

ECSO – European Council of Skeptical Organisations

Articles of Association

§1 Name and Registered Office

- (1) The name of the organisation is "ECSO - European Council of Skeptical Organisations".
- (2) The organisation is based in Rossdorf, Germany.
- (3) ECSO is entered in the register of associations at Darmstadt Local Court under the number VR 3252.

ECSO - European Council of Skeptical Organisations, was founded as an unregistered association in the town hall in Oostende, Belgium on 25 September 1994.

The organisation "ECSO - European Council of Skeptical Organisations", abbreviated to ECSO, which was registered in Darmstadt at the Darmstadt District Court under the number VR 3252, is the successor to the above-mentioned unregistered association.

ECSO, also referred to here as the Council, is a European organisation.

§2 Purpose

The purpose of ECSO is to promote science and research and advance education and vocational training. ECSO is a scientific and educational organisation with the following purpose:

1. to protect the public from spreading claims and therapies that have not been critically tested and analysed and, therefore, pose a risk.
2. to examine such extraordinary claims that are on the fringes of science or contradict current scientific knowledge using controlled tests and experiments. This applies, in particular, to phenomena identified as "paranormal" or "pseudoscientific". However, no claims, explanations or theories are rejected before an objective assessment.
3. to promote scientific inquiry, critical thinking, scientific education and public decision-making based on good practice in science and medicine.

ECSO fulfils the purpose:

- Education and vocational training by informing the public through articles and the maintenance of a website and communication via the media and social media.
- Science and research by organising congresses and other events as well as exchanging information via online conferences and webinars.

§3 Non-profit status

The Council pursues exclusively and directly charitable purposes within the meaning of the "tax-privileged purposes" section of the German Fiscal Code. ECSO operates selflessly; it does not primarily pursue its own economic purposes. Council funds may only be used for statutory purposes. The members do not receive any profit shares or, in their capacity as

members, any other benefits from the Council's funds. No person may be favoured by tasks that are alien to the purpose of the Council or by disproportionately high remuneration.

§4 Membership

European organisations with similar objectives may apply for membership and are admitted by resolution of the Council. Admission as a member becomes effective with the consent of the organisation concerned and, in the case of paying members in accordance with §5, with the payment of the first membership fee. Legal members shall nominate at least one representative to the Council in accordance with §9, of whom exactly one must be nominated by the member organisation to exercise voting rights.

On the recommendation of a member organisation, individuals may be elected as Honorary Members without voting rights at a Council Meeting. They shall enjoy all other rights of membership.

§5 Membership fees

Member organisations are required to pay annual membership fees. The amount of membership fees to be paid by member organisations shall be determined by the Council Assembly.

§6 Termination of Membership

Membership ends:

- (1) by the dissolution of a member organisation,
- (2) by a corresponding resolution of the Council Assembly,
- (3) by resignation at the end of a year, of which the Executive Board has been notified in writing by 30 November of the year by an authorised representative of the member organisation,

§7 Bodies

The bodies of ECSO are:

- (1) the Board of Directors.
- (2) the Council Assembly, which is the General Assembly.

§8 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors consists of the Executive Board and up to ten other Directors.

The Executive Board, in accordance with § 26 of the German Penal Code (BGB), consists of the President and the two Vice Presidents. ECSO is represented externally by a member of the Executive Board in accordance with Section 26 BGB.

All Board Members are elected by the Council Assembly by a simple majority on the proposal of the outgoing Executive Board or the Council Assembly. The term of office of Board Members lasts until the regular Council Meeting that takes place in the third calendar year after the election.

§9 Council meeting

A Council Meeting shall be convened by the President of ECSO at least once a year. The invitation to the Council Meeting must be sent in writing to all members at least four weeks in advance, stating the agenda. An extraordinary Council Meeting shall be convened if this is requested by the Executive Board or in writing by at least 25% of the members.

The secretary shall take minutes of the council meeting. The minutes must include:

- (1) the list of attendees,
- (2) the agenda,
- (3) the general course of the discussion,
- (4) the wording of the motions and resolutions with the result of the vote,
- (5) All statements made expressly for the minutes.

The President shall sign the minutes which must be distributed within two months and submitted for approval at the next Council meeting.

§10 Quorum

A Council meeting shall constitute a quorum if it has been duly convened and at least three member organisations are present.

§11 Communication and electronic decision-making

Invitations, agendas and similar communications may be distributed by e-mail. Motions may be published on a website accessible only to members.

The bodies and committees of the Association may also pass resolutions by e-mail by way of circulation if no member of the respective body or committee objects. Instead of face-to-face meetings, the bodies may also hold meetings using suitable means of telecommunication, such as video and/or telephone conferences.

§12 Remuneration of Club Offices

Association offices in accordance with § 9 are generally performed on an honorary basis. However, the Executive Board may, if necessary, decide to remunerate expenses in accordance with Section 3 No. 26a of the German Income Tax Act (EStG).

The Executive Board may also establish full-time association offices and regulate them contractually in accordance with standard labour market criteria.

§13 Notarisation of Resolutions

The resolutions of the Executive Board must be drawn up in writing and signed by the President.

§14 Business Audit

The Council Assembly appoints two representatives of member organisations, who may not be members of the Executive Board, as auditors at least once a year. The auditors shall audit the business and financial management of ECSO for at least one year since their appointment and shall report on this to the Council Assembly.

§15 Amendments to the Articles of Association

Amendments to the Articles of Association are adopted with the approval of two-thirds of all members present at the Council Meeting. However, these must be announced in advance with the invitation to the council meeting.

§16 Dissolution

ECSO shall be dissolved if this is requested in writing by two-thirds of the voting members of ECSO or by a two-thirds majority of the voting members at an ordinary Council Meeting. In the case of dissolution, or if tax privileges are revoked, ECSO's assets shall be transferred to the German Research Foundation (DFG) on the condition that they are used exclusively and directly for the purposes set out in §2 of these Articles of Association.

These Articles of Association were adopted on 2 June 2024.

All attending member organisations of ECSO – 12 out of 14 – unanimously agreed to the revised Articles of Association. All voted yes, with no abstentions or votes against.

Organisation	Signature
AFIS	Marianne Rodot
ASTEC	Alexandre Varin
ASUR	Patricia Fechet
CZLR	Jean-Luc Bernet
CICAP	Paola di Gobbi
FfKD	Fabian Frei
GWUP	Nikil Mukerji
HSS	Andras Pinter (attending via Zoom)
Sisyfos	Excused
SKEPP	Tim Trachet
Skepsis ry	Absent
Stichting Skepsis	Pepijn van Erp
VoF	Pontus Böckman
VtdK	Catherine de Jong