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**STATUTES (by-Laws) OF THE EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY**

**PREAMBLE**

Political Parties at European level contribute to forming European political awareness and to expressing the will of the citizens of the Union." (Article 10.4 of the Treaty on the European Union-Lisbon Treaty and Article 12.2 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union-the Charter).

On the basis

- of the Christian view of mankind and the Christian Democratic concept of society,
- of their joint will to create a federal European Union as a Union of free peoples and citizens conscious of their own responsibilities,

the Christian Democrat, Centrist and like-minded parties of the European People's Party as heirs of Europe's Founding Fathers accept these responsibilities and create an association. This association will be a member of the Christian /Centrist Democrat International (IDC-CDI), a worldwide organisation of Christian Democrats and like-minded political parties and the International Democrat Union (IDU), a worldwide organization of Conservative, Christian Democrat and like-minded political parties of the centre and centre right.

**I. NAME – ADDRESS – OBJECTIVES - DURATION**

**Article 1 NAME – LEGAL BASE - LOGO**

The association, an alliance of political parties at European level, is named "Parti populaire européen / Europese Volkspartij / Europäische Volkspartei / European People's Party", abbreviated as "PPE/EVP/EPP"). This name must always be preceded or followed by the words "parti politique européen/Europese politieke partij, European political party" or the abbreviation "PPEU/EUPP/EUPP".

The EPP pursues its aims, carries out its activities and is organized and financed in conformity with the conditions laid down in the Regulation (EU/EURATOM) N° 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and political foundations, as amended.

For the matters not regulated by the referred European Regulation the association is governed by the Belgian Code of Companies and Associations (hereinafter the "CCA").

The EPP does not pursue profit goals.

The logo of the association is defined in annex 1 to the by-laws.

**Article 2 ADDRESS**

The registered office of the association is established at Rue du Commerce 10, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.

The Presidency is authorized to transfer the registered office of the association to another location within this Region and to establish other offices and/or subsidiaries within or outside this judicial district.

**Article 3 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of the association is to:

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- promote and foster close and ongoing collaboration among its members for the purpose of implementing their common policy at European level;
- encourage and organise unanimous action by its members at European level;
- work (i) to achieve free and pluralistic democracy, (ii) for respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law on the basis of a common programme promote the process of unification and federal integration in Europe as a constituent element of the European Union.

In order to realize this purpose and in order to establish, develop, implement and promote its policies, the association organizes several discussion and decision forums, major events and fact finding missions according to strict democratic principles and issues publications of all sorts.

The association is also authorised to execute all legal instruments (including real estate transactions) directly or indirectly useful or necessary for the promotion and achievement of the above-mentioned aims.

Through their national policies the member parties of the association support positions taken by the association in the context of the European Union. In the context of national responsibilities, they shall maintain their own name, their identity and their freedom of action. The association is represented in the European Parliament by the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) (Group of the EPP in the European Parliament).

Member parties oblige parliamentarians elected to the European Parliament on their list, and/or sent to the like-minded or associated Groups at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European committee of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST, to join the EPP Groups therein.

#### Article 4 DURATION

The association is incorporated for an indefinite duration.

## **II. MEMBERSHIP**

#### Article 5 MEMBERS WITH VOTING RIGHTS

The number of members is unlimited, but may not be less than two. Requests for membership shall be submitted to the President and Secretary General in writing. They shall comprise a statement on the adoption of the Political programme, the EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics, as well as the by-laws and the internal regulations of the association, in addition to a copy of the by-laws and programme in its original language and in English of the applicant party. The EPP President and Secretary General should be notified in writing of any change in the by-laws of any member. The Presidency will transmit the application for membership to the Political Assembly following the recommendation of the Working Group EPP Membership.

Without prejudice to article 5 *bis* and subject to what follows, the Political Assembly is authorised to grant, at its own discretion, the applicant one of the following member status in the EPP: (1) Ordinary Member Party, (2) Associated Member Party, (3) Member Association or (4) Individual Member (as defined here below).

##### (1) Ordinary Member Parties

The member status of Ordinary Member Party can be granted to any Christian Democrat or like-minded party, based in the European Union, which subscribes to the association's political

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110 programme and the EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics, and which accepts the  
111 association's by-laws and internal regulations.

#### 112 (2) Associated Member Parties

113  
114 The member status of Associated Member Party can be granted to any political party of Christian  
115 Democrat or like-minded orientation, based outside the European Union, from states whose  
116 applications for membership of the European Union have been introduced and / or states  
117 belonging to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which subscribes to the objectives  
118 referred to in article 3 of the by-laws and to the association's political programme and EPP Code  
119 of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics, and which accepts the association's by-laws and  
120 internal regulations. Associated Member Parties, or their representatives within the organs and  
121 bodies of the association, shall not participate in decisions involving the policies and structure of  
122 the European Union nor of its institutional system. If the state in which the Associated Member  
123 Party is established effectively becomes a member of the European Union, such Associated  
124 Member Party shall automatically become an Ordinary Member Party as from the date of the  
125 adherence of such state to the European Union.  
126

#### 127 (3) Member Associations

128  
129 The member status of Member Association can be granted to any Member Association within the  
130 meaning of article 26 of the by-laws and section VIII of the internal regulations and which  
131 subscribes to the association's political programme and EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical  
132 Behaviour in Politics and accepts the association's by-laws and internal regulations.  
133

134 The member status of Member Association has been granted to the following associations:

- 135 - European Democrat Students (EDS)
- 136 - European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW)
- 137 - Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP)
- 138 - Small and Medium Entrepreneurs of Europe (SME EUROPE)
- 139 - EPP Women (EPPW)
- 140 - European Seniors Union (ESU)

141 The way in which these Member Associations are integrated in the association is further  
142 described in article VIII of the Internal Regulations.  
143

#### 144 (4) Individual Members

145  
146 In addition, all members of the EPP Group in the European Parliament elected on a list of a  
147 member party are also members ex officio of the association (hereinafter referred to as  
148 "Individual Members"). Other members of the European Parliament can become Individual  
149 Members of the association by decision of the Political Assembly on the proposal of the  
150 Presidency of the association. The speaking and voting rights of the Individual Members within  
151 the organs of the association are personal and inalienable.  
152

153 If a candidate for membership in the association is a legal person within the meaning of the law  
154 applicable to it, it must name in its application for membership a natural person who will  
155 represent it in the association. The same provision applies if the candidate does not have legal  
156 personality under the law applicable to it. It shall then designate a natural person who will act  
157 on behalf of all members of the candidate member without legal personality, as its  
158 representative. In case of a change of representation, the President of the association is  
159 immediately informed in writing.  
160

#### 161 Article 5 bis MEMBERS WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS

162 Without prejudice to article 5 and subject to what follows, the Political Assembly is, on the  
163 proposal of the Presidency, authorised to grant, at its own discretion, the applicant one of the  
164  
165

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166 following member statuses without voting rights: (1) Observer Member Party, (2) EPP Partner  
167 or (3) Associated Entities (as defined here below).

168  
169 (1) Observer Member Parties

170  
171 The member status of Observer Member Party can be granted to parties close to the EPP, from  
172 (i) European Union Member States, (ii) states which have applied for European Union  
173 membership as well as from (iii) European states that are members of the Council of Europe,  
174 upon the condition of the adoption of the association's political programme and the EPP Code of  
175 Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics, and the acceptance of the association's by-laws and  
176 internal regulations.

177  
178 (2) EPP Partners:

179 The member status of EPP Partner can be granted to any political party outside the EU  
180 represented in an International Organization such as the Council of Europe, NATO, OSCE and /  
181 or Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), upon the condition that such party has a likeminded EPP  
182 orientation, accept the association's by-laws (including the objectives referred to in article 3 of  
183 the by-laws), internal regulations and political programme. Membership of the Centrist Democrat  
184 International (IDC-CDI) and/or International Democrat Union (IDU) is a positive criteria.

185 (3) Associated Entities

186 The member status of Associated Entity can be granted to any entity based in a European Union  
187 Member State or a third country whose activities and positions taken are in line with the EPP  
188 program and which subscribes to the association's political programme and EPP Code of Conduct  
189 on Ethical Behaviour in Politics and accepts the association's by-laws and internal regulations.

190  
191 The member status of Associated Entity has been granted to the Robert Schuman Institute and  
192 the Wilfried Martens Fund.

193  
194 The way in which the Robert Schuman Institute and the Wilfried Martens Fund are integrated in  
195 the association is further described in articles XIII and XIV of the Internal Regulations.

196

## 197 Article 6 COMPLIANCE WITH CODE OF CONDUCT

198 Every application for the member status of Ordinary Member party, Associated Member Party,  
199 Member Association, Observer Member Party, or Individual Member, who is not a member ex  
200 officio of the association, must include a written statement confirming that the applicant  
201 undertakes to comply with the values, principles and provisions set out in the association's EPP  
202 Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics as approved and amended from time to time in  
203 accordance with article 25 and 16 of the by-laws (hereinafter referred to as the "EPP Code of  
204 Conduct").

205 The EPP Ethics Committee shall draw up a procedure to be applied as part of the application  
206 process, with a view to verifying the compliance with the EPP Code of Conduct of any applicant,  
207 having confirmed its adherence to the EPP Code of Conduct in accordance with this article.

## 209 Article 7 MEMBERSHIP FEES AND MEMBERSHIP PUBLICATION

210  
211 Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member Associations, Observer Member  
212 Parties and EPP Partners individually pay annual dues of no more than 500.000 (five hundred  
213 thousand) euros. The amount of the dues is determined annually by the Political Assembly. Dues

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214 are payable within two weeks of having been set and communicated by the Political Assembly  
215 to the members.  
216

217 Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member Associations, Observer Member  
218 Parties publish the political programme and logo of the EPP on their websites, in a clearly visible  
219 and user-friendly manner, from the date on which the Political Assembly granted them member  
220 status and for the entire duration of their membership.  
221

#### 222 Article 8 REGISTER AND EXCLUSIVITY

223

224 The Presidency keeps a membership register at the registered office of the association. This  
225 register lists the surname, first name, place of residence, date and place of birth of members or,  
226 in the case of legal persons or de facto associations, the name, legal form, address of the  
227 registered office, identity of the representative and, where applicable, the registration number  
228 in accordance with existing legislation and/or regulations. All members may consult this register  
229 at the registered office of the association.  
230

231 The EPP membership is strictly exclusive. In no case may an EPP member as defined under  
232 Articles 5 and 5 bis under Section II of the by-laws also be a member of any other Political Party  
233 at European Level recognized under Regulation (EU/EURATOM) N° 1141/2014 of the European  
234 Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political  
235 parties and political foundations.  
236

237 A member of the EPP that is found to be also member of another Political Party at European  
238 Level will be automatically excluded according to Article IX, c. of the EPP Internal Regulations.  
239

#### 240 Article 9 RESIGNATION, SUSPENSION AND EXCLUSION

241

242 Any member may resign from the association at any time. The member gives notice to the  
243 Presidency of the decision to resign by written notification.  
244

245 Members that resign are obliged to fulfil their financial obligations toward the association for the  
246 year during which the resignation is submitted and for all previous years.  
247

248 The suspension and the exclusion of a member may only be decided by the Political Assembly.  
249 It is not obliged to disclose its reasons. A proposal for the exclusion or suspension of a member  
250 may only be submitted by the Presidency, or seven Ordinary or Associated Member Parties from  
251 five different countries. The Presidency invites the member concerned to the meeting of the  
252 Political Assembly and may hear the member concerned. The Political Assembly can take any  
253 action it deems appropriate against an Individual Member, who is not a member ex officio of the  
254 association. A proposal for the exclusion of an Individual Member who is a member ex officio of  
255 the association may only be submitted by the Presidency of the EPP Group in the European  
256 Parliament.  
257

258 If a Member Party is not any more a viable political force in its respective country and, in  
259 particular, has not been represented in regional or national or European Parliament(s) for two  
260 consecutive parliamentary terms, the EPP Presidency can recommend to the Political Assembly  
261 its suspension or exclusion, according to the procedures stated in the previous paragraph.  
262

263 If a member, other than an Individual Member who is a member ex officio of the association,  
264 does not comply with the EPP Code of Conduct, the Presidency can, upon recommendation of  
265 the EPP Ethics Committee, recommend to the Political Assembly the suspension or exclusion of  
266 that member, according to the procedures stated above. In this case, the Political Assembly shall  
267 investigate the alleged violations of the EPP Code of Conduct, invite the member concerned to a  
268 hearing and render a reasoned decision.  
269

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270 If a member, other than an Individual Member, does not continuously publish the political  
271 programme and logo of the EPP on its website in a clearly visible and user-friendly manner, the  
272 EPP Presidency can recommend to the Political Assembly its suspension or exclusion, according  
273 to the procedures stated above. In this case, the Political Assembly shall invite the member  
274 concerned to a hearing and render a reasoned decision.  
275

276 A member's affiliation ceases automatically upon death, disqualification, liquidation or in cases  
277 of temporary administration, court-ordered settlement or insolvency. The affiliation of an  
278 individual member ends automatically when this member is no longer a member of the European  
279 Parliament and the affiliation of a Member Association ends automatically when this member  
280 does no longer fulfil the criteria that were necessary for its preliminary recognition as a Member  
281 Association and which are set out in the internal regulations.  
282

283 Members that resigned or were excluded and the legal successors of such members or of  
284 deceased members have no claims on the assets of the association and may never be reimbursed  
285 for dues paid, contributions or any other payments made to the association, unless otherwise  
286 expressly provided for in the by-laws.  
287

288 In no case may a member that resigned or was excluded demand the communication of or a  
289 copy of the accounts, the placing of official seals on the property of the association or the drawing  
290 up of an inventory.  
291

#### 292 Article 9 (bis) STATEMENTS – MEMBERS LIST

293  
294 The EPP does not bear responsibility for statements issued on behalf of the EPP by members  
295 without prior approval of the EPP President.  
296

297 The list of member parties as defined in article 5 and 5 *bis* is defined in annex 2 to the by-laws.  
298  
299

### 300 **III. ORGANS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

#### 301 Article 10 ORGANS

302 The organs of the association are:

- 303  
304  
305 (i) The Presidency  
306 (ii) The Political Assembly  
307 (iii) The Congress.  
308  
309

310 The EPP strives towards equal participation of women and men in all its organs.  
311

### 312 **IV. PRESIDENCY**

#### 313 Article 11 COMPOSITION – ELECTION – INCOMPATIBILITIES – INVITEES – VOLONTARYTY – 314 REPLACEMENTS

315  
316  
317 The association is managed by the Presidency, the executive organ, within the meaning of article  
318 10:9 of the CCA. The Presidency is composed of:

**Approved by the EPP Congress May 31<sup>ST</sup> – June 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2022 in Rotterdam (The Netherlands)**

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- 319 (i) the President of the EPP;  
 320 (ii) the President of the European Commission, the President of the European Council,  
 321 the High Representative on Foreign and Security Policy, the President of the European  
 322 Parliament (to the extent that these persons are affiliated to the EPP);  
 323 (iii) the Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament  
 324 (iv) the President of the European Committee of the Regions to the extent that he/she is  
 325 affiliated to the EPP or the Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Committee of  
 326 the Regions only if the President of ECoR is not affiliated to the EPP;  
 327 (v) the Honorary President(s);  
 328 (vi) ten Vice-Presidents;  
 329 (vii) the Treasurer; and  
 330 (viii) the Secretary General.  
 331

332 Except for the Honorary President(s) who are elected by the Political Assembly, and for the  
 333 President of the European Commission, the President of the European Council, the High  
 334 Representative on Foreign and Security Policy, the President of the European Parliament, the  
 335 President of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament, who are *ex officio* members of the  
 336 Presidency, the members of the Presidency are elected by the Congress by secret ballot and by  
 337 separate vote, for a renewable term of three years.  
 338

339 The Congress elects first the President who, subsequently, proposes to the Congress a Secretary  
 340 General to be elected. Only representatives of Ordinary and Associated Member Parties are  
 341 eligible for these functions.  
 342

343 Candidates who obtain a simple majority of the valid votes cast are elected. Abstentions are not  
 344 considered valid votes. Prior to the Congress, a special voting regulation for the election of the  
 345 President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary General and Treasurer, will be approved by the Political  
 346 Assembly.  
 347

348 Candidates for the functions of President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer must be nominated, in  
 349 writing, to the Secretariat General, seven days prior to the date of the election. Presidents and  
 350 Secretaries General are entitled, on behalf of Ordinary and Associated Member Parties and on  
 351 behalf of Member Associations, to propose candidates provided that all candidates are member  
 352 of an Ordinary or Associated Member Party. All Ordinary and Associated Member Parties and all  
 353 Member Associations shall be informed of the names of the candidates not less than three days  
 354 prior to the elections.  
 355

356 The members of the Presidency may resign at any time, by giving notice to the Presidency of  
 357 the decision to resign by written notification. Their mandate is at any time revocable by the  
 358 Congress.  
 359

360 Ceasing to be a member of an Ordinary or Associated EPP Member Party also constitutes  
 361 simultaneous resignation from the EPP Presidency.  
 362

363 If a mandate falls vacant, the Political Assembly shall in accordance with the previous paragraphs  
 364 of this article, elect a replacement following a call for candidatures. At the following Congress,  
 365 confirmation of this election is requested and the Congress determines the duration of the term  
 366 of office. Members of the Presidency may be re-elected.  
 367

368 Members of the Presidency whose terms of office are coming to an end must, before expiry of  
 369 the term, call a Congress for the purpose of electing new members of the Presidency. If they fail  
 370 to do so, they are obliged to remain in office until such time as a replacement can be found,  
 371 without prejudice to their responsibility for any damage caused by their omission.  
 372

373 On the proposal of the President, and in accordance with the requirements of the agenda, the  
 374 following persons may be invited to attend meetings of the Presidency:

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- 375 - members of the European Commission who are member of a Member Party;  
376 - The President and/or the President of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the  
377 Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European committee of the  
378 regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST.  
379

380 The following persons are permanently invited:

- 381 (1) the Deputy Secretary(ies)-General of the EPP;  
382 (2) The Secretary-General of the EPP Group in the European Parliament.  
383

384 The EPP President and/or Secretary General can attend, at will, any meetings of any organs of  
385 EPP Groups and Associations.  
386

387 The members of the Presidency are not remunerated for the exercise of their mandate, unless  
388 decided otherwise by the Political Assembly.  
389

390 In case the President would be prevented to fulfil his powers, as attributed to him by these by-  
391 laws and the internal regulations, he will delegate one of the Vice-Presidents as his  
392 representative.  
393

#### 394 Article 12 POWERS – RESPONSIBILITIES

395

396 The Presidency has the powers attributed to it by the law, these by-laws and the Internal  
397 Regulations. Its competences consist inter alia of:

- 398
- 399 - ensuring the implementation of decisions taken by the Political Assembly;
  - 400 - preparing the annual accounts and budget;
  - 401 - ensuring the permanent political presence of the EPP;
  - 402 - monitoring the work of the General Secretariat, and more in particular the budget  
403 management;
  - 404 - issuing statements on behalf of the EPP in the framework of its political program further  
405 to a decision of the Political Assembly;
  - 406 - proposing candidates for the function of Deputy Secretary(ies) General to the Political  
407 Assembly in agreement with the Secretary General;
  - 408 - proposing candidates for nomination as Honorary President to the Political Assembly;
  - 409 - ensuring the coherence of membership policies between the EPP and EPP Groups in  
410 international organisations, institutions, bodies and assemblies;
  - 411 - adopting internal regulations for matters that fall within the scope of its competences;
  - 412 - implementing the recommendations of the EPP Ethics Committee and formulating  
413 proposals to the Political Assembly as to the further implementation by the Political  
414 Assembly of these recommendations.  
415

#### 416 Article 13 MEETINGS

417

418 The members of the Presidency shall meet at least eight times annually, upon convocation by  
419 the President, by letter, fax or email at the latest two weeks in advance, unless in case of  
420 urgency. The meetings take place on the day and at the time and place stated in the convocation  
421 notice. The notice also contains the agenda, which is fixed by the President. The Presidency may  
422 only debate on the items on the agenda, unless all the members are present and unanimously  
423 agree to deliberate and to approve the agenda set at that time.  
424

425 The Presidency shall validly deliberate if a majority of its members are present.  
426

427 In case of failure to achieve this quorum, a second meeting shall be convened with the same  
428 agenda, which can validly deliberate, regardless of the attendance quorum.  
429



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430 Decisions shall be taken with a simple majority of the votes cast by the members of the  
431 Presidency present. All members of the Presidency shall have one vote. In case of a tie, the  
432 President has the casting vote. Abstentions and blank votes are not considered valid votes.  
433

434 The meetings are chaired by the President.  
435

436 The Secretary General or a Deputy Secretary General shall draw up the minutes of the meetings,  
437 which shall be kept at the registered office of the association.  
438

439 Membership of the Presidency is strictly personal, meaning that a representative of a member  
440 of the Presidency will not be admitted to meetings. The mandate of the elected members of the  
441 Presidency will automatically expire if, during the course of the year, a member has not  
442 participated in at least half of the meetings.  
443

444 On the proposal of the President, the Presidency may share work between its members or  
445 mandate certain members for specific tasks and delegate specific powers to one or more of its  
446 members.  
447

#### 448 Article 14 DECISION MAKING PROCESS 449

450 If the President considers it advisable, the Presidency may approve a proposal by having all  
451 members of the Presidency sign for approval a circular setting out the proposal.  
452

453 In this case, the Presidency is not required to call a meeting. The circular must include the  
454 following information:  
455

- 456 - a statement that the text is a proposal for a decision of the Presidency;
- 457 - a statement that the decision shall only be approved if signed by all the members of the  
458 Presidency;
- 459 - a statement that the decision may not be amended and that no reservations may be  
460 expressed by members of the Presidency;
- 461 - a statement that all the members of the Presidency must return the document signed  
462 and with the handwritten words "read and approved";
- 463 - a statement that the signed circular must be returned within ten days to the association.  
464

465 The meetings of the Presidency may also be organized by video- or teleconference or any other  
466 means of telecommunication, as long as all participants are able to express themselves and are  
467 intelligible to all other participants.  
468

## 469 **V. POLITICAL ASSEMBLY**

### 470 Article 15 DEFINITION – COMPOSITION 471

472 The Political Assembly is the strategic organ and the general assembly, within the meaning of  
473 article 10:5 of the CCA, of the association.  
474

475 It is composed of:  
476

477 a. members *ex officio*:  
478

- 480 - members of the Presidency;
- 481 - members of the Presidency of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament;
- 482 - Presidents of Ordinary or Associated Member Parties, Member Associations or their  
483 mandated representatives;
- 484 - Presidents of national delegations of member parties of the Group of the EPP in the  
485 European Parliament;

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- 486 - Members of the Presidency of the European Parliament, members of the European  
487 Commission and the President or the first Vice-President of the European Committee of  
488 the Regions, provided they belong to an Ordinary Member Party;  
489 - Presidents of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies  
490 of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European committee of the regions, Union for the  
491 Mediterranean and EURONEST, provided that they are member of an Ordinary Member  
492 Party or Associate Member Party.  
493

494 The mandate of these members of the Political Assembly ends when they lose the capacity in  
495 which they became member of the Political Assembly.  
496

497 b. delegated members:

- 498 - Representatives of Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties.  
499 - The Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties shall nominate their  
500 delegates together with an equivalent number of substitutes.  
501     o The delegates and voting rights of Ordinary Member Parties are assigned  
502 proportionally to the number of Individual Members of the association;  
503     o The delegates and voting rights of the Associated Member Parties are assigned by  
504 the Presidency.  
505 - Representatives (three) of the EPP Group in the European Committee of the Regions.  
506

507 The mandate of these members of the Political Assembly ends when the delegation by which  
508 they became member of the Political Assembly comes to an end. The composition of the Political  
509 Assembly is calculated by the Secretary General twice in a legislature of the European Parliament  
510 (i): at the beginning and (ii) half-way through the European parliament legislature (any delay in  
511 these calculations is limited to a maximum of six months). This calculation must be approved by  
512 the Political Assembly.  
513

514 c. non voting members

- 515  
516 - The deputy Secretary(ies) General of the Association;  
517 - The Secretary General of the EPP Group in the European Parliament, and the equivalent  
518 EPP Secretaries General of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the  
519 Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European committee of  
520 the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST;  
521 - Two representatives of each Observer Member Party;  
522 - One representative of each EPP Partner and each Associated Entity.  
523

524 On the proposal of the President, the Political Assembly may invite certain personalities to give  
525 advice.  
526

## 527 Article 16 POWERS – RESPONSIBILITIES

528  
529 The Political Assembly has the powers attributed to it by the law, these by-laws and the Internal  
530 Regulations. Its competences consist inter alia of:

- 531  
532 - ensuring unity of action by the EPP and influencing the achievement of European policy  
533 in the spirit of its program;  
534 - electing the Deputy Secretary(ies) General on the proposal of the Presidency;  
535 - stimulating and organizing systematic relations between national parliamentary groups  
536 and member parties in agreement with the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament;  
537 - adopting the annual accounts and the budget;  
538 - electing two Internal Auditors in accordance with article 24 of the by-laws;  
539 - deciding on the applications for membership as well as on the recognition of Member  
540 Associations;

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- 541 - deciding on the suspension and exclusion of members and revoking the recognition of  
 542 Member Associations;  
 543 -  
 544 - deciding on the amount of annual dues to be paid by the members;  
 545 - formulating recommendations to the Congress as to modifications of the by-laws;  
 546 - adopting the Internal Regulations;  
 547 - electing the Honorary President(s) on the proposal of the Presidency;  
 548 - accepting candidature(s) of EPP candidate(s) for President of the EU Commission;  
 549 - deciding on changes to annex 1 to the by-laws on the logo and annex 2 to the by-laws  
 550 on the list of member parties;  
 551 - appointing five members of the EPP Ethics Committee and electing its president;  
 552 - approving the EPP Code of Conduct and any amendments thereof, upon the proposal of  
 553 the EPP Ethics Committee;  
 554 - approving the internal regulations of the EPP Ethics Committee, and any amendments  
 555 thereof, upon the proposal of the EPP Ethics Committee;  
 556 - implementing the recommendations of the EPP Ethics Committee upon the proposal of  
 557 the Presidency;  
 558 - reporting to its members on the compliance by the EPP members with the EPP Code of  
 559 Conduct.  
 560

561 The Political Assembly may establish standing commissions and ad hoc working groups to study  
 562 specific problems, and decide to dissolve them after having heard the president of the  
 563 commission or working group.  
 564

#### 565 Article 17 MEETINGS - DECISION MAKING PROCESS

566  
 567 On the invitation of the President, the Political Assembly meets at least four times annually,  
 568 whenever the object or the interest of the association so requires; an extraordinary meeting can  
 569 be held at the request of either one-third of the Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member  
 570 Parties, or of the Presidency of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament.  
 571

572 The Political Assembly shall validly deliberate if it is convened regularly, i.e. by letter, fax or  
 573 email at the latest two weeks in advance, unless in case of urgency, and if a simple majority of  
 574 its members are present. Failure to achieve this quorum can only be established on the basis of  
 575 a formal motion, introduced during the meeting itself of the Political Assembly. A formal motion,  
 576 preventing valid deliberation of the Political Assembly, may be introduced by at least seven  
 577 Ordinary Member Parties or Associated Member Parties from five different countries. If a formal  
 578 motion has not been introduced, the Political Assembly can validly deliberate, regardless of the  
 579 fact the attendance quorum has not been reached. If a formal motion has been introduced, and  
 580 the Political Assembly is thus unable to make a valid deliberation, the President shall convene a  
 581 second meeting with the same agenda, within at least two weeks and at most two months after  
 582 the introduction of the formal motion, which can validly deliberate, regardless of the attendance  
 583 quorum.  
 584

585 The convocation notice sets out the agenda. Meetings are held at the registered office of the  
 586 association or at the place stated in the notice of the meeting. The Political Assembly can be  
 587 held either physically or remotely, via video or telephone conference or any other means of  
 588 telecommunication, as long as all participants are able to express themselves and are intelligible  
 589 to all other participants (without prejudice to the specific provisions of applicable law, if any). In  
 590 a case of urgency, that needs to be dealt with immediately at the political assembly, the deadline  
 591 to list this topic on the agenda ends 3 days prior to the scheduled beginning of the political  
 592 assembly. All members of the political assembly must immediately be informed about the  
 593 addition on the agenda.  
 594

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595 All decisions shall be taken by simple majority of the votes cast by the members of the Political  
596 Assembly present. In case of a tie, the President has the casting vote. Abstentions and blank  
597 votes are not considered valid votes

598  
599 The meetings are chaired by the President.

600  
601 The Secretary General or a Deputy Secretary General shall draw up the minutes of the meetings,  
602 which shall be kept at the registered office of the association. All members will receive copies of  
603 these minutes within four weeks of each meeting.

604  
605 The Political Assembly normally meets "in camera". On the request of the Presidency or of one  
606 tenth of the delegates, the Political Assembly may decide to admit the public to the meeting.

607

608

## 609 **VI. CONGRESS**

610

### 611 **Article 18 DEFINITION - POWERS**

612

613 The Congress has the following competences:

614

- 615 - deciding on the political program of the EPP;
- 616 - deciding on modifications of the by-laws;
- 617 - electing the President, Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General and the Treasurer;
- 618 - deciding on the dissolution of the association;
- 619 - electing the EPP candidate for President of the EU Commission.

620

621 The composition and the functioning of the Congress are regulated in the Internal Regulations.

622

## 623 **VII. SECRETARY GENERAL**

624

### 625 **Article 19 ELECTION – POWERS**

626

627 The Congress elects, on the proposal of the President, a Secretary General, in charge of the day-  
628 to-day management of the association, including the representation of the association within the  
629 limits of the day-to-day management.

630

631 This day-to-day management includes inter alia:

632

- 633 (i) the management of the General Secretariat and exercise of the decisions taken by  
634 the organs;
- 635 (ii) the supervision of the cooperation between the General Secretariats of Ordinary  
636 Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Observers, Member Associations, EPP  
637 Partners and the General Secretariat of the EPP Group in the European Parliament;
- 638 (iii) the drawing up, in agreement with the President, of agendas for meetings of organs,  
639 the supervision of the convening of meetings, their preparation, and the writing of  
640 minutes;
- 641 (iv) the responsibility to the Presidency and the Political Assembly for proper and  
642 adequate budgetary management;
- 643 (v) the drawing up of a report of the activities of the General Secretariat and  
644 organizational perspectives to the Political Assembly at the beginning of each year;
- 645 (vi) Chairs the working group on Statutory Changes. This working group will issue  
646 recommendations to the EPP Presidency concerning the revision of the by-laws and  
647 internal regulation prior to each Statutory Congress in accordance with article 26 and  
648 27 of the by-laws;

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649 (vii) verification of the documents of all new membership applications as referred to in  
650 article 5, 5 bis and 6 and clearance, in accordance with the President, for transferral  
651 to the Working Group EPP Membership  
652

653 The secretary General is also entitled to implement decisions of the Presidency and in particular  
654 to authorize an attorney at law to represent the association in judicial proceedings either as  
655 applicant or defendant.  
656

657 On the proposal of the Presidency and in agreement with the Secretary General, the Political  
658 Assembly, following the election of the Presidency, elects the Deputy Secretary (ies) General for  
659 a period of three years.  
660

661

## 662 **VIII. REPRESENTATION**

663

### 664 Article 20 PROCEDURE

665

666 All legal acts on behalf of the association not falling within the scope of the day-to-day  
667 management or of a special delegation of powers, must be signed by the President or by two  
668 members of the Presidency.  
669

670

671

## 672 **IX. Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies**

673

### 674 Article 21 DEFINITION

675

676 The Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (hereinafter referred to as "WMCES") is the  
677 official European political foundation of the European People's Party. The WMCES will function as  
678 the sole and official think-tank of the EPP and shall, in particular, serve as a common European  
679 framework for national foundations/think-tanks recognized by EPP member-parties.

680

681 WMCES is organized as a separate legal entity with separate financial accounts, operating in  
682 accordance with its own by-laws and internal regulations.

683

## 684 **X. PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION**

685

### 686 Article 22 DEFINITION

687

688 The EPP is committed to comply with national applicable laws and EU regulations concerning the  
689 protection of data and will collect only information that is strictly needed and relevant, and up-  
690 to-date and will use appropriate controls to ensure the information is kept secure.  
691

691

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692 **XI. FINANCIAL YEAR, ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET**

693

694 **Article 23.1 FINANCING**

695

696 The EPP shall be financed by:

- 697 - The general budget of the EU in conformity with the Regulation (EC) N° 1141/2014 of the  
698 European Parliament and Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of political  
699 parties at European level;
- 700 - The annual membership fees of Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties,  
701 Member Associations, Observer Member Parties and EPP Partners;
- 702 - Contributions from supporting members.

703

704 **Article 23.2 MEMBERSHIP FEES**

705

706 The conditions for the determination of the membership fees are strictly defined in the Internal  
707 Regulations. Membership fees and contributions are governed by the conditions and obligations  
708 relating to the funding of political parties at European level established in Regulation (CEC)  
709 1141/2014.

710

711 **Article 24 FINANCIAL YEAR – ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET**

712

713 The association's financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December.

714

715 At the end of each financial year, the Presidency closes the accounts for the year ended and  
716 establishes the budget for the following financial year in accordance with the applicable legal  
717 provisions; the annual accounts are submitted to the Political Assembly for approval.

718

719 The Treasurer will assist the Presidency in drawing up the accounts and the budget. He controls  
720 the budgetary management of the General Secretary and reports to the Presidency. He is  
721 responsible in particular for the financing of the association and its activities, by means of  
722 membership fees, donations or otherwise.

723

724 Every two years, the Political Assembly elects two Internal Auditors who may not be a member  
725 of the Presidency. The mandate of the Internal Auditors lasts two years and is renewable. The  
726 Internal Auditors are responsible for the verification of the annual accounts and report  
727 accordingly to the Political Assembly.

728

729 The surplus is added to the association's assets and in no case may be paid to members in the  
730 form of dividends.

731

732 To promote transparency the EPP accounts will be drawn up and communicated in accordance  
733 to chapter 5 of Regulation (EU/EURATOM) N° 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the  
734 Council of 22 October 2014.

735

736 **XII. ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR IN POLITICS - ETHICS COMMITTEE - CODE OF CONDUCT**

737

738 **Article 25 ETHICS COMMITTEE – ELECTION AND POWERS**

739

740 The EPP Ethics Committee is composed of five members appointed by the Political Assembly for  
741 a renewable term of three years. The chairperson of the EPP Ethics Committee shall be chosen  
742 and elected from among the members of the Presidency.

743

744 The EPP Ethics Committee drafts an EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour in Politics and  
745 submits it for approval to the Political Assembly.

746

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747 The EPP Ethics Committee drafts its internal regulations and submits these for approval to the  
748 Political Assembly.

749 By subscribing to the EPP Code of Conduct, which is a prerequisite for EPP membership, Ordinary  
750 Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member Associations, Observer Member Parties,  
751 Individual Members, accept the responsibility to continuously act so as to maintain and enhance  
752 public confidence in the integrity of the political process.

753  
754 The competences of the EPP Ethics Committee include inter alia:

- 755 - drafting, as well as amending, if need be, the EPP Code of Conduct on Ethical Behaviour
- 756 in Politics and submitting the EPP Code of Conduct and any subsequent amendments
- 757 thereto for approval to the Political Assembly;
- 758 - outlining the procedure to verify the compliance of applicants with the EPP Code of
- 759 Conduct;
- 760 - drafting, as well as amending, if need be, its internal regulations and submitting these
- 761 and any subsequent amendments thereto for approval to the Political Assembly;
- 762 - monitoring compliance with the EPP Code of Conduct;
- 763 - reporting on any alleged infringements of the EPP Code of Conduct;
- 764 - in case of non-compliance with the EPP Code of Conduct, making recommendations to
- 765 the Presidency to adopt proposals for a final decision on any appropriate measures to be
- 766 taken by the Political Assembly, including the suspension or exclusion of the concerned
- 767 member;
- 768

769 The Political Assembly may, upon the recommendation of the EPP Ethics Committee and a  
770 proposal of the Presidency, request that a Member Party takes action against one of its members,  
771 if it has determined that the respective member has acted in a way that is not compliant with  
772 the EPP Code of Conduct.

773

### 774 **XIII. INTERNAL REGULATIONS AND MODIFICATION OF INTERNAL REGULATIONS.**

775

#### 776 Article 26 INTERNAL REGULATIONS - MODIFICATION

777

778 At the proposal of the Presidency, the Political Assembly decides on the Internal Regulations in  
779 which issues of internal order and of financial order not mentioned in these by-laws shall be set  
780 out. In the Internal Regulations, some additional bodies will be created, such as the EPP Summit  
781 and the membership categories of "Member Associations", "Individual Members", "Observer  
782 Members" and "EPP Partners" will be defined.

783

784 Proposals for modifications of the Internal Regulations may be introduced by the Presidency,  
785 Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties or Member Associations; and by the EPP  
786 Group at the European Parliament and the Presidents of the EPP, likeminded or associated  
787 Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European  
788 committee of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST, provided that they are  
789 member of an Ordinary Member Party or Associated Member Party. Said proposals must be  
790 submitted in writing to the Secretary General four weeks prior to the meeting of the Political  
791 Assembly at which they will be considered and they must be notified to the members.

792

793

### 794 **XIV. MODIFICATIONS OF THE BY-LAWS**

795

#### 796 Article 27 BY-LAWS - MODIFICATION

797

798 Proposals for modifications of the by-laws may be introduced by the Presidency, Ordinary  
799 Member Parties, Associated Member Parties or Member Associations and by the EPP Group at  
800 the European Parliament and the Presidents of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at  
801 the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European committee of the

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802 regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST provided that they are member of an  
803 Ordinary Member Party or Associated Member Party.

804  
805 Proposals must be presented in writing to the Secretary General who will transmit them to the  
806 Members of the Political Assembly for deliberation at least four weeks prior to the meeting at  
807 which the Political Assembly will deliberate on those proposals.

808  
809 Proposals shall be presented to the Congress for adoption only if they have obtained a two-thirds  
810 majority of the votes cast in the Political Assembly. Approval of modifications to the by-laws  
811 presented by the Political Assembly requires a simple majority of the votes cast by the members  
812 of Congress present. The Congress may by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by the members  
813 present overrule the proposals of the Political Assembly. Abstentions and blank votes are not  
814 considered valid votes.

815

816

## 817 **XV. DISSOLUTION**

818

### 819 **Article 28 REGULATION**

820

821 The association is not dissolved as a result of the death, dissolution or resignation of a member,  
822 provided the number of members is not less than two.

823

824 The association may be dissolved voluntarily by a decision of the Congress with a three-quarters  
825 majority of the members present, in accordance with the rules applicable to its functioning, as  
826 set out in the Internal Regulations.

827

828 In the event of voluntary dissolution, the Congress elects the liquidator(s). In the absence of  
829 liquidator(s), the members of the Presidency will act as liquidators.

830

831 In the event of dissolution, the Political Assembly decides on the disposal of the assets. Such  
832 disposal must serve a not-for-profit purpose.

833

## 834 **XVI. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

835

836 By derogation to article 27 of the by-laws, the Political Assembly is entitled to adopt  
837 amendments to the by-laws of the association if such amendments are required or useful with  
838 a view to implementing

839 (i) Regulation No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014  
840 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations;

841 (ii) delegated acts of the European Commission as set out in article 36 of the Regulation, and;

842 (iii) current and future Belgian laws and regulations that, directly or indirectly, relate to any  
843 aspect of the conversion of a European political party governed by Belgian law into a European  
844 Political Party governed by the aforementioned Regulation.

845

846 The EPP Code of Conduct, approved by the Political Assembly 14 October 2019 shall be  
847 communicated to all current Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member  
848 Associations, Observer Member Parties, Individual Members and shall be binding upon those  
849 members having continued their membership of the EPP beyond the date of entry into force of  
850 the EPP Code of Conduct set forth in the notice communicated by the Political Assembly.



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Annex 1. The logo of the association.

Annex 2. List of member parties

Annex 1  
EPP logo

