

Articles for the Registered Association European Coalition of Cities Against Racism

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§ 1 Name, , Business Year

- (1) The association is named "European Coalition of Cities Against Racism" and is to be registered in the Register of Associations. After registration the suffix "e.V." [Registered Association] will be added.
- (2) The seat of the association is Nuremberg.
- (3) The business year corresponds to the calendar year.

§ 2 Purpose

The Association's purpose is:

- a) Fighting any form of racism and discrimination at a municipal level and thus making a contribution to safeguarding and promoting human rights and respect for diversity in Europe;
- b) supporting member cities in this task via the "Ten-Point-Plan of Action", which was adopted in Nuremberg on 10 December 2004, and assisting them in establishing priorities, optimising their strategies and intensifying their co-operation;
- c) representing and promoting the common interests of member cities at the European Union, the Council of Europe and with the governments of European states;
- d) strengthening co-operation with institutions and organisations which are also committed to fighting racism and discrimination, as well as with other European municipal networks;
- e) sensitising the European public to the values of a just and solidarity-based society and motivating the public to promote equality and to counteract with determination any racist or discriminatory opinion and behaviour.

§ 3 Charitable Status

- (1) The Association exclusively and directly pursues charitable and benevolent purposes as defined by section "Tax-Privileged Purposes" of §§ 51-68 of the Fiscal Code. The Association's activities will be selfless. It will not strive for profit and will not primarily pursue its own profit purposes.
- (2) The Association's funds may only be used for purposes in accordance with the articles of the Association. Members will not own shares of the profit, and in their capacity as members will not receive any other financial allocations from the Association's funds.
- (3) No person shall benefit from expenditure which is not in accordance with the Association's articles, or from disproportionately high remuneration.
- (4) Members do not own shares in the Association's assets.

§ 4 Membership

- (1) Membership of the Coalition is limited to cities and district governments from the European countries with a democratically elected municipal council, which support the Association's purposes. Membership is not subject to a minimum number of inhabitants of the respective municipality. Membership of the Coalition shall also be open to UNESCO in Paris.
- (2) Membership for cities and district governments which are eligible according to section 1 above is conditional upon filing a letter with the Steering Committee comprising an application for membership in the Coalition. Membership is obtained as soon as the application for membership is accepted by a Steering Committee majority decision.
- (3) By becoming a member of the Coalition, each member commits to presenting a report on its implementation measures for the "Ten-Point-Plan of Action " to the Steering Committee every two years. The Steering Committee will pass on all reports to the Scientific Secretariat. The Scientific Secretariat will annually evaluate all reports thus presented to assess the state of implementation of the "Ten-Point-Plan of Action ". The Steering Committee will comment upon this evaluation. The evaluations by both the Scientific Secretariat and Steering Committee will be presented to the General Conference for information and discussion.
- (4) Membership is terminated by withdrawal or exclusion from the Association. Any declaration of withdrawal must be made by a competent representative.
- (5) Withdrawal can be effected at any time, by written declaration presented to the Steering Committee . The period of notice is 6 months.
- (6) Members may be excluded from the Association, if their behaviour has constituted a serious violation of the Association's interests. The General Conference decides on the expulsion of a member, with a two-third majority of all votes cast. The Steering Committee may suspend membership until the General Conference takes a decision.

§ 5 Membership Fee

All members have to pay an annual membership fee which is payable on February 1 of each business year. The amount of the membership fee is suggested by the Steering Committee and adopted by the General Conference. In a particular case the Steering Committee may release members from the obligation to pay.

§ 6 Executive Bodies

The Association's Executive Bodies are:

- a) the General Conference;
- b) the Steering Committee.

§ 7 General Conference

- (1) Regular annual General Conferences must be held. The Steering Committee must announce the General Conference in writing and at least twelve weeks in advance, including with the invitation an agenda for the annual General Conference. The Steering Committee decides on the venue and the agenda of the annual General Conference.
- (2) The General Conference is exclusively competent in the following matters:
 - a) adoption of the budget and the annual accounts;
 - b) election of the Steering Committee, except of permanent members;

- c) formal approval of the actions of the Steering Committee;
 - d) changes to the Association's articles;
 - e) dissolution of the Association;
 - f) approval of the annual working agenda;
 - g) hearing of the activity report presented by the Steering Committee;
 - h) exclusion of members of the Association;
 - i) obtaining information on the evaluation by the Scientific Secretariat and on the comments by the Steering Committee, as provided by § 4 section 3 above, and discussing those.
- (3) Each member has one vote.
- (4) The General Conference is competent to make decisions, if all members were invited in accordance with the Association's articles. Decisions are taken by simple majority of members present. Changes to the articles require a three-quarter majority of members present.
- (5) Scientific advisors as well as representatives from various organisations and institutions may attend the General Conference as observers at the invitation of the Steering Committee. These observers have no voting right.
- (6) The Steering Committee may call an extraordinary General Conference at any time. Such General Conferences must be called, if the Association's interests require this, or if one fifth of all members demanded this of the Steering Committee in writing, stating purpose of and reason for this General Conference.

§ 8 Steering Committee

- (1) The Steering Committee comprises a maximum of 18 voting members and is composed as follows: one representative each from a maximum of 16 member cities, and one representative each of UNESCO (Paris) and the City of Nuremberg.
- (2) The representatives of UNESCO and the City of Nuremberg are permanent members of the Steering Committee.
- (3) With the exception of the permanent members, all further members of the Steering Committee are elected by the General Conference for a period of two years. Re-election is permissible.
- (4) From among its members the Steering Committee shall elect a chairperson and two deputy chairpersons. They represent the association in and out of court. They constitute the legal representatives of the association within the meaning of § 26 (2) BGB. Each of them holds sole power of representation.
- (5) The Steering Committee may invite scientific advisors as well as representatives from various organisations and institutions to attend meetings as observers. These observers have no voting right.
- (6) The Steering Committee has the following tasks:
- a) deciding on the admission of cities as members of the Coalition;
 - b) suggesting the exclusion of member cities to the General Conference;
 - c) representing and promoting the Coalition and its goals at a European, international and regional level;
 - d) deciding on and preparing General Conferences and further conferences of the Coalition;
 - e) implementing decisions taken by the General Conferences;
 - f) preparing and facilitating medium and long term action programmes for the Coalition and introducing them to the General Conference for decision-making;
 - g) preparing and discussing the budgets and annual accounts and presenting them to the General Conference for decision;

- h) forwarding the reports presented by members to the Steering Committee in accordance with § 4 section 3 above, to the Scientific Secretariat for annual evaluation, and commenting upon these evaluations on an annual basis.

§ 9 Administrative Secretariat

- (1) The seat of the Coalition's Administrative Secretariat is in Nuremberg, in the City of Nuremberg Human Rights Office.
- (2) The tasks of the Administrative Secretariat are as follows:
 - a) acting as a point of contact for member cities and interested municipalities;
 - b) promoting communication and sharing of experiences and best practice examples for the implementation of the "Ten-Point-Plan of Action Against Racism" among member cities;
 - c) doing PR work for the Coalition at a European as well as at an international and regional level;
 - d) supporting the national coalitions of cities against racism; and
 - e) organising Coalition activities, in particular General Conferences and further conferences.

§ 10 Scientific Secretariat

- (1) The seat of the Coalition's Scientific Secretariat is in the Social and Human Sciences Sector, Section Fight against Discrimination and Racism of UNESCO in Paris.
- (2) The tasks of the Scientific Secretariat comprise the following:
 - a) evaluating the implementation of the "Ten-Point-Plan of Action Against Racism" on the basis of the reports presented by member cities according to § 4 section 3 above, on an annual basis;
 - b) advising member cities on the implementation of the Plan of Action;
 - c) promoting co-operation with Inter-Governmental Organisations, Non-Governmental-Organisations, universities and other relevant bodies in providing research-based support for the implementation of the purposes of the Coalition.

§ 11 Minutes

- (1) Minutes must be prepared for all decisions taken by the General Conferences and by the Steering Committee, and these must be signed by the chair person of the General Conference or the meeting and by the person taking the minutes. The minutes must contain: a list of participants, the agenda, the results of any decisions and votes taken, if applicable with voting results, as well as all declarations presented explicitly for the minutes.
- (2) The Steering Committee is responsible for minutes being taken.

§ 12 Dissolution of the Association

- (1) The Association may be dissolved by a General Conference with a three-quarter majority of all delegates present as provided in the Association articles.

§ 13 Commencement

The above articles were adopted by the foundation assembly on November 10, 2007 in Graz, Austria.