

Statutes



of the non-profit organisation

**„European Pupils
Association“ (EUPAS)**

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1 Preamble

2 The European Pupils Association was founded on the 1th of April 2014 in Brussels as an
3 international, independent, democratic non-profit and non-governmental pupils or-
4 ganisation.

5 The organisations, which shall be recognised as founders of EUPAS, are the following:

- 6 • Schüler Union Deutschlands (Germany)
- 7 • Schülerunion Österreich (Austria)
- 8 • LAKS (The Netherlands)
- 9 • USRED (Croatia)
- 10 • MAKI (Greece)
- 11 • MA.KI (Cyprus)

12 Article 1 – Name and office

13 The name of the organisation is „European Pupils Association“, abbreviated as
14 „EUPAS“. It is founded as an Austrian non-profit organisation. The Establishment of the
15 Association is in accordance with the Austrian Law.

16 EUPAS has its office at Lichtenfelsgasse 7, 1010 Wien, Austria.

17 Article 2 – Purpose and objectives

18 The European Pupils Association (EUPAS) is purposed to give European pupils a voice in
19 the European Union and represent them in the processes of developing programmes
20 and decisions in educational politics. EUPAS shall be an independent, democratic
21 network of several national pupils organisations or organisations' branches
22 representing pupils that take a stand for a Europe based on quality education for
23 ensuring a promising future for the following generations.

24 To fulfil this purpose, EUPAS will:

- 25 • promote cooperation and communication between national pupil organisations,
26 institutions and other educational associations throughout the EU and Europe for
27 profiting from information and good experience
- 28 • initiate exchange and discussions about common educational issues as well as
29 develop solutions for those same to increase the quality of school as much as
30 possible
- 31 • support political education to give pupils an idea of and enthuse them for democracy
32 and participation
- 33 • assist its member organisations with experience, contacts and information as well as
34 encourage the founding of new pupil organisations
- 35 • contribute to the development of democratic school systems which include
36 participation of pupils and consideration of their needs
- 37 • act for the strengthening of trans-European solidarity and understanding between
38 the national youths
- 39 • campaign for a better comparability of graduations while maintaining educational
40 federalism according to subsidiarity

41 • promote lifelong learning for every citizen

42 **Article 3 – Membership**

43 Conditions for the admission of a membership are a democratic structure that is
44 legitimated by statutes and run primarily by pupils as well as a programme and values
45 corresponding to those of EUPAS.

46 EUPAS shall have three categories of members:

- 47 • full members
- 48 • associated members
- 49 • observer members

50 Every new member has to be an observer member for at least 10 months to apply for the
51 full or associated membership status.

52 Membership issues are decided only during the General Assembly. The type of
53 membership requested by an organisation is decided by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the votes. The
54 new or changed membership, rights and obligations assigned by the General Assembly
55 to a member become instantly effective for the member after the application's approval
56 by the General Assembly which explicitly immediately affects their voting right as well.

57 All full and associated members are represented in the Board and the General Assembly
58 by one delegate each, under the distinction of voting and consultative status.

59 Members which lose their qualification for one of the stated statuses shall be expelled
60 by the vote of the General Assembly. They may leave EUPAS anytime by a written
61 declaration to the Board.

62 **a. Full members**

63 Full members need to be national pupils' associations or organisations' branches
64 representing pupils that adhere to the statutes of EUPAS and are operating on the
65 national scale in a European country. They need to subscribe to the values and aims of
66 the association and have the right to speak and vote.

67 Organisations can get full membership status only after observer membership lasting at
68 least 10 months or previous associated membership. Additionally they have to attend
69 more than one event in the year prior to their application. For applying for full
70 membership status an observer or associated member has to inform the Board about
71 their will by written notice via e-mail at least 4 weeks before the General Assembly. The
72 Board will transmit a recommendation as to whether or not the applicant should be
73 admitted as full member by the General Assembly.

74 **b. Associated members**

75 Associated members shall be organisations that contribute to the work of EUPAS and
76 therefore shall have consultative status – therefore they only have the right to speak.
77 They don't have obligations regarding the statutes but shall share the values and aims
78 of EUPAS.

79 Organisations can get full membership status only after observer membership lasting at
80 least 10 months. Additionally they have to attend more than one event in the year prior
81 to their application. For applying for associated membership status an observer
82 member has to inform the Board about their will by written notice via e-mail at least 4
83 weeks before the General Assembly. The Board will transmit a recommendation as to
84 whether or not the applicant should be admitted as associated member by the General
85 Assembly.

86 **c. Observer members**

87 Observer membership is granted to pupils' organisations or organisations' branches
88 representing pupils that have the potential to fulfil the requirements for the full
89 membership and have applied for it. After at least 10 months the decision shall be made
90 whether to assign full or associated membership to the applicant or prolong its status
91 as an observer member.

92 To apply for observer membership an organisation has to inform the Board about their
93 application formlessly at least 6 weeks beforehand the General Assembly. The request
94 comprising a letter of motivation, the statutes and the political program shall be sent
95 to the Board at least 4 weeks before the General Assembly. The Board will transmit a
96 recommendation as to whether or not the applicant should be admitted as observer
97 member by the General Assembly.

98 **d. Rights and obligations of membership**

99 All members have the right to send delegates to all events of EUPAS. They are obliged to
100 follow the aims and principles defined in these Statutes. All members are obliged,
101 within a reasonable time, to update the Board on any changes to their leadership or
102 contact details.

- 103 • Full members have the right to vote in the General Assembly, to be represented in
104 the Board by one delegate and to nominate candidates for the elections of the
105 Board.
- 106 • Associated members have the right to be represented in the Board by one delegate
107 without the right to vote. They shall not have the right to vote in the General
108 Assembly nor be permitted to nominate candidates for the elections.
- 109 • Observer members shall not have the right to vote nor be permitted to nominate
110 candidates for the elections of the Board.

111 **Article 4 – Bodies of the association**

112 The actions of EUPAS shall mainly be managed by a Board, executed and represented by
113 its Chairman and General Secretary – all under legitimation of its General Assembly.

114 **a. General Assembly**

115 The General Assembly shall meet at least once a year at the Annual Meeting and
116 consists of one delegate per member organisation and the members of the current
117 board; it is presided over by the Chairman. There is one vote for every full member
118 organisation and for each Board member. The Board determines how many Guests and
119 additional delegates without voting rights are allowed.

120 The Assembly has the following tasks:

- 121 • to elect the Chairman
- 122 • to elect Board members
- 123 • to discharge the Board and its members
- 124 • to modify the statutes
- 125 • to give admission to and change the status of members
- 126 • to elect financial auditors

- 127 • to define the political programme of EUPAS
- 128 • to dissolve the association
- 129 • to expel members
- 130 Invitation to the General Assembly shall be made via e-mail by the Board at least 8
131 weeks in advance of the date, further information and papers shall be given at least 2
132 weeks before the meeting.
- 133 Decisions are to be made by a simple majority of the votes; concerning the statutes, the
134 dismissal of member organisations, the status of members and as well their expulsion
135 they require a majority of $\frac{2}{3}$ of all of the votes. The dissolution of EUPAS requires a
136 majority of $\frac{3}{4}$. The Assembly needs a quorum of at least half of its full members to make
137 valid decisions. Applications for decisions requiring a $\frac{2}{3}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ majority have to be put
138 forward at least two weeks in advance of the Assembly.
- 139 There may only be decisions about topics listed in the agenda of the General Assembly.
140 At the beginning of an Assembly any member of EUPAS may propose a new topic to the
141 agenda if there is a valid reason why it could not be proposed beforehand. The new
142 topic shall be accepted with a simple majority by the General Assembly.
- 143 The minutes of the Assembly have to be written and sent to the members of EUPAS
144 afterwards.

145 **b. Board**

- 146 The Board shall meet at least three times a year. One of those meetings shall be in
147 person; others may take place via electronic means that are suitable. The quorum is the
148 half of the Board members.
- 149 This body consists of the Chairman, the General Secretary and one delegate for each full
150 or associated member organisation, the Vice Chairmen. Those representatives shall stay
151 in the Board at least for one year. The Vice Chairmen represent EUPAS in case of
152 unavailability of the Chairman and General Secretary and fulfil the duties of the Board.
153 Vice-Chairmen of associated members have no right to vote.
- 154 The Board has the possibility to co-opt an extended Board member if there is a valid
155 reason for it. This person shall be elected by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority.
- 156 A Vice Chairman is required to stay in close contact to her/his member organisation to
157 be able to represent it in the body. If that is not the case anymore, she/he needs to
158 resign by letter to the Chairman and to the General Secretary. After receiving the
159 resignation the new delegate appointed by the member organisation has to be
160 confirmed by the Board.
- 161 The Board shall:
- 162 • represent EUPAS at external events
 - 163 • organise own events for the members
 - 164 • create the Annual Report and Accounts for the General Assembly
 - 165 • convoke the General Assembly
 - 166 • be present at national events
 - 167 • organise the work of EUPAS
- 168 The minutes of the Board meetings have to be made and sent to the members
169 afterwards.

170 **Election of the Board**

171 The General Assembly elects the Board members (General Secretary excluded) on the
172 Annual Meeting. At the beginning the Board has to appoint two Tellers for the voting
173 process. They are responsible for handing out the correct amount of ballot papers to
174 the voters.

175 Each full or associated member can appoint only one delegate as a Vice Chairman who
176 gets elected by secret ballot.

177 The Chairman shall be elected by secret ballot. The candidates get time to present
178 themselves and they have the possibility to run together with a candidate for the Gen-
179 eral Secretary, which gets confirmed afterwards by the new Board.

180 A person can only run for one position. A candidate needs the majority of all valid cast
181 votes to get elected. Abstentions and spoilt votes are not counted as valid.

182 The Board has to prepare eligible ballot papers for the election of the Chairman and the
183 Vice-Chairmen. The Tellers shall explain the election procedure. Additionally they shall
184 supervise the collection of the ballot papers and the counting of the names and shall
185 announce the results as fast as possible.

186 The General Secretary is nominated by the new Chairman and appointed by the new
187 Board, at simple majority, by which he or she is considered elected. If no such majority
188 can be formed, the Chairman may call for an election once more, after nominating the
189 same or another candidate for the position.

190 **c. Chairman**

191 The Chairman fully represents EUPAS and all of its bodies towards third parties; in case
192 of her/his unavailability the General Secretary may represent the association. If this is
193 not possible as well, the Board has to appoint one of the Vice Chairmen for the matter.

194 The main task is to lead the actions of EUPAS, chair the meetings and hold contact to
195 the member organisations as well as establish new contacts for expanding the
196 association and its influence. The Chairman executes the agenda and strives for the
197 fulfilment of the purpose of EUPAS.

198 **d. General Secretary**

199 The General Secretary manages the day-to-day affairs and represents EUPAS in those
200 means. This includes realising decisions of the Board and controlling the funds of the
201 association. She/He also has to inform the Board about the financial situation at the
202 beginning of each new financial year.

203 The most common day-to-day affairs include:

- 204 • presenting an organisational report to the Board at the beginning of every year
- 205 • creating agendas for meetings of bodies, preparing and supervising them and
206 writing minutes about them
- 207 • controlling the daily business and realising decisions made by the bodies

208 All these tasks are to be fulfilled in agreement with the Chairman. Their success has to
209 be reported in a timely manner.

210 **Article 5 – Budget and accounts**

211 The financial year starts at the 1th of August and ends with the 31th of July.

212 The actions of EUPAS will be financed by donations, support by governmental and non-
213 governmental authorities, participation fees at meetings or events and other income.

214 Donations by any organisation, institution or company must and will not influence
215 policy or action of EUPAS.

216 Responsible for accounts, budget and the report about those is the General Secretary.

217 **Financial auditors**

218 The General Assembly elects two financial auditors for the following year, which will
219 review the bookkeeping and the annual accounts and will present a report to the
220 General Assembly on the Annual Meeting.

221 The Financial Auditors cannot be members of the Board.

222 **Article 6 – Final provisions**

223 Any matter not covered by this Constitution shall be regulated by the Austrian law gov-
224 erning the non-profit organisation or at default by the General Assembly.

225 **Article 7 – Dissolution**

226 The association is not dissolved as a result of dissolution or resignation of a member,
227 provided the number of full members is not less than two.

228 The association may be dissolved voluntarily by a decision of the General Assembly with
229 a majority of three quarters of the votes cast.

230 In the event of voluntary dissolution, the General Assembly elects a liquidator. In the
231 absence of a liquidator, the members of the Board will act as liquidators.