

**Constitution of the
“Fédération de l’Unions Européenne
des Consuls Honoraires F.U.E.C.H.)” resp.
“European Federation of Unions
of Honorary Consuls (F.U.E.C.H.)”**

Article 1

DENOMINATION

A European Federation of Associations of Honorary Consuls in Europe was created on the 17th April 2004 in Grenoble, which Constitution will take effect as of the 2nd May 2004, by the Presidents of the National Unions or their delegates under the name of

**Fédération de l’Unions Européenne des Consuls Honoraires (F.U.E.C.H.)
resp.**

“European Federation of Unions of Honorary Consuls (F.U.E.C.H.)”.

Article 2

AIMS

The aim of the **Fédération de l’Unions Européenne des Consuls Honoraires (F.U.E.C.H.)**, short: Federation, is to encourage the ties among the various Consular Associations, to promote positive relations with the respective receiving states as well as with the Institutions of the European Union, for example:

- Promote the contacts in order to have a better understanding between Honorary Consuls in Europe resp. consolidate their links
- Promote the diplomatic, consular, cultural, economic and social ties between the sending states that are respresented via their individual members within the Federation
- Circulate any kind of information between the members that is essential to carry out the function of Honorary Consul successfully
- Ensure that the duties, dignity and honour which are attached to the post of Honorary Consul conforms to international regulations
- Ensure that the de-facto-status of the Honorary Consuls in Europe meets in full the expectations contained in the international regulations and in particular the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 21st April 1963.
- Promote and encourage all initiatives and manifestations which are likely to enhance the positive image and appreciation of the work of Honorary Consuls in Europe

Article 3
MEMBERS

Unions of Honorary Consuls in Europe, established in the legal form of an association according to the national law of its legal seat and composed predominantly of Honorary Consuls, may become members of the Federation. Each applying Union must submit together with their application a copy of its Constitution and a list of its Board Members. Each Union is represented by its President or his designated Delegate. Each Union keeps its full autonomy and sovereignty and no interference will be tolerated by the Federation concerning internal affairs of each Member-Union.

Article 4
SEAT

The Headoffice and seat of administration of the Federation is at the seat of the President and may be transferred on request of the President by decision of the Managing Board.

Article 5
DURATION

The Federation will have an unlimited duration.

Article 6
INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

The Federation may become a member of other International Federations upon decision of the Managing Board (unanimous) and the General Assembly.

Article 7
THE MANAGING BOARD

The Managing Board (short MB) may consist of the following posts:

- President
- 1st Vice-President
- Up to 2 Vice-Presidents
- Chancellor
- Secretary General
- General Treasurer

The Members of the MB are composed exclusively of Honorary Consuls and in no way could hold functions in any other Non-European organisation of Honorary Consuls.

The MB is elected for a period of three years by the General Assembly, all members have the possibility of re-election for maximum 3 terms of office.

If a post in the MB becomes vacant, the MB may, if requested by the President, replace the vacant post by internal co-option.

The MB prepares and executes the decisions of the General Assembly and administers the Federation, the MB also decides about membership of applicants.

The MB meets at least once a year when convened by the President. It may be convened by the President for an extraordinary meeting upon initiative of the President or at request of half of the MB-members.

The decisions of the MB are valid provided the subjects of the decisions had been put on the agenda of the MB-meeting and when passed by an absolute majority vote of the members present. In case of an equal balance of votes the President will have the casting vote.

For decision on presenting an application for dissolution of the Federation to the General Assembly a majority of 2/3 of the members of the MB is needed.

The Members of the MB may propose to the MB to award a medal or other distinction of merit to distinguished persons or private and public Institutions coming from various fields, originating from a European country. This honour will be given primarily to those who contributed to the upgrading of the status and image of the function of the Honorary Consul.

Article 8

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly (short: GA) is composed of the Presidents and / or the resp. Delegates of the Unions which are members of the Federation.

The GA will meet when convened by the President of the Federation at least once a year or upon request of half of its members. The President and other members of the MB will submit the program of activities for the current year, whilst giving an account of the activities undertaken during the preceding year.

The GA elects the members of the Managing Board (MB), the Presidential Advisers are appointed by the President.

The GA decides upon

- The program of activities of the Federation, evaluated by the MB
- All matters which are submitted to it by the MB
- The modifications of the Constitution and on the dissolution of the Federation (2/3 of all members have to agree)

The GA approves the budget and the accounts submitted by the General Treasurer and may appoint two Presidents or Delegates to verify the accounts.

The GA may vote on any motion, when all members have been invited to attend at least 3 weeks before the date of the GA.

The GAs decisions are valid when passed by an absolute majority of the members present. Decisions on modifications of the Constitution will need a 2/3 Majority of the GA-Delegates present, dissolution of the Federation will need a 2/3 majority of all members of the Federation.

Each President of a Member-Union may nominate a Delegate. He may, in any case, be accompanied by 2 members maximum of his Union for assistance.

In case of voting each Union has a certain number of votes depending on the number of its individual members:

- Up to 50 members 1 vote
- From 51 to 100 members 2 votes
- From 101 and more 3 votes

If there are more than one Union from a European state member with the Federation, these Unions together may not have more than 3 national votes; it is up to them to decide on the votes per Union resp. to establish a national roof-union.

Two-thirds of the GA-Delegates may reject a decision for admission of a new member, taken by the MB.

Article 9

THE PRESIDENT

The President is elected by the GA among its members. He assumes the Presidency for a period of three years and can be then re-elected for only two more consecutive terms.

In case of temporary unavailability the 1st Vice-President, in his absence other elected Vice-Presidents or the Chancellor, will assume the duties of the Presidency on written request of the President.

The President presides over the Managing Board and takes all necessary measures for the holding of the sessions of the MB and the GA. He follows-up the execution of the decisions taken by the GA and initiates activities to achieve the aims of the Federation.

The President offers his services for free and his expenses will be covered by the Treasury of the Federation.

Article 10

THE 1st VICE-PRESIDENT and the CHANCELLOR

The 1st Vice-President replaces the President on written request of the President in case of need in all matters of the Federation.

The Chancellor assists the President in the exercise of his duties. 1st Vice-President and Chancellor may be the same person.

Article 11

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The Secretary General ensures the drafting of the minutes and reports of the GA and the MB upon request of the President. The Secretary General offers his services for free and his expenses will be covered by the Treasury of the Federation.

Article 12

THE GENERAL TREASURER

The General Treasurer draws the budget and the annual accounts to be submitted by the MB to the GA for approval.

He manages the financial affairs of the Federation, vis á vis the Bankers of the Federation the General Treasurer and the President shall represent the Federation.

Article 13

THE ADVISERS

The Advisers offer their contribution to the President. They are designated by the President amongst the members of the General Assembly; Advisers not being members of the GA are Honorary Advisers of the President of the Federation.

Upon suggestion of the President the Advisers may form a committee to study technical issues for the Federation.

Article 14

PRESIDENT OF HONOUR and HONORARY MEMBERS

At the end of his mandate the President becomes President of Honour and may assist at all meetings of the Managing Board and the General Assembly. The Managing Board may nominate distinguished persons as Honorary Members of the Federation.

Article 15

REMUNERATIONS

No functions and posts of the Federation will be paid for their services rendered.

Article 16
BUDGET – ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

The annual budget is fixed by the General Assembly and covers the need and expenses planned for the following year, taking into account the needs and expenses of the preceding year presented by the Treasurer. The General Assembly decides on the annual subscription and other fees to be charged to each member of the Federation.

Article 17
INCOME OF THE FEDERATION

The income of the Federation is funded by annual subscription fees of its members, private or other subsidies or in general any legal subsidy, income from different publications or activities of the Federation.

Article 18
RESPONSIBILITY

No member of the Federation, regardless of his post, is personally responsible or reliable for a commitment made in the name of the Federation.

Article 19
DECLARATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

The Managing Board will fulfil all the formalities for the different declarations and publications demanded by the law of the city where the head office of the Federation is based. For this reason, all powers will be vested to the bearer of this present deed. It is upon the President on behalf of the MB to ensure the legal subject of the Federation according local law in the country of residence of the President.