

**II. Statuten en huishoudelijke reglementen/27-07-95
document: 16
Statuten van de Federatie van Liberale en Democratische Partijen
van de Europese Gemeenschap (ELDR)**

*Statutes adopted by the Congress in Stuttgart on 26th/27th March 1976,
revised in Venice on 7th May 1982, in Munich on 8th December 1983,
in Catania on 11th April 1986, in Luxemburg on 9th December 1988
and in Poitiers on 6th June 1991.*

I - Purpose of the Federation

Preamble:

The purpose of the Federation shall be to bring together the parties of the Member States of the European Community who, within the framework of liberal, democratic and reformist ideals, wish to contribute to the European Union.

The Federation shall be the forum where Member Parties discuss and develop agreed policies. They shall establish a common political programme for the European elections. The Liberal, Democratic and Reformist Group participates at all levels in this process, it promotes this programme in the European Parliament.

Article 1:

To fulfill this purpose the Federation will:

- seek a common position on all important problems effecting the European Community;
- inform the public and involve it in the construction of a united European democracy;
- support and coordinate the Member Parties in the elections to the European Parliament.

The Member Parties fight the European elections on a common platform.

II - Relationship with the LDR-group

Article 2:

1. The Federation and the Group shall support each other in every way possible;
2. The Federation shall be a link between the Group and the Member Parties, particularly those who are not represented in the European Parliament;
3. The Federation and the Group shall adopt a common approach towards political activities identifying and bringing forward for discussion relevant issues of public concern;
4. Members of the European Parliament, belonging to one of the Member Parties of the Federation will be members of the Liberal, Democratic and Reformist Group.

III - Membership

Article 3:

Membership of the Federation is open to all political parties in countries of the European Community who accept these Statutes, the Stuttgart Declaration, the policy programmes, as agreed by the Congresses of the Federation.

Article 4:

Any political party from a European country with which the European Community has opened negotiations for membership and who accepts the Statutes, the Stuttgart Declaration and the policy programmes as agreed by the Congresses of the Federation, may submit an application for affiliate membership to the Secretary-General.

The Council decides on this matter by two-third majority. Failing that, the application will be submitted to the Congress which will then decide by a two-thirds majority.

Article 5:

Any party wishing to join the Federation and which complies with the provisions of Article 3 may submit an application for membership to the Secretary-General who will refer it to the Council. The Council decides on this matter by a two-thirds majority.

If the Council is unable to reach such a decision, it should be submitted to the Congress, which will then take the decision by a two-thirds majority.

Article 6:

1. Any political party from a European country, other than a Member State of the European Community, whose policies and ideals are in sympathy with those of the Federation and its member parties, may submit an application for observer status to the Secretary-General, who shall transmit this application to the Council.

The Council decides on this matter by a two-thirds majority. Failing that, the application will be submitted to the Congress which will then decide by a two-thirds majority;

2. Parties with observer status will be entitled to representation at the Congress and may, on invitation, attend other meetings of the Federation;

3. Affiliate parties may attend the meetings of the Council and the Congress without the right to vote;

4. Representatives of observer parties will have the right to speak at meetings but they will not have a vote.

Article 7:

The Federation will be financed by annual contributions of the member and affiliate parties and the LDR Group in proportions and amounts agreed to by the Council.

Article 8:

Observer parties can be asked to make an appropriate financial contribution to the Federation, to be agreed by the Council annually.

Article 9:

Any Member Party of the Federation may withdraw by notifying its decision to the Secretary-General, who shall place the question on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council, which shall consider the matter. The notice shall take effect at the end of the current year.

Article 10:

Any Member Party of the Federation, which no longer complies with the provisions of Articles I and 3 may be asked, on the basis of a two-thirds majority, by the Council to withdraw. At the Congress to which the request is submitted, the party concerned may present its case and the Congress will decide on the matter by a two-thirds majority.

Article 11:

If a Member Party falls to meet its financial obligations, the Council may suspend its rights to vote or to be represented on the Bureau, Council and at the Congress, until it has fulfilled the said obligations .

Article 12:

If a Member Party has ceased to belong to the Federation from a date fixed by the Congress, its contributions will be refunded proportionally.

Article 13:

The provisions laid down in Articles 9-12 shall also apply to affiliate and observer parties except as regards voting rights.

Article 14:

The registered office and the Secretariat of the Federation shall be in Brussels.

Article 15:

Newly founded parties who succeed to the rights of Member Parties must reapply to be members of the Federation.

IV - Institutional provisions

Article 16:

The organs of the Federation will be:

- the Bureau;
- the Council;
- the Congress.

These three organs will be assisted by the Secretary-General.

Article 17:

1. The Bureau comprises:

- The President of the Federation;
- Three Vice-Presidents;
- The Treasurer;
- The President of the Liberal, Democratic and Reformist Group, or a representative mandated by the Group.

2. The Congress shall elect the President of the Federation. He shall serve for two years, after which he is eligible for re-election but may not serve for more than six years in total.

3. The Council shall appoint three Vice-Presidents from among its members.

4. The Council shall appoint the Secretary-General and the Treasurer.

Article 18:

1. The Council comprises:

- the President of the Federation who presides;
- two members for each member party. These members will be appointed by their parties for a period for 2 years;
- one additional member for each 500,000 votes obtained by the party at the last European-elections;
- the President of the Liberal, Democratic and Reformist Group of the European Parliament or a substitute;
- the members of the Commission of the European Communities who belong to a Member Party;
- One Member appointed by the Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the European Community, who should belong to a Member Party of the Federation;
- Members of the Bureau ex-officio.

2. The Council will meet at least four times a year.

3. Between meetings of the Congress, the Council will be empowered to speak and act on behalf of the Federation in all spheres of the latter's jurisdiction.

4. The Council will reach decisions by a majority of the members present and voting unless specifically required otherwise. The quorum consists of one-third of voting members. The Council is responsible to the Congress.

5. The Council will appoint the Secretary-General on a proposal of the Bureau for a period of two years .

6. The Council will adopt an annual budget, prepared by the Treasurer.

7. The Council will plan and propose to the Congress a programme to campaign during the European elections.

8. The Council may set up advisory or working groups for any purpose it thinks fit.
9. The Council will adopt rules of procedure and may interpret the Federation's statutes on points of clarification.

Article 19:

1. The Member Parties of the Federation recognised as parties meeting the criteria of Article 3 will meet annually in a Congress.
2. The Congress will consist of the following members:
 - Six representatives from each Member State. In the case of a Member State, where there is more than one member party, these representatives shall be allocated to each party as far as possible in proportion to the number of votes cast for each party at the last European elections;
 - For each Member Party a number of representatives based on the following relationship to the number of votes cast for that party at the last European elections, corrected according to the % turn out at the elections;
 - * one representative for each 100,000 votes or a major part thereof up to three million votes;
 - * thereafter, one representative for each 250,000 votes or a major part thereof between three and five million votes;
 - * and one representative for each 500,000 votes or a major part thereof exceeding five million votes.
 - The members of the Liberal, Democratic and Reformist Group of the European Parliament and the Liberal, Democratic and Reformist members of the Commission of the European Communities will automatically be members of the Congress;
 - The members of the Council;
 - Ten representatives nominated by the Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the European Community .
3. a. The quorum is one-third of the delegates present;
b. A simple majority is 50 % + 1 of the delegate present and voting;
c. A qualified majority is two-thirds of the delegates present and voting;
d. In general, votes should be taken by simple majority unless the statutes provide for a different majority;
4. The Congress will hold an annual meeting in one of the countries of the Community.
5. The Agenda of the Congress will be drawn up by the Bureau and approved by the Council. Each Member Party and the Liberal, Democratic and Reformist Group of the European Parliament will have the right to place items on the Agenda of both the Council and the Congress.
6. The Congress can:
 - make decisions on all matters within the competence of the Treaties establishing the European Communities and on matters regarding political co-operation of the European Community;
 - decide on all other matters which the members have unanimously recognised as falling within its competence;
 - deliberate on all proposals submitted to it by a Member Party and may deliver an opinion on such proposals;
 - make amendments to the statutes by a two-thirds majority.
7. The Secretary-General will report on the Federation's activities to the Congress.

8. The Liberal, Democratic and Reformist Group of the European Parliament will report to the Congress on its activities.
9. The Congress may set up working groups to examine matters within its competence.
10. The proceedings of the Congress may be published in full or in part.

V - Administrative provisions

Article 20:

The Secretary-General:

1. will assist the Federation;
2. must belong to a Member Party of the Federation;
3. will head a secretariat, the composition and organisation of which will be determined by the Bureau;
4. will be assisted in the exercise of his functions by the member parties;
5. will be responsible to the Council;
6. will organise the meetings of the Federation;
7. will maintain contacts between the parties and the Federation;
8. may authorise expenditures up to an amount to be fixed by the Bureau under his own responsibility.

Article 21:

The Treasurer:

1. will propose the annual budget and the contributions of the Member Parties and observers to the Council;
2. will account for the expenses of the Secretariat and all other organs of the Federation;
3. will also be responsible for the accounts of the electoral fund at the disposal of the Federation.

Article 22:

All payments are signed by at least the Treasurer and the Secretary-General, except in those cases where the amount does not exceed the expenses authorised by the Secretary-General as stated in Article 18.9.

Article 23:

The Congress shall appoint auditors who shall report to the annual Congress.

VI - General provisions

Article 24:

Article 18 (1) third indent will only come into force for elections to the Council following the first elections to the European Parliament to be held by the uniform electoral procedure envisaged under the terms of Article 138(3) of the Treaty of Rome. Until such time the composition of the Council will comprise one additional member for each 500,000 votes obtained by the party at the last national elections.

Article 25:

Article 19 (2) shall only come into force for Congresses following the first elections to the European Parliament to be held by the uniform procedure envisaged under the terms of Article 138(3) of the Treaty of Rome. Until such time, representatives to Congress shall be allocated to each party on the basis of support gained at national elections.