

WSCF Europe By-Laws

Article I

Name

The name is WSCF Europe Region (ER).

Article II

Aims, Vision and Mission

1. The vision statement of ER is:

Living faith together for justice.

2. The mission statement of ER is:

Inspired by our common Christian faith:

We campaign for a just and peaceful world;

We are a progressive Christian voice, aware of our political responsibility;

We educate and empower one another to be leaders and critical thinkers.

We build meaningful relationships;

We share and cultivate our passions;

We embrace diversity as a gift.

We pray and worship God together as one community;

We explore our common faith in Jesus Christ, which makes us one.

3. The aims of the ER shall follow the aims of the WSCF global constitution.

Article III

Member Movements

1. There shall be two categories of member movement: affiliated movements and associated movements.

2. An affiliated movement shall:

- a. Affirm the aims of WSCF;
- b. Have more than one branch. At least one branch should be in an institution of higher education. Each branch should be composed of at least five people meeting regularly, or being involved in a permanent project;

- c. Welcome members from all the main Christian denominations in their country, or be actively involved in ecumenical dialogue at a local or national level;
 - d. Organise workshops, conferences and/or campaigns for Christian students;
 - e. Be willing to communicate and share ideas with WSCF and other national SCMs;
 - f. Be willing to take part in the activities of WSCF;
 - g. Be willing to take part in the structures of WSCF, including sending delegates to the European Regional Assembly (ERA) and nominating members for the European Regional Committee (ERC);
 - h. Fund members to take part in WSCF activities, or be willing to help members raise funds to take part in WSCF activities.
3. An associated movement shall be one which participates fully in the regional and international activity of the WSCF, but which, for whatever reason in the judgment of the European Regional Committee, does not meet the requirements for affiliation or does not want to become an affiliated movement. Associated movements shall be encouraged to meet points (a) and (c)-(h) of the criteria in III.2.
 4. In general, there shall be one affiliated movement in each country. Exceptions may be made by two-thirds vote of the European Regional Assembly.
 5. Should changes take place in any affiliated or associated movement affecting the conditions mentioned above, the European Regional Assembly, on recommendation of the European Regional Committee, shall determine what shall be its relationship with the Region and the Federation as a whole. Any alternation in the status of an associated movement, or recommendation regarding the status of an affiliated movement, shall require a 2/3 majority of those present and voting.

Article IV

Composition and Function of the European Regional Assembly (ERA)

1. Composition

The composition of the ERA shall be as follows:

- a. Up to two delegates from each affiliated movement with the right to vote, speak, present recommendations and provide candidates for election to the European Regional Committee.
- b. Up to two delegates from each associated movement with the right to speak, present recommendations and provide candidates for election to the European Regional Committee.
- c. The elected members of the European Regional Committee with the right to vote, speak and present recommendations as a committee.
- d. The non-elected members of the European Regional Committee with the right to speak.
- e. Resource Persons to be invited as needed with the right to speak.

- f. Non-voting observers with the right to speak.

2. Functions

The functions of the ERA shall be as follows:

- a. To formulate policy: to make recommendations to the European Regional Committee on the programmes and campaigns of ER, and to the Global Executive Committee regarding the programme of the WSCF as a whole.
- b. To make recommendations on the practical management of the region, including governance, movement building, communications and fundraising.
- c. To receive and approve reports from the European Regional Committee on the work and finances of ER.
- d. To elect the members of the European Regional Committee.
- e. To nominate two members of the European Regional Committee as regional representatives to the Executive Committee of the WSCF, subject to ratification by the General Assembly of WSCF. The term of Executive Committee members runs between two General Assemblies.

3. Frequency of Meetings

- a. The European Regional Assembly shall, as a rule, meet every two years. Meetings will normally take place immediately following thematic conferences. All participants attending the thematic conference from affiliated and associated movements shall be expected to attend the ERA.
- b. The European Regional Committee shall inform affiliated and associated movements of the time and place of the ERA at least six months beforehand.
- c. An extraordinary European Regional Assembly shall be held upon request of 2/3 of the voting members of the next ERA (affiliated member movements 2 votes, ERC members one vote). The ERC shall be responsible for calling and organising this extraordinary ERA so as to enable the participation of all affiliated and associated movements.

4. Voting procedures

- a. Representatives from at least half of the affiliated movements must be present at the ERA for voting to take place.
- b. For voting to take place during the ERA, at least half of the voting delegates must be present. This is called quorum.
- c. No person may have more than one vote.

Article V

Officers, Committees and Staff

1. Officers

The ERA shall elect a chairperson and a treasurer for the ERC. The vice-chairperson shall be elected by the new European Regional Committee from among its elected members.

The chairperson and the treasurer shall be elected for four years with the option to step down after two years.

2. Committees

A European Regional Committee (ERC) shall be elected by the ERA. This committee shall meet at least once a year.

The ERC shall have the following composition:

- a. Chairperson (with vote)
- b. Treasurer (with vote)
- c. Up to five persons (with votes) representative of commissions or interest groups or other issues of concern to be chosen by the ERA. Representatives of the commissions or interest groups to the ERC shall be decided by the ERA. If a vacancy should arise, the ERC in consultation with interest groups shall decide who should fill the vacancy, from among ERC.
- d. Up to two persons as members of the Executive Committee of the WSCF (with votes)
- e. The regional secretary(ies) (no vote)
- f. Other staff and volunteers (no vote).
- g. The ERC has the right to co-opt up to two resource persons and/or movement representatives (no vote). Co-opted members may be from a country where there are no affiliated or associated movements.

The composition of the ERC should reflect the denominational diversity of WSCF Europe, a regional as well as a gender balance.

The functions of the European Regional Committee shall be:

- a. To implement the decisions of the ERA.
- b. To support all member movements, enabling them to develop and grow stronger within their national context, and to ensure and facilitate contact between movements in the ER.
- c. To recommend affiliation of movements to the Executive Committee of the WSCF and to accept association of movements.
- d. To prepare the regional budget to be submitted to the Executive Committee of the WSCF.
- e. To nominate the regional secretary(ies) for appointment by the Executive Committee of the WSCF.
- f. The ERC shall appoint proxies for the two members of the Executive Committee from among the ERC's members.
- g. To organise thematic conferences, events and campaigns, and to develop resources in keeping with the policy formulated by the ERA.
- h. To be responsible for the fulfilment of their tasks according to their respective terms of reference, to continuously build their capacities to do so and be assisted by the office staff where necessary.
- i. To act as contact persons for SCMs interested in taking ownership in all the different areas of work within the region, to kindle such interest and to empower as many SCMer as possible to contribute their ideas and their efforts
- j. To work in cooperation with the different interest groups relating to the different ERC portfolios

- k. To organise thematic events on issues defined by the ERA and to ensure their inclusiveness and participatory methodologies.
- l. To develop campaigns and to issue solidarity statements (in keeping with regional vision and mission statement) addressing political and social issues identified by the ERA, SCMs or the ERC itself while representing the broad variety of thematic interests within the Federation in Europe.
- m. To develop resources for SCMs to use and strengthen their work addressing topics deemed relevant by them.

3. Staff

The regional staff shall carry out their work in accordance with their job descriptions.

Article VI

Amendments

Any amendments to this Constitution shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting members of the ERA. Proposed amendments shall be sent out not less than six weeks prior to the ERA.