



## **CONSTITUTION**

### **I. NAME - DURATION - SEAT - PURPOSE**

- Article 1**
- (a) Under the name of European Astronomical Society (EAS), an association has been organised and incorporated; it is governed by Article 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code and by the present Constitution.
  - (b) Its duration shall be perpetual.
  - (c) Its seat is in Geneva, Switzerland.

- Article 2**
- The purpose of the Society is and shall be to contribute to and promote the advancement of astronomy, in its broadest sense, in Europe by all suitable means and in particular:
- (a) by providing an independent forum for the discussion of subjects of common interest;
  - (b) by providing means whereby action can be taken on those matters which appear desirable to handle on a European level.

### **II. MEMBERSHIP**

- Article 3**
- The membership of the society shall consist of Ordinary Members, Junior Members, Associate Members, Honorary Members, and Organisational Members.

- Article 4**
- (a) Persons who have shown by their contribution to science, by their professional activity or otherwise, to Council's satisfaction, that they can further the cause and objectives of the Society, may become ordinary Members of the Society.
  - (b) Students for an advanced degree in astronomy or related science may become Junior Members and remain so at most until the beginning of the year following the award of a Ph.D. (or equivalent) degree.
  - (c) The Society may admit Associate Members and Honorary Members who shall have the rights and privileges determined by the By-laws.
  - (d) Council may establish classes of membership for corporations, publishers and non-profit organisations, referred to further as Organisational Members, whose rights and privileges are determined by the By-laws.

**Article 5** The procedure for the election of members is regulated by the By-laws.

**Article 6** Members as defined in Article 3 are not personally liable for debts and liabilities of the Society, which is only liable to the extent of its assets.

**Article 7** Membership terminates:

- (a) on withdrawal by the member, if notified at least six months in advance of the end of the year;
- (b) on death;
- (c) on failure to pay membership fees as specified in the By-laws.

### **III. AFFILIATED SOCIETIES**

**Article 8** Societies in Europe with aims closely related to the aims of the European Astronomical Society may become "Affiliated Societies", upon approval by Council.

**Article 9** Affiliated Societies may have the following privileges under conditions specified in the By-laws:

- (a) A special membership fee may apply to the members of an Affiliated Society.
- (b) Certain publication privileges may apply to papers presented at meetings of Affiliated Societies.
- (c) Affiliated Societies have the right to attend the Business Meeting of the Society.
- (d) Affiliated Societies may nominate candidates for election to Council.
- (e) Such other privileges as Council may from time to time decide.

### **IV. THE COUNCIL**

**Article 10** The Council shall be the governing body of the Society and shall manage, direct and control the affairs and property of the Society within the limits of the By-laws. Council may delegate some of its powers to an Executive Committee or to some of its officers.

**Article 11** The Council shall consist of the five officers of the Society: the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and of five other members. Members of Council will serve for a period of four years, according to the schedule of the By-laws. If one of the five officers cannot serve out the normal term, Council may temporarily appoint someone to fill the vacancy until the next election.

**Article 12** All members of Council shall be elected by the members of the Society. Normally the Council will propose a slate of candidates for the vacant posts. This slate may contain the names of members of Council as long as they have not already served two 4-year terms, or in case a Council member has been temporarily appointed to fill a vacancy. In selecting the candidates Council shall pay due attention to attaining a reasonable balance, geographically and in scientific expertise. Under the conditions specified in the By-laws, Ordinary Members may nominate candidates. The election will be conducted by e-mail as specified in the By-laws.

## **V. MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY**

**Article 13** The Society shall hold a General Assembly and Business Meeting no less than once every two years.

**Article 14** A group of members or an Affiliated Society may propose resolutions for the agenda of the General Assembly in accordance with the By-laws. When such a resolution is approved by Council and by the relevant majority of members present and voting, as specified in the By-laws, it will take effect immediately. However, if Council does not approve such a resolution, but the relevant majority of members present and voting supports it, a mail ballot of all members of the Society will be held in accordance with the By-laws.

**Article 15** The Society may create specialized Divisions, which may hold meetings in conjunction with or separate from the general meeting.

## **VI. FINANCES OF THE SOCIETY**

**Article 16** Council shall establish a budget for an appropriate period as specified in the By-laws.

**Article 17** The resources of the Society consist of:

- (a) dues paid by members;
- (b) possible gifts, bequests and legacies;

- (c) subsidies or grants which may be awarded to it by public or private bodies and other sponsoring organisations;
- (d) any other resources which may derive from its own activities.

In order to fulfill its purpose and to secure its functioning, the Society may at all times constitute or organise separate or independent funds or bodies and give them an appropriate legal structure.

**Article 18** Council shall establish a schedule of contributions to be paid by the members. The contributions cannot be increased by more than the cumulative inflation corrections since the last preceding change as specified in the By-laws, unless the membership of the Society has approved this by mail ballot in accordance with the By-laws.

**Article 19** Council shall take appropriate measures to arrange for the payment of fees in local currency where severe problems of restricted convertibility exist.

## **VII. AMENDMENTS**

**Article 20** Proposals to amend this Constitution may be made by Council or in the form of a resolution according to Article 14. In all cases, however, such an amendment will take effect only after a mail ballot of all members of the Society has been held, in accordance with the By-laws, in which the amendment has been approved by a two thirds majority of the members who are voting.

**Article 21** Proposals to amend the By-laws may be made by Council at the General Assembly or in the form of a resolution according to Article 14. Unless specified otherwise in the Constitution or in the By-laws, if such an amendment is accepted by Council and by the majority of members present and voting, it will take effect immediately. If Council does not accept the amendment but the majority of members present and voting does, a mail ballot of all members of the Society will be held, in accordance with the By-laws, in which the issue will be decided by the majority of members voting.

Geneva, December 2008

[Updated Article 12 adopted at the EAS General Assembly 2015]

[Updated Article 12 adopted at the EAS General Assembly 2017]