

Constitution

Name

- Art 1** The Federation shall be called “The European Federation of Associations of Teachers of the Deaf” a non profit-making organisation.

Situation

- Art 2** The Federation’s headquarters shall be located in Luxembourg

Objects

- Art 3** The objects for which the Federation is established are:
1. to promote the study of the problems in the education of deaf children and young people
 2. to co-ordinate to that end the efforts made by the National Associations
 3. to represent outside the Federation the educational needs and interests of deaf children and young people
 4. to contribute towards the formulation of public opinion concerning the educational needs of deaf children and young people

Membership

- Art 4**
1. The Federation shall be composed only of National or Representative Associations of Teachers of the Deaf
 2. The number of Member Associations shall not be less than three
 3. An Association shall be recognised as the National or Representative Association if it represents within a country the majority of the Teachers of the Deaf

Admission

- Art 5**
1. The Council shall decide on the admission of new members. This decision is made by simple majority and is final.
 2. Applications for membership shall be submitted in writing to the Council.

3. Each Member Association shall be required to sign a copy of the Constitution, such signature being regarded as acceptance of the constitution of the Federation.

Termination of membership

- Art 6**
1. Membership shall be terminated:
 - a) by submitting a letter of resignation to the Council
 - b) in case of non-payment of the annual subscription within twenty-seven months of payment being requested and at the discretion of the Council
 - c) by exclusion determined by the majority of the two-thirds of the Council
 2. An Association excluded or retired has no rights to the Federation's funds

Organisation

- Art 7**
- The Federation shall operate through the following structure:
- a) the Council (of Administration)
 - b) the Executive Committee

The Council

- Art 8**
1. The management of the Federation shall be vested solely in the Council
 2. Members of the Council are all the member Associations represented by the delegates
 3. Each Member Association shall be represented by two delegates. A third delegate shall be allowed when the membership exceeds 500 Teachers of the Deaf
 4. The delegates shall normally be elected for a period of four years. They shall be eligible for re-election
 5. When a delegate ceases to serve, the National Association to which this delegate belonged shall appoint a substitute and then inform the Executive Committee. This substitute shall complete the period of office of the delegate he or she replaces

Functions of the Council

- Art 9**
- The Council shall be vested with full powers regarding:

- a) the establishment, alteration and repeal of the articles of the Constitution
- b) the election or exclusion of members of the Executive Committee
- c) decisions concerning the admission of National Associations and the expulsion of members
- d) decisions concerning changes to the Constitution
- e) control of the activities of the Executive Committee
- f) examination and approval of the expenditure
- g) arranging an official audit of the accounts
- h) acceptance and approval of the audited statement of accounts
- i) confirmation of the actions of the Executive Committee
- j) decisions concerning the annual subscription; this should not exceed 25 Euro per teacher of the deaf in the National Association
- k) decisions concerning the organisation of the Congress
- l) decisions concerning the dissolution of the Federation and the method of liquidation

Meetings of the Council

Art 10

1. The Council shall meet at least once a year. The meeting shall be called by the President, giving written notice, stating date, place and agenda. Every proposal signed by at least one twentieth of the delegates should be on the agenda.
2. Upon receipt of a written request from at least one fifth of the Member Associations, a special meeting shall be called by the President in the same way, within a period of three months.
3. The council shall be presided over by the President or, in his absence, by a member of the Executive Committee.
4. The official language shall be English.

Voting

Art 11

1. The Council shall be empowered to make decisions if at least half of the Member Associations are represented.
2. Normally voting will be by show of hands, unless a secret ballot is demanded.
3. Each Member Association has two votes. Member Associations with more than 500 members have three votes.
4. All decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote. In case of a tie, the President shall be entitled to a second or casting vote. In the case of secret voting, a simple majority shall be reached.

5. An absent member Association may assign in writing its proxy votes to another Member Association
6. No member Association shall represent more than two other Member Associations
7. In the case of amendments to or alterations to the Constitution or liquidation of the Federation, voting will be conducted according to the rules laid down in Article 17
8. Decisions of the Council shall be recorded in a register, signed by the majority of members of the Executive Committee.

Elections

Art 12

1. The Executive Committee shall be composed of individual persons elected by the Council from among its midst.
2. Such elections may be made by show of hands unless a secret ballot is demanded by a delegate.
3. In case of a tie, the retiring President has the casting vote.
4. The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a period of four years. They shall be eligible for re-election.

The Executive Committee

Art 13

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of 4 members:
 - the President
 - the Vice-President
 - the Secretary
 - the Treasurer
2. The expenses of members of the Executive Committee and any person co-opted onto the Committee incurred in performing Federation business shall be paid from the Federation funds.

Art 14

1. If a member of the Executive Committee ceases to serve, the Council shall appoint a substitute. The substitute shall complete the term of office of the member he or she replaces.
2. When the President is to be replaced before completing his or her term of office, the Vice-President shall convene the next meeting of the council, which shall be held within one year of the change taking place.
3. At the meeting, the entire Executive Committee shall resign, and a new Executive Committee shall be elected by the Council

Functions of the Executive Committee

Art 15

1. The Executive Committee under the control of the Council shall be responsible for;
 - a. carrying out the decisions of the Council
 - b. the management of the Federation
 - c. the preparation of the budget
 - d. representing the Federation in negotiations with other bodies
2. Daily management may be delegated

Art 16

1. A congress shall usually be organised at least once every two years. An Association, unless it has more than 300 members, shall send to the Congress a maximum of six delegates who will have thoroughly prepared the theme of the Congress.
2. Each Member Association with more than 300 members shall be entitled to another two delegates per hundred members exceeding the 300 members.
3. The theme of the Congress shall be announced at least one year in advance.
4. Congress reports shall be published for the information of the Associations and to help to formulate public opinion.

Amendments to the Constitution

Dissolution of the Federation

Art 17

1. Amendments to the Constitution or dissolution of the Federation shall be decided upon by a two-thirds majority vote of the Council providing at least two-thirds of the members of the Council are present.
2. Unless two-thirds of the members are present, a new meeting shall be held within three months. The Council shall then be empowered to make decisions, irrespective of the number of members present, but, in that case, the decision must be referred to a civil court for confirmation.
3. Amendments to the Constitution and the dissolution of the Federation shall become operative only after their publication in the annexes of the Luxembourgian official documents on the actual date and month.

4. All members shall be informed of any amendments to the Constitution or dissolution of the Federation

Art 18

Any regulation not foreseen in this constitution shall be made according to Luxembourgian Laws and especially the Law of the 21 April 1928 concerning non-profit-making organisations and shall be subject to the approval of the Council.

(Translation of the French version with amendments included
12.04.2008)