



Association of Former Staff of the European Union - *UK Branch*



CONSTITUTION

1. DEFINITIONS

In this document:

"AIACE" means "the Association Internationale des Anciens de l'Union européen" established in Belgium and currently located at 200 Rue de la Lai, 1049 Brussels and having branches in individual countries.

"The Branch" means the United Kingdom Branch of AIACE established in London at the premises for the time being of the European Commission's Representation.

"The institutions" means the Institutions of the European Union and each of them, and includes other organisations, agencies and bodies established by the European Union.

2. NAME

The name of the Branch shall be "The United Kingdom Branch of the International Association of Former Staff of the European Union".

3. STATUS

The Branch is an autonomous association established in accordance with the Articles of Association of AIACE.

4. LAW

This Constitution shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of England.

5. AIMS AND OBJECTS

The purposes of the Branch shall be:

- a. to promote the objects of AIACE and of its members as set out in its Articles of Association.
- b. to co-operate with corresponding associations in the other Member States of the European Union in promoting the objects of AIACE.

6. MEMBERSHIP

Any person who has served with one of the institutions or other organisations, agencies or bodies of the European Union as his or her main occupation may, after ceasing such activity,

become a member of AIACE by joining this Branch, whether or not they live in the UK. A surviving spouse or legal partner of a deceased member of AIACE or of a member of staff of the European Union who dies while in service may join the Branch with the same status.

The Committee may decide to admit as a member any other person who has rendered noteworthy service to the European cause and who has worked, other than his or her main occupation, with one of the Institutions or one of the bodies of the European Union.

It is possible to be a member of more than one Branch.

7. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Application for membership shall be dealt in accordance with this Constitution, supervised by the Committee of the Branch. In the event of any dispute relating to eligibility for membership an appeal against the decision of the Branch shall lie with the Board of Management of AIACE.

8. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

The annual subscription of members of the Branch (which includes the individual annual membership fee paid by the Branch to AIACE) shall be determined by a General Meeting of the Branch on the basis of a proposal by the Committee.

The financial liability of each member shall be strictly limited to the amount of his or her outstanding subscription which is due and payable.

9. CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall cease on death or resignation from the Branch. A member who after due notice fails in two successive years to pay an annual subscription shall be deemed to have resigned.

Members who leave the Branch for whatever reason and the heirs and successors of deceased members shall enjoy no rights in respect of the Branch's capital. They may not demand repayment of subscriptions paid by them or by the deceased member.

A member whose behaviour is incompatible with his or her standing as a member of the Branch and of AIACE may be expelled by the Committee after a hearing by the Committee at which such member shall have been given an opportunity to answer any allegations made against him or her. Any member expelled by the Committee under this Article shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Management of AIACE.

10. MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the first six months of each year (this constitutes the Assembly provided for in article 34 of the AIACE Articles of Association).

The quorum shall be 5% of the membership.

Other General Meetings may be arranged.

At least four weeks' notice of any General Meeting shall be given, stating the agenda for the meeting.

A General Meeting shall be held if a minimum of 5% of members express this wish and propose a motion for decision by sending a written request to the Secretary. The Chairman shall give notice of the meeting within two weeks of receipt by the Secretary of such a request; the notice shall be accompanied by the agenda for the meeting which shall also contain the proposed motion for decision. The meeting shall be held within eight weeks of receipt by the Secretary of the request.

At the Annual General Meeting, the Committee shall present a report on the activities of the Branch, and on the independently examined finances of the Branch.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION

Notice in writing of any resolution to be proposed at any meeting other than a meeting called in accordance with Article 10 shall be given to the Secretary at least six weeks before the date of the meeting. Notice of any resolution to be proposed by the Committee shall be given in the agenda for the meeting at which it is to be proposed; this agenda shall be circulated to members at least four weeks prior to the date of the meeting, accompanied so far as possible by the related papers.

12. VOTING AT MEETINGS

Voting on any resolution at a meeting of members shall be by a show of hands.

A resolution shall be deemed to have been carried by the votes of a simple majority of members present and voting. In the event of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have an additional or casting vote.

Prior to any such vote a member may propose that the subject of any resolution on the agenda for the meeting is of sufficient importance to warrant a postal ballot of the membership. Any such proposal, duly seconded, shall be put to the meeting by the Chairman. If the motion is carried a postal ballot shall be substituted for a vote of the members at the meeting. A resolution put to a postal vote shall be deemed to have been carried by a simple majority of members voting.

13. AMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION

Notice of a motion to amend this Constitution shall be given in accordance with Article 11. The adoption of any such motion shall require the votes of at least two-thirds of members present and voting.

14. THE COMMITTEE

The Committee constitutes the management body provided for in article 34 of the AIACE Articles of Association.

The Committee shall consist of not more than twelve members elected by the Annual General Meeting.

15. NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the election of members of the Committee shall be made in writing by the proposer and be signed by the candidate (a form for this purpose will be sent out; the Secretary may accept valid nominations made in other ways). Nominations must be received by the Secretary not less than two weeks prior to the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting.

In the event of a contested election the members of the Committee shall be elected by a secret ballot of members present at the AGM.

The members of the Committee shall serve until the next date for the election of the Committee.

The Committee may co-opt other members of the Branch. Co-opted members shall hold office until the next date for the election of a Committee.

16. OFFICERS OF THE BRANCH

The Committee shall appoint from among its members a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Other tasks may also be assumed by individual members of the Committee. These offices will be held for a year, and decided by the Committee each year at its first meeting following the AGM.

17. PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee may determine its own rules for the conduct of its meetings including fixing a quorum.

The Committee may establish such sub-committees or working groups as it considers necessary.

18. NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE AIACE

The Committee nominates two members and two alternate members to represent the Branch at meetings of the AIACE Board of Management. (The AIACE AGM is required to confirm each year the nominations made by its Branches.)

19. HONORARY PRESIDENT

A General Meeting of the members may elect one or more Honorary President(s) from among those who have held high office in the institutions of the European Union, who shall hold office for life or until resignation.

20. REGIONAL OR LOCAL GROUPS

The Committee may encourage the formation of regional or local groups of Branch members, to hold such extra meetings or other activities as they may decide.

Members may take part in the activities of more than one group.

These groups will have a coordinator or convener of their choice.

The Committee will give such support to the groups as may be needed. In principle, any costs incurred for the activities of the groups will be paid for by the members who take part in them. The Committee may provide administrative as well as other help.

21. EXPENSES

While no pay may be given to members who offer services to the Branch, any member who incurs travel and accommodation costs to further the work of the Branch may be reimbursed; requests are approved by the Treasurer who consults the Chair if needed.

22. DISSOLUTION OF THE BRANCH

In the event of the dissolution of the Branch a General Meeting shall appoint one or more liquidators and instruct them on how the assets, after paying all debts, shall be disposed of.