maximum of 10 members

§ 11 Committee for Lobby and Public relations

- (1) The committee advises the Board and the Members' Assembly in all questions related to lobbying and public relations.
- (2) The committee consists of a minimum of six and a maximum of 10 members

§ 12 The Standards Committee

- (1) The Committee shall submit new standards and amendments to the existing Standard to the Members' Assembly for approval. These proposals should include justification for the proposals.
- (2) The Committee shall, on request or on its own initiative, adopt interpretations of the Demeter Standards which are binding for certifying organisations. It is also entitled to grant exemptions from the existing Standards.
- (3) The Committee shall consist of at least three and no more than six permanent members and at least two and no more than four extended members.

§ 13 The Accreditation Council

- (1) The Accreditation Council confirms that the procedures of inspection and certification guaranteed in the respective certification organizations. This in turn guarantees the implementation of the International Standards.
- (2) The Council is entitled to suspend or withdraw the recognition and the authorisation to inspect and certify operations and enterprises in accordance with the requirements of the Demeter Standards.
- (3) The Council shall consist of a minimum of four and a maximum of five members.

§ 14 The International Certification Committee

- (1) The committee's primary task is to monitor and advise the international certification program carried out by the International Certification Office (ICO). In addition, the ICC makes sanction and certification decisions that deviate from the ICO's described standard procedures and therefore require a second assessment.
- (2) The International Certification Committee shall consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of five members.

§ 15 Trademark Committee

- (1) The committee advises the Board and the Members' Assembly in all questions related to trademark protection.
- (2) The committee consists of a minimum of four and a maximum of 5 members.

§ 16 Membership Committee

- (1) The Membership Committee evaluates and recommends new members to the Members' Assembly.
- (2) The Membership Committee accompanies the members in their organizational development and evaluates the compliance with the membership criteria.
- (3) The Membership Committee supports the national groups in their decision-making processes.
- (4) The committee is composed of five members elected by the Members' Assembly.

§ 17 Appeals committee

- (1) Any member shall have the right to appeal against the resolutions or decisions of a body or a committee if it is directly affected by that decision. An appeal against resolutions and decisions of the Members' Assembly is not possible.
- (2) The Appeal Committee is also available to ICO licensees in the event of an appeal against a certification decision of the ICO and/or the ICC. Details of deadlines and application forms are regulated in the currently valid ICO sanctions order.

- (3) The Supervisory Board appoints the three members of the Appeals Committee each time the committee is required.

§ 18 Severability clause and validity

- (1) All members agree to the severability clause. This clause states that if individual paragraphs, sections and lines are declared invalid by third parties (notary, court, tax office, SSB, etc.), the remaining paragraphs of the statutes retain their legal validity. The Members' Assembly empowers the members of the Board according to § 26 BGB by third parties (notary, court, tax office, SSB, etc.) to independently change formulations as required when objections are received and must inform members at the next Members' Assembly.
- (2) Due to the international orientation of the Association, the present statutes are available in several languages. If there are questions of interpretation, ambiguous translations of passages or individual terms, the wording in the German language shall be regarded as binding.
- (3) Place of justice for all legal questions concerning these statutes is Darmstadt. German law is applicable.

§ 19 Termination of the Association

- (1) Termination of the Association can be decided on by the Members' Assembly with a two-thirds majority vote.
- (2) The Members' Assembly will then decide on the dispersment of the Association's assets.

§ 20 Transitory regulation

- (1) Divergent from the regulation for the Supervisory Board in these statutes. The following transitory regulation is valid until 30.6.2021 regarding size and composition of the Supervisory Board.
- (2) The Supervisory Board consists of the following 12 listed persons:
 - a) Helmy Abouleish, Egypt
 - b) Alexander Gerber, Germany
 - c) Jean-Marie Defrance, France
 - d) Alysoun Bolger, Great Britain
 - e) Carlo Triarico, Italy
 - f) Maja Kolar, Slovenia
 - g) Ueli Hurter, Switzerland
 - h) Jean-Michel Florin, France
 - i) Uli-Johannes König, Germany
 - j) Thomas Schmid, Germany
 - k) Sabrina Menestrina, Italy
 - l) Regina Haller, Argentina
- (3) President and Vice-president according to §7 (6) of these statutes are:

President: Helmy Abouleish

Vice-President: Alexander Gerber
- (4) The term of the above listed Supervisory Board members ends with the election of a new Supervisory Board according §7 of these statutes in June 2021 und the respective registration in the register of associations.
- (5) At the same time, the validity of this regulation expires on 31.12.2021.