

S T A T U T E

OF THE BALKAN FEDERATION OF APICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS

LEGAL STATUS AND TERM

Art. 1. The Balkan Federation of Apicultural Associations, referred to hereinafter as the "Federation", is a voluntary association of legal entities - apicultural associations of the Balkan countries - and has the status of non-profit legal entity in conformity with the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act.

Art.2. The Federation is created for an unlimited term.

ACTIVITY

Art.3. The Federation shall perform its activity for the benefit of its members.

NAME, OFFICE AND ADDRESS

Art.4. The full name of the Federation is "The Balkan Federation of Apicultural Associations".

Art.5. The office of the Federation shall be based in the city of Sofia, Serdika municipality.

(2) The address of the Federation shall be the address of its registered office: 29, "Klokotnitsa" St., Serdika Municipality, Sofia.

WRITTEN DOCUMENTS AND STAMP

Art.6. Each and every written statement on behalf of the Federation shall contain its name, office, address as well as its registration data, including the BULSTAT number.

Art.7. The Federation uses a round stamp with the wording "Балканска федерация на пчеларските съюзи" /Balkan Federation of the Apicultural Associations/ and an emblem. In its international communication and in the documents in a foreign language, the Federation may also use its name in Latin letters and the round stamp with its name in Latin letters.

MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Art.8. The Federation may be a member of national and international organizations, whose activity is directly or indirectly related to the Federation's object of activity or whose goals are similar to those of the Federation, and contribute to its effective activity.

GOALS

Art.9. The goals of the Federation are as follows:

1. to develop and improve beekeeping activities
2. to coordinate bee health activities
3. to coordinate the promotion and advertising of bee products
4. to provide mutual assistance in the marketing of bee products
5. to improve conditions for the production of queen-bees.

OBJECT OF ACTIVITY

Art.10. The Federation:

1. develops and contributes to the introduction of new technologies for the raising and care of bee colonies and for the production of apicultural equipment
2. coordinates the activities of prophylaxis and treatment of bees and brood
3. contributes to the exchange of information regarding the use of medication, forms and methods of governmental support for the development of apiculture
4. contributes to the exchange and distribution of specialized literature, including articles in periodicals in the field
5. contributes to the implementation of joint projects among scientific institutes and other organizations
6. organizes congresses every two years in the countries that are members of the Federation, with unhindered participation of beekeepers of Federation member countries. The mode of organization and development of Congresses is provided in the Guide dedicated to this purpose.
7. organizes scientific symposia, conferences, tasting events, competitions on the quality of mono-floral and poly-floral honeys
8. organizes joint exhibitions, fairs of bee products, apicultural equipment and specialized literature, with possibilities to make arrangements for their marketing
9. contributes to the opening of regulated markets, including agreements on the customs regime of bee products marketing among the Balkan countries
10. contributes to the creation of joint ventures and certified laboratories for the testing of bee products
11. establishes permanent relations with governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to coordinate the main programs of development and support of apiculture in all countries
12. carries out economic activity related to the Federation's object of activity so as to accomplish the Federation's goals
13. carries out other activities as allowed by the law, related to the accomplishment of Federation's goals.

MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION

Art.11. Members of the Federation may be the national apicultural associations in the following Balkan countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Republic of Macedonia (FYROM for Grece), Romania, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro, Turkey and Croatia, which shall adopt the statute, goals and internal regulations of the Federation. Also members of the Federation may be international non-profit organizations in the apicultural field based in one of the member states.

(2) The Founding Members are: the Beekeeping Association of Bulgaria - 1899, the Beekeeping Association of Macedonian Republic (FYROM for Greece), the Beekeepers' Association of Romania, the Beekeeping Association of Serbia and Montenegro, the Beekeeping Association of Turkey, Apimondia Foundation (FIITEA) in Romania and the Federation of Greek Beekeepers' Association.

Art.12. All the founders of the Federation are rightful members of the Federation.

Art.13. Membership in the Federation is voluntary.

(2) New members of the Federation shall be accepted with the unanimous resolution of the General Meeting of the Federation members.

Art.14. The applicant for membership in the Federation submits a written application to the Federation's Board of Managers, and attaches the following:

1. a declaration stating that it adopts and shall observe the Statute and the other internal regulations of the Federation
2. approval by the relevant pertinent body of the legal entity for membership in the Federation
3. an official document certifying its legal status.

Art.15. The application for membership and the accompanying documents shall be considered by the General Meeting in its first regular session, subsequent to the submission of the application for membership.

(2) The applicant shall be informed in writing on the decision made with respect to its membership in the Federation within seven days after the decision is made by the General Meeting.

(3) In the event of a rejection of the application, the applicant may resubmit documents not earlier than 6 (six) months after the date of rejection.

Art.16. The membership in the Federation is terminated:

1. by written notice from the Federation's Board of Managers, sent no later than 1 (one) month prior to the date of termination. Within one month, the apicultural association whose membership is terminated shall pay all its existing obligations to the Federation
2. by exclusion
3. in the case that the Federation member loses its status of legal entity
4. upon withdrawal from the Federation.

Art.17. The exclusion of a member of the Federation shall be done with the approval of the General Meeting of members if the respective member:

1. violates severely and systematically its obligations as a member of the Federation according to this statute and to the resolutions of the General Meeting of members
2. performs actions that are detrimental to the reputation and prestige of the Federation
3. carries out activities that are incompatible with the goals, tasks and statute of the Federation.

Art.18. A member of the Federation loses its membership when:

1. it has not paid for two years the annual membership fee established by the General Meeting of members and/or the additional contributions it had agreed to pay
2. it systematically fails to participate in the Federation's activity.

(2) The exclusion shall be certified by an act of the General Meeting of Federation members.

Art.19. In all cases of termination of membership in the Federation, the Federation shall not refund the membership fee for that current year as paid by the member whose membership is terminated, that has been excluded or has withdrawn.

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE MEMBERS. LIABILITY

Art.20. Each and every member of the Federation shall have the right to:

1. participate in the Federation's bodies of management
2. participate with one vote in the adoption of resolutions by the General Meeting of members
3. check the activity of the Federation's managers
4. participate in all events organized by the Federation, according to its interests.
5. submit proposals for amendments and supplements to the Statute or for changing the organization and operation modes of the Federation.

Art.21. The members of the Federation have the obligation:

1. to observe the statute and implement the resolutions of the Federation's bodies
2. to observe any and all other internal regulations of the Federation
3. to pay annual membership fees in the amount and within the terms determined by the General Meeting of members
4. to pay additional contributions for the implementation of activities as agreed in advance
5. to participate in the activity of the Federation bodies and to effectively contribute to the operation of the Federation
6. not to use the membership in the Federation to accomplish goals that contradict the statute and/or the interests of its other members
7. to protect the Federation's reputation.

Art.22. In the legal relations of the members with the Federation, the members shall be represented as legal entities or as legal delegates of individuals.

(2) The Federation members shall provide to the Secretary General of the Federation all the documents requested that certify representation according to the preceding paragraph.

BODIES OF THE FEDERATION

Art.23. The supreme body of the Federation is the General Meeting of members.

(2) The managing body of the Federation is the Board of Managers.

(3) The President, the two Vice-Presidents, and the Secretary General will be appointed by a resolution of the General Meeting and will form the Federation's Board of Managers. It is recommended that the elect should belong to different organizations.

(4) The censor is elected by the General Meeting of members.

Art.24. Branch committees may be formed by resolution of the General Meeting in order to solve specific issues. The resolution of the General Meeting shall determine the nature, tasks and term of each committee, as well as the Federation member, who will be in charge of appointing the chairman of the respective committee. The chairman of the respective committee shall appoint its members, who shall be subject of approval by the Federation's Board of Managers.

(2) Participant in the activities of the committees may also be invitees with consultative rights who are not representatives of the Federation members.

Art.25. Upon the creation of the Federation, the following branch committees shall be established:

1. Technology
2. Biology and pathology
3. Apitherapy
4. Marketing
5. Flora & Pollination
6. E.U. Integration Strategy

THE GENERAL MEETING

Art.26. For optimal debates in the General Meeting, the latter shall consist of two representatives for each member of the Federation.

(2) The sessions of the General Meeting shall be chaired by the President of the Federation by right, and in the President's absence, by one of the Vice-Presidents. The Secretary General of the Federation shall be the secretary of the sessions.

ATTRIBUTIONS OF THE GENERAL MEETING

Art.27. The General Meeting may:

1. amend and supplement the Federation's statute
2. adopt, amend and supplement other internal regulations of the Federation
3. accept and exclude members of the Federation
4. note withdrawal of Federation members
5. appoint, dismiss and relieve of responsibility the President, Vice-President, Secretary General, the members of the Board of Managers and the members of the Supervising Council of the Federation. This right of the General Meeting may be exercised at any time whatsoever, including prior to the expiration of the term, specified herein
6. establish and dissolve branch committees and appoint the members of the Federation who have the right to be appointed chairmen of these committees
7. adopt the resolution on the creation or dissolving of the Federation
8. adopt the main directions and program of activity in the Federation
9. adopt the Federation's budget
10. determine the amount of the annual membership fee
11. adopt the annual reports on the Federation activity and the balance sheet of the Federation
12. revoke the resolutions of other bodies of the Federation when they contradict the laws, the statute or other regulations of the Federation, or if they are inadequate;
13. adopt resolutions for and related to the participation of the Federation in other organizations
14. establish the address of the Federation Management
15. adopts other resolutions as provided by the law or by the statute.

(2) The General Meeting of members may not attribute the rights provided under paragraphs 1, items 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 12 to other bodies.

(3) The resolutions of the General Meeting shall be obligatory for the other bodies of the Federation.

Art.28. The resolutions of the bodies of the Federation taken in contradiction with the law, statute or a preceding resolution of the General Meeting may be disputed before the General Meeting per request of the concerned Federation members.

CONVENING THE GENERAL MEETING

Art.29. The General Meeting is convened by the Board of Managers at its initiative or as requested by one third of the Federation members.

(2) The General Meeting is convened for regular sessions by the Board of Managers at least once a year.

(3) The General Meeting is convened by written invitations sent to the members and containing the agenda, date and place of the meeting, and mentioning at whose initiative the session is convened. The invitation shall include additional data based on the specific situation, per invitee's request.

(4) The Secretary General of the Federation shall post the notice (invitation) in the Official Gazette and also in the display places of the respective city as established by the Federation at least a month prior to the event.

QUORUM

Art.30. The session of the General Meeting of members shall be legal if it is attended by more than half the Federation members.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL MEETING

Art.31. Resolutions of the General Meeting are taken by open vote, unless the General Meeting decides the vote to be secret.

(2) The resolutions of the General Meeting are adopted by majority vote of more than half of the attending members.

(3) The resolutions under Art. 27, paragraph 1, items 1 and 7 shall be adopted by a majority of two thirds of the attending members, and the ones under Art. 27, paragraph 1, item 3 by consensus.

(4) Each and every member of the Federation has the right of a single vote. In case the two representatives of a Federation member are unable to reach unanimity on the issue subject to vote, the respective member is considered to vote "abstention".

(5) Issues not included on the agenda as specified in the invitations may not be adopted by the General Meeting, unless the representatives of all members are present and they all agree that the respective issue should be considered.

Art.32. The Federation Members proposed for exclusion shall not participate in the vote on that particular proposal.

Art.33. Minutes are taken during the sessions of the General Meeting, indicating:

1. the place and time of the session
2. the names of the chairman and of the secretary

3. the attendance by individuals representing Federation members
4. the proposals made on the issues
5. the votes and their results

(2) The minutes of a General Meeting session are signed by all the representatives of the Federation members attending the respective session.

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Art.34. The Board of Managers consists of 4 (four) members – the President, two Vice-Presidents, and the Secretary General.

POWERS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

Art.35. The Board of Managers:

1. ensures the implementation of the General Meeting's resolutions
2. proposes to the General Meeting the acceptance or exclusion of Federation members
3. proposes to the General Meeting the adoption of amendments to the Federation statute
4. administers the patrimony of the Federation
5. prepares and submits to the General Meeting the draft on budget expenses
6. prepares and submits to the General Meeting the report on the Federation activity
7. establishes the schedule of activities and organizes the implementation of Federation activities
8. convenes the General Meeting
9. approves the members of the branch committees created by resolution of the General Meeting
10. adopts decisions on all issues that according to the law do not pertain to the General Meeting

(2) The Members of the Federation's Board of Managers shall be held financially responsible for the damages they caused to the Federation.

CONVENING THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

Art.36. The sessions of the Board of Managers shall be convened and chaired by the President of the Federation. The president shall convene the session of the Board of Managers at the written request of one third of its members. If the President fails to convene the session of the Board of Managers within one month, it may be convened by any of the concerned members of the Board of Managers.

(2) The President shall convene the Board of Managers by written invitation, indicating the place, date and agenda of the session.

(3) In emergency situations and if none of its members objects, the Board of Managers may be convened by phone, fax or other means of communication.

(4) The sessions of the Board of Managers are legal if attended by half its members.

(5) Participants are also the legal persons who have conference phones or other such capabilities enabling them to participate in the examination and adoption of resolutions. The vote of such members is included in the session minutes and confirmed by the president of the session.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

Art.37. Resolutions of the Board of Managers are taken by open vote, unless its members decide that the vote for one or more of the issues should be secret.

(2) Resolutions of the Board of Managers are taken by a majority of more than half the attending members, and the resolutions under Art. 35, paragraph 1, items 4 and 7 are taken by a majority of all the members of the Board of Managers.

(3) The Board of Managers may adopt a resolution without holding a session, if the minutes for the resolution are signed without objections or claims by all the members of the Board of Managers.

(4) A registry of the minutes shall be kept and made available to every member of Board of Managers..

THE PRESIDENT

Art.38. The President of the Federation is a physically capable person, elected by the General Meeting from among the representatives of the Federation members for a 2 (two) year mandate, with possibility for reelection after the completion of a full cycle during which each Federation member was President of the Federation.

(2) The first President of the Federation shall be a person appointed by the Bulgarian Apicultural Union. The following presidents will be appointed by the apicultural association of the country whose name comes next in the order of the Cyrillic alphabet.

ATTRIBUTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT

Art.39. The President:

1. organizes the current operation of the Federation and ensures its efficient management
2. organizes the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the General Meeting and by the Board of Managers
3. represents the Federation before third parties
4. manages the budget and the staff of the Federation
5. performs other functions as assigned by the Board of Managers.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Art.40. The Vice-Presidents of the Federation are physically capable persons, who are elected by the General Meeting from among the representatives of the Federation members for a 2 (two) year term and they may be re-elected. after the completion of a full cycle during which each Federation member was Vice-President of the Federation.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Art.41. The Secretary General of the Federation is a physically capable person, a representative of the apicultural association of the residence country of the Federation, who shall be appointed by the General Meeting for a 2 (two) year term, and may be reelected. The General Secretary has not voting rights in the Managing Board.

ATTRIBUTIONS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Art.42. The Secretary General:

1. organizes the participation of the Federation in international and national events, related to the activity of the Federation

2. organizes activity during the ordinary and extraordinary sessions of the General Meeting
3. organizes the activity of the Federation Board of Managers
4. performs the function of secretary during the General Meeting sessions
5. is responsible for the communication among the members of the Federation and between the Federation and third parties
6. secures the technical organization of the Federation activity
7. performs other functions as assigned by the Board of Managers.

THE CENSOR

Art.43. The Censor is a physically capable person elected by the General Meeting from among the representatives of the Federation members for a 2 (two) year term and may be re-elected.

(2) The member of the Federation whose representative is elected President or Vice-President of the Federation, may not propose a representative of its own for the Censor position during that term.

(3) The Censor monitors the observance of the law and of the present statute by the Federation's bodies of management and presents reports on its activity during each session of the General Meeting.

THE FUNDS AND FUNDING OF THE FEDERATION

Art.44. The activity of the Federation is funded by its members, by donations, governmental subsidies or other sources as the law permits.

(2) Based on the resolution of the General Meeting of the Federation, the budget is drawn up every year.

(3) The Federation shall not allocate benefits among its members.

Art.45. Each new member of the Federation, within one month after its acceptance as member, shall deposit into the bank account of the Federation an affiliation fee as determined by the General Meeting of members, as well as the full amount of the membership fee for the year of acceptance into the Federation.

Art.46. The General Meeting may pass a resolution for additional deposits by the members for the Federation which shall be used to fund clearly established actions.

Art.47. The Federation shall carry out its accounting in compliance with the requirements of the Accounting Act.

TERMINATION AND LIQUIDATION

Art. 48. The Federation shall be terminated:

1. by resolution of the General Meeting and of Federation members
2. by resolution of the court in the cases stipulated by the law.

Art.49. Upon termination the liquidation of the Federation shall take place.

(2) The liquidation shall be executed by the persons authorized by the General Meeting of Federation Members.

REMAINING PROPERTY AFTER LIQUIDATION

Art.50. The available property remaining after payments to the Federation's creditors shall be divided equally among its members.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Art.51

(1). For any and all issues which have not been settled by this statute, the provisions of the Bulgarian legislation in effect shall apply.

(2) The present statute was adopted during the constitutive assembly of the Federation, held on April 28, 2006 and was prepared in English.

THE MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION:

PRESIDENTS

BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION OF BULGARIA – 1899

KOSTA GHEORGIEV KOSTOV

BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION OF MACEDONIA

PETKO ZLATEV

BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF ROMANIA

EUGEN ZORICI

BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION OF SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

ZIVOSLAV STOJANOVIC

BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION OF TURKEY

MUSTAFA SARIOGLU

APIMONDIA FOUNDATION FIITEA

CRISTIAN CONSTANTINESCU

FEDERATION OF GREEK BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONS

GERASIMOS KRAGIAS