



STATUTES

**“EUROPEAN STUDENTS' UNION”
international non-profit organisation**

Brussels (Belgium)

Number 0896.361.756

1. Denomination

The name of the international non-profit organisation is “European Students' Union”, abbreviated “ESU”.

2. Head Office

The head office of ESU is in Brussels. 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' organisations.
- to promote co-operation with other organised groups in matters pertaining to education and student life.
- to provide assistance and support to students' unions in Europe in their work to protect student interests.

In pursuing these objectives and by bringing together students unions, 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 sent electronically and by post.

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 National Unions of Students in 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 must 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.

4.2. Candidate

No decision to grant full membership can be taken without a study visit. For this purpose, in the case of prolongation of candidate status it is required to have organised a new study visit (after the decision to prolong the candidate status).

During the first three Board Meetings as candidate member, a decision on the status candidate member can only be taken after a study visit has been organised, provided that the Board Meeting has accepted its application for membership.

During the candidacy term, a study visit must be organised to evaluate the candidate member. A decision on the status of a candidate member must be taken by the Board at the first Board Meeting conducted after the study visit or after three completed Board Meetings as candidate member. At this point, the Board may decide to grant membership, refuse membership or prolong the candidate status of the applying union by maximum of four ordinary Board Meetings thereafter. Should the Board decide to prolong the candidacy of the applying union, a new study visit must be organised. After no more than four ordinary Board Meetings, the Board must decide to either grant membership or refuse membership to the applying union. The Union may reapply for a new candidate status after the refusal.

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 full member.

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 are:

- the Board Meeting;
- the elected institutions of ESU:
 - the Executive Committee, including the Presidency;
 - Commission for Internal Audit;
 - Working Groups.
- additionally, the following appointed structures are also to be considered ESU institutions:
 - the Secretariat;
 - Expert Pools;
 - Coordinators;
 - Task forces.

5.1. The Board Meeting

5.1.1. Composition of the Board Meeting

The Board Meeting shall be composed of all the organisations 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 Board Meeting 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 Executive Committee
 - take all decisions concerning the election and discharging of the Executive Committee;
 - take all decisions concerning the mandate of the Executive Committee;
 - approve or disapprove the work of the Executive Committee;
 - grant discharge from liability to the Executive Committee.
- Related to the involvement in ESU
 - take all decisions concerning membership status;
 - grant the status of associate organisation.
- Related to the Working Structures
 - take all decisions concerning the election and discharging elect the members of the Commission for Internal Audit;
 - create, mandate and disband Working Groups;
 - elect the chair of each Working Group;
 - elect the host organisation of Board Meetings.

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 total number of possible votes 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. If a member fails to attend the Board Meeting, it can transfer its mandate to another member, provided it is presented in writing to the Board Meeting.

If a member fails to attend three consecutive Board Meetings, the member loses the right to transfer its mandate to another member. The member involved will be notified in writing after missing three consecutive Board Meetings and at least 60 days in advance of the next Board Meeting. Only physical absences from the entire meeting are considered for this purpose.

The Board Meeting shall strive to reach the widest possible agreement.

A record of the decisions of the board meetings shall be kept. These records must be accessible to all members.

5.2. Executive Committee

5.2.1. Composition of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of five to seven ordinary members and a Presidency consisting of the President and two Vice-Presidents. 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 Presidency

The Presidency shall be the operational decision-making body within the organisation and is responsible for the day-to-day coordination and management of the organisation and steering of its institutions.

The Presidency is responsible for the preparation of the Executive Committee meetings and must report on its activities to the Executive Committee at every meeting.

5.2.4. The President

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

5.2.5. The Vice-President

The Vice-Presidents shall be responsible for the coordination of the work of the Secretariat and carrying out the day-to-day financial affairs of ESU. In addition, they shall be responsible for the organisation's lobby work and coordination of policymaking.

5.2.6. 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 cast, 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.