



European Students' Union

Statutes

As amended at the 2nd Board Meeting –
Brussels, Belgium, 24 April 2009.

1. Denomination

The name of the international non-profit organisation is The European Students' Union (ESU).

2. Head Office

The head office of ESU is in Brussels. The address is Zavelput 20, 1000 Brussels, Belgium. The head office can be relocated within the territory of the Brussels Capital Region by decision of the Executive Committee.

3. Objective of the Association

3.1 Aims of the Association

ESU has the following goals:

- to promote the views of students on the educational system as a whole.
- to promote the social, economical, political and cultural interests of students and the human rights of students which have a direct effect or an indirect effect on education and on the status and welfare of students in society.
- to promote equal opportunities for all students regardless of their political belief, religion; ethnic or cultural origin, gender, sexual orientation, social standing or any disability they may have.
- to promote equal chances of access to higher education for all people.

- to promote European and global co-operation and to facilitate information exchange with students and students' organizations.
- to promote co-operation with other organised groups in matters pertaining to education and student life.
- to provide assistance and support to National Unions of Students in Europe in their work to protect student interests.

In pursuing these objectives and by bringing together the NUSes, ESU represents the views of students to all actors in the field of education and student life in general.

3.2 Activities

In order to realise its objectives, ESU will

- collect, summarise and distribute information between the member organisations;
- organise seminars, meetings and trainings;
- develop policies and issue demands;
- promote ESU policies and principles amongst other stakeholders in Education, both on a European and National level;
- run campaigns.

ESU shall co-operate with bodies which are relevant to fulfilling its objectives as long as the activities of these organisations do not contradict the principles of ESU. It shall also carry out all other activities conducive to the realisation of the above aims and objectives.

4. Definition of membership

Involvement in ESU can be obtained as:

- Member;
- Candidate;
- Associate Organisation.

Only organisations which act in accordance with the Statutes, the Standing Orders and the Financial Standing Orders can become involved in ESU.

The application shall consist of a written and signed application letter, the statutes and standing orders, a summary of the plan of work and the completed ESU membership questionnaire (all in English, statutes and standing orders in English and the original language). These documents shall be handed in electronically and by mail.

A member, candidate or associate organisation can resign from ESU by notifying the Executive Committee in writing.

4.1 Member

The members of ESU are student unions of Europe, legal entities constituted according to the law - statutes and usages - of their countries of origin:

- who are controlled and run by students;
- who hold democratic elections and are run on a democratic basis;
- who are representative;
- who are autonomous and independent in their decision-making;

- whose objectives are in accordance with the objectives of ESU as stated in the Statutes.

National Unions of Students have to be open to all students from universities and/or other higher education institutions in the country concerned, regardless of their political conviction, religion, ethnic or cultural origin, gender, sexual orientation, social standing or any disability they may have.

The members of ESU have the right to:

- vote and to speak at meetings;
- to put forward motions and to nominate candidates.

The members of ESU have the duty to:

- attend Board meetings.

4.2 Candidate

Before a decision on membership can be taken, the applying National Union of Students shall have the status of candidate for two ordinary Board Meetings, provided that the Board Meeting has accepted its application for membership.

After being a candidate for no more than six ordinary BMs the BM has to take a decision whether to grant membership, refuse membership, or prolong the candidate status.

Candidates have the right to:

- attend ESU meetings, except closed parts of the Board meeting;

- speak at ESU meetings, except closed parts of the Board meeting;
- put forward motions at the Board Meeting, with support of a member.

4.2.1 In the case of the first and second ordinary Board Meetings of ESU, notwithstanding the provisions of article 4.2, the board shall be able to grant any national union of students full membership directly, without the necessity of receiving an application or candidate status.

4.3 Associate Organisation

Student organisations working in at least 8 countries party to the European Cultural Convention are eligible to become associate organisations.

Associate organisations have the right to:

- attend all ESU meetings, except closed points of the meeting;
- speak at all meetings, except closed points of the meeting.

Associate organisations have the duty:

- to attend the Board Meetings of ESU.

5. Working Structure

The institutions of ESU shall be:

- The Board Meeting;
- The Executive Committee;
- The Secretariat.

5.1 The Board Meeting

5.1.1 Composition of the Board Meeting

The Board Meeting shall be composed of all the organizations involved in ESU. It shall be the highest decision-making body within the organisation. It shall meet at least twice a year. The decisions of the Board Meeting will only be in force after the Board Meeting where they were adopted.

Extraordinary Board Meetings shall be convened at the request of the Executive Committee or at least half of the possible full vote made in writing to the ESU office.

5.1.2 Competencies of the Board Meeting

The Board Meeting is the highest decision making body in ESU.

The BM shall:

Related to the Organisation

- take decisions about plans of action, policies and resolutions.
- take decisions about the budget.
- take all decisions concerning changes to the statutes.
- take the decision to disband the organisation.

Related to the EC

- take all decisions concerning the election and discharging of the EC.
- take all decisions concerning the mandate of the EC.
- approve or disapprove the work of the EC.
- grant discharge from liability to the EC.

Related to the involvement in ESU

- take all decisions concerning membership status.

□ grant the status of an associate organisation.

Related to the Working Structures

- take all decisions concerning the election and discharging the members of the Content Committees.
- take all decisions concerning the election and discharging elect the members of the Commission for Internal Auditing
- create, mandate and disband WGs.
- elect the chair of each WG.
- elect the host organisation of the seminars and BMs.

The BM shall deal with all other matters that the BM deems competent as provided these matters are not against the Statutes or Standing Orders.

The Board Meeting shall deal with all other matters that the Board Meeting deems necessary as provided these matters are not against the Statutes or Standing Orders.

5.1.3 Decision making procedures in the board meeting

The Board Meeting can only take valid decisions when an absolute majority of all members and a two-thirds majority of the possible full vote in are present.

Each country shall have an equal number of votes. If there is more than one member from a given country, the votes of that country shall be divided equally between them. Where a member fails to attend the Board Meeting, it can give its mandate, presented in writing to the Board Meeting, to another member.

The Board Meeting shall endeavour to reach the widest possible measure of agreement.

5.2 Executive Committee

5.2.1 Composition of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of 4 to six ordinary members and a chairperson. These are all individuals. The Executive Committee is elected by the Board Meeting.

5.2.2 Competencies of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is responsible for the execution of the decisions of the Board Meeting, political affairs and the overall finances of ESU.

The Executive Committee shall:

- take initiative to promote the views of ESU;
- be responsible of the external representation of ESU;
- implement the decisions, resolutions and policies of the Board Meeting;
- appoint the secretariat;
- design partnership agreements with other organisations;

- report to the Board Meeting on all its activities, as specified in the standing orders;
 - draw up the agenda for the Board Meetings in cooperation with the Secretariat;
 - meet at least once between Board Meetings.
- The Executive Committee has the right to speak and to put forward motions in Board Meetings.

5.2.3 The Chairperson

The chairperson shall be responsible for the coordination of the work of the Executive Committee and carry out the day-to-day financial affairs of ESU.

5.2.4 The Vice-Chairperson

The vice-chairperson shall be responsible for the coordination of the work of the Secretariat and carry out the day-to-day financial affairs of ESU.

5.2.5 Decision-making procedure in the Executive Committee

The members of the Executive Committee shall endeavour to reach the widest possible measure of agreement. Decisions in the Executive Committee shall be taken by simple majority, unless otherwise specified in these statutes or ESU's standing orders. The quorum of the Executive Committee shall be at least half of the members.

5.3 The Secretariat

5.3.1 Composition of the Secretariat

The composition of the Secretariat is a matter of the Executive Committee. The Secretariat is accountable to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee can mandate a member of the Secretariat:

- to lead the Secretariat and thus the staff.
- to assist the Executive Committee in the day-to-day financial affairs of the organisation
- to present the views of ESU to third parties.

5.3.2 Competencies of the Secretariat

The secretariat shall:

- assist the Executive Committee in the execution of decisions taken by the Board Meeting or Executive Committee.

All members of the Secretariat only have speaking rights in the Board Meeting.

6. Judiciary Actions

The Executive Committee is fully responsible for judiciary actions and represents the organisation in all legal and judiciary procedures.

7. Standing Orders

All matters not dealt with by the statutes of ESU are regulated by the Standing Orders and Financial Standing Orders.

8. Amending the Statutes

The Board Meeting may amend the Statutes by three-quarters majority of the votes present, provided that notice of the proposed amendments have been submitted in writing to the ESU Office not

less than forty days in advance, and the ESU Office has notified all members of ESU of such amendments not less than thirty days in advance of the Board Meeting.

The amended articles should be discussed in the light of the chapter of the article.

9. Dissolution of the Organisation

The Board Meeting can decide on the dissolution of the organisation with a three quarters majority of the votes present at two consecutive Board Meetings. In this case the Board Meeting that dissolves shall decide to which organisation or organisations of similar aims it shall hand over all of its assets.