



# **European Chiropractors' Union**

## Constitution

Approved by the ECU General Council

November 2017

## 1. NAME AND OFFICE

The European Chiropractors' Union (hereinafter referred to as ECU) is a federation of National Chiropractors' Associations. Its registered office is at PO Box 118, 4190CC Geldermasen, The Netherlands.

## 2. OBJECTS AND POWERS

- (a) The ECU is established to promote and develop a unified profession of chiropractic in Europe. It shall achieve these objects by promoting and supporting research, education, political representation and dissemination of information. It operates at a supranational level to represent the interests of the chiropractic profession in Europe.
- (b) In furtherance of the said objects but not otherwise the ECU may:
- (c) Employ and pay any person or persons to supervise, organise and carry on the work of the ECU.
  - (i) Meet with representatives of national governments, voluntary organisations, statutory authorities and individuals with the aim of securing or developing legal recognition for chiropractors as members of a separate, distinct and independent healthcare profession.
  - (ii) Promote, support or undertake research, surveys or investigations that will advance knowledge and guide the development of the chiropractic profession.
  - (iii) Arrange and provide for, or assist in arranging and providing for, the holding of exhibitions, meetings, lectures, classes, seminars and training courses, and to promote and assist in the development of chiropractic teaching institutions in Europe.
  - (iv) Collect and disseminate information on all matters affecting the said objects and exchange such information with other bodies having similar objects.
  - (v) Cause to be produced, published and distributed such materials as shall further the said objects.
  - (vi) Purchase, take, lease, hire or otherwise acquire any property and any rights and privileges necessary for the promotion of the said objects and construct, maintain and alter any buildings or erections necessary for the work of the ECU.
  - (vii) Make regulations for any property, which may be so acquired.
  - (viii) Subject to such consents as may be required by law, sell, let, mortgage, dispose of or turn to account all or any of the property or assets of the ECU.

- (ix) Subject to such consents as may be required by law, borrow or raise money for the said objects and accept gifts on such terms and on such security as shall be deemed to be necessary.
- (x) Raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscriptions and otherwise provided that the ECU shall not undertake permanent trading activities in raising funds for the said objects.
- (xi) Invest the monies of the ECU not immediately required for the said objects in or upon such investments, security or property as may be thought fit, subject nevertheless to such conditions as may for the time being be imposed or required by law.
- (xii) Do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the said objects.

### **3. MEMBERSHIP**

#### **I) UNION MEMBER**

- (a) Union Membership is open to one properly-constituted national chiropractors' association per European country. Such associations shall require all full members to be graduates of CCEI-accredited chiropractic educational institutions, except where explicit authority has been granted by the General Council to permit continued membership in accordance with clause 3d. Where a chiropractic course gains accreditation under an ECU recognized accrediting agency, graduates who qualified under a previous incarnation of the course shall be eligible for membership of a national association. All Union Members shall have three or more full members who are in residence and practice in that country.
- (b) All applications for Full Union membership shall be considered by the General Council on receipt of a valid application by the Secretary General. Subject to satisfying all relevant criteria for membership, the Executive Council shall, not less than three months in advance of the next General Council meeting, submit a proposal for Full Union Membership. Approval of applications shall be by simple majority at the General Council meeting thereafter.
- (c) Union Membership shall be open to all European nations who fulfil the criteria for membership. These shall include, but not be limited to, those countries who are members of the European Union (EU) and those falling within the European Economic Area (EEA).
- (d) Where the Constitution of any Union Member is amended to permit membership to chiropractors who have qualified from an educational institution not recognised by CCEI or its affiliates, the General Council may request in writing the justification for such amendment and determine whether Union Membership may remain valid in the circumstances.
- (e) Each Union Member shall nominate one representative to sit on the General Council.
- (f) Each Union Member:

- (i) May appoint a maximum of two observers to attend General Council meetings. Such observers shall not be permitted a voice unless explicitly requested by the General Council.
- (ii) May request that an additional observer attend if it is relevant to the meeting.
- (g) The General Council shall have the right:
  - (i) To approve and reject applications for membership, and
  - (ii) For good and sufficient reason to terminate membership of any Union Member provided that the individual representing such Union Member shall have the right to be heard by the full General Council before a final decision is made.
- (h) Any member wishing to withdraw from membership must give written notice to the office of the ECU prior to the 30th day of September in any year. Failing such notice the per capita fee for the ensuing year shall become due and payable.

## **II) INDIVIDUAL CHIROPRACTIC MEMBER**

- (a) Chiropractors in European countries where there is no Union Member may apply for membership as Individual Chiropractic Members, and shall be accepted as such on providing evidence of professional qualification and ethical standards to the satisfaction of the Executive Council of the ECU.
- (b) In the event of a chiropractors' association being constituted in any country and becoming a Union Member of the ECU, all Individual Chiropractic Members in that country will be required to become members of that national association, and will be ineligible for Individual Chiropractic Membership.
- (c) Any chiropractor outside Europe may apply to become an Individual Chiropractic Member of the ECU, provided such chiropractor is able to prove he/she is a member in good standing in his/her State, Provincial or National Association, should one exist. In cases where no State, Provincial or National Association exists, the Executive Council shall use its discretion.
- (d) Individual Chiropractic Members may not stand for election to the Executive Council
- (e) Individual Chiropractic Members have no vote.

### **III) HONORARY MEMBER**

- (a) The award of Honorary Membership of the ECU may be proposed by the Executive Council and approved by the General Council to those individuals considered to have performed exceptional works on behalf of the ECU. Receipt of Honorary Membership shall exempt the Union Member to which the individual belongs from paying the per capita fee for that individual.
- (b) Honorary Members may not stand for election to the Executive Council.
- (c) Honorary members have no vote.

### **4. HONORARY OFFICERS**

- (a) The General Council shall elect and duly appoint Honorary Officers to an Executive Council. The Executive Council shall consist of a President, Vice- President, and Treasurer and, subject to clause 4d, the Immediate Past President. Each term of office shall run from the date of the Annual General Meeting until the same meeting three years later (effective May 2018). All Honorary Officers shall be eligible for re-election for a second term of office by simple majority. Candidates seeking further terms of office shall be required to secure a two-thirds majority of those present and voting; (excluding abstentions).
- (b) Elections for the offices of President, Vice President and Treasurer shall take place on successive years. Where the Vice President is elected President following an election, as per clause 4c the GC shall appoint an Acting Vice President until the next regular period of election.
- (c) In the event of any vacancy arising on the Executive Council outside of the periods of election, the Executive Council shall have the power to co-opt members, as they see fit, for the remainder of the term of office or until the following Annual General Meeting, whichever is sooner.
- (d) At the natural completion of their term of office, the President shall remain on the Executive Council in the office of Immediate Past President for a period of one year
- (e)
  - (i) Only full members of Union Members shall be eligible to serve as Honorary Officers or members of the General Council. Nominations for Honorary Officers must be made by members of the General Council in writing or via e-mail and must be received at the ECU office at least six weeks before the Annual General Council Meeting.
  - (ii) Should nominations exceed vacancies, election shall be by ballot.
  - (iii) There must be a secret ballot for each vacant post.
  - (iv) Election is by a simple majority.
  - (v) In the case of three or more nominations for one office, the nominee securing the least

votes from each round of voting shall be eliminated until only two nominees remain. Election shall then be according to a simple majority, unless one of the nominees is seeking a third term of office, whereby clause 4(a) shall be invoked.

In the event that the nominee seeking a third term of office fails to achieve two-thirds of the votes cast in an election between two nominees, they shall be eliminated from the ballot.

Where the remaining candidate does not achieve 51% in that same ballot, a further, final ballot shall be held in which they must achieve a simple majority of the votes cast. Failure to do so will render the election null and void and a further election will be called for the next regular General Council meeting.

- (vi) In the event of a tied election where only two nominees remain, the Executive Council shall adjourn to determine a casting vote.

## **5. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

- (a) Subject as hereinafter mentioned the policy and general management of the affairs of the ECU shall be directed by an Executive Council which shall meet not less than twice a year.
- (b) The members of the Executive Council shall be elected at the Annual General Council Meeting of the ECU in accordance with Clause 4.
- (c) The Executive Council shall appoint a Secretary General who will be responsible for co-ordinating and managing the affairs of the Head Office, including matters of governance and compliance with the ECU Constitution. The Secretary General shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Council.
- (d) The Secretary General shall request nominations from the General Council for the posts of Honorary Officers and circulate them with the agenda one month before elections.
- (e) Where any member of the Executive Council wishes to resign from office, their resignation must be submitted in writing to the Secretary General. Once accepted by the Executive Council, it shall not be possible to rescind this resignation.
- (f) The Executive Council shall appoint a Remuneration Committee which shall determine the remuneration of the President, Secretary General and any other member of staff who shall from time to time be appointed by the Executive Council. It shall also recommend to the Executive Council a policy for the payment of Expenses and any other Honoraria to any other member of Executive Council or any other individual undertaking work on behalf of the ECU.
- (g) The proceedings of the Executive Council shall not be invalidated by any failure to elect or any defect in the election, appointment, co-option or qualification of any member.

- (h) The Executive Council may appoint such special or standing committees as may be deemed necessary by the Executive Council and shall determine their terms of reference, powers, duration and composition. All acts and proceedings of such special or standing committees shall be reported back to the Executive Council as soon as possible.
- (i) The Executive Council shall perform its duties in accordance with policies laid down by the General Council and with the EC Code of Conduct in force at the time. Any policy decisions made by the Executive Council shall be subject to ratification by simple majority at the following General Council meeting.

## **6. MEETINGS OF THE ECU**

- (a) Annual General Meetings of the General Council shall be held at such place and time (not being more than 15 months following the preceding Annual General Meeting) as the Executive Council shall determine. At least 4 months' notice shall be given in writing to Union Members by the Secretary General.
- (b) An Extraordinary General Council Meeting may be called at any other time by the Executive Council at its discretion or by the General Council after providing six or more signatories of Union Members calling for such a meeting. The Secretary General shall, within 28 days, call an Extraordinary General Council Meeting of the ECU.
- (c) Any decision of the General Council may be objected to by a Union Member not represented at the meeting at which the decision was taken. Any objection shall be made within one month of receipt of the related Minutes. The Union Member must accept the majority decision pertaining to the matter at the following meeting of General Council.

## **7. RULES OF PROCEDURE AT ALL MEETINGS**

- (a) Minutes of all General Council, Executive Council and sub-committee meetings shall be kept. The Secretary General shall be responsible for the prompt submission of Minutes and proceedings and for the implementation of resolutions.
- (b) Save as otherwise herein provided, all questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote. In the case of a tied vote, the Executive Council shall adjourn and determine a casting vote.
- (c) The Executive Council shall have power to adopt and issue Standing Orders and/or Rules of the ECU. Such Standing Orders and/or Rules shall come into operation immediately provided always that they shall be subject to review by the ECU in General Council meetings and shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution.

In decisions relating to political, professional or electoral issues each Union Member representative disposes of one vote.

- (d) In decisions relating to financial issues each Union Member representative disposes the following votes dependent on membership numbers.

Number of members		Votes
3 -	30	1
31 -	60	2
61 -	120	3
121 -	200	4
201 -	300	5
301 -	400	6
401 -	500	7
501 -	600	8
601 -	700	9
701 -	800	10

An additional vote shall be added for each 100 members to a maximum of no more than one-third of total votes available.

- (e) Any Union Member which is the subject of a financial proposal shall be excluded from voting on that proposal.
- (f) Union Members shall submit timely notification of membership numbers to the Treasurer who will determine Union Member dues accordingly. Votes on financial issues shall be determined by reference to membership numbers and the Union Member being in good standing.
- (g) Financial proposals for the agenda must be submitted by the Union Member in writing or by email 12 weeks in advance of the meeting.
- (h) All other proposals for the agenda must be submitted by the Union Member in writing or by e-mail to the Secretary General six weeks prior to the General Council meeting.

## 8. FINANCE

- (a) All monies raised by or on behalf of the ECU shall be applied to further the objects of the Association and for no other purpose, provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any employee of the ECU or the payment of honoraria, salary or reasonable expenses to members of the Executive Council or of any committee appointed under Clause 5(h).
- (b) The Honorary Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of the ECU.
- (c) The accounts shall be audited at least once a year by the auditor or auditors appointed at the Annual General Council Meeting. An Honorary Officer is not eligible to act as an Auditor.
- (d) The Remuneration Committee shall determine the remuneration of the auditors.
- (e) A bank account shall be maintained in the name of the ECU with such bank as the Executive Council shall from time to time decide.

- (f) The Executive Council shall have the power to appoint trustees, when and where necessary in countries where ECU funds have accumulated. Three trustees shall be appointed, two to form a quorum. They shall invest the ordinary and special funds of the ECU in any of the stocks or securities authorised by law for the investment of trust funds in such manner, as the Executive Council shall from time to time direct.
- (g) The title to all real or personal property which may be acquired by or on behalf of the ECU shall be vested in a corporation lawfully entitled to act as Custodian Trustee or in not less than three or more than five individual persons (not being members of the Executive Council).

## **9. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- (a) Any alteration of this Constitution shall be determined by a two-thirds majority of the General Council present and voting at the next General Council meeting.
- (b) Notice of any proposed alteration to this Constitution must be received by the Secretary General in writing at least 12 weeks before the General Council meeting and submitted to the Union Members 8 weeks before such meet

## **10. DISSOLUTION**

- (a) If the Executive Council by a simple majority decides at any time that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the ECU, it shall call an extraordinary General Council meeting, of which meeting not less than 28 days notice stating the terms of the Resolution to be proposed thereat shall be given.

If such a decision to dissolve shall be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at such meeting, the Executive Council shall have power to dispose of any assets held by or on behalf of the ECU. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to the Union Members in proportion to their membership.

## **11. NOTICES**

- (a) Any notice may be served by the Secretary General on any Union Member either personally or on its appointed representative as the case may be, by e-mail, by post (in a pre-paid letter addressed to the Union Member at its last known address, and any letter so sent shall be deemed to have been received within ten days of posting).

ECU CONSTITUTION updated November 2017

This Constitution replaces previous versions dated 2nd January 1996, 17th January 1997, 8th August 2000, 23rd June 2003, 16th December 2003, 27th May 2004, 3rd March 2006, 31st May 2008, 30th May 2009 and 27th November 2010 and May 2016, November 2016