

STATUTES

PREAMBLE TO THE STATUTES

In November 1979 the COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES initiated a meeting of representatives of Associations of Geography teachers, held in Brussels. At this meeting it was decided to establish a EUROPEAN STANDING CONFERENCE OF GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS to help promote a European Dimension in the teaching of Geography in European schools and to provide a forum for the discussion of matters concerning the teaching of Geography within Europe.

As a result of the distance between countries and the impracticalities of meeting regularly in large numbers, it was decided that the best way for the Standing Conference to provide help to Geography Teachers was to establish an information dissemination service, which would offer up to date information on aspects of European Geography. To this end, the publication "EUROGEO" was created.

At the 1994 plenary meeting of the Standing Conference, it was decided to widen participation in the Standing Conference to all the countries of Europe and to change its name into EUROGEO.

EUROGEO gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance offered so far by the COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION and the COUNCIL OF EUROPE. This financial assistance has enabled the Standing Conference/EUROGEO to publish its bulletin and to reconvene every two years.

In 1989 the then Standing Conference was granted official consultative status with the Council of Europe. This was subsequently upgraded by the Council of Europe to participatory status.

The following Constitution sets out the framework through which EUROGEO operates. The text is based upon

- the principles of the educational articles in the Treaty of Maastricht,
- EU educational programmes, such as SOCRATES and the Lifelong Learning Programme.

1. DENOMINATION, AIMS AND DOMICILE OF EUROGEO

1.1. EUROGEO is the Association of European Geographers, formerly established as the "European Standing Conference of Geography Teachers' Associations" in November 1979, is a European, non-governmental, non-profit organization.

1.2. The aims of EUROGEO are to advance the status of geography by:

- organising conferences, events and activities for members
- producing publications for members
- supporting the teaching of geography
- undertaking research about and for geography
- supporting geographers in their jobs and careers
- identifying and promoting good practise

- supporting geographical associations and their foundation
- co-operating with such bodies as the European Union, the Council of Europe and geographical and other relevant organisations;
- lobbying at European and national level
- providing a forum for the discussion of matters of common interest to geographers
- giving advice on geography
- making recommendations to decision makers

1.3. The domicile of EUROGEO is the place in which the Secretary-General is based.

2. THE MEMBERSHIP OF EUROGEO

2.1. Membership of EUROGEO shall be by those interested in geography, to include individuals, organisations and associations. In the case of organisations and associations, admission to membership of EUROGEO shall not constitute recognition of political eminence but only of its scientific and professional status. In cases of doubt the Presidium will be decisive. Each member will have the same rights.

2.2. Applications to join EUROGEO should be made through the Secretary-General.

2.3. Only EUROGEO members have voting rights at the General Assembly and can be members of the Presidium. Non-members may be invited to as non-voting delegates to conferences, meetings and events and to participate in projects.

2.4. The members of EUROGEO shall promote the objectives of EUROGEO in their respective countries and organisations.

3. THE ORGANS OF EUROGEO

3.1. The organs of EUROGEO are the General Assembly and the Presidium.

4. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4.1. The work of EUROGEO shall be decided by the General Assembly.

4.2. The General Assembly shall hold an ordinary meeting, normally every year, whenever possible at the time and place of a EUROGEO Conference. Each member may attend the General Assembly, and will be allowed to have voting rights.

4.3. The General Assembly shall elect a Presidium.

4.4. The President of EUROGEO may invite representatives of international or national scientific and scholarly institutions and other scientists and scholars to attend meetings of the General Assembly in a consultative capacity.

4.5. The Agenda for the meeting of the General Assembly shall be fixed by the President in consultation with other members of the Presidium and shall normally be circulated to the member associations at least one month before the opening of the meeting. A matter not appearing on the agenda may be raised by a member with the approval of the Presidium.

4.6. Decisions shall be taken by a vote of members represented at the General Assembly, each member having one vote. A decision shall only be valid if more than 50 per cent of

the possible votes, i.e., of members present at the General Assembly are cast.

4.7. The organising committee of a EUROGEO event may be invited to report on its activities to the General Assembly. After the conclusion of the event, the organising committee shall submit a final report to the Presidium.

5. THE PRESIDIUM

5.1. The presidium normally consists of a President, up to five vice-presidents, a Secretary-General and a Treasurer. They are elected for a period of three years with the possibility of re-election. Members of the Presidium serve in an individual capacity.

5.2. The President of EUROGEO will normally assume office after the conclusion of the General Assembly, or, if this is held during a EUROGEO Conference, after the conclusion of the Conference. The President is eligible for re-election as President for two further periods only. The retiring President becomes a Vice-President for one further period. The retiring President shall take the place of the President should the President be unable, temporarily or otherwise, to act.

5.3. The Secretary-General shall act as administrator - secretariat. With the approval of the Presidium and in order to provide for the efficient administration of the affairs of the EUROGEO network, the Secretary-General may arrange for an Assistant Secretary-General. The Secretary-General shall make arrangements to keep members informed of the activities of the network and the publications sponsored or assisted by EUROGEO. Another member of the Presidium shall in the interim period take the place of the General-Secretary should the General-Secretary be unable, temporarily or otherwise, to act.

5.4. The Vice-Presidents will have specified duties, which will include stimulating activities and co-ordinating specific EUROGEO initiatives and events.

5.5. In the case of any vacancy occurring amongst its members, the Presidium shall have power to co-opt new members. Any person so appointed shall hold office until the next meeting of the General Assembly.

5.6. Membership of the Presidium shall be unpaid. Presidium members shall be entitled to reasonable travelling expenses and subsistence allowances for attending meetings and specific activities of the Presidium.

5.7. The Presidium shall normally meet during each EUROGEO Conference and at such times and places as the President in consultation with the Secretary-General shall determine. There shall normally be at least one meeting a year. The Chair of the Organising Committee of the next EUROGEO Conference or a representative may be invited for joint consideration of appropriate matters.

5.8. It is the task of the Presidium to monitor new trends and developments in the field of geographical education and research, to bring these to the knowledge of the members of EUROGEO and to take all action required to ensure an optimal participation of EUROGEO in international programmes. Further duties of the Presidium shall include those which have been entrusted to it from time to time by the General Assembly, and in particular:

- the preparation of the Agenda for the General Assembly;
- collaboration with the organisers of EUROGEO events;
- the consideration of items submitted by members and conference participants;

- the establishment of special or temporary groups (Commissions) for particular tasks such as Study Groups to examine defined geographical and educational problems;
- the conferment, on behalf of EUROGEO, as a mark of distinction, of special honours on persons who have achieved particular distinction or who have rendered outstanding service for the international community of geography teachers and other geographers.

5.9. The Presidium may accept invitations for regional or other international events possibly of a more restricted character or for special purposes, or may itself sponsor or organise such meetings.

6. COMMISSIONS

6.1. Commissions can be appointed by the General Assembly and the Presidium to further the objectives of EUROGEO.

6.2. Commissions shall be established for the study of a specific issue or for the accomplishment of a task which requires international collaboration. Commissions may promote individual and group research work, encourage the exchange of relevant documents and information, and organize conferences, meetings and, where appropriate, field excursions.

6.3. The establishment of a new Commission may be proposed by a member or by the Presidium.

6.4. A Commission shall consist of a Chair and up to four members.

6.5. Commissions may apply to the Presidium for funds to enable them to carry out their work. The financial liability of EUROGEO is limited to the grants made and approved by the Presidium and other external funding obtained.

6.6. A Commission may undertake research and other contracts and may request grants from national or international, or other appropriate, organisations. They are required to inform the Presidium of actions taken and the results achieved.

6.7. A Commission may publish the results of its work or may collaborate in joint publications. Recognition of the support provided by EUROGEO should be acknowledged in each case.

6.8. Each Commission shall prepare a concise report on its work which should be submitted to the Secretary-General at least four months before the next ordinary meeting of the General Assembly. The report should include an account of the work carried out, the methods used, the results obtained, a financial account and, when appropriate, a programme of further research.

7. FINANCES

7.1. Each individual member shall pay annually a contribution to be decided upon by the General Assembly.

7.2. Each member organisation shall pay annually a contribution to be decided upon by the General Assembly.

7.3. The income of EUROGEO is derived primarily from:

- contributions by members;
- subsidies from other organisations;
- sale of publications;
- gifts and donations;
- conference and event registration fees;
- consultancy and research and projects and other grants.

This income is to be devoted primarily to:

- the cost of administration, including the maintenance of the Secretariat and the meetings of the Presidium;
- the expenses of activities specifically authorised by the Presidium;
- subsidies towards the expenses of Commissions;
- subsidies towards the cost of organisation of meetings and conferences;
- maintenance of the EUROGEO Web site and other information sources;
- specific activities including research.

Any surplus may be used as the General Assembly may direct to advance the general purposes of EUROGEO. Funds derived from donations and grants shall be used with due regard to the wishes expressed by the donors. Any member which withdraws from EUROGEO resigns by this act its right to share in the assets of EUROGEO.

7.4. The Treasurer shall prepare a statement of accounts of income and expenditure for each year. They shall also prepare, on behalf of the Presidium, an estimate of the budget.

7.4. The Treasurer shall keep accurate accounts and records of all financial transactions. He shall arrange for the accounts to be audited annually. Two members of the General Assembly, nominated for the purpose by the General Assembly, shall examine the accounts and the budget estimates and shall report on these matters to the General Assembly.

8. INTERNAL REGULATIONS

8.1. The Presidium and the General Assembly may draw up internal regulations for the conduct of its business, the general duties to be assigned to the members of the Presidium and, in general, for all matters not provided for in the Statutes.

8.2. Similarly, each Commission may be required to draw up regulations for the conduct of its own business.

8.3. The working languages of EUROGEO shall be English, French and German.

8.4. There shall be no discrimination as regards race, ethnic group, citizenship, religion, sex or political opinion within the EUROGEO network or in the meetings organised by it or held on its behalf.

9. THE EUROGEO CONFERENCE

9.1. A EUROGEO Conference shall, if possible, be held at least every two years.

9.2. The organisation, promotion, marketing and financing of the EUROGEO Conference shall, subject to the other provisions stated in this article, be the responsibility of the host

of the Conference. However, the Presidium shall advise on the program planned for the Conference. It shall be the responsibility of the host that:

- suitable facilities are provided for the meeting of the General Assembly;
- provision shall be made for meetings of the Presidium and for the functioning of the Secretariat;
- facilities in time and space shall be made available for meetings of any Commissions;
- outline proposals for the Conference arrangements shall be submitted to the Presidium at least twelve months in advance of the date of the Conference.

9.3. The Presidium shall satisfy itself that the proposals are compatible with the Statutes of EUROGEO. A representative of the Organising Committee of future conferences shall normally be invited to attend a meeting of the Presidium at which the proposals are considered, and the host association shall normally be asked to invite a member or members of the Presidium for consultation.

9.4. The Secretary-General shall inform member associations of the location of the EUROGEO Conference and of the address of the organisers. Thereafter communication may be directed between Committees of national Geography Teachers' Associations or individuals and the Organising Committees of the future Conference.

10. AFFILIATION OF OTHER SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS

10.1. EUROGEO may offer affiliation to other associations having cognate interests, provided the aims, objects and constitution of such associations are compatible with those of EUROGEO. The relations with the affiliated organisations may have a thematic or a regional character.

10.2. EUROGEO and the affiliated association shall continue as independent bodies having their own statutes, organisation and finance. The degree of collaboration shall be left for mutual arrangement between the respective executive bodies.

10.3. The affiliation terminates when the General Assembly of EUROGEO or the affiliated organisation so decides and the other organisation has been duly informed.

11. DURATION OF CONVENTION AND MODIFICATIONS

11.1. The duration of EUROGEO is not limited.

11.2. No change shall be made in the terms of the present Statutes without the approval of two thirds of the member associations present at the General Assembly .

11.3. In the case of the dissolution of EUROGEO, agreed by at least two-thirds of the adhering members, the available funds shall be given by the General Assembly to one or more scholarly institutions.

11.4. French, English and German texts shall be given equal weight in deciding the meaning to be given to the articles of the present Statutes.

Established Liverpool (UK), 6th September 2008

Revised Bruges (BE), 10th May 2013