

## Why shall the AESOP Charter be revised?

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Going through the AESOP Charter, it appears that we have many gaps between our charter and our practice. Some day, one of these gaps may result in a trouble : for instance, as for today, it is not certain whether AESOp fulfills its duties with respect to the Belgian law. The following note lists the main gaps and gives some information about the current situation.

### A. Membership categories :

In the Charter (art. 6)	In practice
<b>Full member :</b> <i>Each Full Member shall belong to the academic personnel of a European planning school, viz: nominated contact person of that school, and one of those nominated to the Council or elected to the Executive.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schools, not people</li><li>• Eligibility criteria in the Core curriculum</li></ul>
<b>Associate member :</b> <i>Each Associate Member shall represent a non-European planning school or a school directly concerned with planning.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Includes members which should be classified as affiliate</li><li>• Some associate members registered as corresponding</li></ul>
<b>Affiliate member :</b> <i>Each Affiliate Member shall represent a firm, organisation or agency directly concerned with planning.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mostly registered as associate</li></ul>
<b>Individual member :</b> <i>Each Individual Member shall be a person actively engaged in planning.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• OK</li></ul>
	<b>Corresponding member :</b> Created at some point for non-European planning schools, later abandoned

### Main issues :

- Communication : Membership as a 'quality stamp' needs to be well defined in the charter, e.g. 'full members' fulfill the criteria of AESOP Core curriculum.
- Management : with the new tools (website), we need relevant categories. e.g. : mailing lists are hand made, or how to implement a change in the fee policy?

## B. Council of Representatives (art. 16):

- Elected every 2 years : this has been much improved thanks to our regular reminders.
- Composition : in addition to National Representatives, the CoRep may include “up to three additional persons designated by the President

Main issues :

- keep the election process running in the future
- activate the nomination of additional persons by the presidents
- insert the substitutes to the Charter

## C. ExCo officials (art. 22) :

In the Charter (art. 6)	In practice
<b>Functions :</b> <i>At minimum, the Executive shall consist of:</i> 1) a President 2) a Senior Vice President 3) a Vice President 4) a Secretary General 5) a Treasurer <i>The Council designates officials and determine their functions.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large ExCo</li><li>• ... and still to many tasks</li></ul>
<b>Mandates :</b> <i>The Officials shall hold office for two years, with the exception of the Senior Vice President whose period of office shall last for only one year.</i> <i>The President and Senior Vice-President may not run for another mandate, other officials may.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presidents only run as scheduled (election every 2 years)</li><li>• Other members remain without limit</li></ul>
<b>Administration :</b> <i>At least one of the Officials shall be of Belgian Nationality.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None, what about our legal declarations ?</li></ul>

Key issues :

- Legitimacy : go back to elections
- Efficiency : clarify the roles, have a more inclusive policy using other members also.
- Legal security : make sure that we make all legal declarations.

## **D. AESOP budget (art 28)**

It is presented by civil year, whereas the charter states that “The accounting year shall end on 31 July”.

## **Conclusion :**

The situation is unclear and we need a new charter. A modification of the Charter is to be done in accordance with the procedure set by art. 30 :

### **Article 30**

- a) Without prejudice to Article 3 of the Act of 25 October 1919, any proposal for modifying the constitution of AESOP or of dissolving the Association must emanate from the Executive or from at least half of the total number of Council members.
- b) The Secretary General must communicate in writing to each Full Member, at least six weeks in advance, the content of any such proposal and the date of the Council meeting at which the said proposal will be considered.
- c) Any Council meeting attended by less than two thirds of its membership cannot validly deliberate on such proposals for modification or dissolution. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Council meets and fewer than two thirds of the membership attend, a fresh meeting can be convened, on the same conditions as above, and it shall deliberate definitely and legitimately on the proposal concerned, whatever the number attending or represented.
- d) A two-thirds majority vote is required for any such decision to be taken.
- e) The Council shall decide upon the manner of dissolution of the Association and the final settlement of its accounts.

After the ExCo members discuss on the future of the organisation, I will prepare a proposal for a new Charter to be :

- discussed at the next ExCo meeting in Luleå,
- submitted to the Council members 6 weeks before Tirana

Paris, 16 november 2010