

CONSTITUTION
OF
THE EUROPEAN REGION
OF THE
WORLD UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM
(as adopted 16 March 2008 at the Annual General Meeting in Vienna, Austria)

1. DEFINITIONS

- Constituent Member** - An organisation situated within Europe which is a member of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.
- Associate Member** - An organisation situated within Europe which has been accepted as an Associate Member of the Region in accordance with Clause 4.4.
- WUPJ Constitution** - The constitution of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.
- Region** - The European Region, the body made up of all the Constituent and Associate Members (Clause 4.1).
- European Assembly** - The body of representatives of the Constituent Members responsible for governing the European Region (Clause 5).
- Executive Board** - The body of officers of the Region and representatives of the Constituent Members responsible for the general running of the European Region and for making executive decisions of the Constituent Members. (Clause 6)
- Officers** - The Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, the Treasurer and the Secretary of the Region who shall form the Management Committee which shall be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Region.

2. **THE EUROPEAN REGION**

The Constituent Members shall constitute a Regional Organisation to be known as the European Region of the World Union for Progressive Judaism in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the WUPJ Constitution.

3. **OBJECTS**

The objects of the Region shall be to further the objects of the World Union for Progressive Judaism within Europe and in pursuance thereof to do all such things as may seem desirable for the attainment of those objects and in particular all such things as are required to be done by a Regional Organisation constituted pursuant to the WUPJ Constitution.

4. **COMPOSITION OF THE REGION**

4.1. The Region shall consist of:

- (a) All Constituent Members;
- (b) Such group of congregations and other organisations and such individual congregation or other organisation as is admitted by the European Assembly to membership of the Region (which by such admission shall become a Constituent Member); such organisations shall include rabbinical seminaries in Europe, the Rabbinic Court for the Jewish Communities of Europe (known as the European Beit Din), the Friends of Progressive Judaism in Israel and Europe and relevant youth organisations;
- (c) Associate Members pursuant to clause 4.4.

4.2. By its membership of the Region a Constituent Member and an Associate Member shall be deemed to have:

- (a) Undertaken to further the objects of the Region;
- (b) Agreed to contribute funds in such amounts as may be determined by the Executive Board in which determination the Executive Board shall be required to take account of the membership and resources of the Constituent Member or Associate Member and of any other circumstances of the Constituent Member or Associate Member which shall appear to the Executive Board to be relevant.

4.3. Where it appears to the European Assembly (upon the recommendation of the Executive Board) that a Constituent Member or Associate Member ceases to be qualified to be a Constituent Member or Associate Member the European Assembly may terminate its membership of the Region by resolution of the European Assembly passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members of the European Assembly voting either in person or in writing.

4.4. Congregations and organisations in Europe which do not appear to the Executive Board to justify current acceptance as Constituent Members may be accepted as Associate Members on such terms as to representation and other matters as the European Assembly may from time

to time decide and any such Associate Member may be accepted as a Constituent Member when the European Assembly (upon the recommendation of the Executive Board) shall determine that it is duly qualified.

- 4.5 Where in any country in Europe there is one or more national federation or union or group of congregations which has been recognised by the European Assembly and which has itself become a Constituent Member, an individual congregation in that country will be expected to participate in the Region as an affiliate to one of those national bodies and will not be accepted as a Constituent Member in its own name provided however that in particular circumstances the Executive Board may recommend to the European Assembly that such a congregation may be admitted as a Constituent Member or an Associate Member if the relevant national body gives its approval.

5. **THE EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY**

- 5.1. The Region shall be governed by the European Assembly which shall consist of:-

- (a) The President, the Honorary Life President and all Vice-Presidents;
- (b) The Officers;
- (c) Representatives to which Constituent Members are entitled under Clause 5.2;
- (d) Any persons whom the European Assembly may co-opt.

- 5.2. At the first meeting in the year of the European Assembly it shall be called on to approve a list (submitted by the Executive Board) containing the number of voting representatives to which each Constituent Member shall be entitled; this list shall be prepared taking into account the membership and contributions of each Constituent Member and any other circumstances which shall appear to the Executive Board to be fair and relevant.

- 5.3 Any person who is elected an Officer shall cease to be counted as a representative of his Constituent Member for the purposes of its representation on the European Assembly or on the Executive Board.

6. **THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- 6.1 The Executive Board shall consist of:

- (a) The President;
- (b) The Honorary Life President
- (c) The Vice-Presidents
- (d) The Officers.

- (e) One representative each of the Movement for Reform Judaism, Liberal Judaism, the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany, the Union for Progressive Judaism in The Netherlands and the community in France.
- (f) Such persons as the Executive Board may co-opt, not exceeding five in number, and whose names shall be approved at the next meeting of the European Assembly.

6.2 The Executive Board shall be responsible for carrying out the policy and activities of the Region as declared from time to time by the European Assembly, for supervising the activities of the Management Committee and for ensuring that the Management Committee operates within the budgets policies and procedures approved by the Executive Board from time to time.

6.3 Individual members of the Executive Board (apart from the Officers) shall have no executive authority except where specifically requested by the Officers to carry out particular tasks.

7. **QUALIFICATION OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The representatives referred to in Clause 6 shall be appointed or, as the case may be, elected from persons who are members of the Constituent Members. A representative who ceases to be so shall cease to be a member of the Executive Board in which event the relevant Constituent Member may appoint a representative to fill the vacancy until the next election meeting of the European Assembly.

8. **FUNDS**

Funds for the conduct of the business and activities of the Region (including the business and activities of the European Assembly, the Executive Board and the Management Committee) shall be raised from the Constituent and Associate Members by subscription in such proportions as the European Assembly (upon the recommendation of the Executive Board) shall determine and by such other means and in such other manner as the Executive Board may determine.

9. **PRESIDENT AND LIFE PRESIDENT**

9.1 When there is a vacancy for the office of President it shall be the duty of the Executive Board to submit to the European Assembly a nomination or nominations for the Presidency for election at the next election meeting of the European Assembly. Notice of such nominations shall be sent out two months before the meeting and the European Assembly shall have the right to make and vote upon nominations other than those made by the Executive Board, provided that the names of such alternative nominations have been submitted to the European Assembly not less than one month prior to the European Assembly election meeting. The President shall be elected for a term of three years and shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

9.2 From time to time the European Assembly may elect one or more persons as Honorary Life President as a token of particular esteem and appreciation

10. **VICE-PRESIDENTS**

- 10.1. There shall be not more than eight Vice-Presidents of whom one shall be appointed by the Movement for Reform Judaism and one by Liberal Judaism and six by the European Assembly nominated and elected by the same procedure as the President under the provisions of Clause 9.1.
- 10.2. A Vice-President shall be appointed for a term of three years and shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

11. **ELECTIONS OF THE OFFICERS AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- 11.1. Elections of Officers shall take place during the first meeting in the year of the European Assembly.
- 11.2. All Officers shall be elected for a term of three years and shall not serve more than two terms in any one office.
- 11.3. The elections of Treasurer and Secretary shall not (unless it be unavoidable) take place in the same year as the election of any other Officers.
- 11.4. Members of the Executive Board appointed under Clause 6.1(e) and (f) shall be appointed for a term of three years and shall serve no more than two successive terms in that capacity.
- 11.5. The Officers specified in Clause 5.1.(b) shall be deemed to be the Trustees of the Region for the purposes of the United Kingdom Charities Acts.

12. **MEETINGS**

12.1. **Frequency**

- (a) The European Assembly shall meet at least once in each year.
- (b) The Executive Board shall meet at least two times in each year.
- (c) The Management Committee shall meet regularly and also when requested by the Executive Board.

12.2. **Quorums**

- (a) The quorum of the European Assembly shall be 12 representing no fewer than 5 Constituent Members.
- (b) The quorum of the Executive Board shall be 4 and its meetings may be organised by electronic communication.

12.3. **Chair**

At all meetings the chair will be taken by the Chairman, provided that in the absence of the Chairman, the Chair shall be taken by any one of the Officers named in Clause 5.1.(b).

12.4 **Notices**

Notices of meetings shall be in writing and shall be sent out to members of the European Assembly not less than 28 days before meetings of the European Assembly and to members of the Executive Board not less than 14 days before meetings of the Executive Board. The notices shall specify the time and place of the meeting and the business to be transacted, provided that business of which due notice has not been given may be transacted if the Chairman thinks fit save that the meeting may overrule the Chairman if it passes a Resolution to that effect by a two-thirds majority of the members or representatives present.

12.5 The year shall for all purposes including financial be from the 1st January to the 31st December.

13. **MEETINGS OF THE EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY**

At its meetings the European Assembly, shall, in addition to any other business which it considers appropriate:

13.1. Consider a written report of the business of the Executive Board since the last meeting of the European Assembly.

13.2. Decide matters of policy referred to it by the Executive Board (or by any Constituent Member who has given 42 days' notice thereof to the Secretary) and give such directions as it thinks fit for the implementation of the policy by the Executive Board

13.3. Discuss any matters referred to it by the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

13.4. If the meeting be the first in the year, elect the Officers and consider and, if thought fit, approve the appointments of representatives to the Executive Board as provided for in Clauses 6 and 7.

13.5. Consider and, if thought fit, approve the annual accounts of the Region.

13.6. Consider and, if thought fit, pass any resolution of which 28 days' notice in writing has been given which in the Chairman's opinion is proper for it to consider.

13.7. Appoint an independent person (who need not be a qualified or professional accountant) to carry out an examination of the annual accounts of the Region for the current year.

14. **DISSOLUTION**

Should the Region be dissolved, any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any liabilities shall not be distributed amongst the Constituent Members but shall be given to such charitable organisation or organisations with objects similar to that of the Region as the European

Assembly may determine (subject to the approval of the United Kingdom Charity Commission if that is required).

15. **DECISIONS AND AMENDMENT**

- 15.1. Any decision as to the interpretation or meaning of this constitution shall be the responsibility of the European Assembly alone whose decision shall be final.
- 15.2. Adoption of this constitution shall be the responsibility of the European Assembly which shall also have the right to amend it (except as to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 which shall be amended only with the approval of the World Union for Progressive Judaism) by resolution carried by a majority of two-thirds of the Constituent Members present, provided that the wording of the proposed amendment and the reason for it shall have been sent out in the notice convening the meeting.

CONSTITUTION

of the

EUROPEAN REGION

of the

WORLD UNION

FOR

PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

Adopted March 16, 2008