

EUROSOLAR

The European Renewable Energy Association

Statutes

Preamble

The objective of the European Renewable Energy Association EUROSOLAR is to advance the solar energy era: an epochal task to secure for humanity socially and environmentally acceptable forms of energy. EUROSOLAR sees it as our ethical responsibility to strive for the preservation and regeneration of the natural basis of life on earth, and not endanger the environment with the consequences of nuclear provision and the burning of fossil fuels.

Article 1

Name and Seat

EUROSOLAR is located provisionally in Bonn. Its aims and objectives are exclusively and directly of public utility as defined in the relevant sections on tax exemption in the Federal German taxation legislation. The Association is to be registered as such. As soon as European legislation to cover societies and private charities has been passed, EUROSOLAR will be governed by European law.

Article 2

Objectives

1. The European Renewable Energy Association EUROSOLAR works for the replacement of traditional forms of energy provision, both large and small scale, by renewable energy sources such as sun, wind, biomass, and water - as well as hydrogen, produced by solar energy.

All forms of energy provision are of relevance, from solar heat to solar-generated electricity and fuels, according to the guidelines which are an integral part of the constitution. However, only those sources of energy will be promoted whose use leads neither to impairment of their renewability nor of the environment.

Further, the Association promotes the rational use of energy, and its conservation, as a means to help to speed the way to the solar energy era.

2. The Association has in particular a role to play in encouraging work in the areas of information, education and scientific investigation on the potential - political, technological and economic - for the introduction of solar energy.

The aims and objectives of the Association shall be advanced through:

- the organisation of conferences, workshops, seminars and exhibitions;
- the setting-up of specialist working groups;
- the publication of documents and information;
- the granting of research contracts.

3. The Association considers that the industrialised societies have a particular responsibility for the introduction of the solar energy era world-wide. It sees here a central contribution towards a peaceful reconciliation between North and South.

4. The Association intends therefore to advance the goals of the solar energy era at an international level, but principally within Europe. Ideally it supports national societies and professional bodies actively involved in the promotion of solar energies and the representation of solar energies vis-à-vis international political institutions.

5. The Association has no political affiliation and is supranational within Europe. It is interested in the welfare of others and does not operate for economic gain.

Article 3

Membership

1. Membership is open to:

- individuals over the age of 18;
- enterprises;
- scientific institutions;
- public bodies;
- societies of public utility and other legal entities;
- registered national and international societies concerned with renewable energies who follow the same aims and objectives (as in Article 2) and who, through their membership in EURO-SOLAR, enjoy special status.

Membership is open to all those, of whatever nationality, who support the aims and objectives of the Association. Legal entities shall appoint a delegate to represent them. All members enjoy voting rights.

2. Applications for membership shall be submitted to the Board for consideration. If a majority of the Board is opposed to an application, the final decision shall be taken either by a postal vote of the membership or at a general meeting.

3. Membership ends by

- a written notice of resignation;
- an exclusion, if a remaining is running counter to the objectives of the Association. The board decides on an exclusion, the final decision shall be taken at a general meeting.

Article 4

The Organs of the Association

The organs of the European Association shall be:

- the European Delegates' Assembly;
- the Board;
- the Trustees;
- the national sections or the national societies bearing the status of sections.

Article 5

The European Delegates' Assembly

The European Delegates' Assembly is authorized, as primary functionary, to pass fundamental resolutions. Its relation to the Board is in a directive capacity.

It is composed of delegates from the national sections or from such national corporations which, at the same time, fulfill the role of a national section of EUROSOLAR.

1. Each section, or corporation recognised as a national section, is granted 4 fundamental mandates. From 100 members onwards and for every extra 1000 members, one further delegate is allotted to the section. The members of EUROSOLAR from countries where there is neither a national section nor a corporation fulfilling the role of a national section of EUROSOLAR, will be equated with a section.
2. The European Delegates' Assembly must sit at least once a year. Invitations must be sent by the Board of Directors to the national sections of the delegates respectively at least 3 months in advance.
3. Following a proposal by the national sections, together representing 25% of the delegates, the Board of Directors is obliged to either, call a special meeting or treat the proposed theme at an imminent meeting.
4. The President of the Association signs the minutes containing the resolutions passed by the Delegates' Assembly.
5. The Delegates' Assembly is authorized to:
 - 1 - lay down and alter the statutes;
 - 2 - vote for the President and the four Vice-presidents. The voting-candidates must be members of four different sections;
 - 3 - audit the company report;
 - 4 - assist the Board of Directors;
 - 5 - pass resolutions with regard to working-programmes.

Article 6

The Board

1. The Board shall be responsible for all decisions other than those which the Delegates' Assembly itself resolves to determine. According to the BGB (German Civil Law), the Board consists of the President and the Vice-Presidents. Each of them is authorized to represent the Board.
2. The members of the Board shall be:
 - the President;
 - at least four Vice-Presidents;
 - the treasurer;
 - an elected representative of each section or of a national association for solar energy realizing the role of a national EUROSOLAR section;
 - an elected representative of each European technical professional body which is a member of EUROSOLAR. The President and the Vice-Presidents must carry out their offices on a voluntary basis.
3. The President, the Vice-Presidents and the treasurer shall be elected for a period of four years. The election of the President shall take place separately. In the first round of the election, an absolute majority of the delegates present is required for election. If requested, voting must be conducted by secret ballot.
4. The Board of Directors is comprised of the President and the four Vice-Presidents.
5. The Board may, where necessary, employ professional committees within limited areas determined by the duties. It nominates the members of the professional committees.
6. The Board appoints the management and submits itself to standing orders. At the same time, it is the Board's duty to lay down the standing orders for the management.

Article 7

National Sections

1. On a national level, EUROSOLAR may be constituted in national sections according to the respective national law on societies. Members of national sections are at the same time members of the overall organisation. National solar-energy associations can at the same time adopt the role of EUROSOLAR, rather, the national association is a corporate member. Each country may have only one solar-energy association fulfilling the role of a national section. An application of recognition must be made by the national association to the Board, who decides in the final instance. In the countries in which a national section is recognised, EUROSOLAR forgoes establishing its independent EUROSOLAR-section.
2. A national section may be constituted according to the national law on societies. They shall levy their membership fees and receive donations independently. The expenditure of EUROSOLAR concerning the national sections is to be sent to these sections in the form of extra bills.

3. Not later than one year after the foundation, the national section shall elect a section board according to the section's constitution. Regulations on EUROSOLAR membership according to Article 3 pass to the section board.

4. The Board decides whether a national section shall be recognised under the name of EUROSOLAR. Prerequisites for the recognition of a national section are the inclusion of the preamble and Article 2 in its constitution and the regulation that each member of a national section is a member of the Association.

Article 8

Regional Groups

1. Within the framework of EUROSOLAR, regional branches, which consist of members living in that region, may be set up.

2. Every regional group will be represented by a regional delegate.

3. The Board of a national section decides as to the recognition of a regional group.

Article 9

The Management

The Board shall appoint a Managing Director. Neither the Chairman nor the Deputy-Chairman may be Managing Director. The powers and duties of the Managing Director shall be determined in detail by the Board.

Article 10

The Trustees

The Board shall appoint the Trustees. These are persons who advise the Board and who support the Association in particular ways. The Chairman of the Trustees shall be appointed by the Board. National sections shall select their own Trustees.

Article 11

Languages and Agreements

The official language for congresses, the Board, the Management and the minutes is English. A national section grants permission for activities and events in its own country.

Article 12

Accounts

1. The annual accounts and the annual budget shall be submitted to the delegates. The financial year shall be the calendar year.
2. The Delegates Assembly shall appoint two auditors to audit the accounts. The auditors may submit their report for approval by ballot by means of proposed motion to assist the Board.
3. The expenditure of the Association shall be met by membership contributions and by donations. The expenditure is determined by the Board of the national section.
4. Expenditure shall be in accord with the Association's constitution. No person may benefit from expenditure which is not in accordance with the aims of the Association, nor from disproportionate remuneration.

Article 13

Dissolution

1. The Association may only be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of the members by means of postal voting. The members must be given at least 6 weeks written notice of the proposed motion.
2. In the event of dissolution of the Association, or in the event of an annulment of the Associations' objectives, its assets shall be transferred to a public body or other organisation of public utility to be used, in accordance with Article 2, for scientific or educational purposes.

Article 14

Amendments to the Statutes

Amendments to the statutes require a two-thirds majority of those present at a Delegates' Assembly. They shall be included in the agenda of the Delegates' Assembly, of which due notice must be given. Delegates shall be notified of such proposed motions at the time of invitation to the Delegates' Assembly.