



# STATUTES

*Approved in Warsaw 17 October 1996.  
Amended at Spiez 20 September 2000,  
and amended again in Split 1 October 2002.*

## I – GENERAL

### 1.

Under the name of “*European Military Press Association*” (EMPA), an association under private law according to Article 60 and the succeeding articles of the Swiss civil code has been founded at Kloten (Zurich).

## PURPOSE

### 2.

The purpose of EMPA shall be to strengthen the personal and professional relations among its members and to effectively support their work in the military media. To this end, the Association shall aim at attaining the following objectives:

- a. To facilitate the establishment of contact among its members, and thus to offer manifold opportunities for an exchange of information.
- b. To assist its members in gaining access to foreign military information (access to all kinds of media, to individuals and other sources).
- c. To promote the understanding for the security policy and the general politics of other countries and the knowledge of their armed forces by organising common events on site.

## MEMBERSHIP

### 3.

a The following individuals may apply for membership:

1. Chief editors and Directors of military periodicals, and publishers of audio visual training aids and information material in Europe, which are of European, national or superregional importance.

2. Other individuals who are experts in security and defence policy and publish in European media (military and other).

3. Members may be individuals or legal entities (associations, journals etc.).

b. Individuals who do no longer perform activities defined in section 3. a. 1 above shall be entitled to continue their membership in the Association.

- c.** Members shall commit themselves to support the goals of EMPA by active cooperation, and to refrain from any action detrimental to its prestige and its services.
- d.** Members may resign from the Association at the end of an accounting year (Article 17), observing a three months' period of notice.
- e.** The General Meeting may exclude members from EMPA who violate its decisions or the statutes. Any such exclusion must be explained in writing.
- f.** Withdrawing or excluded members shall not be entitled to access EMPA assets.
- g.** Members shall not be personally liable for the for EMPA commitments.
- h.** Membership shall be proven by a membership card.

## EMPA LANGUAGES

### 4

- a** The General Meeting shall determine the EMPA languages. The choice shall duly consider the languages represented in EMPA.
- b.** At least the statutes and any information provided to the members by the Board, as well as the documents intended for the exchange of information among the members prepared by the secretariat and, to a reasonable extent, the oral and written information given during common events shall be translated into the EMPA languages.
- c.** Whenever the interpretation of the statutes is unclear, the German version shall prevail.

## II – ORGANISATION

### ORGANS

**5** Organs of EMPA shall be:

- a.** The General Meeting.
- b.** The Board.
- c.** The Auditors.

### GENERAL MEETING

### 6

The General Meeting is the supreme decision making body of EMPA. it is in particular, entitled to:

- a.** Approve of the annual report
- b.** Approve of the annual budget
- c.** Approve of the budget estimate
- d.** Elect the President and the other Board members
- e.** Elect the Auditors
- f.** Determine the EMPA languages
- g.** Dismiss members
- h.** Nominate honorary members
- i.** Comment on the proposals for time and place of the upcoming General Meetings
- j.** (void)
- k.** Change of statutes
- l.** Dissolution of EMPA

## CONVOCATION

### 7

- a.** Regular General Meetings shall convene annually within three months after the end of an accounting year (Article 17).
- b.** Extraordinary General Meetings shall be convened
  - 1. upon the decision of the Board, and
  - 2. if requested by at least one fifth of the members.
- c.** The President shall give notice of regular and extraordinary General Meetings at least two months in advance. The agenda, as well as information on the general programme, and the costs for the participants, shall be included in the invitation.
- d.** Any properly convened General Meeting shall have the right to make decisions.

## PASSING OF A CONVOCATION

### 8

- a.** Regular General Meetings shall convene annually within three months after the end of an accounting year (Article 17).
- b.** In addition, each member may at the most represent two (other) members not present in the Meeting. Mandates for representatives shall be submitted to the President in writing by the beginning of the Meeting at the latest.
- c.** Taking of votes and elections shall usually take place by open vote. If requested by one of the members present, the vote shall be by secret ballot.
- d.** Changes in statutes and the dismissal of members require a majority of two thirds of the valid votes cast in the General Meeting.
- e.** For a resolution to dissolve EMPA, the provisions of Article 18 shall apply.
- f.** For other votes and for elections, the simple majority of all valid votes cast in the General Meeting shall suffice.
- g.** In a tie the President shall have the casting vote.

## MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS

### 9

- a.** Motions to extend the agenda shall be received by EMPA at least 30 days before the date set for the General Meeting.
- b.** Motions that have been received later, shall require the consent of the Board to be put on the agenda.

## BOARD – TASKS

### 10

- a.** The Board shall officially represent EMPA, prepare the matters to be dealt with in the General Meetings and carry out its decisions.
- b.** The Board shall decide about admission of new members.

## BOARD – COMPOSITION

### 11

- a.** The Board shall be composed of the President, the First Vice Presidents, Second Vice Presidents, the Secretary General and the Treasurer.
- b.** Vice Presidents, all members of the Board shall be elected by the General Meeting.

## BOARD – CONVOCATION

### 12

- a.** The Board shall be convened by the President
  - 1. whenever he deems it necessary,
  - 2. upon the request by the majority of the other Board members.
- b.** For a quorum, a minimum of three members are required.
- c.** The Board may also take decisions by way of correspondence or use any other technical means.

## BOARD – PROCEDURES

### 13

- a.** The Board shall adopt rules of procedure which, among others, shall specify:
  - 1. the areas of responsibility of its members
  - 2. the power to sign (individual or collective signature).
  - 3. the persons authorised to officially represent EMPA (only Board members),
  - 4. the procedure to be followed for decision-making
- b.** For special and temporary tasks, the Board may invite one or more EMPA members (committees) who are not members of the Board.

## BOARD – TERM OF OFFICE

### 14

- a.** The term of office of the President and of all members shall be four years. They shall be eligible for re-election.
- b.** A change of all Board members at the same time shall be avoided, if possible.

## AUDITORS

### 15

- a.** The auditors – two or three individuals – shall jointly control cash keeping and the annual statements of accounts. They shall inform the General Meeting in writing about the results of their auditing.
- b.** Their term of office shall be four years. They shall be eligible for re-election.

### III – FINANCES

#### MEMBERSHIP FEES

**16**

- a. The membership fee must not exceed 200 (two hundred) Swiss francs annually.
- b. Within the above limits, the current annual fee shall be determined by the General Meeting.
- c. Honorary members shall be exempt from the paying of fees

#### FINANCIAL YEAR

**17**

- a. The financial year of EMPA shall begin on 1 October and end on 30 September.

### IV – DISSOLUTION OF EMPA

#### FINANCIAL YEAR

**18**

- a. All members shall be given the opportunity to participate in a voting on the dissolution of EMPA which shall therefore be held by postal ballot. Representation shall be inadmissible.
- b. A dissolution requires at least a two third majority of all valid votes submitted.

**19**

The liquidation of EMPA has to be performed by the Board. It also shall determine how to dispose of possible surpluses and assets.

### V – FINAL PROVISIONS

*The above statutes were approved by the General Meeting in Warsaw on 17 October 1996, changed at Spiez on 20 September 2000, changed again in Split on 1 October 2002 and shall enter into force immediately, thus superseding any earlier versions.*

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**!!!!!!** The statutes presented above is the version that was adopted in 2002. A few obvious typos have however been corrected. During the General Meeting in Oslo the Statutes will be discussed in order to update some of the points. The result of the decisions will, according to Swiss law, be translated into German.

If you have any comments or proposals to the EMPA STATUES, please send them to:

The Secretary General, Karl-Heinz Leitner: [khleitner@netway.at](mailto:khleitner@netway.at)

and with a copy to:

Mr. Tor Eigil Stordahl: [tes@fofo.no](mailto:tes@fofo.no)

*We greatly appreciate your participation!*