

FÉDÉRATION SPÉLÉOLOGIQUE DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE



STATUTES adopted during the constitutional general assembly

in Udine (Italy September 8, 1990)

1st Modification 28 October 1995 (Enniskillen, IE)

2nd Modification: 8 June 2003, (Ollioules, FR),
adopted 23 August 2005 (Kalamos, GR)

(This is a translation of the French statutes.)

Section 1 – DEFINITION

- Article 1 The Speleological Federation of the European Union (F.S.U.E.) is composed of one representative of each country of the European Union.
- Article 2 The F.S.C.E. was founded on 8th September 1990 by an assembly with a representative from each country of the European Community. This was at the 16th Speleological Congress of Italy in Udine. This assembly was defined at the official preliminary meeting in Grimbergen, Belgium, on 20th and 21st January 1990.
- The name of Federation Spéléologique de l'Union Européenne (F.S.U.E.) was adopted by a vote of the General Assembly on the 8 June 2003 in Ollioules (France). The duration of the F.S.U.E. is unlimited.
- Article 3 The F.S.U.E. has its headquarters in Brussels.
- Article 4 The F.S.U.E. is covered by the International Union of Speleology. (U.I.S.)

SECTION 2 – PURPOSE

- Article 5 The proposals of the Speleological Federation of the European Union are :
- a) To establish a council with representatives of each of the countries of the European Union
 - b) To support the economical administrative law and political institutions of the European Union and their representatives
 - c) To promote sport and scientific speleological and communicate information, teaching, cave rescue, cave protection, karst and water protection, information, and publications
 - d) To share and communicate information in terms of insurance and access to caves
 - e) To encompass speleology in all its forms.
- Article 6 F.S.U.E. must set up and organise all the activities necessary to reach the targets, such as commissions, working groups, meetings. etc.

SECTION 3 – MEMBERS OF THE F.S.U.E.

- Article 7 A member of the F.S.U.E. must be a Federation or Association recognised by the member country of the European Union.
- Article 8 Each country is free to decide its own procedure for selecting a delegate and a vice-delegate.

SECTION 4 – STRUCTURE OF THE F.S.U.E.

- Article 9 The F.S.U.E. is composed of a General Assembly and a Bureau.
- Article 10 The General Assembly is composed of one delegate or the replacing vice-delegate from each member country.
- Article 11 The Bureau of the F.S.U.E. is composed of a President, General Secretary, Treasurer, and a Vice President.
- Article 12 The members of the Bureau are elected from the delegates of the General Assembly or the vice-delegates, by a secret ballot position by position.
- Article 13 The duration office for each Delegate, Vice-Delegate and member of the Bureau is 4 years. It is advisable that no member of the Bureau can serve for more than two consecutive terms.

SECTION 5 – RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BUREAU AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- Article 14 The Bureau is the executive power of the F.S.U.E. The Bureau is the representative of the political, law, administrative and economic authorities. At the end of each period of 2 years, it presents to the General Assembly the report of its activities in the shape of a general and financial report. The Bureau proposes a provisional budget. Suggestions by the Bureau have to be approved by the General Assembly.
- The bureau elaborates Internal Regulations which need to be approved by the General Assembly. The same procedure has to be adopted for future amendments.
- Article 15 The President manages the F.S.U.E. and represents it legally. He presides over the meetings of the Bureau and of the General Assembly and co-ordinates the good execution of decisions at the meetings.
- Article 16 The Vice President assists the President in his work. The Vice President must be able to replace any of the other members of the Bureau in case of absence.
- Article 17 The General Secretary is in charge of the organisation of administrative work. He prepares the reports at the meetings of the Bureau and of the General Assembly. He keeps updated the list of delegates. He does any action necessary for the smooth running of the F.S.U.E..

- Article 18 The Treasurer is in charge of the finances of the F.S.U.E. He is in charge of accounting and reports to the General Assembly. He prepares the financial report of each period and prepares the budget. He regularly informs the Bureau, and more specifically the President, of the financial status of the F.S.U.E.
- Article 19 The General Assembly represents the F.S.U.E. The General Assembly defines, orientates, and controls the general politic of the F.S.U.E. The General Assembly has the right and the power to modify the Statutes. The General Assembly elects the members of the Bureau. The reports of the Bureau have to be approved by the General Assembly. The General Assembly elects the presidents of Commissions, upon a proposal by the Bureau.

SECTION 6 – FUNCTION OF THE F.S.U.E.

- Article 20 The General Assembly holds a meeting every two years. The members of the General Assembly are informed by the General Secretary after agreement with the President of the exact place and dates and provisional agenda must be mentioned in the communication. The agenda is prepared by the Bureau. Any proposal signed by 2 delegates (or their vice-delegate) must be included into the agenda. The members of the General Assembly are sent a letter by registered mail at least 90 days in advance.
- Article 21 A meeting of the General Assembly may be called either by the President or after the written demand of a least one third of the delegates (or of their vice-delegate).
- Article 22 Each member country of the F.S.U.E. has one right to vote. Each country has one vote only. Decisions are taken by a simple majority of the votes: The votes are those of the present delegates or, if they are absent, of their respective vice- delegates. A proxy can be given to a delegate or a vice-delegate from another member country. Each delegate or his replacing vice-delegate can hold no more than one proxy vote. The vote of the President is a stronger power.
- Article 23 A quorum of the General Assembly must be at least 50 % of the members physically present at the meeting, i.e. 50% of the rights to vote.
- Article 24 The reports of meetings of the General Assembly and of the Bureau are sent to each delegate, vice-delegate and to each President of the National Federal Association of the European Union countries.
- Article 25 A delegate may be changed provided the President of the F.S.U.E. is immediately informed. If this delegate was a member of the Bureau then the position on the Bureau will be replaced by the normal democratic procedure at the next meeting of the General Assembly.

- Article 26 The financial resources of the F.S.U.E. may come from:
- * annual fees given by the member countries. The amount is determined by the General Assembly.
 - * Contributions may also come from different sources such as private or official institutions. or knowledgeable societies, commercial societies. etc, provided this is approved by the Bureau.
 - * Other gifts.
 - * Bank interest.
 - * Raising a loan.
 - * The sale of publications and any other articles.
 - * And also from any other sources approved by the Bureau.
- Article 27 The work languages of the F.S.U.E. are French and English.

SECTION 7 – RULES OF CHANGING STATUTES AND THE DISSOLUTION OF F.S.U.E.

- Article 28 The General Assembly is the only official institution allowed to change the rules of the F.S.U.E. For this purpose the General Assembly will meet in extraordinary session as defined in Article 21. Any modification must be approved by two thirds of the General Assembly.
- Article 29 The dissolution of the F.S.U.E. can be pronounced by the General Assembly congregated in an extraordinary session. Reference to Article 21. The dissolution will be pronounced with the majority of two thirds of the General Assembly.
- Article 30 In case of dissolution the belongings of the F.S.U.E. will be shared between the member countries, these are in the proportion of the fees paid since the entrance into the F.S.U.E.
- Article 31 Any member country pulling out of the F.S.U.E. from its own will, will in no case receive any payment or compensation.
- Article 32 The exclusion of a member country can be pronounced only by the General Assembly in an extraordinary session with the majority of two thirds of the member countries.

SECTION 8 – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Article 33 The General Assembly will be authorised to give an honorific title to their ex–delegates or ex-vice-delegates.