

STATUTE OF THE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION EUROPANOW!

NAME – HEADQUARTERS

Art. 1

In the spirit of the Constitution of the Italian Republic and under the terms of article 36 et seq. of the Civil Code, an association is hereby founded, operating in the social, cultural, educational, editorial and communication sectors, which assumes the name of

EuropaNow!

The association has its headquarters in the Municipality of Rome, via Picardi n. 4. Any change of location within the municipality will not cause any change to the association's status, but should be decided by the governing council.

It's duration is indefinite.

PURPOSE – AIMS

Art. 2

The association aims to encourage and develop the affirmation of European citizenship and promote the establishment of The United States of Europe through meetings, publications, festivals, organisation of cultural events, educational activities, mobilisation and involvement of European citizens – in particular young Europeans who have participated or are participating in the Erasmus program – production and transmission of various documents, including audiovisual and multimedia projects, and promotional activities, without seeking any profit.

Art. 3

The Association begins with the aim of conducting non-profit cultural and social activities while fully respecting the dignity and freedom of the associates, inspired by the principles of democracy and equal rights of all associates.

In particular, the activities and objectives of the Association are inspired by the contents and principles of the Manifesto for a European Patriotism, reproduced below, which is an integral and constitutive part of the purpose and actions of the Association:

“Manifesto for a European Patriotism

The time has come for action.

After the Second World War, Europe established itself as the most extraordinary political invention in modern history.

The European project has put an end to bloody conflict and fratricide, guaranteed widespread prosperity for its citizens, developed an unrivalled social model (social spending in the EU accounts for 50% of the global total), alleviated inequalities, protected minorities and promoted its cultural and artistic heritage; and at present, Europe shows a keen interest in responding to climate change. And yet...

And yet this collective European adventure has gradually given way to resentment, regression, divisions and doubts, exposing itself to the pervasive advance of far-right, anti-establishment and ethno-nationalist forces.

In short, Europe has lost its driving force.

Can we place the blame on unforeseen external forces? Without doubt. The financial crisis arriving from the US, the challenge of mass migration, and the anxiety caused by abrupt

changes in society due to globalisation and new technologies, have eroded the faith of European citizens in the creation of an ever more unified and fraternal Union.

“The European idea is incontestable, but unfortunately the idea of Europe turned into a bureaucracy, and now people think of the bureaucracy as the idea”, the director Wim Wenders has said.

But we must also point to the egoism of national governments, incapable of imagining effective solutions and using the tools adapted to historical, socio-economic, environmental and cultural changes - in other words, civilisation.

In a world where there are a billion more human beings than twelve years ago (twice the population of the EU), and where resourceful new protagonists, starting with China, continue to grow, the impotence of the old European states has led to widespread hostility towards the ruling classes, civil society and now towards Europe itself. In public opinion, Europe has become – not without justification – a synonym for bureaucracy, ineffectual and bloated institutions, something all too easily made a scapegoat.

But what is the source of this immobility, upon which the extremists march? The answer is simple: Europe is only in the middle of its journey, not yet sufficiently united and integrated to respond to the world's crises, setbacks and transformations.

The present situation is paradoxical: from 1957, the Union made good progress, because the citizens perceived it as a reality and expected results, but at the same time it did not have sufficient power (which mostly remains in the hands of national governments) to keep its promises, and ultimately lacked the necessary democratic legitimacy for action. This ambiguous position could prove fatal.

Does anyone really believe that a single member state is capable of regulating international finance? Does anyone really imagine that the internet giants would submit to national laws

when their turnover exceeds the GDP of Belgium, Austria or Denmark? How can we defend social rights and the cultural exception, or confront the challenges of climate change and mass migration, by entrenching ourselves behind obsolete national borders?

Incapable of facing these challenges, national governments have lost the support of their populations, who express their distrust in their political representatives, institutions and democracy in general. Europe is a collateral victim of this process, the lightning rod for all the recriminations and dashed hopes. For Europe, the challenge is multiplied, because, in essence, it is nothing but the sum of the incapacities of various national governments.

We have long believed that after the 20th century's tragedies of war and totalitarianism, the course was set for an ever stronger union. Unfortunately, the counter-blows of history remind us that Europe is a human creation, fragile by nature.

"The European federation is not something that will come about by magic, because there is a certain logic", warned Altiero Spinelli. "The federation is something that the people must create, and it is a thing of our time".

This is why the time has come to act, to go beyond mere words and to lay the foundations for the United States of Europe.

It is time to take action for stronger integration of the European area, without which we will never be in a position to compete in a world divided into macro-regions.

Today, Europe is a requirement for politics.

Without a union we will have no chance of managing globalisation and global finance, of safeguarding the resources necessary to defend our cultural and social model, of effectively combatting inequality, reducing poverty, of confronting, calmly, the challenge of mass migration, of resolving conflicts and having a position of power in decisions concerning the fight against climate change.

But greater integration will have no value if it is simply a product of necessity, of economic calculation and utility, because the edifice will remain fragile and at risk of collapsing at the first sign of ill winds. Above all, Europe should fundamentally and viscerally affirm itself as the expression of a collective will, as a feeling of collective belonging, of an identity and a shared imagination. The time has come for the European people to take control of their destiny.

It is time to reclaim a patriotism which is not based on false, unhealthy and deadly concepts of ethnicity and blood, but on the shared values of democracy, solidarity and economic, social and environmental models which we have inherited from our shared past. Thanks to its very nature, its variety, its diversity of languages, origins, cultures, religious and secular perspectives, European patriotism will inevitably be a new form of internationalism.

Europe deserves its own story, its own epic.

The European people exist and are constituted above all by the millions of Erasmus students who for thirty years have lived in Europe, recognised the scars of history, and placed there their hopes on a prosperous and fraternal future.

They form a vanguard, the first generation to be born “Europeans”. It is up to these privileged witnesses to embody the European ideal, to mobilise, organise and invent the democracy of the future.

It is up to the Erasmus generation to retrieve the audacity, the courage and ambition of the founding fathers of the European project, to create new forms of democratic action and commitment, to bridge the gap which separates politicians from citizens. It is up to them, in the end, to return the soul to Europe.

The already existing student networks, which recall the ties between medieval universities, must of course be reinforced. But it will also be necessary to create others, even more effective, structured, and capable of mobilising people.

These are motives driving “EuropaNow!”, an association created to counter the sense of impotence and unfinished business. Today there is urgent need for action, beyond appeals, beyond mere testimony, beyond resignation, to bring about a convergence of all the disparate initiatives.

Europeans, starting with the Erasmus generation, must act together, debate together, and structure their efforts together. Their task is to imagine and construct the future.

For this reason “EuropaNow!” will work in three directions:

- 1. Identify a way to embody Europe and make the feeling of belonging to community with a shared destiny more concrete, visible and real.*

For the sixtieth anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, with news website Voxeurop, we created a short film (<https://vimeo.com/211031438>), designed as a scrapbook showing the clamor, the violence, the collective cinematic imagination and the battles of yesterday and today.

We need to continue in this direction, intervening in public spaces, appropriating European symbols, showing that they belong to the citizens first and foremost, rather than the institutions of Brussels, and demonstrating that European patriotism is already a reality.

- 2. Change Europe, here and now. Identify the priorities and urgent issues (economic, social, environmental, cultural, etc.) facing Europe today, develop and present concrete proposals that can, with the currently existing institutions and policy instruments of*

the Parliament in Strasbourg, the European Commission and individual states, become radical reforms, projects of law and concrete popular initiatives.

“So Europe really can’t make it work? Then let’s give it concrete expression and seize the opportunity”, urges the former MEP, Daniel Cohn Bendit.

3. *Imagine the political and institutional structure of the future United States of Europe, lay the foundations for its creation as soon as possible, by means of democratic and participative constituent assemblies*

We should never forget the invitation, in the form of a warning, of the former dissident and president of Czechoslovakia Vaclav Havel at the European Council in 1990: “Without dreaming of a better Europe, we shall never build a better Europe”

Let’s dream it, and build it,

EuropaNow!”

Specifically, the aims proposed are:

- a. Contributing to the cultural and civil development of European citizens, particularly the younger generations, to the ever wider diffusion of democracy and solidarity in human relationships, and to the practice and defence of civil, individual and collective liberty.
- b. Encourage the extension of cultural, recreational and sporting activities in a collaborative manner with other democratic associations at the national and European level.
- c. Conduct educational activities open to all, by means of the realisation of educational projects and materials, the organisation of courses, schools, modules and seminars.
- d. Devise, organise, promote and run, in Italy and elsewhere, conventions, round tables, conferences, shows and exhibitions, receptions, theatrical performances, competitions,

festivals, workshops, exclusively related to the promotion and dissemination of the Association's values and aims;

- e. Realise editorial projects through the publication and distribution of journals, bulletins and every other instrument suited to the promotion and diffusion of the Association's values and aims.
- f. Promote relationships with Institutions, bodies and associations, whether national or European, to encourage the Association's aims indicated above and increase the impact and efficacy of its initiatives;
- g. Avail of partnerships with other public and private parties at the national and European level, which share the aims of the Association itself, and institutional endorsements which can help to achieve those aims;
- h. participate in public events which do not conflict with the aims of the Association.
- i. Access all form of financial support and contribution, at every institutional level, including the EU, and private and merchant banks.

To this end, the Association will be able to conduct any other activities connected with and similar to those listed above, with the aim of achieving the purpose described above.

Art. 4

Members of the Association can be natural persons, legal persons and non-profit bodies which share the Association's aims and undertake to achieve them.

Any limitation, be it temporal or operational, of the associative relation itself and the rights derived from it, is expressly forbidden.

Associates may be:

1. founders;
2. ordinary;

3. honorary;

“Founders” are those who have signed the article of association.

“Ordinary” are those who, meeting the requirements, are admitted as permanent members of the association.

“Honorary” members are natural persons or bodies which, by reason of merit and being particularly invested in the aims of the Association, will have this status conferred upon them by the governing council.

All members, independent of their membership category, have the same rights and obligations.

Art. 5

To be admitted as a member it is necessary to present an admission request to the Association by observing the following procedures and instructions:

1. Indicate name and surname, place and date of birth, and place of residence;
2. Declare adherence to the present Statute and the decisions of the association’s bodies.

It is the duty of the legal representative of the Association or other members of the Governing Council (delegated by it, including verbally) to assess admissions or requests.

Admission, following inscription in the book of members, confers the status of “ordinary member”, with the relevant rights and duties.

In the case of a request presented by various parties other than natural persons, this should be presented by a legal representative of the party who requests admission. In the case of a request being rejected, the interested party can lodge a complaint, upon which the Governing Council will make a definitive pronouncement at the first summons.

Art. 6

Should reasons for the incompatibility of the new member with the statutory goals and rulings of the Association become apparent, the Governing Council can revoke the membership in question.

In this case the interested party may lodge a complaint, upon which the Governing Council will decide at the first summons.

Members' resignations should be presented by writing to the Governing Council of the Association.

Art. 7

Membership grants the right to:

- participate in all the activities promoted by the Association;
- frequent the premises of the Association;
- participate in organisational activities, vote on all roles, specifically on the approval of budgets and modification of the rules of the Statute and any rulings, and the appointment of the governing bodies of the Association;
- make use of the active and passive electorate; in the case of legal persons or Bodies, the right to accede to the Association's roles is recognised by their legal or authorised representatives.

Art. 8

Members are bound by:

- Payment of the fees decided by the Governing Council. Such fees should be determined annually for the coming year by decision of the Governing Council and can in no case be refunded. The fees or contributions for the economic support of the partnership cannot be transferred or revalued.

- Observance of the Statute, of any internal rulings and of the decisions taken by the association's bodies, including any integration of management costs via special charges.

LOSING MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Art. 9

The status of membership is lost due to withdrawal, exclusion, missed payments for annual fees or due to death or termination of the legal person or Body.

Art. 10

Resignation or withdrawal of membership should be presented in writing to the Governing Council and takes effect upon its inscription in the register.

Exclusion will be decided by the Governing Council with regard to the interested party:

- a) who does not comply with the provisions of the present statute, of any rulings and any decisions adopted by the Governing Council;
- b) who conducts or attempts to conduct activities contrary to the interests of the Association;
- c) who, in whatsoever way, causes or could cause serious damage, including moral, to the Association.

Subsequently, decisions taken by the Governing Council should be ratified at the first ordinary assembly to be convened. In the course of such an assembly, to which the interested member should be summoned, there will follow an examination of objections against the interested party.

The exclusion will take effect once recorded in the register.

Missed payment of the annual fees by two months, starting from the beginning of the business period or other established terms of payment, entails the automatic revocation of member status

with no need of any formalities, save specific annotations to the register.

The decisions taken in matters of exclusion should be communicated to members by registered mail.

Withdrawn or excluded members have no right to reimbursement of annual contributions.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES - COMMON FUND/CAPITAL ASSETS

Art. 12

The Association derives financial resources for its functioning and operations from:

- a) Association fees;
- b) inheritances, donations and bequests;
- c) contributions from the Italian State, the European Union and member states of the EU, from Municipalities, Local Bodies, public or private Institutions, for supporting specific and documented programs realised within the framework of the Association's goals;
- d) calls and contributions from the European Union and international organisations;
- e) revenue deriving from the provision of subsidised services;
- f) proceeds from the supply of goods and services to associates and third parties, also through running economic activities of a commercial, artisanal or agricultural nature, enacted in an auxiliary and subsidiary manner and oriented towards the achievement of the Association's aims;
- g) charitable donations from associates or third parties;
- h) revenue derived from promotional initiatives and fundraisers for the financing of, for example, shows or cultural events, festivals or celebrations, cultural trips, symposia and conferences;
- i) other revenue compatible with the aims of the Association;

The common fund/capital assets constituted – by way of example and not exhaustive – by surpluses, funds, reserves and all assets acquired in any capacity by the Association, can never be redistributed among members during the existence of the Association, nor in the event of its termination.

It is prohibited to redistribute, including by indirect or deferred means, operation surpluses, funds, reserves or capital, except when required by law.

Art. 13

Sums paid for membership are in no case refundable, nor are they transferable by any act between two natural persons.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Art. 14

The Governing Council should prepare the economic-financial statement to be presented to the Assembly

of associates as well as the estimate for the following year.

The economic/financial statement should be approved by the Assembly of associates within four months

of the close of the business year. The business year is from January 1st to December 31st each year.

Art. 13

The budget surplus will be allocated as follows: remaining available for the financing of future activities of the Association.

In no case can it be shared between the associates, including indirectly.

THE ASSEMBLY

Art. 14

The Assembly of members can be ordinary or special. The assemblies are convened with at least 10 days notice, or with written notice to every member or through other suitable means of communication.

Notice should contain the date, location and agenda of the Assembly.

Art. 15

The ordinary Assembly is convened every year in the period between January 1st and March 31st.

This:

- approves the general outline of the program of activities for the business year;
- elects the Governing Council;
- approves the budget and estimated budget;
- approves allocations for the initiatives of the Association.

Art. 16

The special Assembly is convened for any modification of the present statute and/or the termination or liquidation of the Association. The ordinary and special Assemblies are convened:

- every time the Governing Council deems it necessary;
- upon the reasoned request of at least 1/4 of members;
- upon the request of the Committee of Auditors.

The Assembly should take place within 30 days of the request.

Art. 17

Except for specific majorities outlined by the present statute, at the first summons, the Assembly, whether ordinary or special, is properly constituted by the presence of half plus one of all members. At the second summons the Assembly, whether ordinary or special, is properly constituted by any number of participants and decides by absolute majority of votes of those present on all questions posed during the day; the second summons cannot take place on the same day as the first.

Art. 18

For decisions on changes to the statute or rulings on the termination or liquidation of the Association, the convocation of the special Assembly is necessary.

Art. 19

Votes may take the form of raising hands or by secret ballot in the case of election of the Association's roles. All members participate in voting, in accordance with the obligations of membership. All of the association's bodies are guaranteed eligibility to vote, according to the principle by which every member has one vote.

Art. 20

The ordinary and special assemblies are presided by a president nominated by the assembly itself, by a majority of those present. The president nominates a secretary who will oversee the drafting of minutes of the assembly and enter it in the appropriate register.

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Art .21

The Governing Council is composed of a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 9 Councillors elected from among the members, and the role lasts 3 years.

Art. 22

The Council, composed only of members, elects its President, Vice-President, Secretary General and Treasurer, and establishes the responsibilities and roles of the other Councillors with regard to activities performed by the Association to achieve its aims. The President and the other Councillors can cover several roles at the same time. It is recognised that the council has the power to co-opt other members up to a maximum of a third of its original constituents in cases where, during the course of its triennial mandate, some of its members are absent. The functions of the members of the Governing Council are completely free and they will be reimbursed only for expenses inherent to the fulfilment of their role.

Art. 23

The Governing Council meets whenever the President deems it necessary or when it is requested by $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Councillors. In the absence of the President, the meeting will be presided by the Vice President.

Art. 24.

The Governing Council should: draw up the programs of activities provided for by the statute on the basis of guidelines approved by the Assembly of members; manage the execution of the Assembly's decisions; draft budgets; propose plans for the use of budget surpluses for the approval of the Assembly; approve all the acts and contracts of all kinds inherent in the Association's activity; formulate any eventual internal rulings for submission to the approval of the Assembly; decide on the suspension and expulsion of members; encourage the participation

of members in activities of the Association. In the operation of its functions the Governing Council can avail of those responsible for the commission of work of those nominated. Those termed responsible can participate in the meetings of the Governing Council with an advisory vote.

Art. 25.

Decisions are taken by majority vote by the councillors holding office, with preference given to the President's vote in cases of parity.

THE PRESIDENT

Art. 26.

The President has legal representation and signing authority. The President convenes the Governing Council and the Assembly in conformity with the prescriptions or when deemed opportune, directs discussions, sign off on the minutes of the Council; supervises the execution of any decision. Tasks inherent to special administration should be expressly delegated.

SECRETARY GENERAL AND TREASURER

Art. 26 bis

The secretary general shall assist the president in the execution of decisions of the council and in the redaction and preservation of the documents of the association. The treasurer takes care of accountability and administrative management, updates the budget, manages payment orders, edits drafts of estimated budgets and balances and may maintain relations with providers and banks.

THE AUDITOR

Art. 27.

The Auditor and the Deputy Auditor are nominated by the Assembly of members in cases of necessity or upon the request of the assembly. The Auditor has the task of checking the legitimacy of the administrative management of the Association, participates without right to vote in meetings of the Governing Council.

LIQUIDATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Art. 28.

The decision to liquidate the Association and its assets should be taken by a majority of at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the associates.

Art. 29.

In caso di scioglimento l'Assemblea delibera, con la maggioranza prevista dall'art. 28 sulla devoluzione del patrimonio residuo, dedotte le passività. Il patrimonio residuo dovrà comunque essere devoluto ad altra associazione con finalità analoghe e salvo diversa destinazione imposta dalla Legge.

In case of liquidation the Assembly decides, with the majority specified in art.28, on the destination of outstanding assets, liabilities deducted. The outstanding assets should nevertheless be transferred to other associations with analogous goals, unless otherwise dictated by the Law.