



BOOK OF STATUTES

of the non-profit association

European Democrat Students (ASBL / VZW)

Part I — Statutes

Part II — Internal Regulations

Part III — Standing Orders

Version 1 — August 2026

Adopted by the Council at the Annual Meeting — Warsaw, 1 August 2026

Registered office: Rue du Commerce 10, 1000 Brussels, Belgium · Enterprise number 0897.125.680 · www.edsnet.eu

The Statutes (Part I) were filed with the registry of the Brussels Enterprise Court on 17 September 2026 and published in the Annexes to the Belgian Official Gazette (Moniteur belge / Belgisch Staatsblad) on 25 September 2026. This English text is provided for information; the French coordinated version is the text filed with the registry and prevails in case of divergence. The Internal Regulations (Part II) and the Standing Orders (Part III) are subordinate regulations adopted by the Council pursuant to Articles 12(h) and 26(2) of the Statutes.

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PART I — STATUTES

Coordinated version · Adopted by the Council at the Annual Meeting, Warsaw, 1 August 2026

These Statutes replace Part I (The Constitution) of the Book of Statutes of EDS as last amended by the Council on 28 March 2026 (see Article 26). Filed with the registry of the Brussels Enterprise Court on 17 September 2026; published in the Annexes to the Belgian Official Gazette on 25 September 2026. The French coordinated version is the text filed with the registry.

CHAPTER I — NAME, REGISTERED OFFICE, PURPOSE AND DURATION

Article 1 — Name and legal framework

1. The name of the organisation is "Étudiants Démocrates Européens", in abbreviation "EDE", in English "European Democrat Students", in abbreviation "EDS", hereinafter referred to as "EDS". The organisation is registered with the Crossroads Bank for Enterprises under enterprise number 0897.125.680.
2. EDS is a non-profit association (association sans but lucratif / vereniging zonder winstoogmerk) governed by the Belgian Code of Companies and Associations of 23 March 2019 (the "CCA") and by these Statutes.
3. EDS is the official student organisation of the European People's Party (EPP), of which it is a Member Association. Any cooperation, participation, membership or association of any form with other individuals or organisations does not affect the independence of EDS.
4. EDS is a bilingual organisation. Its official languages are English and French; English is the primary working language.
5. The logos of EDS and of the BullsEye magazine are laid down in the Internal Regulations.

Article 2 — Registered office

1. The registered office of EDS is established at Rue du Commerce 10, 1000 Brussels, in the Brussels-Capital Region, judicial district of Brussels.
2. The Executive Bureau is authorised to transfer the registered office of EDS to any other location within the Brussels-Capital Region, to establish other offices and subsidiaries within or outside this judicial district, and to carry out the related filing and publication formalities required by the CCA.

Article 3 — Purpose and objects

1. EDS pursues the following disinterested purpose: to follow and advocate, on a worldwide scale, the principles of personal freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.
2. In pursuit of this purpose, the objects of EDS are:
 - a) to develop contacts, exchanges and political cooperation among Centre-Right, Christian Democrat, Conservative and Liberal students and youth in Europe;
 - b) to work for a free, democratic and united Europe, inside and outside the European Union (EU);
 - c) to form a better understanding of cultural and political situations worldwide;
 - d) to promote the principles of a market economy, the EU fundamental freedoms and the rule of law;
 - e) to exchange information on education policy and other political matters; and
 - f) to conduct election observation missions.
3. In order to realise its purpose, EDS organises discussion and decision forums, universities, seminars, conferences, study missions, skills trainings and fact-finding missions according to strict democratic principles, and issues publications of all sorts. EDS may perform all acts directly or indirectly useful or necessary for the achievement of its purpose.
4. EDS cooperates with other like-minded individuals and organisations in Europe and worldwide in order to promote and fulfil its aims.
5. EDS strives to promote a balanced participation of women and men in its bodies and activities.

Article 4 — Duration

EDS is established for an indefinite duration. It may be dissolved at any time in accordance with Article 25 of these Statutes.

CHAPTER II — MEMBERSHIP

Article 5 — Categories of membership

1. EDS is composed of three (3) categories of member organisations: Full Members, Affiliate Members and Observer Members.
2. Full Members are members within the meaning of the CCA. Their number is unlimited but may not be fewer than three (3) at any time. Affiliate Members and Observer Members are adherent members within the meaning of the CCA; their rights and obligations are exclusively those set out in these Statutes and in the Internal Regulations.
3. Full Membership and Observer Membership are open to Centre-Right, Christian Democrat, Conservative and Liberal student and youth organisations. Affiliate Membership is open to fraternal Centre-Right, Christian Democrat, Conservative and Liberal student and youth organisations, whether European or non-European. To be eligible for any category of membership, a candidate or current member must actively participate in student politics and may not hold membership in any international organisation that the Council considers a political rival of EDS.
4. The Executive Bureau keeps a membership register at the registered office of EDS in accordance with the CCA.

Article 6 — Admission and changes of membership

1. Applications for membership, or for a change of membership category, shall be submitted in writing to the Chairperson and the Secretary General, accompanied by the documentation prescribed by the Internal Regulations. The Chairperson transmits the application to the Council.
2. The Executive Bureau assesses each application and issues a recommendation to the Council. Membership decisions are taken by the Council at a Council Meeting held during the Winter University or the Summer University, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast; where the application is tabled by an organisation from a country in which EDS already has a member organisation, a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the votes cast is required.
3. All new member organisations shall in the first instance be admitted as Observer Members. Only an organisation that is an Observer Member and has fulfilled its obligations as such may apply for Full Membership or Affiliate Membership, unless the Council, by the majority set out in paragraph 2 of this Article, decides to admit an applicant directly to another category of membership.
4. Membership decisions take effect immediately upon the conclusion of the Council Meeting at which they are adopted. Further conditions, procedures and time limits are set out in the Internal Regulations and the Standing Orders.
5. Members shall notify the Chairperson and the Secretary General in writing of any change to their by-laws and of any change of name, merger or split; the consequences of such changes for membership are determined by the Council in accordance with the Internal Regulations.

Article 7 — Rights of members

1. Full Members have the right to send delegates to all events of EDS, to vote in the Council, including in elections, and to nominate candidates for elections. Each Full Member holds at least three (3) votes in the Council; additional votes are attributed on the basis of the criteria laid down in the Internal Regulations and verified by the Council at each Annual Meeting for the entire upcoming Working Year.

2. Affiliate Members have the right to send delegates to all events of EDS and to vote in the Council, except in elections and in matters reserved by the CCA to the members of the association, in particular the amendment of the Statutes, the approval of the annual accounts and the budget, the granting of discharge, the exclusion of a Full Member and the dissolution or transformation of EDS. Their votes are weighted in the same manner as those of Full Members.
3. Observer Members have the right to send delegates to all events of EDS and participate in the non-reserved business of the Council without voting rights; they may not nominate candidates for elections.
4. Each Full and Affiliate Member is entitled to have a deputy delegate present in the Council at any time.

Article 8 — Obligations of members

1. All members shall: a) observe the aims, principles and rules defined in these Statutes; b) pay the annual membership fee; c) inform the Executive Bureau, within a reasonable time, of any change to their by-laws, leadership or contact details; and d) cooperate with the Executive Bureau and comply with its reasonable requests.
2. Members are held liable for any commitments, financial or otherwise, that they have made towards EDS, and remain liable for those commitments in the event of termination of membership.
3. EDS bears no responsibility for statements issued on behalf of EDS by members without the prior written approval of the Executive Bureau.

Article 9 — Membership fees

1. All members, irrespective of their category of membership, pay an annual membership fee. The Council places each member of EDS in a fee category, with a maximum of five (5) such categories, and, on a proposal of the Executive Bureau, agrees the fee applicable to each category at the Annual Meeting.
2. The annual membership fee may in no case exceed five thousand euros (EUR 5,000) per member.
3. Invoicing, due dates, discounts and penalties are governed by the Financial Regulations.

Article 10 — Suspension and termination of membership

1. The membership of a member organisation is automatically suspended where the member has an outstanding balance towards EDS, as defined in the Financial Regulations, or has been called absent at three (3) consecutive Council Meetings. The Council may suspend a member in the further cases set out in the Internal Regulations.
2. A suspended member loses the rights of its membership but remains bound by all its obligations; it retains the right to send a delegate to the Council to plead its case. Suspended members are not counted as members of EDS when verifying any quorum. The conditions for lifting a suspension are set out in the Internal Regulations. Any member that remains in a state of suspension for twenty-four (24) months from the date of its suspension is deemed to have resigned (*réputé démissionnaire*) upon expiry of that period; its membership then ends automatically, by operation of these Statutes, without any further decision.
3. A suspension arising from an outstanding balance towards EDS is lifted automatically once the full outstanding amount, including any applicable late fees and penalties, is visible in the account of EDS no later than fourteen (14) days before the opening of a Council Meeting; the member then regains all rights of its membership. Payments made after that deadline lift the suspension only as from the conclusion of the Council Meeting concerned; a member may not regain its rights,

including its voting rights, at a Council Meeting by paying shortly before or during that meeting.

4. Any member may resign at any time by registered letter addressed to the registered office of EDS. Resigning members remain liable for the membership fee of the current financial year.

5. A member may be expelled by the Council, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast, where it is in breach of its requirements for membership, contravenes the aims of EDS, damages the reputation of EDS or ceases to fulfil the statutory requirements for membership. The expulsion of a Full Member may be decided only if the quorum requirement of Article 24(3) is met. A motion for expulsion shall be circulated to all member organisations at least thirty (30) days in advance and shall be expressly stated in the convocation notice of the Council Meeting concerned, and the member concerned shall be given the opportunity to be heard. Expulsion takes effect immediately upon the conclusion of the Council Meeting at which it is decided.

6. The readmission of an organisation that has been expelled, or whose membership has ended pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Article, requires a written statement to the Executive Bureau that the reasons for the end of its membership have been fully settled, the settlement of all outstanding accounts with EDS, and a new application under Article 6. On a proposal of the Executive Bureau, the Council may approve a fast-track readmission plan by a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the votes cast.

7. Membership ends automatically upon the dissolution or liquidation of the member. Members that resign or are expelled, and their legal successors, have no claim on the assets of EDS and may not claim reimbursement of fees or of any other payment made to EDS.

CHAPTER III — BODIES OF EDS

Article 11 — The bodies

1. The bodies of EDS, in decreasing order of hierarchy, are:

- a) the Council, which is the sovereign and highest body of EDS and constitutes its general assembly within the meaning of the CCA;
- b) the Executive Bureau or, simply, the "Bureau", which, through its voting members, constitutes the administrative organ within the meaning of the CCA and reports directly to the Council; and
- c) the Secretariat and the Working Groups, which report to the Executive Bureau.

2. The procedures followed in these bodies, and the powers, duties and responsibilities of their individual members, are further described in the Internal Regulations.

Article 12 — The Council: powers

The Council has the authority and powers granted to it by law and by these Statutes. These powers are, in particular:

- a) to decide on the political programme of EDS;
- b) to change and to amend the Statutes;
- c) to elect and to dismiss the members of the Executive Bureau, including the Secretary General, with the exception of the Deputy Secretary(ies) General, who are appointed and removed in accordance with Article 17(3);
- d) to appoint and to dismiss the Internal Auditors and to decide on their compensation, if any;
- e) to grant discharge (exoneration) to the members of the Executive Bureau and to the Internal Auditors;
- f) to adopt the annual budget and the annual accounts;

- g) to decide on the membership status of member organisations, including their admission, suspension, expulsion and fee category;
- h) to adopt and amend the Internal Regulations, the Standing Orders and the Financial Regulations;
- i) to establish the Permanent Working Groups;
- j) to appoint the Honorary Chairperson, the Honorary Members and the Patrons;
- k) to dissolve EDS; and
- l) to transform EDS in accordance with the CCA.

Article 13 — The Council: composition and meetings

1. The Council consists of:

- a) one (1) delegate appointed by each Full Member, with voting rights in all matters;
- b) one (1) delegate appointed by each Affiliate Member, with voting rights in accordance with Article 7(2);
- c) one (1) delegate from each Observer Member, participating in the non-reserved business of the Council without voting rights; and
- d) the members of the Executive Bureau, without voting rights, unless they are also delegates of Full or Affiliate Members.

2. The Council meets at least three (3) times during each Working Year. Council Meetings are initiated by a formal invitation addressed by the Chairperson to all members and circulated, together with the draft agenda, at least thirty (30) days in advance. The convocation notice sets out the agenda and the place or manner of the meeting.

3. The Council shall further be convened whenever the Executive Bureau or at least one-fifth (1/5) of the Full Members so requires. In that case, and by way of derogation from paragraph 2 of this Article, the convocation is circulated within twenty-one (21) days of the request and at least fifteen (15) days before the meeting, and the Council Meeting is held no later than the fortieth (40th) day following the request.

4. Council Meetings may be held in person, by video- or teleconference, or in hybrid form. Votes cast by electronic means are valid; in the case of secret ballots, the Executive Bureau ensures the secrecy of the votes cast by electronic means.

5. The Council is quorate if at least half (1/2) of all Full Members and Affiliate Members are represented. For an item not listed on the agenda to be validly put to the vote, at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members present must consent.

6. Unless otherwise required by law or by these Statutes, the Council takes decisions by a simple majority of the votes cast. Abstentions and invalid votes are not counted as votes cast. In the case of an equal vote (tie), or where the abstentions outnumber the votes cast, the result is interpreted as negative.

7. An organisation entitled to vote may delegate its vote to another organisation participating in the Council Meeting (colloquially known as "proxy voting") by an official letter, signed by a person authorised to represent the delegating organisation. The letter must reach the Secretary General no later than seven (7) days before the Council Meeting; the Secretary General notifies the member organisations of any such delegation. Each organisation may vote on behalf of only one (1) other organisation.

8. The decisions of the Council are recorded in minutes, signed by the Chairperson and one other member of the Executive Bureau present at the meeting, and stored at the registered office of EDS. All members have the right to consult the minutes and to obtain signed extracts; any concerned third party may request a signed extract of a decision that concerns them individually.

9. The agenda, activities and other operational details of Council Meetings, including the deadlines for the submission and circulation of documents, are specified in the Internal Regulations and the Standing Orders.

Article 14 — Events and activities

1. EDS events and activities take place within a one-year period, the "Working Year", which starts the day after the end of the Annual Meeting of the previous Working Year and lasts until the end of the day on which its own Annual Meeting is completed.

2. Each Working Year includes three (3) principal events hosting Council Meetings:

- a) the Winter University, held between January and March;
- b) the Summer University, held between June and September, the Council Meeting of which is the Annual Meeting of EDS; and
- c) at least one further event hosting a Council Meeting.

3. Events hosting Council Meetings may be organised in person, online or in hybrid form.

4. EDS may, as required, additionally organise study missions, skills trainings, seminars, conferences and other activities in furtherance of its purpose.

5. The statutory events of EDS are organised by member organisations or other organisations, with the support of the Bureau and the Secretariat. If there are no organisations interested in hosting an event, the Secretariat, with the support of the Bureau, finds organisers. If no organiser can be found within the relevant Working Year, EDS may organise the event itself; in such a case, preference is given to organising the event in Brussels, in view of the reduced costs of organisation.

Article 15 — The Executive Bureau

1. The Bureau is responsible for the management of EDS, for drawing policy and for representing EDS to the outside world, and is accountable for all matters concerning EDS between the meetings of the Council.

2. The voting members of the Bureau are the Chairperson and ten (10) Vice-Chairpersons. The non-voting members of the Bureau are the Secretary General, the Honorary Chairperson and, where appointed, the Deputy Secretary(ies) General. The Bureau, through its voting members, constitutes the administrative organ within the meaning of the CCA. The non-voting members of the Bureau attend its meetings in an advisory capacity.

3. The voting members of the Bureau and the Secretary General are elected by the Council by secret ballot and by separate vote, for a renewable term of two (2) Working Years, in accordance with the nomination and election procedure set out in the Internal Regulations. The Chairperson and the Secretary General are elected together as a ticket; the candidate for Secretary General may not be a member of the organisation of the candidate Chairperson and must be a member of another Full Member organisation of EDS. No person may serve more than two (2) terms in the same position, whether consecutively or not.

4. Voting positions in the Bureau may be filled only by representatives of Full Members. Each Full Member may have at most one (1) representative serving as a voting member of the Bureau at any time. Every member of the Bureau must, at the time of their election, be or previously have been enrolled at a university or a similar institution of higher education.

5. The members of the Bureau exercise their mandate collegially. The powers of the Bureau and the responsibility for its actions rest equally with all its voting members, as a college, until they are exonerated by the Council. The Chairperson and the Secretary General act in implementation of the decisions of the Council and of the Bureau and, beyond the due performance of the tasks entrusted to them, bear no greater individual responsibility than the other members of the

Bureau.

6. The powers and duties of the Bureau are, in particular:

- a) to execute the decisions of the Council;
- b) to present agendas, reports and other documents to the Council;
- c) to be responsible for all finances of EDS and for budget management, and to monitor the work of the Secretariat;
- d) to present a report on the budgetary situation to every Council Meeting and the annual accounts to the Council in accordance with Article 20;
- e) to present the budget for each financial year and a Working Programme for each Working Year to the Council for approval;
- f) to propose membership fees to be agreed by the Council;
- g) to issue statements on behalf of EDS in the framework of its political programme;
- h) to adopt internal rules for matters that fall within the scope of its competences;
- i) to appoint and remove non-voting members of the Bureau on a provisional basis, pending the decision of the following Council Meeting, with the exception of the Deputy Secretary(ies) General, who are appointed and removed in accordance with Article 17(3); and
- j) to establish ad hoc working groups and task forces in accordance with Article 19(3).

7. The Bureau meets at least eight (8) times a year, upon convocation by the Chairperson, by letter or e-mail, at the latest five (5) days in advance, unless in case of urgency. The notice contains the agenda, which is fixed by the Chairperson; the Bureau may only debate the items on the agenda, unless all members are present and unanimously agree otherwise. The Bureau is quorate with at least half (1/2) of its voting members participating; participation and voting by video- or teleconference or by other electronic means are valid.

8. The Bureau takes decisions by simple majority voting; in case of an equal vote (tie), the Chairperson's vote prevails. The meetings are chaired by the Chairperson. The minutes of any Bureau meeting are circulated to the members of the Bureau within seven (7) days and formally adopted at the next meeting.

9. An absence of a voting member of the Bureau from a Bureau meeting is excused only where the member concerned has submitted a written justification for their absence to the Chairperson before the opening of the meeting, with a copy to the Secretary General. A voting member of the Bureau who is absent without excuse from three (3) consecutive Bureau meetings, or from five (5) Bureau meetings in total within their tenure, is automatically considered to have resigned, unless otherwise decided by the Council.

10. A member of the Bureau who has, directly or indirectly, an interest of a financial nature that conflicts with the interest of EDS in a matter before the Bureau shall inform the other members before the Bureau deliberates, shall not take part in the deliberation and the vote on that matter, and the disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes.

11. The mandate of any member of the Bureau ends by expiration of the tenure, by resignation, by removal by the Council in accordance with a procedure specified in the Internal Regulations, or by death or other lasting inability to perform their duties. Positions that become vacant are filled by the Council at its next meeting, following the election procedure ordinarily applicable, for the remainder of the relevant mandate; such partial mandates count towards the limit set in paragraph 3 of this Article. Should the position of Chairperson become vacant for any reason, the duties of the Chairperson are carried out, until a new Chairperson is elected at the following Council Meeting, by one of the Vice-Chairpersons, chosen by a simple majority of the remaining voting members of the Bureau.

12. Employees of EDS shall under no circumstances be voting members of the Bureau. No voting member of the Bureau receives any salary or other compensation for activities carried out in the service of EDS; reasonable expenses may be reimbursed in accordance with the Financial Regulations.

Article 16 — The Chairperson

1. The Chairperson is the chief executive officer of EDS, guides the work of the Executive Bureau, and is responsible for the summoning and the presiding of the Council and the Executive Bureau and for the supervision of, coordination of and communication with the Executive Bureau.

2. If the Chairperson cannot attend an EDS meeting or fulfil another obligation, they delegate a Vice-Chairperson as their representative.

3. The Chairperson may appoint up to three (3) special advisers, with the consent of the Executive Bureau or of the Council. Special advisers advise the Chairperson on specific matters for which they have demonstrable academic or professional experience; they are not members of the Bureau, hold a purely advisory mandate that lasts as long as the term of the Chairperson who appointed them, and are not entitled to any reimbursement to which members of the Bureau are entitled. Their mandate may be terminated at any time by a simple majority vote of the Executive Bureau.

Article 17 — The Secretary General and the Secretariat

1. The Secretary General is the chief operating officer of EDS. The Executive Bureau may delegate the day-to-day management of EDS, within the meaning of Article 9:10 of the CCA, including the representation of EDS within the limits of that management. The Executive Bureau confers this delegation on the Secretary General elected by the Council, at its first meeting following the election, convened where possible immediately upon the conclusion of the Council Meeting concerned; until that decision is taken, the Secretary General elected by the Council exercises the day-to-day management on a provisional basis. The Secretary General exercises this mandate under the authority and the supervision of the Executive Bureau. The delegation and its termination are filed with the registry of the competent enterprise court and published in accordance with the CCA.

2. The Secretariat is the body responsible for all administrative tasks within EDS. It is supervised by the Secretary General and, through them, reports to the Executive Bureau. Its responsibilities include, in particular: the daily correspondence and administration of EDS; liaison and representation with authorities and other public bodies within the limits of the day-to-day management; the receipt, custody and reclaiming of money, documents and any other property of EDS; and any action necessary to execute the decisions of the Council and of the Executive Bureau.

3. Up to two (2) Deputy Secretaries General may be appointed, and may be removed, by the Chairperson and the Secretary General acting jointly, to assist the Secretary General in the day-to-day management of the Secretariat and in any other business the Secretary General or the Chairperson may confer on them. Appointments and removals are notified to the Executive Bureau and to the member organisations without delay; the mandate of a Deputy Secretary General may further be terminated at any time by a simple majority vote of the Executive Bureau and ends, at the latest, upon the end of the mandate of the Secretary General. Deputy Secretaries General undertake financial management activities only if so required by the Secretary General or the Chairperson.

4. In accordance with the needs of the organisation and within the limits of the approved budget, EDS may employ staff and open internship positions. Paid employee positions are approved by the Council in accordance with the Financial Regulations. The selection of candidates is made by the

Executive Bureau; the recruitment process is led by the Secretary General, who acts as the formal superior of the employees and interns of EDS.

5. Within the limits of the approved budget, the Executive Bureau may further engage external consultants and project-based officers or service providers — including for project coordination, fundraising and outreach — on the proposal of the Chairperson or the Secretary General, and defines their terms of reference in writing.

6. The Secretary General and other appointed employees, interns and contractors may receive compensation for their services to EDS within the limits of the approved budget.

Article 18 — Honorary titles

1. The Honorary Chairperson acts as the ambassador in honour of EDS to the outside world, for the benefit of the organisation and in cooperation with the Chairperson, without particular responsibilities and without voting rights.

2. The Honorary Chairperson is nominated by the Chairperson and appointed by the Council by two-thirds (2/3) majority, from among persons who have served in one of the last three (3) tenures of the Executive Bureau. The Honorary Chairperson is not required to attend the meetings of the Executive Bureau regularly and is not subject to the attendance requirements of Article 15(9).

3. The Council may confer the title of Honorary Member of EDS on individuals who have provided outstanding service to EDS, and may invite individuals of outstanding reputation in politics and academia to become Patrons of EDS. The conditions, number and duration of these titles are set out in the Internal Regulations.

4. The titles conferred under this Article are personal distinctions. Their holders are not members of EDS within the meaning of the CCA and hold no voting rights.

Article 19 — Working Groups and the Editorial Team

1. Permanent Working Groups are established by the Council for a term of two (2) Working Years, at the Annual Meeting at which the Executive Bureau is elected. They prepare specific documents for consideration by the Council under the guidance of the Executive Bureau.

2. Working Group Chairs are appointed by the Executive Bureau at the beginning of the relevant term; up to three (3) co-chairs may be appointed per Working Group. Working Groups may be chaired by representatives of member organisations irrespective of their category of membership and may meet in person or online. Their working methods, and the voting rights within them, are set out in the Internal Regulations.

3. The Executive Bureau may establish ad hoc working groups and task forces for specific assignments, for a term not exceeding its own mandate.

4. The Editorial Team of the BullsEye magazine, the official magazine of EDS, is set up by the Executive Bureau for a term of two (2) Working Years. The Executive Bureau appoints the Editor-in-Chief, who oversees the publication of the BullsEye magazine in cooperation with the Vice-Chairperson responsible for publications. The editorial line of the magazine remains independent from the Executive Bureau but must always be aligned with the purposes, ideology and principles of EDS. The composition and working methods of the Editorial Team, including guest contributions, are set out in the Internal Regulations.

CHAPTER IV — FINANCES

Article 20 — Financial year, budget and accounts

1. The financial year of EDS runs from 1 January to 31 December.

2. The sources of income of EDS are: the annual membership fees and other contributions paid by its member organisations; participation fees for EDS events; public funds, both European and national; donations; private sector sponsorship of particular EDS activities; earnings from fundraising events; and such other sources as are acceptable to the Council. The Secretary General has the discretion to set, for each event and in accordance with the approved budget, the participation fees as well as specific discounts for particular categories of participants, such as Working Group co-chairs, Editors and guests.
3. The Executive Bureau presents a budget for each financial year, to be approved by the Council no later than at the first Council Meeting held in that financial year. The budget for the following financial year may also be adopted in advance, at the last Council Meeting held in the current financial year. If no new budget is approved by the Council, the Executive Bureau operates on the same budget as in the previous financial year; in that case the Bureau's monthly expenses may not exceed one-twelfth (1/12) of that budget.
4. At the end of each financial year, the Executive Bureau closes the accounts for the year ended and prepares the annual accounts in accordance with the applicable provisions of Belgian law. The annual accounts, together with the report of the Internal Auditors, are submitted for approval to the Council at the earliest Council Meeting following the completion of the audit and, in any event, within six (6) months of the end of the financial year and in time to meet the reporting deadlines of the funding bodies of EDS; where necessary for that purpose, the Chairperson convenes a Council Meeting, which may be held online or in hybrid form in accordance with Article 13(4). The Council then decides on the discharge (exoneration) of the members of the Executive Bureau and of the Internal Auditors.
5. Any surplus is added to the assets of EDS and may in no case be paid to members in the form of dividends.

Article 21 — The Internal Auditors

1. The Council appoints two (2) Internal Auditors at the Annual Meeting at which the Executive Bureau is elected, for a renewable mandate of two (2) Working Years. The Internal Auditors may not be members of the Executive Bureau or employees of EDS, and shall be either senior members of EDS member organisations able to demonstrate thorough knowledge of EDS and its internal workings, or individuals qualified by studies or professional background to perform an audit. No former member of the Executive Bureau or of the Secretariat may be appointed to audit a financial year during which they were in office.
2. The audit is conducted annually before the end of March, following the appropriate Belgian legislation and international recommendations for good practices of audit, and evaluates both the finances and the administration of EDS for the target year. The Internal Auditors report to the Council, recommending either the approval of the annual accounts and the granting of discharge, or the postponement of approval pending an additional audit. Additional audits may be called by the Executive Bureau or by the Council.

Article 22 — Financial management and controls

1. The Executive Bureau bears collective responsibility for the financial management of EDS. The Chairperson and the Secretary General hold, by virtue of their office and for the duration of their mandate, the powers of attorney over the financial assets of EDS, without any further decision being required. The Executive Bureau may delegate additional powers of attorney over the financial assets of EDS to other members of the Bureau, and allocates the areas of responsibility among its members and the Secretary General; these delegations and allocations, and any change to them, are made known to the member organisations without delay.

2. The procurement of goods and services by EDS shall comply with the principles of economy, efficiency and transparency, and with the procurement and documentation rules of the funding bodies of EDS, including the European People's Party and the institutions of the European Union, as applicable from time to time. In particular:

a) Every procurement of goods or services shall be evidenced by a written record of the request of the goods or services (a signed offer, a contract, an order form or equivalent written confirmation), retained together with the corresponding invoice. For any procurement exceeding one thousand euros (EUR 1,000), a signed offer or a signed contract is required before the expenditure is committed.

b) For any contract with a value of more than sixty thousand euros (EUR 60,000) per supplier and per type of good or service, calculated cumulatively over the last five (5) years, EDS shall collect at least three (3) written offers received in response to a written invitation to bid detailing the requirements of the procurement, and shall document the selection decision. The duration of such a contract may not exceed five (5) years.

c) For the purposes of this paragraph, "supplier" means any legal entity or natural person providing goods or services to EDS. The documents referred to in this paragraph, including invitations to bid, offers, contracts, order forms and selection decisions, shall be retained for at least five (5) years after the end of the financial year concerned and made available for audit purposes.

3. Expenses incurred in the service of the organisation are reimbursed if provision has been made in the budget and if funds allow. Any reimbursement exceeding one thousand euros (EUR 1,000) requires the prior written approval of two (2) persons from among the Chairperson, the Secretary General and the Vice-Chairpersons; the two approvals may be given separately.

4. No person may approve a transaction of which they are themselves the beneficiary, including salaries, compensations and reimbursements; such transactions shall always be approved by another person holding a power of attorney over the financial assets of EDS. In view of the limited size of the Secretariat, the technical execution of a duly approved payment may be carried out by its beneficiary; in particular, the Secretary General may execute a payment in their own favour with the prior written approval of the Chairperson, and the Chairperson may execute a payment in their own favour with the prior written approval of the Secretary General.

5. All approvals under this Article may be given by any means of written communication in which the approving person can be reliably identified and the approved cost is identified in a detailed manner. Further rules on the approval of expenses, reimbursements, the settling of accounts and bookkeeping are laid down in the Financial Regulations.

Article 23 — Representation

1. EDS is validly represented towards third parties, including in judicial proceedings and for the signature of contracts and any other binding instruments, by the Chairperson acting jointly with a Vice-Chairperson.

2. By way of exception to paragraph 1, contracts relating to expenditure provided for in the approved budget — such as contracts for venues, accommodation, catering, travel and similar services for EDS events — may be signed by the Chairperson or by the Secretary General acting alone, provided that the requirements of Article 22(2) have been complied with, where applicable.

3. Within the limits of the day-to-day management, EDS is validly represented by the Secretary General acting alone. The day-to-day management includes, in particular, the current administrative and financial operations of EDS within the limits of the approved budget and, in banking matters, the opening, closing and operation of the bank and payment accounts of EDS, the management of the related banking mandates and means of payment, and the execution of payments in accordance with Article 22.

4. The Executive Bureau may grant special written powers of attorney for specifically defined acts; within the limits of such a power of attorney, EDS is validly represented by the holder of the power of attorney.

CHAPTER V — AMENDMENTS, DISSOLUTION AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 24 — Amendment of the Statutes

1. Proposed alterations to these Statutes shall be submitted to the Secretariat at least thirty-five (35) days before the date of the Council Meeting at which they are to be considered, and shall be circulated by the Secretariat to all members at least thirty (30) days in advance of that meeting. The convocation notice states that amendments to the Statutes are on the agenda and reproduces or attaches the text of the proposed amendments. The final form of the amendments is debated and completed at the Council Meeting, within the scope of the proposals thus circulated.

2. Amendments to the Statutes may be adopted at any Council Meeting.

3. The Council may validly deliberate on amendments to the Statutes only if at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Full Members that are not under suspension are present or represented. Amendments are adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast; where an amendment concerns the purpose or the objects of EDS, a four-fifths (4/5) majority of the votes cast is required. If the quorum is not reached, a second Council Meeting convened no earlier than fifteen (15) days after the first may validly decide on the same proposals regardless of the number of Full Members present or represented.

4. Adopted amendments take effect immediately upon the conclusion of the Council Meeting and cannot be retrospective. Every amendment must be filed with the registry of the competent enterprise court and published in the Belgian Official Gazette in accordance with the CCA; as each filing entails publication costs for EDS, amendments should, where practicable, be grouped together.

Article 25 — Dissolution

1. EDS may be dissolved by the Council if at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Full Members are present or represented, by a four-fifths (4/5) majority of the votes cast. A motion for dissolution shall be circulated to all member organisations at least six (6) weeks before the Council Meeting at which it is to be considered.

2. In the event of dissolution, the Council appoints one or more liquidators and determines their powers. The net assets shall in all cases be allocated to a disinterested purpose similar to that of EDS. Unless the Council designates another non-profit organisation pursuing such a purpose, the net assets are transferred to the European People's Party, subject to the binding condition that they are used exclusively for the benefit of student affairs; failing acceptance of that condition, the net assets are transferred to a non-profit organisation pursuing a similar disinterested purpose, designated by the Council.

Article 26 — Final and transitional provisions

1. All function titles in these Statutes are used in a gender-neutral manner and refer to persons of any gender.

2. The Internal Regulations, the Standing Orders and the Financial Regulations complement these Statutes on operational and financial matters. They are adopted and amended by the Council by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast at any Council Meeting, on the basis of proposals circulated in accordance with the deadlines set out in the Standing Orders. Should a conflict arise between those texts and these Statutes, these Statutes prevail.

3. Interpretation of any discrepancies or unclear points of these Statutes is performed by the Executive Bureau, until an amendment is made to the text of the Statutes. All non-integer numbers or fractions resulting from the application of these Statutes are rounded up to the next highest integer.
4. Anything not explicitly provided for in these Statutes is governed by the Internal Regulations and by the CCA. In the event that any provision of these Statutes is contrary to mandatory law, that provision shall be considered revoked; all other provisions remain in force.
5. These Statutes replace Part I (The Constitution) of the Book of Statutes of EDS as last amended by the Council on 28 March 2026. The Internal Regulations, the Standing Orders and the Financial Regulations contained in Parts II to IV of that Book remain in force, *mutatis mutandis*, as the subordinate regulations referred to in these Statutes, insofar as they do not conflict with these Statutes and until revised by the Council; references therein to the "Chairman" and the "Vice-Chairmen" are read as references to the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons, and references therein to Associate Members and to Honorary Affiliates are read in accordance with these Statutes.
6. Organisations holding the status of Associate Member on the date of the adoption of these Statutes acquire, upon the entry into force of these Statutes, the status of Affiliate Member, with all corresponding rights and obligations. They are deemed to hold three (3) votes in the Council until the verification of votes at the Annual Meeting following the adoption of these Statutes, and remain in their existing fee category until the Council next decides on fee categories. Individuals holding the title of Honorary Member or Patron on that date retain their titles under Article 18.
7. The Executive Bureau in office at the time of the adoption of these Statutes continues until the end of its mandate. The composition of the Executive Bureau set out in Article 15(2) applies as from the conclusion of the Council Meeting at which these Statutes are adopted. Where an election of the Executive Bureau takes place at that same Council Meeting, it is conducted under the previously applicable composition; the two (2) additional Vice-Chairperson positions are then deemed vacant and are filled by the Council at its next meeting, in accordance with Article 15(11), for the remainder of the ongoing mandate.

PART II — INTERNAL REGULATIONS

Adopted by the Council at the Annual Meeting, Warsaw, 1 August 2026

Adopted by the Council pursuant to Articles 12(h) and 26(2) of the Statutes. These Internal Regulations replace Part II of the Book of Statutes.

Article 1 — General

1. These Internal Regulations complement the Statutes on operational matters. In case of conflict, the Statutes prevail.
2. The logos of EDS and of the BullsEye magazine are set out in the Annex to these Internal Regulations. The reference to the ideological pillars of the organisation is always present in the EDS logos.

Article 2 — Membership procedures

1. Applications under Article 6(1) of the Statutes shall include: a letter of application signed by the applicant's leadership; the applicant's by-laws and political programme, in the original language and in English; a statement of adoption of the political programme of EDS; membership figures; and current leadership and contact details.
2. Where a member changes its name or merges with another organisation, the Council confirms whether the changed organisation continues to meet the membership criteria; failing confirmation, the Executive Bureau may table a motion for expulsion. Where a member splits, it shall designate in writing which successor inherits its membership; failing agreement, the Council decides on a proposal of the Executive Bureau.
3. The Council may suspend a member pursuant to Article 10(1) of the Statutes where the member fails to authenticate its delegate in accordance with the Standing Orders, or where there is an unresolved dispute over the right to act as its delegate.
4. A suspension imposed by the Council is lifted by the Council once the grounds for it have been remedied; a suspension arising from an outstanding balance is lifted in accordance with Article 10(3) of the Statutes.

Article 3 — Voting rights of member organisations

1. Each Full and Affiliate Member holds three (3) base votes in the Council. Additional votes are awarded as set out in this Article; the total number of votes of a member organisation may in no case exceed nine (9).
2. Membership size — additional votes based on the number of individual members: a) one (1) vote, if the organisation has at least one thousand (1,000) members; or b) two (2) votes, if the organisation has at least three thousand (3,000) members; or c) three (3) votes, if the organisation has at least six thousand (6,000) members.
3. Participation — additional votes based on participation in EDS events during the last complete Working Year: a) one (1) vote, if the organisation was called present on the record in at least fifty (50) per cent of all meetings of the Council and all meetings of the Working Groups held during events hosting a Council Meeting, combined; or b) two (2) votes, if the organisation was so called present in at least seventy-five (75) per cent of those meetings. c) In the case of simultaneous Working Group meetings during an event, presence in one of the groups suffices. d) Participants whose travel costs to the event were fully or partially paid by EDS are not taken into consideration, unless the possibility of travel reimbursement was made available to all participants of the event. This rule does not apply in exceptional circumstances such as natural disasters, war or other force majeure affecting the member organisation's country, unless the participant did not travel from that country.
4. Political achievements — a maximum of two (2) additional votes, measured by results in national elections or in student elections; the more beneficial of the two routes is always chosen and the two may never be combined: a) National elections: one (1) vote, if the organisation has a statutory affiliation to a political party in its domestic jurisdiction and that party won at least fifteen (15) per cent of the votes in the latest national elections; one (1) further vote, if that party

has at least one minister in the government of the country; or one (1) vote, if the organisation has no statutory affiliation to any political party in its domestic jurisdiction. b) Student elections: one (1) vote, if the organisation took part in the latest student elections in its domestic country at at least one university, whether through a list or through individual candidates running openly in its name; one (1) further vote, if it won at least fifteen (15) per cent of at least seven thousand five hundred (7,500) votes cast, from any combination of institutions in which it participated. The organisation bears the responsibility of providing reliable evidence of the result. c) Student elections are understood as university and student body elections, elections in institutions of higher education, student union elections, and regional or national student council elections.

5. The number of votes of each member organisation is calculated by the Executive Bureau and verified by the Council at each Annual Meeting for the entire upcoming Working Year, in accordance with Article 7(1) of the Statutes. No changes are made to the number of votes of any member during the Working Year.

6. In open ballots, the accuracy of counting is ensured by technical means such as voting cards; in secret ballots, each organisation receives as many ballot papers as its confirmed number of votes.

Article 4 — Nominations and elections

1. Nominations for the voting positions of the Executive Bureau and for the Secretary General may be submitted only by Full Members that are not suspended, and only for individuals who are members of the nominating organisation. Nominations are signed by the Chairperson, the Secretary General or the International Secretary of the nominating organisation and reach the EDS Secretariat by the deadline set out in the Standing Orders. Nominations concerning an incumbent member of the Secretariat are also submitted to the Chairperson, for transparency.

2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, the nomination for the position of Chairperson includes the nomination, by the candidate Chairperson, of a candidate for Secretary General, in accordance with Article 15(3) of the Statutes. In case of conflicting nominations from the same member organisation, the incumbent Executive Bureau decides on their validity after consulting the signatories.

3. The Council appoints an Election Officer, who may not be a candidate, to conduct the elections. Each candidate presents themselves and answers questions; on the request of one-third (1/3) of the delegates, a debate is held in the candidates' absence.

4. Elections proceed in two stages by separate secret ballot: first the ticket of Chairperson and Secretary General, then the Vice-Chairpersons. No stage proceeds until the result of the previous stage is announced.

5. Each voting organisation receives, for each stage, as many ballot papers as its confirmed number of votes, stamped or verified by the Secretariat. Delegates mark up to one (1) ticket in the first stage and up to ten (10) names in the second stage or, in partial elections held pursuant to Article 15(11) of the Statutes, up to as many names as there are positions to be filled. Unmarked ballots count as abstentions; overmarked ballots are spoilt.

6. Candidates are elected by an absolute majority of the votes cast, being more than half of the votes cast. If no ticket reaches an absolute majority, a second round is held between the two tickets with the most votes. If fewer than ten (10) Vice-Chairpersons reach an absolute majority, a second round is held among the remaining candidates; positions still unfilled remain vacant and are filled at the next Council Meeting in accordance with Article 15(11) of the Statutes.

7. In case of a tie, the Election Officer immediately calls up to two (2) further votes; if the tie persists and no candidate withdraws, the Election Officer draws lots. Disputes arising out of the elections are decided by the Election Officer, whose decision is binding.

Article 5 — Removal of members of the Executive Bureau

1. Pursuant to Article 15(11) of the Statutes, a motion for the removal of a member of the Executive Bureau, including the Secretary General, may be tabled by the Executive Bureau or by at least one-fifth (1/5) of the Full Members. The motion states the grounds in writing.
2. The motion is circulated to all member organisations at least thirty (30) days before the Council Meeting concerned and is expressly stated in the convocation notice. The member concerned is given the opportunity to be heard.
3. Removal is decided by secret ballot, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast. The removal takes effect immediately; the resulting vacancy is filled in accordance with Article 15(11) of the Statutes.

Article 6 — Honorary titles

1. The title of Honorary Member may be conferred by the Council, on a proposal of the Executive Bureau, on individuals who have provided outstanding service to EDS. The title is held for life unless withdrawn by the Council.
2. Patrons are invited by the Council, on a proposal of the Executive Bureau, from among individuals of outstanding reputation in politics and academia, for a renewable term of two (2) Working Years.

Article 7 — Working Groups and the Editorial Team

1. Working Group meetings are open to delegates of all member organisations, are convened and chaired by the Working Group Chairs, and adopt their documents by a simple majority of the member organisations present, each organisation holding one (1) vote within the Working Group. Outcomes are reported to the Executive Bureau and, where relevant, submitted to the Council.
2. The Editorial Team is composed of the Editor-in-Chief and the editors appointed by the Editor-in-Chief in consultation with the Vice-Chairperson responsible for publications. Guest contributions are permitted at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief, within the editorial line defined in Article 19(4) of the Statutes.

Article 8 — Final provisions

These Internal Regulations are adopted and amended in accordance with Article 26(2) of the Statutes and enter into force upon the conclusion of the Council Meeting at which they are adopted.

PART III — STANDING ORDERS

Adopted by the Council at the Annual Meeting, Warsaw, 1 August 2026

Adopted by the Council pursuant to Articles 12(h) and 26(2) of the Statutes. These Standing Orders replace Part III of the Book of Statutes.

Article 1 — Deadlines and circulation of documents

1. Proposals for the adoption or amendment of the Internal Regulations, the Standing Orders and the Financial Regulations are circulated to all member organisations at least thirty (30) days before the Council Meeting at which they are to be considered. This is the deadline referred to in Article 26(2) of the Statutes.
2. Reports of the Executive Bureau, the draft budget, the annual accounts and other decision documents are circulated at least fourteen (14) days before the Council Meeting, unless the Statutes prescribe a longer period.
3. Nominations for elections reach the EDS Secretariat at least fourteen (14) days before the Council Meeting at which the election takes place. The Secretariat circulates the list of valid nominations without delay.
4. Motions and resolutions are submitted to the Secretariat at least fourteen (14) days before the Council Meeting and are circulated at least seven (7) days in advance. Urgency motions concerning events that occurred after the deadline may be tabled at the meeting; they are put to the vote only with the consent required by Article 13(5) of the Statutes.

Article 2 — Conduct of Council Meetings

1. Council Meetings are chaired by the Chairperson or by a Vice-Chairperson designated by the Chairperson. The meeting opens with a roll call of member organisations, which establishes the quorum and the record of presence.
2. Delegates are registered through the registration platform administered by the Secretariat. Where there is doubt as to whether a delegate represents the member organisation, the Secretariat may require the delegate to be authenticated by a written notification of the member organisation, signed by a person authorised to represent it, received by the Secretariat before the roll call.
3. The Council appoints tellers for the counting of votes. Voting is by open ballot, using voting cards; a secret ballot is held on the request of at least two (2) member organisations. A recorded vote may be requested by at least two (2) member organisations, unless a secret ballot has been requested. A mover may request a divided vote on parts of their motion.
4. Any delegate may raise a point of order, which takes precedence over all other business until decided. If no delegate speaks against it, it is accepted without a vote; otherwise, after one (1) speech against, it is decided by open vote. Points of order include, among others: limitation of speaking time, closure of the speakers' list, immediate vote, and appeal against a ruling of the chair or against an interpretation of the Statutes by the Executive Bureau.
5. Minutes of the Council Meeting are drawn up by the Secretariat and handled in accordance with Article 13(8) of the Statutes.

Article 3 — Motions and resolutions

1. Motions and resolutions may be proposed by any member organisation represented at the Council Meeting and by the Executive Bureau. Motions proposed by suspended members may be presented in the Working Groups.
2. Motions and resolutions are adopted by a simple majority of the votes cast, unless the Statutes provide otherwise, and are published by the Secretariat after the meeting.

Article 4 — Events

1. Member organisations and other organisations may bid to host statutory events. Bids are submitted to the Secretariat by the deadline announced by the Executive Bureau and include the proposed dates, venue, budget outline and support requested from EDS.

2. The Executive Bureau evaluates the bids and proposes the host to the Council. Where no host is found, Article 14(5) of the Statutes applies.
3. Hosting arrangements, including any cost-sharing, are set out in a written agreement in accordance with the rules of the funding bodies of EDS.

Article 5 — Final provisions

These Standing Orders are adopted and amended in accordance with Article 26(2) of the Statutes and enter into force upon the conclusion of the Council Meeting at which they are adopted.

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