

Europe United

Charter

The undersigned:

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have agreed to create a not-for-profit international association according to the law of 27 June 1921 of the Kingdom of Belgium relative to International Not-for-Profit Associations whose Charter is as follows:

TITLE I

Article 1 – Name of the Association

The name of the association shall be “Europe United”, henceforth referred to as the “Association”. The local translated equivalent(s) of Europe United shall enjoy equal status with the official name in the individual countries where Europe United has an established national branch.

Article 2 – Seat of the Association

The seat of the association shall be at 336 avenue Georges Henri, 1200 Brussels, in the judicial district of Brussels Region-Capital. The seat of the Association shall also serve as its operating centre.

Article 3 – Objective of the Association

3.1 The objective of the association shall be to promote a European Union built on a more democratic foundations founded on greater participation of EU citizens in decision-making, either indirectly or through elected institutions. Europe United believes in more transparently accountable and open institutions.

3.2 Europe United is a European Union political party drawing its membership from European Union Member States aiming to represent citizens of European Member States in the European Parliament. It follows that officers and candidates of Europe United will emanate from EU Member States eligible to vote and stand in European elections.

Article 4 – Membership

4.1 Per article 3.2, membership is open to all persons having a permanent address in, or citizenship of, a member state of the European Union and that agree to the Association's fundamental principles and objects as per Appendix I without distinction as to:

- 4.1.a. age; where aged 16 or over;
- 4.1.b. ethnic origin;
- 4.1.c. religious or moral opinions held;
- 4.1.d. disability which would prevent the member from exercising their rights and responsibilities arising from membership in the Association;
- 4.1.e. gender;
- 4.1.f. sexual orientation;
- 4.1.g. other arbitrary distinction

4.1.h. Residents of non-EU Members States can be members of EUP with observer status but will not have the right to vote for Party policies, or be candidates of the Party in European Parliament elections. Their membership shall be subject to agreement with the organisation's fundamental principles.

4.2. Pending the establishment of state branches in each country of the European Union, membership shall be acquired by enrolling with the Chief Organisational Officer. The Chief Organisational Officer shall be a member of the Association and a member of the Board appointed by the President for the purpose of maintaining and updating records of the Association's membership, including the membership of the state branches. The Organisational Officer shall specify the prescribed membership fee for each member after due consultation with the members of the Board.

4.3. An applicant shall become a member on their acceptance of its registration by the state branch, payment of the prescribed membership fee determined by the appropriate

4.4. State branches shall maintain a register of their current members and forward a copy of this register to the Board Chairperson every three months or upon request by the Board Chairperson or the Organisational Officer along with a record of the fees paid to the branch by their membership.

4.5.a. No member may simultaneously be a member of three or more state branches.
4.5.b. The Federal Party shall be entitled to confer honorary membership upon any individual by reason of their record of public service where that individual would not qualify for normal membership within the criteria established by this Charter. Such honorary membership must be approved by the Board in accordance with article 16.3.a of this Charter. The Board may also remove such honorary membership in circumstances where it deems it appropriate.

4.6. Membership may be refused by a state branch or the Board where:

4.6.a. the applicant is shown to have a material disagreement with the Association's Principles and Objectives as detailed in Appendix I.

4.6.b. there is reason to believe that the applicant would bring the Association into disrepute.

4.7. Membership may be surrendered by a member by informing their state branch in writing. A copy of this should be sent to the Chief Organisational Officer by the state branch.

4.8. Membership may be revoked by a member's state branch on one or more of the following grounds:

4.8.a. the member is shown to have a substantive difference with the Association's Principles and Objectives as detailed in Appendix I.

4.8.b. the member has brought the Association into disrepute.

4.8.c. the member has breached the rules of the Association as stipulated in this charter.

4.9. Membership may be revoked in the following manner:

4.9.a. a motion is passed by a state branch or the Board to serve a Notice of Censure on a member detailing the alleged reasons for revocation of their membership.

4.9.b. the member shall have 7 days to reply failing which he or she will be deemed to have their membership revoked.

4.9.c. the state branch or the Board has 7 days from receipt of the reply to issue an Order to Revoke membership or retraction of the Notice of Censure.

4.9.d. in extreme cases a clause may be included in the Notice of Censure to suspend the member's membership pending an Order to Revoke membership or retraction of the Notice of Censure.

4.9.e. in cases where the state branch and the Board disagree over the revocation of Association membership, the matter shall be referred to the Arbitrator for final decision.

4.10. The person aggrieved by either a refusal of membership or a revocation of membership may appeal to the Arbitrator.

4.11. Subject to the other provisions of this charter, every member of the Association has:

4.11.a. the right to fully participate in the activities and functions of the Association.

4.11.b. this right may not be removed, abolished or restricted in any way except through the lawful procedures contained in this Charter.

4.11.c. every member of the Association has the obligation by their words and their conduct to uphold the dignity, honour and reputation of the Association.

4.12 Members of the Association that have resigned, have been suspended or excluded, and heirs of deceased members do not have legal entitlements to funds or property of

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the Association. They must relinquish any property of the Association that may be in their possession within 15 days of their resignation, suspension or exclusion.

4.13 The minimum number of members in the Association shall be no less than 25.

4.14. Conditions of party membership may be amended by the Chapter Council together with Membership approval as specified in article 6.2 of this Charter.

TITLE II

Article 5 – Competence

5.1 The policies of the Association are determined by the membership of the Association in a democratic vote as presented by the Chapter Council and approved by the Board . Policy may be amended only by the membership in a democratic vote as presented by the Chapter Council and approved by the Board.

5.2 The areas for which the Association has no adopted policy the state branches must receive approval by the Board for the national policy(ies) they adopt.

5.3 Where the Association changes its policy such that a state branch's policy is no longer in line with the policy of the Association, the state branch must change its policy so as to bring its policy back into line with that of the Association. This must be done within two months of the change in the policy of the Association.

5.4 The Association will adopt policy in accordance with the provisions of article 6.

Article 6 – The Membership

6.1. The Federal Forum consists of all Association members who are registered members of their state branch and who have paid their current subscription. Each member of the Association is entitled to participate in the Federal Forum on a basis of equality with equal rights and responsibilities.

6.2. The Membership shall be responsible together with the Chapter Council for the formulation of policy for the Association.

6.2.a. Policy will be presented to the forum by the Chapter Council. The Membership must approve policy proposals by a simple majority of votes cast. Mandatory e-mail notification of all members is required upon the opening of a vote to approve Chapter Council a policy proposal, with the polls remaining open for no less than a week. Where the Membership rejects a policy proposal, the proposal will be referred back to the Chapter Council for further debate and a second vote. If the motion is approval in its original or amended form by the Chapter Council, the proposal will be referred to the Membership for a second vote. If the Membership rejects the motion a second time, the proposal will be regarded as having failed.

6.2.b The Chapter Council shall draft policy openly and transparently such that the Membership may monitor and inform the process.

6.2.c. A proposal for policy may be presented to the Chapter Council by at least 10% of the Membership to the Chairman of the Chapter Council. The Chapter Council is obliged to debate the proposal and vote in accordance with Chapter Council's rules of procedure to approve or reject the proposal. The membership must be notified of the vote. If the approval is approved by the Chapter Council it shall be presented to the Membership for final approval.

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Article 7 – The Chapter Council

7.1. There shall be a Chapter Council that consists of representatives of the state branches as elected by the membership of the individual branches, with one representative councillor per branch.

7.1.a The Chapter Council shall elect a chairman.

7.2. The Chairman of the Chapter Council shall keep a register of the current members of the Council.

7.3. A sitting of the Chapter Council begins on 1 January bi-annually.

7.4. A Councillor has a term of service that lasts two years.

7.5. A Councillor may resign by issuing a memorandum to the Chapter Council informing them of the date and time of his resignation. The resignation shall be effective as of that time and date. The Chair of the Chapter Council shall advise the Membership and the appropriate state branch of any such resignation.

7.6. A Councillor may be discharged from office on death or incapacity and such being established and approved by the Chapter Council in accordance with its rules of procedure.

7.7. A Councillor may be impeached from office for misbehaviour.

7.7.a. If a Motion of No Confidence is passed by the Membership shall appoint two or more Special Prosecutors to prepare Articles of Impeachment and serve them on the impugned Councillor and lay them before the Chapter Council.

7.7.b. The impugned Councillor shall have ten days in which to reply. If the impugned Councillor does not reply within ten days he will be deemed to have been impeached from office.

7.7.c. Upon reply by the impugned Councillor, the Articles of Impeachment shall be debated in the Chapter Council. The Articles shall be considered effective if they receive the support of a two thirds majority of those Councillors voting.

7.8. All vacancies created by resignations, discharges or impeachments from office shall be filled such that the Board Chairperson shall request the state chapter to elect a new Councillor to fill the vacancy.

7.9. The Chapter Council Chairperson shall organise the business of the Federal Senate.

7.9.a. The Chapter Council Chairperson shall be elected by members of the Chapter Council. The mandate of the Chapter Council mandate shall be two years.. 7.9.b. Nominations for the Chapter Council Chairperson must be made to the Board Chairperson at least 3 weeks before the ballot date.

7.9.c. The ballot shall be open for one week.

7.9.d. Any candidate obtaining more than 50% of the votes on the first ballot shall be deemed to be elected. If no candidate is elected on the first ballot, a second run-off ballot will be held within 14 days between the top two candidates in the first ballot. The winner of the second ballot shall be declared to be the Chapter Council Chairperson.

7.9.e. Every country being a member of the Council of Europe plus Belarus shall have one Councillor.

Article 8 - The Federal Board

8.1. There shall be a Federal Board appointed by the elected President of the Association to administrate the Association.

8.1.a. The Chief Organisational Officer shall keep a register of the current members of

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the Federal Board.

8.1.b. Board Members must be members of the Association.

8.2 The members of the Federal Board are the legal administrators, representatives and managers of the Association.

8.2.a. Are excluded from their competence any action stated by law or conferred to other institutions of the Association.

8.2.b They appoint and revoke the agents, employees or other personnel of the Association.

8.2.c. The daily management or representation of the Association may be delegated by the Federal Board to one or more administrators to whom it shall attribute a certain number of powers and responsibilities as well as the option of a salary.

8.3. Members of the Board shall be named by the President. He or she shall attribute responsibilities and titles to Board members as necessary, including an organisational officer and chairman.

8.4. Board Members have a term of service of two years duration or until such time as a new President is elected.

8.5. A Board Member may be removed by death, resignation, dismissal by the President or by a vote of no confidence by the membership of the Association.

8.6. The Board Members are appointed by the elected President of the Association from the Membership.

8.6.a. Any member of the Association may run for election to the Federal Board. A list of nominees to the Federal Board must be submitted by the President for approval by the Membership as per article 6.2. Where a proposed Board is rejected by the Membership, the President must consult with the membership and place the individual members of the Board to a vote for approval. Where a proposed Board member is rejected, the President must make a second nomination for this office. Should the second nominee be rejected by the Membership, the President shall be entitled to nominate a third candidate who must be accepted by the Membership.

Article 9 - The Federal Arbitration Tribunal

9.1. There shall be an Arbitrator.

9.1.a. The Arbitrator must be an Association member.

9.2. The Arbitrator shall have a term of office of 5 years.

9.3. The Arbitrator is appointed by the Board on the nomination of the Association President.

9.3.a. The Association President shall nominate a candidate to the Board and if the nomination is ratified by a majority of the Board then the nominee shall be appointed.

9.4. An arbitrator may resign by issuing a memorandum to the Federal Forum informing them of the date and time of their resignation. The resignation shall be effective as of that time and date.

9.5. An arbitrator may be discharged from office on death or incapacity, such being established to the satisfaction of the Board as demonstrated by at least a two-thirds vote of the Board.

9.6. An arbitrator may be impeached from office for misbehaviour.

9.6.a. If a motion of no-confidence is passed by the Membership as shown by a two-

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thirds majority based upon a vote of at least 10% of the membership, then the Chapter Council shall appoint two or more Special Rapporteurs to prepare formal charges and serve them on the impugned arbitrator and lay them before the Chapter Council.

9.6.b. The impugned arbitrator shall have ten days to reply. If the impugned arbitrator does not reply within ten days, he or she will be deemed to have been removed from office.

9.6.c. Upon receiving the impugned arbitrator's reply the Chapter Council shall debate the formal charges and if they are ratified by two-thirds of the Chapter Council then the impugned arbitrator shall be removed from office.

9.7 The Arbitrator shall deliver a single judgement.

9.8 The Arbitrator has full original and conclusive jurisdiction to interpret the provisions of this Charter; and a final appellate jurisdiction to interpret a Charter of a state branch; or where it is purported that a Charter of a state branch is repugnant to this Charter it shall have full original and conclusive or final appellate jurisdiction.

9.9. The Arbitrator has full original and conclusive jurisdiction to interpret the provisions of the Charter of the Association.

9.10. The Arbitrator has full original and conclusive jurisdiction to interpret the provisions of the Charter of the Association.

9.11 The Arbitrator has the power to make an order to legitimise any state of affairs that it holds repugnant to this Charter or state branch charter as per 9.11.

9.12. The Arbitrator shall, if it holds any state of affairs to be contrary to the Charter of the Association, send its judgement to the Chapter Council within one week.

9.14. The Arbitrator has the power to make an order to void any policy that it holds to be repugnant to this Charter or conflicts with policy of the Association and in the case of national branch policy that it holds to be repugnant to the national branch charter or another national branch policy.

Article 10 – The President

10.1. The President is the official head of the Association.

10.2. a. The President shall be elected for a five year period by the party membership. Elections shall be organised by the Organisational officer of the outgoing Board and be supervised by members of the Board excluding the current President.

10.2.b. The date of the presidential poll shall be set by the Federal Board a minimum of eight weeks and a maximum of twelve weeks before the poll takes place.

10.2.c. Candidates for the Presidency are required to register their candidacy with the Federal Board within the period specified in article 10.2.b. Candidates shall provide their full names, city and country of residence and stating which regional branch they belong to.

10.2.d. Association Members have one vote each.

10.2.e. Should any candidate fail to win more than 50% of the vote, a run-off poll between the top two candidates in the first round will be held within four weeks of the date of the first poll.

10.3. The President may be removed from office by death, incapacity or voluntary resignation. Incapacity shall be proved by a vote of the members of the Board in accordance with article 16.3.a of this Charter; a resignation has to be submitted to the Board personally by the President and communicated to the membership.

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10.4. The President may be impeached by a motion submitted to the Board by the membership. The impeachment articles should state the grounds and the reasons for the impeachment. Such a motion may be submitted only with the support of 40% or more of the Membership of the Association. The President will then be afforded the opportunity to state his or her case to the Membership. The President shall be allowed at least seven days from the presentation of the impeachment motion in which to prepare his or her reply. The motion will then be debated by the Membership. If the motion is then passed by a two thirds majority of the Membership then the President will be deemed to be impeached.

10.4.a. No more than one election for the post of president may be called within a single year, unless the vacancy of the past is the result of a resignation.

10.5. After the expiry of his term of office, the President may stand for re-election.

10.6. A motion may be tabled by the members of the Association to call for an election to the Presidency of the Association during the two-year term of an existing President.

Such a motion must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Chapter Council in accordance with article 16.3 of this Charter for a new Presidential poll to be held. Should such a motion fail to obtain the required support, no similar motion may be tabled during that same calendar year.

TITLE III – THE STATE BRANCHES

Article 12 – State Branches

12.1. A state branch may be established for every state that is a member of the European Union or an official candidate to the Union.

12.2. Only branches whose state is a member of the European Union can participate in decision-making bodies of the Association, namely the Board and Chapter Council. Branches that are not members of the European Union will have observer status.

12.3. The membership of state chapters not members of the European Union may participate in discussions and debates on the forum, but will not be able to vote on policy issues.

12.4. Once satisfied that the application is in order, the Board Chairperson will refer the application to the Board. The Board must approve the application in accordance with article 16.3 of this Charter.

12.5. The state branch is obliged to support Association policy.

12.6. The state branch comprises Association Members who are resident in that state or Association Members who are nationals of that state. Association Members who hold nationality in one state but who are permanently resident in another state may choose either state branch for the purpose of membership. Dual membership of more than one state branch is permitted subject to a maximum of two state branch memberships.

Article 13 - Suspension/Disaffiliation of State Branches

13.1. A state branch may be suspended by the Association where it has been proven that the state branch is opposing Association policy or where it is guilty of action or behaviour which brings the state branch or the Association into disrepute.

13.2. A motion to suspend a state branch may be made by a majority of the Board and submitted to the Chapter Council stating the reasons for the motion and containing

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precise details and information. A representative of the state branch must be given the opportunity to present the state branch's case to the Chapter Council. After debate the motion must be carried by a two-thirds majority of Chapter Council voting to be considered valid.

13.3. If a motion for suspension is carried, the state branch will be considered suspended and will possess no official status. Responsibility for administration of the Association in the state will rest with the Board.

13.4. If the suspended state branch is not subsequently re-admitted to the Association within a period of four months from its suspension, the state branch will be considered to be disaffiliated from the Association.

13.5 All registered names, properties, and funds of disfranchised branches remain the property of the Association and not the state branch.

TITLE IV – MISCELLANEOUS

Article 14 - The Federal Convention

14.1. The Association Convention is responsible for discussing political strategy, reviewing past performance and assessing the state of the Association generally. All Association members are entitled to attend.

14.2. The Federal Convention shall be held twice a year at a place and time to be determined by the Federal Board. Responsibility for organising the agenda and meeting of the Convention shall rest with the Federal Board.

14.3 Each state chapter is encouraged to send at least one representative to each Convention.

Article 15 - Convening of meetings

15.1. Meetings of the Association's institutions may be convened as and when deemed necessary by the membership of those institutions.

15.2. The Board and the Chapter Council must be convened within one week of elections to those institutions either in person or through electronic means of communication.

15.3. Meetings may be convened physically in one location or by use of technical communications covering more than one physical location.

Article 16 – Voting

16.1 Each Association member has one vote of equal value. Motions and issues may be voted on via the internet or any other method deemed appropriate. The Chairman of the Chapter Council shall convene and chair the sessions of the Chapter Council. The President shall set the agenda of all Board meetings and convene all such meetings as necessary.

16.2. All votes taken by the membership are secret. Membership votes made via the internet must provide appropriate secrecy. Unless otherwise agreed by the Membership votes made via paper must be secret and the vote counting must be verified by at least two independent witnesses. Votes in the Federal Board and Chapter Council are open unless unfeasible or a secret vote is called by one of the members of these institutions.

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16.3. The minimum quora required for voting by the relevant Association institutions shall be as follows:

16.3.a. The Board, 50% plus one member.

16.3.b Membership votes have no quorum. Mandatory e-mail notification to all members is required upon the opening of an official and binding forum vote.

16.4. The necessary majorities to pass motions or elect officials are as stated in this Charter. Where no majority is specified a simple majority of those voting (subject to the quora requirements in article 16.3) shall suffice.

Article 17 – Charter Amendment

17.1. Amendments to this Charter may be made either by a motion made by a majority of members voting or by a motion proposed by a two-thirds majority of Board members.

17.2. An amendment to this Charter must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Board and a two-thirds majority of the voting membership.

17.3 Any amendment to this Charter shall be published in the Annexes du Moniteur Belge. All fees resulting from such amendments shall be the responsibility of the Association.

Article 18 – Administration of the Association

18.1 Per article 8.2 of this Charter the members of the Federal Board are the administrators of the Association.

18.1.a All legal acts engaged by one or more administrator is made on behalf of the Association.

18.1.b The administrators or any agent designated by the administrators for the purpose of managing the Association are not personally liable for the engagements made on behalf of the Association.

18.1.c The provisions for nominating the administrators of the Association are detailed in article 8 of this Charter.

Article 19 – Accounts

19.1 The accounting year of the Association begins on 1 January and ends on 31 December. Exceptionally, the first accounting year shall begin on xxxxx and close on 31 December 2007.

19.1 An independent audit of the Association's accounts shall be organised as stated by law.

Article 20 – Termination and liquidation

In the eventuality of the termination and liquidation of the Association, the Federal Forum shall designate the liquidator or liquidators, determine their powers and decide on the beneficiary or beneficiaries of the Association's funds.

Article 21 – Residual powers

All powers not explicitly attributed in this Charter are determined by the law of 27 June 1921 on International Not-for-Profit Associations.

Article 22 - Provisional Article

All elected and appointed officials of the party at the time of the implementation of this Charter shall continue their mandate pending new elections/appointments to take place within twelve months of this Charter coming into effect.