

Statutes of AEGEE-Mannheim e.V.

In the version from 13.05.2020

Translated on 12.05.2022 by Roma Bogdanov

The translation is created for information purposes. Only the German version is legally binding. In case of discrepancies between this translation and the German version of the document, the German version shall be applied.

Preamble

This section talks about grammar of the German version of the document, irrelevant for the translated version.

§1 Name and Seat

- (1) The name of the Association shall be AEGEE (Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe)-Mannheim, with the addition of "e. V." after its registration.
- (2) It has its seat in Mannheim and is to be entered in the register of associations.

§2 Purpose of the Association

- (1) The purpose of the Association is to promote international understanding, tolerance, and international awareness, especially within Europe, as well as to spread the idea of European unity. For this purpose, the Association shall support cultural and scientific exchange, especially at university level. To this end, educational, information, and discussion events, as well as European meetings take place. Awareness for the social, economic, political, and cultural conditions of other countries with a view of increasing European cooperation shall be increased among young people and students through promotion of European contacts. Within the scope of its possibilities, the Association supports the planning, implementation, and promotion of student exchange. In order to realise its purpose, the Association maintains relations with other European institutions and joins the Europe-wide association of AEGEE. The association accepts the rules of AEGEE-Europe as binding for itself and as prevailing in the event of an internal conflict.
- (2) The use of the name "AEGEE" and the logo is only allowed after signing the "Convention d'Adhésion" of AEGEE-Europe. The permission expires after termination of the Convention d'Adhésion.
- (3) The Association is not connected to any political parties or religious organisations.

§3 Non-Profit Status

- (1) The Association shall exclusively and directly pursue charitable purposes in the sense of the section "Tax-Privileged Purposes" of the tax code.

- (2) The Association shall act selflessly and shall not pursue primarily economic purposes. The funds of the association may only be used for purposes in accordance with the Statutes. Members shall not receive any allowances from the funds of the Association. No one may be disadvantaged by expenses which are alien to the purpose of association or by disproportionately high remuneration.

§4 Membership

- (1) Full Members of the Association may be natural persons up to the age of 35 years. Membership shall be acquired by (1) Declaration of Membership in text form or by means of an equivalent online form, (2) payment of the membership fee, and (3) confirmation by the Executive Board.
- (2) Supporting Members of the Association may be natural persons and legal entities who are committed to the aims of the Association and who support it financially and ideally. Supporting members have no voting rights and do not assume any offices with power of representation.
- (3) The General Assembly decides on the proposal of the Executive Board or at the request of 10 % of the Full Members on the awarding of Honorary Membership. Honorary Members have no voting rights, assume no offices and are exempt from the obligation to pay membership fees.
- (4) Honorary Membership is automatically conferred on patrons.
- (5) The Declaration of Membership shall include at least the application for membership, first and last name, email address, and date of birth.
- (6) In order to be accepted as a Member, it is necessary to accept the Privacy Policy of AEGEE-Mannheim.

§5 End of Membership

The membership ends by:

- Exceeding the age limit according to §4(1) for Full Members. They become Supporting Members, unless they declare their resignation from the association.
- Resignation in text form with one month's notice to the end of a financial year.
- Non-payment of the membership fee despite a third reminder. The first reminder is sent after 2 weeks, all further reminders after a period of 2 weeks each.
- Expulsion for good cause, in particular if the behaviour of the member is not in accordance with the aims of the Association. The Board shall

decide on the exclusion after a hearing with the member; the next General Assembly shall make the final decision.

- Death.

§6 Contributions

- (1) Member contribution shall be either a half-yearly membership fee for one university semester or an annual membership fee for two semesters in advance. The amount shall be determined by the General Assembly. The Executive Board shall decide on special arrangements.
- (2) To questions of due dates, delays, limitations, and defaulting, general provisions of the German Civil Code (BGB) shall apply.
- (3) Monetary payments owed because of membership may not be refused on the grounds that the Board or other bodies of the Association have not fulfilled their obligations. An offsetting against a monetary claim to which the member or the association is entitled is allowed. The obligation to contribute ends with the member's withdrawal from the association. Contributions to cover special expenditures or additional payments for debts of the Association shall not be made.
- (4) In addition to the membership fees, the funds of the Association shall also include donations and other contributions.
- (5) Membership fees may be paid in cash, by bank transfer, or by SEPA direct debit mandate.

§7 Business Year

A Business Year consists of an Autumn/Winter semester and the following Spring/Summer semester. The semester times correspond to the official times of the University of Mannheim.

§8 Bodies of the Association

- (1) The Bodies of the Association are:
 1. the Executive Board
 2. the General Assembly
- (2) By resolution of the Board with a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority, committees may be established to carry out special tasks of the Association. The members of the committees shall be appointed by the Board.
- (3) The General Assembly may, upon proposal of a member of the association, appoint an Advisory Board. The members shall be

appointed by the Executive Board or elected by the General Assembly. The current composition of the Advisory Board shall be announced at the General Assembly.

- (4) The members of the Advisory Board shall be appointed or elected for the duration of one business year. Re-election is possible.
- (5) The Advisory Board can be composed of natural and legal persons. Members of the Advisory Board shall be persons in public life who support the aims and ideas of AEGEE. Full and Supporting Members may also be appointed to the Advisory Board. The tasks of the Advisory Board are:
 1. to support and advise the bodies of the association on relevant topics.
 2. support the external work of AEGEE-Mannheim e. V.

§9 Executive Board

- (1) The Executive Board shall consist of at least three members, namely the Chairperson (President), the Treasurer, and the Secretary. By resolution of the General Assembly, the Board may be extended by up to three members to a total of six members. The areas of activity of the additional members of the Executive Board shall be defined by General Assembly. The Treasurer is at the same time a Deputy of the President (Vice-President). The General Assembly shall optionally appoint another member of the Executive Board as Deputy of the President (Vice-President).
- (2) By resolution of the General Assembly, the Executive Board may be optionally extended by one more member. The field of activity of this member includes the organisation of a major event (e.g. Agora, EPM, Summer University). The General Assembly decides on a case-by-case basis what constitutes a major event.
- (3) The Executive Board shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of one business year. The term of office of the Board ends with the end of the business year or the election of a new Executive Board for valid reasons by $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members present at the General Meeting. A repeated re-election of the Board members is possible. If election of new Board members does not take place in time, the Board shall remain in office until the election of a new Board. Election may only be delayed for a valid reason.
- (4) If a member of the Executive Board resigns before the expiry of their term of office, their position must be filled within two months from the date of resignation via an election at a General Assembly. This applies only to the Chairperson, the Treasurer, and the Secretary.

- (5) Resigning Board Members shall continue to perform their duties until their position is filled.
- (6) Decisions of the Executive Board are taken by majority vote. In the event of a tie, the President shall have the casting vote. For quorum, presence of at least half of the board members is required.
- (7) The activities of the members of the Executive Board are voluntary (unpaid).
- (8) The General Assembly shall decide on the dismissal of a Board Member with a $\frac{2}{3}$ -majority of the members present.

§10 Area of Responsibility of the Executive Board

- (1) The Association shall be represented judicially and extrajudicially by the President and their deputies (Vice-Presidents) as well as the Treasurer. Each of them shall have individual power of representation. Should the optional Board position for a major event be filled according to §9 (2), this board member shall also have individual power of representation.
- (2) The power of representation of the Executive Board is limited in relationships with third parties insofar as stated by legal acts and deeds, which obligate the Association to make payments of more than a total of EUR 750,- only with the approval of all members of Executive Board. The Executive Board shall ensure that the Association remains solvent and does not become indebted.
- (3) The Executive Board may by simple resolution authorize members of the Association to represent Association's interests to third parties without binding effect.

§11 Financial Control

- (1) The two Auditors elected by the General Assembly shall audit the financial report for the financial year and provide an audit note in text form. The members of the Executive Board are obliged to provide the Auditors with any requested information.
- (2) A cash audit shall take place at least once in each financial year. The Auditors shall be elected for one year at a time. Re-election is permitted.
- (3) An Auditor may not be a member of the Executive Board.

§12 Delegates to Agora and European Planning Meeting (EPM)

- (1) The delegates and their deputies for the Agora and the EPM shall be appointed by the Executive Board at least four weeks in advance and announced in text form.**
- (2) If within one week 10% of the members express an objection in text form, the Executive Board shall be obliged to convene an extraordinary general Assembly in due time which shall then elect the delegates.**

§13 General Assembly of Members

- (1) The Ordinary General Assembly shall be convened by the Executive Board. It shall take place at least once a year at the end of the financial year and not during the lecture-free period.**
- (2) The Full, Supporting, and Honorary members of the Association shall be invited to the Assembly at least one week prior to the General Assembly. The invitation shall be in text form.**
- (3) The Executive Board may convene an extraordinary General Assembly. It is obliged to do so according to §12 (2) or if the members request this in text form, stating the purpose and the reasons. In this case, the members are to be notified of the Assembly and its agenda in text form at least one week in advance. In the case of resignation of a board member, the Board shall also convene an Extraordinary General Assembly for the purpose of a by-election.**
- (4) Should, due to extraordinary circumstances such as force majeure events (e.g. pandemics or environmental catastrophes) or human actions (e.g. war or terrorism the like), it not be possible to hold the General Assembly in physical presence, it shall be upon the Executive Board to decide on the expediency of a digital General Assembly. A decision must be supported by at least half of board members. The digital general Assembly is in its nature equal to the conventional General Assembly. The digital election of the Executive Board and the resolutions passed digitally are therefore valid and legal.**

§14 Tasks of the General Assembly

The General Assembly has the following tasks:

- 1. to receive the reports of the Executive Board and the Auditors**
- 2. discharge of the Executive Board**
- 3. election of the Executive Board**

4. election of two Auditors
5. acceptance of the announcement and appointment of the members of the Advisory Board
6. amendment of the Statutes
7. resolutions on motions put forward by the Executive Board and the Members of Association
8. resolutions on the establishment of committees and their competences
9. resolutions on the exclusion of members
10. resolutions on the conferment of Honorary Membership
11. resolution on the semester fee
12. resolution on the dissolution of the Association
13. resolutions on changes of Association's name.

§15 Adoption of Resolutions by the General Assembly

- (1) The General Assembly shall have a quorum irrespective of the number of members present.
- (2) Every Full Member of the Association is entitled to submit a motion. Each Full Member present at the general meeting has one vote. Resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority of votes, unless otherwise required by law or the Statutes. As a rule, resolutions are passed by open vote, but can be passed by a secret vote upon request.
- (3) The election of the members of the Executive Board shall be by secret vote.
- (4) Before the opening of the election, the candidates shall be given the opportunity to present themselves personally.
- (5) The President, the Treasurer, and the Secretary are elected in individual election rounds. The candidate who receives more than half of the valid votes shall be considered elected. If none of the candidates obtain an absolute majority, a run-off election occurs between the two candidates with the two highest votes. The candidate with the majority of the votes shall be elected in the run-off election. In the event of a tie after the run-off election, the election shall be decided by lot.
- (6) For the election of up to three further members of the Executive Board, the following rules shall apply:
 - a. The number of votes is limited to the number of open positions. Each full member may only cast one vote per candidate.
 - b. If the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of open positions, each candidate requires at least 50% of the votes to be elected.

- c. If the number of candidates is twice as high as the number of open positions or more, each candidate requires at least 25% of the votes to be elected.
- d. In all other cases, each candidate requires the percentage of possible votes equal to or greater than half of the number of open positions divided by the number of candidates.

§16 Minutes

Minutes shall be taken of all general Assemblies and shall be signed by the President and the Secretary.

§17 Amendments to the Statutes

- (1) Amendments to the Statutes may only be adopted by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the voting members present.
- (2) Proposed amendments to the Statutes must be submitted in text form to the Executive board at least four days before General Assembly.
- (3) Proposed amendments to the Statutes must be sent in text form to all members of Association by the Executive Board at least two days before the General Assembly.

§18 Reimbursement of Expenses for Delegates and Envoys

- (1) Expenses incurred by the delegates of AEGEE-Mannheim when attending General Assemblies of AEGEE-Europe (Agorae) may be reimbursed under certain conditions.
 - a) Reimbursement of expenses must be requested from the Executive Board prior to the trip, stating the costs that are likely to be incurred.
 - b) The receipts for the reimbursement of costs must be submitted to the Treasurer within two weeks after the end of the event.
- (2) The amount of the reimbursement shall be based on the following criteria:
 - a) Expenses for participation fees and travel expenses may be reimbursed.
 - b) A maximum of EUR 200,- shall be distributed per event, irrespective of the number of applicants.
 - c) 25% of the expenses shall be reimbursed to each delegate. If only one delegate of AEGEE-Mannheim participates, they may be reimbursed 50 % of the expenses.

- (3) The Executive Board shall decide on the reimbursement within the framework of the aforementioned guidelines with a simple majority. The Executive Board may refuse to reimburse expenses with appropriate justification. The General Assembly may overrule these decisions at the request of the person(s) concerned.
- (4) If the Executive Board sends delegates to other events, in particular EPMs (European Planning Meetings) or network meetings, reimbursement of expenses may also be granted. Participation in this event must be of extraordinary interest to AEGEE-Mannheim and must be justified by the applicant in text form.
- (5) In view of the financial situation of the association, care must be taken to use the instrument of cost reimbursement sparingly. No more than 40 % of the annual income from membership fees shall be distributed for reimbursement of costs.

§19 Dissolution of the Association

After termination of the Convention d'Adhésion, the Association shall be dissolved. For the dissolution of the Association a majority of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members present is needed. A dissolution for the purpose of incorporation into the AEGEE Association at the European level shall only require a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority. In these cases an invitation period of one month shall apply. In the event of the dissolution of Association or in the event of the discontinuation of its previous purpose, the assets of the Association shall, with the prior consent of the tax authorities, be transferred to AEGEE-Europe or other entity, which shall use them directly and exclusively for purposes of European unification in the sense of these statutes.

§20 Changes of Formalities

The Executive Board shall be authorised to change these Statutes at any time and without the decision of General Assembly with regard to spelling, grammatical errors, and formatting, if the need for these changes is clear. The Executive Board shall keep a register of these changes, which is available to any member upon request. In addition, the Executive Board is authorised to make changes to the Statutes without a resolution of the General Assembly, if they become necessary because of motions by the court of registration or the tax office.

§21 Severability Clause

- (1) Should individual provisions of these bylaws be or become legally ineffective, the validity of all other provisions shall remain unaffected.

- (2) **A legally ineffective provision shall be replaced by the General Assembly with a legally effective provision that which in its effect corresponds as far as possible to the meaning of the original provision.**