

INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY

By and under supervision of the Political Assembly, the following additional organs and bodies with and without decision-making powers will be established and function within the association. The rules regarding the functioning and composition of these organs and bodies, as well as other rules relating to the functioning of the association which are not set out in the by-laws, will be set out in these Internal Regulations.

Having regard to article 10 of the by-laws, the organs of the association are the following:

- (i) the Presidency
- (ii) the Political Assembly
- (iii) the Congress

Having regard to the rules set out in these Internal Regulations, the bodies of the association are the following:

- (i) the EPP Summit
- (ii) the International Secretaries Steering Committee
- (iii) the EPP Ministerial Meetings
- (iv) Enlarged Summits
- (v) Leaders' Retreat
- (vi) the standing and ad hoc Working Groups
- (vii) the Ethics Committee
- (viii) Summer University

I. ON THE CONGRESS

a. Composition

The members of Congress are:

- Members of the EPP Presidency;
- Presidents of Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties and Member Associations;
- Delegates of Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties and Member Associations
- Heads of State or Government of Member States of the European Union, who are members of an Ordinary Member Party;
- EPP Group Members of the Association (cf. article 5, (4) of the by-laws);
- Members of the European Commission provided they are members of an Ordinary Member Party;
- Presidents of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European Committee of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST provided that they are a member of an Ordinary Member Party or an Associated Member Party;
- Delegates of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European Committee of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST, provided that they are member of an Ordinary Member Party or Associated Member Party.

The overall number of delegates shall be decided upon by the Political Assembly prior to convening the Congress.

Delegates of Ordinary Member Parties, Associated Member Parties, Member Associations, the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE, the

57 OSCE and NATO, the European Committee of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and
58 EURONEST respectively form delegations.

59
60 They must, in the composition of their delegation, give priority to their representatives at
61 the Political Assembly.

62
63 The number of delegates from each Ordinary Member Party, Associated Member Party and
64 Member Association is calculated in accordance with the number of delegate members of
65 the Political Assembly. Members *ex officio* are not taken into account.

66
67 Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties are entitled to a minimum of
68 three delegates. Member Associations and the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at
69 the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European Committee of
70 the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST are entitled to six delegates.

71
72 The following are invited to the Congress as guests:

- 73
74 - three representatives of each Observer Member Party, in accordance with article 5
75 bis of the by-laws;
76 - two representatives of each EPP Partner and each Associated Entity, in accordance
77 with article 5 bis of the by-laws;
78 - Presidents of the Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the
79 European Committee of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST;
80 provided they are member of an Ordinary Member Party, Associated Member Party,
81 Observer Member Party or EPP Partner.
82 - members of the Presidency of the EPP, like-minded or associated Groups, at the
83 Parliamentary Assemblies of the CoE, the OSCE and NATO, the European Committee
84 of the regions, Union for the Mediterranean and EURONEST;
85 - parliamentarians of the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament who are not
86 EPP Group Members;
87 - all former Presidents and Secretaries-General of the party;
88 - Individual Members.

89
90 The President has the right to invite other personalities to the meetings of the Congress.

91
92 **b. Functioning**

93
94 The Congress meets at least every three years. It is convened by a decision of the Political
95 Assembly which determines the venue, date, agenda and regulations of the Congress.
96 Convening of the Congress is the responsibility of the President on behalf of the Political
97 Assembly.

98
99 The Political Assembly debates and approves the draft EPP Congress document.

100
101 Notice shall be made in writing and contain the venue, date and proposed agenda. It must
102 be dispatched, together with a copy of the regulations of the Congress, four weeks prior
103 to the Congress. Organizations that have delegates are responsible for informing them.

104
105 The venue and date of an ordinary Congress, as well as the number of delegates per
106 delegation, must be communicated at least two months in advance.

107
108 The Political Assembly can decide to convene an extraordinary Congress. At the request of
109 the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament or at least one-third of the Ordinary
110 Member Parties and Associated Member Parties, the Political Assembly shall convene an
111 Extraordinary Congress. The time period set out in the previous paragraphs shall be
112 reduced to minimum three weeks.

113

114 The Congress can validly take decisions if it has been correctly convened and if the simple
115 majority of its members are present. Failure to reach a quorum can only be established by
116 a formal motion, introduced during the Congress meeting itself.

117 A formal motion, preventing valid deliberation of the Congress, may be introduced by:

- 118
- 119 - the presidency of the Congress; or
 - 120 - at least seven Ordinary Member Parties and Associated Member Parties from five
121 different countries; or
 - 122 - the Presidency of the EPP Group in the European Parliament.
- 123

124 If a formal motion has not been introduced, the Congress can validly deliberate, regardless
125 of the fact that the attendance quorum has not been reached.

126

127 If a formal motion has been introduced, and the Congress is thus unable to make a valid
128 deliberation, the President shall, after consultation with the EPP Presidency, determine the
129 date and agenda of an extraordinary Congress. The stipulations concerning the notice and
130 notice period shall not apply. This extraordinary Congress can validly deliberate, regardless
131 of the attendance quorum.

132

133 Decisions shall be taken with a simple majority of the votes cast by the members of the
134 Congress present. Decisions on modifications to the by-laws are governed by article 29 of
135 the by-laws. Each member of Congress has one vote. Abstentions and blank votes are not
136 considered to be valid votes.

137

138 The Congress normally meets in public. On the request of the Congress Presidency, the
139 Congress may decide, by simple majority, to meet "in camera".

140 **II. ON THE EPP SUMMIT**

141 **a. Competences**

142

143 The EPP Summit prepares the position to be taken by the EPP Heads of State and of
144 Government at the European Council and issues recommendations on the strategy and
145 political orientation of the association.

146 **b. Composition**

147

148 The EPP Summit is composed of:

- 149
- 150 - the members of the EPP Presidency;
 - 151 - the members of the European Council (Heads of State or Government), a Vice-
152 President of the EC to represent the members of the Commission in the absence
153 of the President, as far as he or she is a member of an EPP Ordinary Member
154 Party;
 - 155 - Presidents of parties in coalition governments in EU Member States in cases where
156 the Head of Government is not a member of an EPP Ordinary Member Party;
 - 157 - the President of the largest opposition party in each Member State of the European
158 Union.
159 Where EPP Ordinary Member Parties candidate only in complementary regions, the
160 President of each party is invited.
- 161

162 The President has the right to invite other personalities to the meetings of the EPP Summit.

163

164 The President will report to the Political Assembly on the outcome and general direction of
165 the EPP Summit.

166 **c. Enlarged Summit**

171
172 The Enlarged Summit is held at least once a year and issues recommendations on the
173 strategy and political orientation of the association.

174
175 The Enlarged Summit is composed of:
176 - EPP Summit Members;
177 - Head of State or Government, as far as he or she is a member of an EPP Associated
178 Member Party or a Partner Party;
179 - Presidents of parties in coalition government in cases where the Head of
180 Government is not a member of an EPP Associated Member Party or a Partner Party;
181 - The president of the largest opposition party in non-EU Member States in which the
182 association has Associated Member Parties or Partner Parties.

183
184 The President has the right to invite other personalities to the meetings of the EPP Enlarged
185 Summit.

186
187 The President will report to the Political Assembly on the outcome and general direction of
188 the EPP Enlarged Summit.

189 **III. LEADERS' RETREAT**

191
192 The Leaders' Retreat is an informal meeting focussed on discussing the long term EPP
193 strategy. The Leaders' Retreat is composed of members of the European Council, Heads
194 of State or Government, a vice-president in the absence of the president of the European
195 Commission, the president of the European Parliament, presidents of parties in coalition
196 governments in EU Member States OR the highest-ranking member of the coalition
197 government belonging to an EPP Ordinary Member Party in cases where the Head of
198 Government is not member of an EPP Ordinary Member Party and the president of the
199 largest opposition party in each Member State of the European Union.

200
201 The President has the right to invite other individuals to the meetings of the EPP Leaders'
202 Retreat as deemed appropriate.

203
204 The President will report to the Political Assembly on the outcome and general direction of
205 the EPP Leaders' Retreat.

206 **IV. ON THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIES STEERING COMMITTEE**

207
208 The Secretary General chairs the 'International Secretaries Steering Committee', an *ad hoc*
209 consultative body that will assist, when necessary, the work of the institutional bodies of
210 the association. All international, external or related Secretaries of the EPP member parties
211 and partners as well as the Secretaries General of the EPP Associations have the right to
212 participate in this Committee.

213 **V. ON THE EPP MINISTERIAL MEETINGS**

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216
217 The association organizes on a regular basis EU Ministerial Meetings prior to the EU Council
218 meetings on relevant EU policy sectors proposed by the EPP Presidency in order to improve
219 political coordination and policy synergy in the Council. At the recommendation of the EPP
220 President, the Ministerial Meetings as a general rule should be co-chaired by the co-
221 legislators, being one Council member and one Member of the European Parliament, who
222 have relevant policy experience and expertise in the relevant domain.

223
224 The following individuals can be invited to the Ministerial Meetings:

- 225 (i) On those policy areas where co-decision is required the European Commissioner,
226 provided he belongs to an EPP Member Party;
227 (ii) The EPP Vice President responsible for the corresponding portfolio;
228 (iii) Members of the European Parliament of the EPP Group who will participate
229 following the recommendations of the Presidency of the EPP Group in the
230 European Parliament.

231 Additionally, the co-chairs may decide to convene exceptional Ministerial Meeting to
232 discuss and align the political direction of the association, both in the short term and in
233 the long term.
234 For such long-term strategic discussions, for example at the start of a Council presidency,
235 co-chairs may decide to exceptionally open Ministerial Meetings to EPP Member Parties in
236 opposition and/or Associated Member Parties,

237 **VI. WORKING GROUPS**

238 Working Groups shall comprise representatives from Member Parties, Partner Parties,
239 Member Associations and EPP Groups in Parliamentary Assemblies, in order to engage in
240 long-term policy coordination and develop programmatic work.
241

242 Members of each Working Group are appointed by the Political Assembly or if the ad hoc
243 Working Group is established by the Presidency, by the latter, upon nomination by
244 Member Parties, Member Associations and or EPP Groups in Parliamentary Assemblies.
245

246 **VII. ON THE WORKING GROUP CHAIRMEN**

247 Upon nomination of the Presidency, the Chairperson of the each Working Group is
248 appointed by the Political Assembly or if the ad hoc Working Group is established by the
249 Presidency, by the latter.
250

251 The Members of the Presidency should commit themselves in the bodies of the party, e.g.
252 Working Groups. In case of vacancies, the Presidency together with the Secretary General
253 will appoint a high profile EPP personality to Chair a Working Group. In case of poor
254 performance by an appointed Working Group Chairperson, the Presidency and the
255 Secretary General have the right to replace the Chairperson with a new appointment.
256

257 To ensure alignment and coordination across the association's various organs and bodies,
258 the Working Group Chairpersons shall ensure appropriate coordination with the EPP Group,
259 EPP Ministerial Meetings and EPP Summits.
260

261 The Members of the Presidency and the members of the Political Assembly may suggest
262 or request the creation of a specific Working Group to discuss issues of particular
263 relevance for the EU and its international position.
264

265 Member Parties who do not participate in two consecutive meetings of the Working Group
266 Meetings, will not be able to present and/or vote amendments to EPP Working Group
267 documents or resolutions in the two following Working Group Meetings.
268

269 **VIII. ON THE SUMMER UNIVERSITY**

270 The association organizes, in close cooperation with the Wilfried Martens Centre for
271 European Studies, an annual Summer University, where party members, including group
272 leaders of EU institutions and parliamentary assemblies, chairs of the Ministerial Meetings
273

279 and members of Working Groups, gather informally to discuss the activities of their various
280 meeting formats and coordinate messaging.

281

282 **IX. ON THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

283

284 **a. Admission as a Member Association**

285

286 Associations wishing to be recognised should apply to the Presidency in writing.

287

288 The application must include:

- 289 - the program of the association;
- 290 - the by-laws of the association;
- 291 - and information concerning the organization and the number of members;
- 292 - evidence that the recognition requirements set forth in the by-laws are satisfied.

293

294 The Presidency must submit the application to the members of the Political Assembly at
295 least one month prior to its examination.

296

297 The Political Assembly may decide to hear representatives of an applicant association.

298

299 **b. Relationship between Member Associations and third parties**

300

301 The EPP Member Associations are autonomous organisations and should act as separate
302 legal entities through their own bodies.

303

304 The Member Associations clearly indicate in their name their relationship to the association
305 in a way that no confusion is created over the fact that the Member Association is a
306 separate legal entity operating independently from the association.

307

308 The Member Associations should give due consideration to the interests of the association
309 and other Member Associations.

310

311 The Member Associations should observe the guidelines which the Political Assembly has
312 adopted to increase transparency as to the relationship between the association and the
313 Member Associations and to contribute to the good governance of the association and the
314 Member Associations.

315

316 **X. ON THE BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS**

317

318 At the first meeting of each odd-numbered year, the Political Assembly elects two Internal
319 Auditors who may not be members of the EPP Presidency. Their mandate lasts two years.

320

321 **XI. ON THE MEMBERSHIP**

322

323 **a. Admission**

324

325 During its preliminary examination of the membership application as mentioned in articles
326 5, 5bis, 6 and 19,vii of the by-laws, the Political Assembly may decide to hear a
327 representative of the applicant party.

328

329 The Secretary General in accordance with the President transmits the application for advice
330 to the EPP Working Group on 'EPP Membership'.

331

332 The Political Assembly will take a decision on the application on one of its next meetings
333 following the receipt of the advice of the EPP Working Group on 'EPP Membership'.

334

335 **b. Individual Members**

336

337 In addition to article 5^{ter} of the by-laws, the Individual Members have the right to attend
338 the Congress, have regular access to European political news and may attend the EPP
339 networks in member states' capitals.

340

341

342 **XII. ON THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

343

344 **a. Membership Fees of EPP Ordinary Member Parties**

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346 The annual Membership Fees of the EPP Ordinary Member Parties is based on:

347

348 a) a basic sum calculated on the basis of the votes obtained by that party in
349 the last European Elections

350 b) a basic sum per member of that party in the EPP Group in the European
351 Parliament

352

353 The basic calculation is made for the first budget following European Elections, on the
354 proposal of the Treasurer and the Secretary General and after approval of the Political
355 Assembly.

356

357 When a modification in Membership Fees is necessary, it is possible to vote for either a
358 modification of basic sum a) or for a modification of basic sum b) or for a modification of
359 both sums.

360

361 **b. Membership Fees for Observer Member Parties based in the European**
362 **Union**

363

364 On the proposal of the Treasurer and Secretary General, the Membership Fees of EPP
365 Observer Member Parties based in the European Union, is calculated by the Political
366 Assembly on the basis of 50% of the votes obtained by these Observer Member parties
367 during the last national elections. The Observer Member Parties based in the European
368 Union will start paying Membership Fees immediately after their admission as an Observer
369 Member Party, *pro rata temporis*.

370

371

372 **c. Membership Contributions for Individual Members**

373

374 The membership contributions for Individual Members are set annually by the Political
375 Assembly, in accordance with article 7 of the by-laws.

376

377

378 **d. General Stipulations**

379

380 Membership Fees are fixed in euro; they are payable without deduction of incurred costs.
381 Membership Fees are adjusted annually in line with Belgian inflation levels.

382

383 **e. Subventions to Member Associations**

384

385 1. The association in so far as possible supports the activities of its Member Associations.
386 The nature and conditions of this support are determined by the EPP authorities responsible
387 for the budget and follow the decisions of the Bureau of the European Parliament and
388 article 210 of the RAP with regard to 'support to third parties'.

389

390 2. Each Member Association submits each year by the 1st February at the latest to the EPP
391 Secretary General the budget and action programme of the year to come and the activity

392 report of the previous year. As soon as completed, it also furnishes its accounts and balance
393 sheet of the previous budgetary year. The balance sheet and accounts are to be
394 accompanied by the report of the financial auditors and the minutes of the meeting at
395 which this report was approved.

396
397 3. Following this, each member association is entitled to a reimbursement to a maximum
398 amount of 70.000€ of proven expenditures with regard to the organisation of events and
399 administrative costs. In order to obtain reimbursements of these costs the associations
400 must produce all supporting documents including invoices, bank statements and detailed
401 cost overviews.

402
403 4. A detailed list of eligible and non-eligible expenditures will be provided to each member
404 association.

405
406 5. On all invitations to the activities and on all publications concerning the activities of the
407 Member Associations for which reimbursement is requested the EPP logo must be
408 prominently displayed.

409
410 **f. Financial support to related organizations**

411
412 Should the EPP Political Assembly decide to give annual financial support to other related
413 organizations, these organizations should follow the same procedure as described above,
414 in section e.

415
416 **g. Administration of Resources**

417
418 The EPP Treasurer and Secretary General are entrusted by the EPP Presidency and Political
419 Assembly with the proper administration and use of the financial resources of the
420 association. To that purpose they will draft Internal Financial Regulations that will be
421 submitted for the approval of the Presidency.

422
423 **h. Decisions on the accounts and budget**

424
425 In accordance with article 12 and article 26 of the by-laws, any member of the EPP
426 Presidency who is a Member of the European Commission or President of the European
427 Parliament shall abstain from taking part in the deliberation and voting process regarding
428 the annual accounts and budget of the association.

429
430 **XIII. ON THE EPP MERIT AWARD**

431
432 The EPP Presidency has the right to grant an "EPP Merit Award" to individuals that have
433 made an outstanding contribution in promoting the association. The EPP Presidency will
434 receive nominations and examine them on a case-by-case basis before granting the Award.

435
436
437 **XIV. ON THE ROBERT SCHUMAN INSTITUTE**

438
439 The Robert Schuman Institute is recognized as the training institute of the European
440 People's Party and will be supported by the European People's Party. The Robert Schuman
441 Institute shall present a yearly report on its activities and finances to the Political Assembly.

442
443 **XV. ON THE EPP FARMERS**

444
445 EPP Farmers aims to create a central platform for agricultural and rural issues within the
446 EPP. This includes strengthening cooperation between agricultural associations and
447 policymakers, advocating for farming in centre-right policies and ensuring that agricultural
448 concerns are effectively represented within the EPP. EPP Farmers also enhances exchange

449 and collaboration between national Parliament members, members of the European
450 Parliament, Ministers of Agriculture, and national and regional party members involved in
451 agricultural policy.

452

453 **XVI. ON THE EPPride**

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455 The EPPride is created as a network of conservative, Christian-democrat, and liberal-
456 conservative LGBT-groups in Europe to provide an LGBT voice in the centre-right policies.
457 The Alliance shall present a yearly report on its activities and finances to the Political
458 Assembly.

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