

Statutes of the „World Lagomorph Society“

§ 1: Name, residence and field of activities

- (1) The association bears the name “World Lagomorph Society”.
- (2) The residence of the association is in Vienna, Austria and the activities extend to the whole world.
- (3) It is not intended to found any branch associations.

§ 2: Purpose

The association, whose activity is not aiming at profit, intends to intensify the communication between persons who are interested in the research and conservation of lagomorphs (rabbits, hares and pikas).

§ 3: Means of attaining the purpose of the association

- (1) The purpose of the association shall be attained by the idealistic and materialistic means stipulated in chapter 2 and 3.
- (2) The following idealistic means will be applied:
 - a) Events (World Lagomorph Conference)
 - b) Publications
 - c) Scientific projects
 - d) Website
- (3) The necessary materialistic means shall be raised by:
 - a) Membership fees
 - b) Yields from events
 - c) Donations
 - d) Legacies
 - e) Other allowances

§ 4: Kinds of membership

- (1) The members of the association include full members, extraordinary members, student members and honorary members.
- (2) Full members are those who fully participate in the association’s work. Extraordinary members are those who support the association’s work in particular

by paying an increased membership fee. Student members are those who are matriculated in a university. Honorary members are persons who are appointed thereto because of having rendered special services to the association.

- (3) A reduced membership fee for full members can be requested from the executive committee.
- (4) The membership fees will be proposed by the executive committee and fixed after confirmation by the general assembly.

§ 5: Acquisition of membership

- (1) All physical persons as well as legal entities and legally responsible unincorporated firms can become members of the association.
- (2) The executive committee decides on the admission of full members and extraordinary members. The admission can be refused without indicating any reasons.
- (3) Until the foundation of the association becomes effective, the provisional admission of full members and extraordinary members is determined by the founders of the association, in case of an already appointed executive committee, the decision is made by the executive committee. This membership will only be effective when the association has been founded. If an executive committee is appointed after the foundation of the association, the (definitive) admission of full members and extraordinary members will in the meantime also be determined by the founders of the association.
- (4) The appointment as an honorary member is made by the general assembly at request of the executive committee.

§ 6: Termination of membership

- (1) The membership expires by death, in case of legal entities and legally responsible unincorporated firms by loss of the legal personality, by voluntary withdrawal or exclusion.
- (2) The withdrawal can only take place until December 31 of each year. A written notice of withdrawal must be submitted to the executive committee at least 3 months beforehand. In case of a late notice of withdrawal, it will only be effective at the next withdrawal deadline. For the timeliness the date of mailing is relevant.
- (3) The executive committee can exclude a member in case that he is in arrears with the membership fee for more than six months despite two written reminders mentioning appropriate extensions. The obligation to pay the due membership fees remains unaffected.

- (4) The exclusion of a member from the association can also be ordered by the executive committee due to rough injury of other membership obligations and dishonourable behaviour.
- (5) The deprivation of the honorary membership can be determined by the general assembly at request of the executive committee according to the reasons mentioned in chapter 4.

§ 7: Rights and obligations of the members

- (1) The members are entitled to attend all events of the association and to make use of all facilities of the association. Only full members and honorary members have the right to vote at the general assembly and are entitled to eligibility.
- (2) Each member is entitled to demand that the executive committee complies with the articles.
- (3) At least a tenth of the members can demand the summoning of a general assembly by the executive committee.
- (4) At each general assembly the members have to be informed by the executive committee about the activity and the financial practices of the association. If at least a tenth of the members request this by indicating reasons, the executive committee has to give such information to the members concerned usually within four weeks.
- (5) The members have to be informed by the executive committee about the audited statement of account (accounting). If this happens at the general assembly, the auditors have to be involved.
- (6) The members are obligated to support the interests of the association to the best of their abilities and to refrain from anything that might harm the respect and the purpose of the association. They have to comply with the articles of the association and the resolutions of the executive bodies of the association. The full members and extraordinary members are obligated to punctually pay the entry fee and the membership fees at the rate determined at the general assembly.

§ 8: Executive bodies of the association

The executive bodies of the association are the general assembly (§§ 9 and 10), the executive committee (§§ 11 up to 13), the auditors (§ 14) and the arbitral tribunal (§ 15).

§ 9: General assembly

- (1) The general assembly is the “general meeting” as defined by the Austrian law relating to associations 2002. A statutory general assembly is summoned every fourth year.

- (2) An extraordinary general assembly takes place
- a. On resolution of the executive committee or the statutory general assembly,
 - b. On written request of at least a tenth of the members,
 - c. Upon request of the auditors (§ 21 chapter 5 first sentence, law relating to associations),
 - d. On resolution of one of the auditors / the auditor (§ 21 chapter 5 second sentence, law relating to associations, § 11 chapter 2, third sentence of these articles),
 - e. On resolution of a judicially ordered curator (§ 11 chapter 2, last sentence of these articles) within four weeks.
- (3) All members have to be invited to the statutory general assemblies as well as extraordinary general assemblies in writing by telefax or e-mail at least two weeks before the date (to the fax-no. or e-mail address given by the member to the association). When summoning the general assembly, the day's agenda must be mentioned. The summoning is made by the executive committee (chapter 1 and chapter 2 lit. a – c), by a / the curator (chapter 2 lit. d) or by a judicially ordered curator (chapter 2 lit.d).
- (4) Applications for the general assembly have to be submitted in writing, by means of telefax or by e-mail, at least three days before the date of the general assembly.
- (5) Valid resolutions – with the exception of those relating to an application for summoning an extraordinary general assembly – can only be contained in the day's agenda.
- (6) At the general assembly all members are eligible. Only the full members and honorary members have the right to vote. The transmission of the right to vote on another member by means of a written agency is permissible.
- (7) The general assembly is quorate without consideration of the number of appearances.
- (8) The elections and adoptions of resolutions at the general assembly generally take place with simple majority of the given valid votes. Resolutions in order to change the articles of the association or to dissolve the association, however, require a qualified majority of two thirds of the given valid votes.
- (9) At the general assembly the male / female chairman presides, in case of him / her being unable to come, his / her substitute presides. If he / she is also unable to come, the eldest present member of the board presides.

§ 10: Assignments of the general assembly

The following assignments are reserved to the general assembly:

- a) Passing of a resolution on the estimate;

- b) Acceptance and approval of the report and the statement of the account, involving the auditors;
- c) Election and dismissal of the members of the board and the auditors;
- d) Approval of legal transactions between auditors and association;
- e) Exoneration of the executive committee;
- f) Assessment of the amount of the entry fee and the membership fee for full members and extraordinary members;
- g) Appointment and deprivation of honorary membership;
- h) Passing of a resolution on changes of articles and the voluntary dissolution of the association;
- i) Consultation and passing of a resolution on other issues of the day's agenda.

§ 11: Executive committee

- (1) The executive committee consists of six members, namely president and vice-president, secretary and substitute as well as cashier and substitute.
- (2) The executive committee is elected by the general assembly. In case of a withdrawal of an elected member, the executive committee has the right to replace this member by co-opting another eligible member, for this purpose it is necessary to get the supplementary permission at the next general assembly. In case that the executive committee is incapable of acting generally or for an unforeseeable period of time without replacement by co-opting, each auditor is obligated to summon immediately an extraordinary general assembly for the purpose of the election of a new executive committee. In case that the auditors should also be incapable, each full member that realizes the state of emergency, must immediately apply for the appointment of a curator at the court of competent jurisdiction, who will immediately have to summon an extraordinary general assembly.
- (3) The functional period of the executive committee is limited to 4 years, a re-election is possible. Each position of the executive committee has to be carried out personally.
- (4) The executive committee is chaired by the president, in case of being unavailable, by the vice-president, in writing or verbally. If the vice-president is also incapable of acting for an unforeseeable period of time, any other member of the board is permitted to summon the executive committee.
- (5) The executive committee is quorate if all of the members have been invited and at least half of them are present.
- (6) The executive committee passes the resolution with a simple majority of votes, in case of a parity of votes, the chairperson has the casting vote.
- (7) The president presides over the general assembly, in case of being unavailable, the vice-president presides. In case that this substitute is also unavailable, the eldest present member of the executive committee presides, or the member of the executive committee who is appointed by a majority of votes of the remaining members of the executive committee.

- (8) Except for death and expiry of the functional period (chapter 3) the position of a member of the executive committee expires by dismissal (chapter 9) and withdrawal (chapter 10).
- (9) The general assembly may dismiss the entire executive committee or individual members at any time. The dismissal becomes effective when the new executive committee and the member of the board respectively have been appointed.
- (10) The members of the board can declare their withdrawal in writing at any time. The withdrawal has to be addressed to the executive committee, in case of the entire executive committee having resigned, to the general assembly. The withdrawal only becomes effective when a successor has been elected and co-opted respectively (chapter 2).

§ 12: Assignments of the executive committee

The management of the association is incumbent on the executive committee. The executive committee is the "directive authority" in the sense of the Austrian law relating to associations 2002. It is in charge of all assignments that are not assigned to another executive body of the association. Its sphere of activity includes in particular the following matters:

- (1) Acquisition of an accounting system which meets the requirements of the association with a current recording of the incomes / expenditures and the keeping of a summary of assets and liabilities as a minimum requirement;
- (2) Drawing up a yearly estimate, the report and the statement of account;;
- (3) Preparation and summoning of a general assembly in the cases of § 9 chapter 1 und chapter 2 lit. a – c of these articles;
- (4) Information of the members of the association about the activities of the association, the practices of the association and the audited statement of account;
- (5) Administration of the property of the association;
- (6) Admission and exclusion of full members and extraordinary members of the association;
- (7) Employment and dismissal of employees of the association.

§ 13: Particular obligations of individual members of the executive committee

- (1) The president manages the current business of the association and is supported by the vice-president and the secretary.
- (2) The president represents the association in public. For validity, the written publications of the association require the signatures of the president and the secretary, in money matters (property assets dispositions) the signatures of the president and the cashier are required. Legal transactions between members of the executive committee and the association require the approval of another member of the executive committee.

- (3) Authority on business transactions, to represent the association in public and to sign on behalf of the association, can only be conferred by the members of the executive committee mentioned in chapter 2.
- (4) In case of danger looming, the president is also authorized to independently give instructions at his own risk in matters which concern the sphere of activity of the general assembly or the executive committee, however in internal relations those require the supplementary approval of the appropriate executive body of the association.
- (5) The president presides over the general assembly and the executive committee.
- (6) The secretary takes down in the minutes at the general assembly and the executive committee.
- (7) The cashier is responsible for the correct financial practices of the association.
- (8) In case of being unavailable, the president, the secretary or the cashier are represented by their substitutes.

§ 14: Auditors

- (1) Two auditors are elected by the general assembly for a period of 4 years. A re-election is possible. The auditors must not belong to any executive body – with the exception of the general assembly – the activity of which will be evaluated at the audit.
- (2) The current business auditing as well as the examination of the financial practices of the association is incumbent on the auditors regarding the correctness of the invoicing and the expenditure of means according to the articles of the association. The executive committee has to submit the necessary documents and required information to the auditors. The auditors have to submit to the executive committee a report about the result of the audit.
- (3) Business transactions between the auditors and the association have to be approved by the general assembly. Apart from that the regulations of § 11, chapter 8 to 10 synonymously apply to the auditors.

§ 15: Arbitral tribunal

- (1) For the arbitration of all disputes arising from the association's relationship the arbitral tribunal of the association has to be appealed to. It is an "arbitral institution" according to the law relating to Austrian law relating to associations 2002 and no arbitral tribunal according to §§ 577 ff ZPO.
- (2) The arbitral tribunal consists of three full members of the association. It is formed in such a manner that a controversy part names in writing a member to the executive committee as arbitrator. Over request by the executive committee within

seven days the other controversy part names a member of the arbitral tribunal within 14 days. After notification by the executive committee within seven days, the named arbitrators vote within another 14 days a third full subscribing member to be male / female chairman of the arbitral tribunal. In case of a parity of votes, the decision among the proposed members is made by drawing lots. The members of the arbitral tribunal must not belong to any executive body – with the exception of the general assembly – the activity of which is issue of the dispute.

- (3) The arbitral tribunal makes a decision with a simple majority of votes after granting a hearing of both sides in the presence of all members. The decision is made to the best of knowledge and belief. The decisions are association-internally final.

§ 16: Voluntary dissolution of the association

- (1) A resolution on the voluntary dissolution of the association can only be passed at a general assembly and only with a two-thirds majority of the cast valid votes.
- (2) This general assembly also has to pass a resolution on the winding up – provided that assets of the association exist. In particular they must appoint a liquidator and pass a resolution to whom the liquidator has to convey the remaining assets of the association after repaying the liabilities. These assets shall, as far as this is possible and permitted, devolve on an organisation which pursues the same or similar objects as this association; otherwise they shall be for the purpose of social welfare.

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