

# Statutes of the foraus association

## Preamble.

foraus is committed to a Swiss foreign policy which strives towards constructive, coherent and progressive solutions in the interplay between efficient lobbying and the commitment to a more humane world.

foraus promotes an understanding of Swiss foreign policy commitment in order to approach global challenges together with international partners and improve Switzerland's position within international decision-making bodies.

foraus represents self-aware lobbying which promotes Switzerland's welfare on a lasting basis and pragmatically and proactively guarantees its security.

foraus is committed to Switzerland's strong dedication to peacekeeping and human rights, the alleviation of poverty and hardship and the protection of natural resources.

foraus promotes a constructive debate about the changing role of the State in a globalised world and supports a timely understanding of Swiss neutrality.

foraus adopts a long-term perspective, not focused on day-to-day politics, and intends to close the gap between science, civil society and politics in a holistic, science-based manner and a comprehensible presentation of knowledge.

## 1. Name and headquarters.

«foraus – Forum Aussenpolitik – Forum de politique étrangère» is the name of an association under articles 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code, headquartered in Berne.

This is a not-for-profit association. It is neutral as regards religion and party politics.

## **2. Goal.**

The association's goal is to promote a constructive foreign policy for Switzerland and to stimulate informed dialogue. The association is thus committed to the socio-political future of Switzerland.

The association offers all interested persons non-commercial access to debates and initial and further training in the field of Swiss foreign policy, outside of the traditional framework of party politics.

The association operates in all parts of Switzerland and in several languages. In order to best meet the association's goal, the association takes account of regional features, needs and, in particular, cultural differences within the framework of its activities.

## **3. Means.**

In order to meet its goal, the association has access to various types of grants and revenue.

The general assembly shall set the membership fee sum for natural persons. The committee shall submit a proposal to this end. The membership fee must be paid yearly by the members.

Legal entities shall pay membership fees depending on the objective criteria set by the committee.

## **4. Membership.**

Any natural person or legal entity may become a member. To this end, a declaration of membership must be made.

New members may be accepted at any time. The committee shall decide on the admission of new members.

The association shall keep a register of members.

## **5. Membership termination.**

Membership of the association may be terminated at any time. Resignations should take the form of a verbal or written resignation to the committee.

The committee may exclude a member from the association on serious grounds. The member must be heard before exclusion takes place. The exclusion is effective if agreed by a two-thirds majority of the members of the committee present at the meeting.

Legal entities may be excluded by the general assembly. The exclusion is effective if agreed by a two-thirds majority of the members present at the general assembly.

## **6. Bodies of the association.**

The bodies of the association are:

1. The general assembly,
2. The committee and
3. The auditors.

## **7. The general assembly.**

The general assembly shall be convened at least once a year by the committee and, in addition, if one fifth of the members of the association ask the committee to convene such a meeting.

An invitation shall be sent out to the members at least 30 days in advance. Any suggested agenda items, such as nominations for elections, proposals to change the statutes or to merge with another association, must be addressed to the committee in writing at least 14 days before the meeting. The general assembly shall vote on whether to discuss items that are not on the agenda.

Decisions at the general assembly are taken by simple majority. Each active and passive member has one vote at the general assembly. In the event of a tie, the president shall cast the deciding vote. Changes to the statutes and the dissolution of the association require a two-thirds majority and merging with other associations requires a three-quarters majority of the votes cast.

## **8. Tasks of the general assembly.**

The general assembly:

- Accepts the minutes of the last general assembly;
- Elects the members of the committee;
- Elects the auditors;
- Accepts the auditors' annual accounts;
- Decides on other matters which are presented and put on the agenda by the committee;
- Can decide to discuss items that are not on the agenda and take the relevant decisions;
- Sets the amount of the yearly membership fee;
- Decides on statute changes, mergers with other associations and the dissolution of the association.

## **9. The committee.**

The committee consists of a president or two co-presidents, at least one vice-president and at least one other member, with care being taken to consider, representation of the different genders and parts of the country, insofar as possible. The committee's work is voluntary and unpaid.

The committee is elected by the general assembly. The committee of the financial year which is coming to an end shall determine the number of seats on the next year's committee. Otherwise, the committee is self-constituting. The members of the committee represent the association by joint signature.

A simple majority applies to committee decisions. In the event of a tie, the president casts the deciding vote. The exclusion of a member of the association requires a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

## **10. Tasks of the committee.**

The committee:

- Represents the association externally;
- Is responsible for decisions relating to all affairs concerning the association which are not expressly or legally transferred to the general assembly;
- May issue regulations;
- Regulates the association's finances;
- Convenes the general assembly and implements its decisions;
- Decides on the admission and exclusion of members of the association;
- Elects the members of the consultative body;
- May introduce an executive board or another body, nominate its members and management and draw up specifications for their work.

## **11. The consultative body.**

The consultative body may be consulted by the committee when drawing up theme-related focal points and weighing up strategic decisions. The members of the consultative body are nominated by the committee, taking into particular account their foreign policy profile and their explicit or implicit support of the association's goals.

## **12. The auditors.**

Only the assets of the association are liable for the liabilities of the association. Any personal responsibility of members is excluded. Members of the association are in no way entitled to the association's assets.

### **13. Liability.**

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### **14. Dissolution of the association.**

The dissolution of the association may only be decided by the general assembly. The decision shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the members present at the meeting. Any association assets must be transferred to a tax-exempt legal entity headquartered in Switzerland with a comparable public goal and thus used for the goals of the association.

### **15. Translation of the statutes.**

The committee shall provide a translation of the statutes into all four national languages, plus English. The translations into the national languages are legally binding.

### **16. Entry into force of the statutes.**

The statutes shall enter into force upon their acceptance by the general assembly on 5 April 2014 in Berne.

Statutes of the foraus association - version: 22 April 2017

*Working version*