

THE AESOP CHARTER

DECREE

Article 1

The international association „Association of European Schools of Planning” is hereby granted formal recognition as a legal persona. Its registered address shall be:

*3001 Leuven Heverlee
Celestijnenlaan 131*

Article 2

The charter of the above mentioned association, appended to the present decree, is hereby approved.

Article 3

Our Minister of Justice shall be responsible for the execution of the present decree.

Given at Brussels, 7 May 1992
witnessed: Baudouin
for the King, the Minister of Justice
Melchior Wathelet
for transmission of an exact copy
the delegated chief executive
M. COPPENSDE RYCKE
Judicial Adviser

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN SCHOOLS OF PLANNING CHARTER

(as published in the „Moniteur Belgique” 1992)

1. DESTINATION

Article 1

An international association, to be called the Association of European Schools of Planning, or AESOP for short, is hereby established as an international association with a scientific, artistic and educational purpose. This association is subject to the Belgian Act of 25 October 1919 as amended by the Act of 6 December 1954.

2. AIMS

Article 2

This nonprofit Association shall have the aims of:

- a) promoting within Europe the development of teaching and research in the field of planning;
- b) instigating cooperation and exchanges between planning schools in Europe, and encouraging the harmonisation and equivalence of the degrees which they award, and
- c) representing the interest of planning schools in Europe in national and international administrations and organisations, particularly within Europe.

Article 3

In relation to this charter, the following definitions shall apply:

- a) „School” refers to any school, department, centre of teaching and research or other teaching entity which grants university degrees or other equivalent awards.
- b) „Europe” and „European” refers to those countries outside North America which compose the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations Social and Economic Council.
- c) „Planning” includes strategic planning (both urban and rural) on both local and regional scales, and environmental management.

3. REGISTERED ADDRESS

Article 4

The registered address of the Association shall be recorded as Celestijnenlaan 131, 3001 Leuven Heverlee, Belgium. This can be transferred to any other place in Belgium by a simple resolution of the Executive, published in

the Annexes du Moniteur Belgique within one month of the date when so resolved.

4. MEMBERS

Article 5

The Association shall consist of individual persons. Each school shall be represented in the Association by the individual contact persons it has nominated.

Article 6

- a) There shall be four categories of membership, that is to say:
 - 1) Full Member;
 - 2) Associate Member
 - 3) Affiliate Member;
 - 4) Individual Member.
- b) 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.
- c) Each Associate Member shall represent a non-European planning school or a school directly concerned with planning.
- d) Each Affiliate Member shall represent a firm, organisation or agency directly concerned with planning
- e) Each Individual Member shall be a person actively engaged in planning.

Article 7

- a) The Executive (as defined in Articles 11, 21-23) shall determine applications for membership and their appropriate categorisation.
- b) In certain circumstances, the Executive may grant temporary Full Member status to an Associate Member.
- c) the applicant may appeal to the Council (as defined in Articles 11, 15-20) against the Executive's decision.
- d) Persons nominated to the Council or elected to the Executive will through their acceptance of this role become a Full Member if not already so.

Article 8

- a) A member may resign by notifying the Secretary General in writing.
- b) The Council shall have the power to expel any member where serious grounds exist for doing so. A two third majority vote is required to effect this.

5. RIGHTS AND DUTIES

Article 9

Members shall have the following rights:

- a) to attend meetings of the Association and to participate in its business;
- b) to participate in its activities; and
- c) to receive its publications.

Article 10

Members shall have the following duties:

- a) to notify the Association of changes of circumstances that might affect their appropriate membership category; and
- b) to pay all fees which the Council requires.

6. ADMINISTRATION

Article 11

The administrative and managerial organs of the Association shall be:

- 1) the full Assembly, alias the Assembly
- 2) the Council of Representatives, alias the Council
- 3) the Executive Committee, alias the Executive.

ASSEMBLY:

Article 12

- a) The Assembly shall be the Association's formal means of consultation.
- b) The Assembly shall consider the policy and administration of the Association on the basis of reports presented by the Council of Representatives.
- c) The Assembly shall discuss planning education and research in relation to themes proposed by the Council.

Article 13

The Assembly shall be open to every category of member and also to lecturers, researchers and students from schools represented in the Association.

Article 14

- a) For the Assembly a quorum shall be at least 15 Full Members and must include at least three members of the Executive and at least three other members of the Council of Representatives.
- b) The Assembly shall be chaired by the President.

COUNCIL:

Article 15

- a) All the Association's powers shall rest with the Council.

b) The management and administration of the Association shall be delegated to the Executive but are always under the ultimate control of the Council.

c) The functions exclusive to the Council are as follows:

- 1) definition of policies and programmes of the Association;
- 2) expulsion of any members, appeals on membership applications, and disputes between any members of the Executive;
- 3) election and termination of office of Officials;
- 4) establishment of internal rules and of the level of membership subscriptions;
- 5) allocation of prizes in the field of planning; and
- 6) modification of the Association's rules and its dissolution.

Article 16

a) The Council shall be composed of the following members:

- 1) the national representatives;
- 2) the Officials; and
- 3) up to three additional persons designated by the President.

b) Where a country has one Full Member, it shall represent that country. Where a country has two Full Members, both shall represent that country. Where a country has more than two Full Members, all Full Members from that country shall organise an election of two representatives. The Secretary General shall be responsible for the general oversight of this process.

c) The President can designate persons only from the European planning schools represented within the Association.

Article 17

a) Any member of the Council may resign by written notification to the Secretary General.

b) The Council can expel any member by a twothirds majority vote.

c) When a position becomes vacant, arrangements can be made to fill the post for the remainder of the mandatory period in accordance with Article 16.

Article 18

Each Council so formed shall last for two years.

Article 19

a) The Council shall meet at least once annually on the call of the President.

b) Special meeting of the Council shall be called by the President on the request of at least five of its members.

c) The Secretary General shall inform Council members of the agenda, date, time and place of each meeting at least two weeks in advance.

Article 20

a) The quorum for the Council shall be at least seven members, including at least three Officials of the Association and three others from amongst the national representatives.

b) Members of the Council can designate another member as proxy in their absence. No member can be proxy for more than two persons. In calculating the quorum, any proxy must be disregarded.

c) The Council shall be chaired by the President.

d) Resolutions shall be carried on a simple majority, except in those special cases stipulated in this constitution. Where voting is evenly split, the President shall have the casting vote.

e) The Council's resolutions shall be recorded in a register signed by the President and any other Official, and be available from the Secretary General for inspection by Full Members.

EXECUTIVE:

Article 21

a) The Executive shall hold the managerial and administrative powers of the Association, by delegation from the Council who are the sole ultimate authority.

b) Daytoday management can be delegated to the President and the Secretary General.

c) In addition, special specified powers can be conferred on one or more persons

d) All undertakings by the Association must be signed by the President and one of other Officials. The President can designate the Treasurer or Secretary General as his/her proxy. The signatories shall not have to justify to third parties the powers given to them for this purpose.

e) In between the Executive meetings, the President shall be in charge of current business and shall keep the Executive informed.

Article 22

a) The members of the Executive are the Officials of the Association.

b) Every Official shall be a person on the teaching staff of a European planning school represented in the Association.

c) At least one Official shall be of Belgian nationality.

Article 23

a) The Officials of the Association shall be elected by the Council.

b) An Official can be relieved of his/her functions by notification in writing from the Secretary General. This termination applies from the date when a replacement takes effect.

c) In case of removal from office or incapacity, the Executive Committee may appoint up to two temporary Officials for the remaining period of office. For more than two, the Council shall elect a new Executive.

d) On expiry of their period of office, the President and the Vice President shall not be eligible for reelection; while other Officials are eligible for reelection only once more.

e) 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.

f) By a two-thirds majority, the Council may remove any Official from office. Where a member of the Association becomes expelled, this implies also removal from any office held as an Official.

Article 24

a) At a minimum, the Executive shall consist of:

- 1) a President
- 2) a Senior Vice President
- 3) a Vice President
- 4) a Secretary General
- 5) a Treasurer

b) Should the President be prevented from carrying out his/her duties for whatever reason, he/she shall be replaced by another Official in accordance with the precedence expressed above.

c) The Council shall stipulate in its internal rules the exact duties of each Official.

Article 25

a) The Executive shall meet at least twice annually on the call of either the President or at least three other Officials.

b) The quorum for Executive meetings shall be four members.

c) An Official may designate another Official as his/her proxy. No single Official can act as proxy for more than one other Official. In calculating the quorum, proxies must be disregarded.

d) The executive shall be chaired by the President.

Article 26

a) The resolutions of the Executive shall be carried on a simple majority vote. On a split vote, the President's vote shall be decisive.

b) The resolutions of the Executive shall be recorded in a register signed by the President and a second Official. This register shall be in the custody of the Secretary General who on request shall make it available for inspection to members of the Council.

Article 27

Judicial actions, whether initiated or being defended by AESOP, whether passive or active, shall be the responsibility of the President or an Official appointed by him/her for the purpose.

7. BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS

Article 28

- a) The accounting year shall end on 31 July.
- b) The Executive shall have a duty to submit an annual financial report for the Council's approval.
- c) The Council may determine the nature of any assets or reserve fund.

8. EXTINCTION OF MEMBERS' RIGHTS

Article 29

- a) Any member who ceases to participate in the Association, whether through death or otherwise, shall have no remaining rights relating to assets and funds of the Association.
- b) The obligations of any member at the termination date shall remain.
- c) The party replacing a Full Member, Associate Member or Affiliate Member shall take on the rights and duties of the member being replaced.

9. MODIFICATIONS OF CONSTITUTION, DISSOLUTION

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 last 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.

10. GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Article 31

All matters not covered in this constitution and particularly in the notices to be published in the Annexes du Moniteur Belgique shall be regulated in conformity to the provisions of the law.

To be appended to the Royal Decree date 7 May 1992
No 3/12.955/S

Minister of Justice
(signed) Melchior Wathelet
for transmission of an exact copy
the delegate chief executive
M COPPENSDE RYCKE
Judicial Adviser