

# MARS AND MERCURY – EUROPE STATUTES

The undersigned :

- **The Royal Circle "Mars et Mercure" Belgium**, seated at :  
Quartier Reine Elisabeth – Bloc Météo, Rue d'Evere, 1, B-1140 Brussels  
represented by its national Chairman, Mr Pierre Degreef
- **The Circle "Mars et Mercure" France**, seated at :  
Rue Massenet, 1, F-67000 Strasbourg  
represented by its national Chairman, Mr Pierre Dissel
- **The Circle "Mars und Merkur" Germany**, seated at :  
f.ro Gmbh, Friedrichstrasse, 95, D-10117 Berlin  
represented by the honorary general President, Mr Wolf-Arthur Kalden
- **The Circle "Mars en Mercurius" The Netherlands**, seated at :  
Griend, 23, NL-6662 XS Elst  
represented by the national acting Chairman, Mr Ton Voets
- **The Circle "Mars og Merkur" Denmark**, seated at :  
Generalstok, Kastellet, DK-2100 Copenhagen  
represented with power of attorney, by the general President, Mr Hans Mathijssen
- **The Circle "Mars et Mercure" Switzerland**, seated at :  
c/o M Pierre Zumwald, Route des Layeux, 33, CH-1885 Chésièrès  
represented by its national Chairman and honorary general President, Mr Pierre Zumwald
- **The Circle "Mars I Merkury" Poland**, seated at :  
10 Bagatela Street, 16, PL-00-585 Warsaw  
represented, with power of attorney, by the general Secretary, Mr Philippe Gielen
- **The Circle "Mars et Mercure" Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg**, seated at :  
an Hauwenpaerchen, 16, L- 3486 Dudelange  
represented by its national Chairman, Mr Michel Gretsches
- **The Circle "Marzo y Mercurio" Spain**, seated at :  
c/o M Joaquim Illa Juandó, c. de la Palma, 21, E-08301 Mataró  
represented, with powers of attorney by the honorary general President, Mr Michel Courtin
- Mr Hans Mathijssen in his quality of general President

hereby declare to renew, for an unlimited period, a co-ordination commission between their respective national Circles, whose rules of operation they have established as follows :

## Article 1 : Denomination

"MARS AND MERCURY - EUROPE" Inter-Nations Co-ordination Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission".

## Article 2 : Offices

The office of the Commission is seated at the address of the Royal Circle Mars et Mercure Belgium at: Quartier Reine Elisabeth - Bloc Météo, Rue d'Evere, 1, B-1140 Brussels  
The administrative office is seated at the address of the general Secretary, currently:  
Mr Philippe Gielen, Aardbruggenstraat, 1, B-3570 Alken

## **Article 3 : Objects and organization**

### **3.1. Objects**

The purpose of the Commission is as follows :

- to promote close co-operation bonds between national Circles with a view of studying all questions relating to them in common, to find solutions and means likely to increase the effectiveness of their actions and to contribute to the development of the professional activities of their members at international level on the basis of the moral values and friendly bonds prevailing in their respective armed forces, in particularly in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union and allied partner countries ;
- to study any question of mutual services between national Circles, in particular by exchanging about the experiences made within the respective national Circles and by creating a central European database of its members thus facilitating exchanges between members ;
- in general terms, to carry out exchange of ideas between the national Circles and to promote the spirit of Mars and Mercury on the international level ;
- to ensure, within the framework of the statutes and the existing and future activities of the various national Circles, the respect of the principle of political and confessional neutrality and, in general, the fundamental basic ideas which led to the foundation of the Royal Circle Mars et Mercure Belgium ;
- to bring together national Circles belonging to different European countries, being aware of the European spirit that motivates their members, so making a contribution to a common Europe and promoting any activity that develops knowledge. and ability of its members ;
- to represent national Circles in international fora and develop activities specific to international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) ;
- to encourage the creation of national Circles in new European countries.

### **3.2. Organization**

The organs of the Commission are :

- the General Assembly ;
- the Board.

## **Article 4 : Members**

### **4.1. Composition**

The Commission is composed of active and honorary members.

There are at least three active members.

Active members are :

- the national Circles that founded the Circle Mars and Mercury Europe ;
- any national Circle whose government has ratified the European Convention on Human Rights and whose candidacy has been or is accepted by the General Assembly.

Are entitled to be elected as honorary member :

- personalities, whether individual or legal entities, accepted as such by the General Assembly.

### **4.2. Quality of member**

Membership is lost through resignation or exclusion.

### **4.3. Resignation and exclusion**

Active and honorary members are free to withdraw from the Commission at the end of a financial year by addressing their resignation to the Board six months ahead of the next General Assembly. Membership fees which are not paid remain due.

The active member who does not pay the membership fee despite the reminders of the general Treasurer is deemed to have resigned.

The exclusion of a member requires a majority vote of the members being present at the General Assembly.

Active members having resigned or being excluded lose the right to refer as a Circle Mars and Mercury.

The resigning or excluded member and the beneficiaries of a resigning or excluded member have no right to claim on the corporate assets.

### **4.4. Membership fee**

Each active member pays an annual fee set annually by the General Assembly. The current fee is documented in the Standing Orders and has to be paid by the national Circle.

The maximum annual fee, is limited to the amount of 250 euros as a basic fee, and to 10 euros per physical member of the national Circles registered the last day of the previous year.  
é le dernier jour de l'an précédent.

## **Article 5 : General Assembly**

### **5.1. Composition**

The General Assembly is made up of all the active members as well as the honorary general Presidents, who participate in the assembly only in an advisory capacity.

Each national Circle is represented by its national Chairman or the representative of the latter. This representative may be assisted by advisers. The general President sets the maximum number of advisers admitted by national Circle in the convening of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly is chaired by the general President.

### **5.2. Powers**

The General Assembly is responsible for the management of the Commission. It may delegate some of its powers to the Board.

The powers of the General Assembly include the right to :

- amend the statutes and pronounce the dissolution of the Commission ;
- appoint and dismiss the members of the Board ;
- annually approve budgets and accounts, give discharge to the Board and vote on the budget for the next fiscal year ;
- approve the proposal of new honorary members ;
- exclude a member ;
- exercise all other powers (or any other powers) deriving from the law and the statutes.

### **5.3. Notification to attend - Representation**

The General Assembly meets at least once a year in Belgium, preferably on the occasion of the National Day organized by the Royal Circle Mars et Mercure Belgium.

Active members are convened by the general President.

Notifications to attend are sent by e-mail, letter or circular at least one month before the General Assembly specifying the draft agenda.

Any Circle may be represented by another Circle or by an honorary general President, holding a general or special power of attorney specifying the items to be discussed.

### **5.4. Quorum of presence - Deliberation - Vote**

Each active member and the members of the Board have one vote in the General Assembly. This vote may see added another vote by single power of attorney.

Decisions are taken by majority of the members present or represented.

However, the General Assembly can validly deliberate on the modifications of the statutes, or pronounce the dissolution of the Commission only by a majority of two thirds of the active members and provided that at least two thirds of the members are present or represented.

In case of a tie, the general President shall have the casting vote.

En cas d'égalité des voix, celle du Président général est prépondérante.

### **5.5. Reports - Publication**

The decisions of the General Assembly are recorded in a minute book signed by the general President and one of the members of the Board. This register shall be kept at the seat of the Commission which any member may consult.

These decisions are brought to the attention of the members by mail, letter or e-mail.

## **Article 6 : Board**

### **6.1. Composition - Nomination**

The Commission is administered by a Board composed of at least four members :

- the general President ;
- the general Vice-President ;
- the general Secretary ;
- the general Treasurer.

The members are elected for three years by the General Assembly upon presentation of the national Circles. Their mandate is revocable by decision of the General Assembly by a majority of the votes of the members present or represented.

At the end of his three-year mandate, the general Vice-President automatically becomes general President for the next mandate of three years.

The Presidency is ensured by a successive rotation of the national Circles according to the annex.

A country may renounce to its tour of Presidency.

The general Secretary and the general Treasurer shall be members of the Royal Circle Mars et Mercure Belgium. Their mandate may be renewed.

## **6.2. Deliberations**

The decisions of the Board are taken by a majority of the members present or represented.

In case of a tie, the President General shall have the casting vote.

## **6.3. Powers**

The Board ensures the administration of the Commission within the management framework determined by the General Assembly.

Its members are entitled to represent the Commission, including in lawsuits, or to give collegial delegation to this effect.

It shall meet as often as the interests of the Commission require and submits to the General Assembly any proposal it deems useful for the interest of the Commission.

## **6.4. Liability**

The members of the Board shall not incur any personal liability due to their function. They are only responsible for the execution of their mandate, which is not remunerated.

Costs related to the function may be reimbursed on presentation of original documents and as far as the financial resources of the Commission allow.

## **Article 7 : Standing Orders**

Standing Orders may be presented to the General Assembly by the Board. Amendments to these rules may be decided at the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of the members present or represented.

## **Article 8 : Financial year**

The financial year begins on 1<sup>st</sup> January and ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December of each year.

## **Article 9 : Dissolution**

In the event of the dissolution of the Commission, the General Assembly shall appoint the liquidator (s), determine his (their) powers and indicate the allocation to be given to the net assets of the corporate assets.

This assignment must be made in favor of a charity or an association, foundation or company having a purpose similar to that of this Commission.

## **Article 10 : Language**

The working languages of the Commission are French and English. In case of doubt regarding the interpretation of the statutes, the French language version will prevail.

Made in Gent (Genth) in 3 copies, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

# ANNEX

Order of rotation of the Presidency (according to the state of the national Circles in November 2018)

