

PREPARATORY DOCUMENT

AMENDMENT OF THE STATUTES AND INTERNAL RULES
(EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY)



emmaus

INTERNATIONAL

ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE

WHY SHOULD WE HOLD AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOW?

During the 2016-2021 term of office, the Board decided on two occasions to commission a working group composed of elected members, to issue amendment proposals for our statutes and internal rules.

The outcome of the work of these two working groups and the decisions taken by the Board made it possible to draw up two types of proposed statutory amendments to be submitted to a vote by the groups at both parts of the 2021-2022 World General Assembly.

Reminder of the context

The Board made a distinction between the **statutory amendment proposals that required little or no debate with the groups beforehand** as they did not change the meaning or content of the statutes, and more important decisions in the life of the movement that require an in-person debate with the groups. These amendments are put to the vote by the groups at the Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA), pursuant to article 19 of the Emmaus International Statutes, according to the following timetable:

- **Part 1 - 2021 online EGA:** Alignment and conformity of the statutes
- **Part 2 - 2022 in-person EGA:** Improving the functioning and coordination of the movement

The proposals put forward during part 1 to align and ensure the conformity of our statutes were all adopted during the 2021 EGA.

PART 2: 2022 IN-PERSON EGA

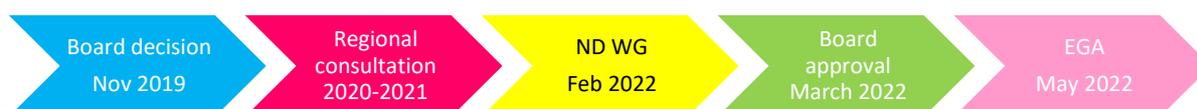
The proposals of statutory amendments for part 2 concern subjects related to the functioning and coordination of the movement. The four Emmaus International regions were consulted between March 2020 and February 2022 to gather their views and proposals.

The regions' contributions were compiled and discussed at the Board meeting to arrive at the proposals to be voted on by all member groups.

Groups, who so wished, were offered a chance to take part in two discussion and information videoconference sessions on Zoom about these statutory amendments.

- **Wednesday 20 April from 11am to 12.30pm (Paris time): Interpretation in French/English.**
- **Monday 25 April from 2 to 3.30 pm (Paris time). Interpretation in French/Spanish.**

Work timetable



PROPOSALS PUT TO A VOTE AT THE 2022 EGA

The proposals being submitted to the EGA have been grouped into four statutory workstreams:

- Workstream 1: The Wise Persons' Committee;
- Workstream 2: Procedures for replacing Board members during their term of office;
- Workstream 3: Role and term of office of national delegates;
- Workstream 4: Calendar for regional assemblies and world assemblies.

The proposals for workstreams 1, 2 and 3 contain statutory amendments and will be submitted for adoption by the qualified majority of three-quarters of member organisations present and represented (article 29 of the statutes). A vote per workstream will be suggested. A vote in favour of a workstream will result in the approval of all the changes contained therein.

The proposals in workstream 4 only affect the internal rules, which are not the responsibility of the Extraordinary General Assembly. A resolution will be put to the vote during the Ordinary General Assembly for adoption by a simple majority.

1. Workstream 1: The Wise Persons' Committee

Shared findings

The existence of the Wise Persons' Committee is provided for in the statutes (article 52), since their redrafting in 2003. Its election is held at each World Assembly. Each region should put forward a candidate. During its regional assembly in October 2019, the Europe region did not find any candidates to put forward.

The Board raised the question of the purpose of the Wise Persons' Committee. Indeed, since its creation, it would appear that this committee has hardly ever been called upon, and there have been few discussions. However, it can act on its own initiative, and any disputes that arise can be referred to it by a national or regional organisation.

Furthermore, in the event of a dispute, people can be called upon on a case-by-case basis, if necessary, without necessarily calling upon a body such as the Wise Persons' Committee.

The Board questioned the authority given to this Wise Persons' Committee since, even if it is mandated to resolve a dispute, the final decision always lies with the Board.

Proposal to review the tasks of the Wise Persons' Committee

Resource persons to support the Executive Committee

Following the regional consultation and reflections of the Executive Committee and Board, an agreement was reached to maintain the Wise Persons' Committee but to review its tasks so that they are better suited to the needs of Emmaus International's elected members.

To this end, it is proposed that the Wise Persons' Committee should have the **task of contributing, through their experience and skills, to the smooth running of the movement**. The Executive Committee would call on these resource persons to provide advice, support or mediation in the event of disputes during their term of office.

The Executive Committee could call upon one or more members of the Wise Persons' Committee by means of a letter of engagement to specify the objectives, the duration and to determine the human

and financial means made available for the mission. It would act independently of mind and judgement, providing a written account of its actions to the Executive Committee on the matters referred to it.

Proposed statutory amendments

No.	ORIGINAL ARTICLES OR RULES Content	AMENDED ARTICLES OR RULES Proposed amendments
Article 51 Members	<p>The General Assembly elects, for a term running until its next meeting, the Wise Persons' Committee composed of one member per region. Its members are natural persons who do not belong to the Board.</p> <p>It is composed of members known for the length of time they have been involved with Emmaus International, their open-mindedness and ability.</p> <p>The Committee elects from its members a president who has responsibility for conducting its work.</p> <p>Should a seat on the Committee become vacant, the candidate who was not elected but had the highest place in the previous vote, will become the replacement member until the next General Assembly.</p> <p>Applications from candidates are presented by the regional organisations, in accordance with methods set by them.</p> <p>They must be made known to the Board at least one month before the date set for the General Assembly.</p>	<p>The General Assembly elects, for a term running until its next meeting, the Wise Persons' Committee composed of one member per region. Its members are natural persons who do not belong to the Board.</p> <p>It is composed of members known for the length of time they have been involved with Emmaus International, their open-mindedness and ability.</p> <p>The Committee elects from its members a president who has responsibility for conducting its work.</p> <p><u>Applications from candidates are presented by the regional organisations, in accordance with methods set by them.</u></p> <p>Should a seat on the Committee become vacant, the candidate who was not elected but had the highest place in the previous vote, will become the replacement member until the next General Assembly. <u>the regional organisation may nominate a replacement for the remaining term of office. The Board must approve the proposed replacement.</u></p> <p>Applications from candidates are presented by the regional organisations, in accordance with methods set by them.</p> <p><u>Nominations</u> must be made known to the Board at least one month before the date set for the General Assembly.</p>
Article 52 Definition	<p>The Wise Persons' Committee has the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to ensure that the bodies of the Emmaus International association faithfully follow general orientations set out in its founding texts; ▪ to prepare opinions and proposals concerning the settlement of conflicts between the regional organisations or between one or more national or regional organisations and the board, and, as a last resort, conflicts within a national organisation or a regional organisation. 	<p>The <u>members of the</u> Wise Persons' Committee <u>are</u> responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to ensure that the bodies of the Emmaus International association faithfully follow general orientations set out in its founding texts; ▪ to prepare opinions and proposals concerning the settlement of conflicts between the regional organisations or between one or more national or regional organisations and the board, and, as a last resort, conflicts within a national organisation or a regional organisation. ▪ <u>contributing, through their experience and abilities, to the smooth running of the movement. The members of the Wise Persons' Committee may be called upon during their term of office, collectively or individually, by the Executive Committee to provide advice, support or mediation.</u>
Article 53 How it works	<p>The Wise Persons' Committee exercises its duties with independence of thought and judgement. It addresses its recommendations and justified opinions in writing to the Board and can, on the Board's request, make an oral presentation of them.</p> <p>The Wise Persons' Committee can have a case submitted to it by the Board, Executive Committee, a regional organisation or national organisations. This submission</p>	<p><u>When the Executive Committee wishes to call upon one or more members of the Wise Persons' Committee, it does so by means of a letter of engagement which specifies the objectives and duration of the assignment and determines the human and financial resources made available for the assignment.</u></p> <p>The <u>members of</u> the Wise Persons' Committee <u>perform their assignment</u> with independence of thought and judgement. <u>They</u> provide a <u>written account of its actions to the Board</u></p>

ORIGINAL ARTICLES OR RULES		AMENDED ARTICLES OR RULES
No.	Content	Proposed amendments
	<p>must be made in writing with the parties concerned copied in.</p> <p>During its term of office, the Wise Persons' Committee can, on its own initiative, submit a maximum of four proposals to the Board.</p> <p>In the event of a dispute to be settled, the submission will detail the initiatives already undertaken without success by the different parties.</p> <p>The Wise Persons' Committee can request all the paperwork required for their information. All the members of Emmaus International have a duty to provide their assistance when they are called upon.</p>	<p><u>Executive Committee and, if necessary, may communicate their recommendations and reasoned opinions on the matters referred to them.</u></p> <p>The <u>members of</u> the Wise Persons' Committee <u>shall</u> be entitled to receive all documents necessary for the <u>performance of the tasks assigned to them by the Executive Committee</u>. All the members of Emmaus International have a duty to provide their assistance when they are called upon.</p>
<p>Article 54 Participating in the life of the organisation</p>	<p>In the event of an opinion about aims and objectives, the submission addressed to the Wise Persons' Committee should be justified by an explicit reference to the text(s) in question.</p> <p>Once the Committee has a case submitted to it, it sends an official confirmation of receipt to the submitting party. From that point onwards, the Committee has a deadline of five months before which it must issue its opinions and/or recommendations.</p> <p>The Committee's decision is based on the majority of its members, with the president of the committee having the casting vote.</p> <p>The Wise Persons' Committee is convened by its president, who sets the agenda, at least one month in advance.</p>	<p>In the event of an opinion about aims and objectives, the submission addressed to the Wise Persons' Committee should be justified by an explicit reference to the text(s) in question.</p> <p>Once the Committee has a case submitted to it, it sends an official confirmation of receipt to the submitting party. From that point onwards, the Committee has a deadline of five months before which it must issue its opinions and/or recommendations.</p> <p>The Committee's decision is based on the majority of its members, with the president of the committee having the casting vote.</p> <p>The Wise Persons' Committee is convened by its president, who sets the agenda, at least one month in advance.</p> <p><u>The members of the Wise Persons' Committee are invited to the General Assembly.</u></p> <p><u>The Executive Committee may also invite them to present their observations to the Board.</u></p>

2. Workstream 2: Procedures for replacing Board members during their term of office

Shared findings

The replacement of Emmaus International Board members during their term in office is a frequent issue, as we have seen during the 2016-2021 term. There are regular resignations, exclusions, withdrawals, and sadly also deaths, of our elected members during a 4-year period. Each region is responsible for replacing members according to their own procedures, but we have found that positions are often left vacant for long periods of time, or that replacements are not possible in practice, which poses problems for the organisation of the region and the movement.

Proposal to have a regionally-elected pool of substitutes

In the older version of the statutes, before they were redrafted in 2003, a provision was made for each appointed Board member to have a substitute. The decision was made to no longer provide a substitute as part of the 2003 statutory review process, as it was found that this provision led to too many replacements of Board members. However, at that time, regional assemblies were held every year and not every 2 to 4 years, as is the case today. The absence period was limited to a maximum of one year.

Yet this substitute system has some advantages:

- These substitutes are elected members from the start of the term of office, which means that it is not necessary to wait for new elections as an immediate replacement can be made;
- Substitutes are kept informed at all times of the decisions made at meetings and in the absence of the Board member, their substitute can replace them (without voting rights). Substitutes are already aware of the subjects and debates underway and are quickly able to actively participate in meetings.
- This system opens up the role of Board member to younger generations who are sometimes hesitant about standing as candidates for a full term of office.

The disadvantage is that it requires a large number of candidates.

The consultation launched within the four regions and the discussions at the Board and the Executive Committee unanimously agreed on the proposal to have a "pool" of elected substitutes per region, equivalent to half the number of Board members in the region, i.e.,:

- **2 substitutes** elected per region to cover the 4 Board member positions for the Africa, Americas and Asia regions;
- **6 substitutes** for the Europe region to cover the 12 Board member positions.

As each substitute will not be for one elected member in particular, therefore in the event of the resignation of an elected member, the substitute who replaces him or her will be the one who has received the most votes.

When the regions call for nominations for Board members, there would be a call for nominations for title holders and substitutes.

Proposed statutory amendments

ORIGINAL ARTICLES OR RULES		AMENDED ARTICLES OR RULES
No.	Content	Proposed amendments
Article 31 Members [of the Board]	The Board consists of natural persons who represent the member organisations of a specified region and are called Councillors of Emmaus International. They are selected from the member organisations of Emmaus International. The regional assemblies elect them according to their own procedures, which are ratified in advance by the Board.	The Board consists of natural persons who represent the member organisations of a specified region and are called Councillors of Emmaus International <u>Board members</u> . They are selected from the member organisations of Emmaus International. The regional assemblies elect them, according to <u>the procedures</u> their own procedures, which are ratified in advance by the Board

No.	ORIGINAL ARTICLES OR RULES Content	AMENDED ARTICLES OR RULES Proposed amendments
	Only member organisations of Emmaus International may take part in voting.	<u>specified in the appendix.</u> Only member organisations of Emmaus International may take part in voting. <u>In addition to the elected Board members, the regional assemblies elect a number of substitutes, equal to half the number of the titular members, rounded up to the next whole number.</u>
Rule N. 58	Besides the Councillors elected by the Regional Organisations, the Founder and the President are also fully-fledged members of the Board.	Besides the Board members elected by the regional organisations, the Chair is also a fully-fledged member of the Board. Rule N. 58.1 – The substitutes receive the preparatory documents and minutes of the Board meetings.
Rule N. 59.2	Each Emmaus International Member Organisation in the region is entitled to present only one candidate to these elections.	Each Emmaus International Member Organisation in the region is entitled to present only one candidate for the <u>titular role and one candidate to be a substitute</u> to these elections.
Article 33 End of the term of office	The status of member of Board ends: 1. on his death or his civil incapacity; 2. when he stops being a member of a member organisation; 3. at the end of the term received from the regional organisation; 4. on his resignation in writing. A maximum of six months after a resignation, death or unforeseen difficulty, the regional executive committee calls for candidates and the regional board then elects a new Councillor of Emmaus International for the duration of the remaining mandate.	The status of member of Board ends: 1. on his death or his civil incapacity; 2. when he stops being a member of a member organisation; 3. at the end of the term received from the regional organisation; 4. on his resignation in writing. <u>A maximum of six months after In the event of the resignation, death or incapacity of an Emmaus International Board member, the Executive Committee calls on the elected substitute candidate, with the highest number of votes in the region where there is a vacancy, to take up duties for the duration of the remaining term. In the event of an equal number of votes, the Chair of the regional organisation shall determine the preferred substitute.</u>
Rule N. 63.1	A new Board member is elected by the regional organisation concerned for the remaining term of office.	<u>If the list of substitute candidates in a region is exhausted, the positions of absent Board members in the region concerned shall remain vacant until the end of the term</u>

3. Workstream 3: Role and term of office of national delegates

Shared findings

The regions which have national delegates emphasise that their role and terms of office need to be clarified and improved. Several shortfalls have been identified within the regions. The rules, when they exist, that define the national delegates are specific to each region. The Board considered it necessary to have a common framework at Emmaus International level, which could then be added to in each region according to their own specific needs, while respecting the guiding principles set out in the common framework.

Proposal of national delegates as facilitators

An Emmaus International working group on national delegates, composed of Emmaus International elected members was commissioned by the Board and Executive Committee (EC) to draw up recommendations. In drafting its proposals, the working group drew on the contributions received

from the regions during the consultation, placing emphasis on the principle that national delegates are **facilitators of links, understanding and coordination of an international movement**.

As such, they would facilitate the decentralised running of the movement and communicate regularly on the country's political developments, the situation of the groups and the decisions made at regional level, particularly at the end of the regional board meetings. They would act as a voice for the groups and facilitate mutual understanding, as a complement to the EI Board members.

The national delegates could play a role in identifying people with potential to take up roles in the various bodies and ensure the renewal of our leaders.

Proposed statutory amendments

The proposal is to add a section VII and articles to the Emmaus International statutes. Each region could add to this common basis in its statutes, according to the regional specificities.

ARTICLES TO BE INCLUDED – SECTION VII / NATIONAL DELEGATES	
No.	Content
Article 55 Definitions and responsibilities	<p>The national delegate's mission is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the decentralised running of the movement between Emmaus International, the region and groups in the country and foster communication with the region they are part of; Communicate regularly on the country's political developments, the situation of the groups and the decisions made at regional level, particularly at the end of the regional board meetings; Contribute to making the groups' voices heard, to maintaining close cooperation between the groups in the country and facilitating mutual understanding, in addition to the Emmaus International Board members; Encourage the participation of groups in their countries in regional and international initiatives and projects; Identify potential people to encourage involvement in the various bodies of the movement; Participate in training the groups on the life and running of the movement; Visit the groups in their country during the monitoring field visits for trial members (together with a Board member).
Article 56 Members and term of office	<p>The national delegate is elected for a period of 4 years (in principle), from one General Assembly to the next, renewable once.</p> <p>It is strongly recommended that the national delegate plays a role within the national organisation's executive committee.</p>
Article 57 Election of the national delegate	<p>The national delegate is elected by the member groups of the national organisations, through a call for candidates. Applications from candidates are presented by the regional organisations, in accordance with methods set by them.</p> <p>In the countries where there is no national organisation, the national delegate is elected by a cluster of at least three groups from countries in close proximity, according to specific procedures determined by the regional organisations.</p> <p>The position of national delegate and Emmaus International Board member may not be held concurrently.</p>

4. Workstream 4: calendar for regional assemblies and world assemblies

Shared findings

In theory, each regional organisation organises its regional assembly in the 6 months preceding the world assembly, except for the European region due to the large number of groups and the logistical and financial issues involved. In practice, they are organised in the year preceding the World Assembly.

As decentralised organisations of Emmaus International, it would seem more logical that the regional assemblies should decide on their own guidelines after the movement as a whole has decided on its guidelines at the World Assembly. **The regional policy guidelines would then be a roll-out of the guidelines adopted at the World Assembly, but tailored to the specificities of each region.**

In addition, there is a time lag between the election of new Board members and when they take office, implying that they may have to wait a year before starting their term at the international level, while having started it at the regional level. This time lag with the Europe region was exacerbated by the postponement of the 2020 World Assembly.

To avoid this, it would be preferable for **the Board members in each region to be elected at the World Assembly, by holding elective regional assemblies that precede it**, and where only groups from the same region would be present.

Based on these observations, a proposal to harmonise the timetable was devised to reverse the order of the Regional Assemblies and the World Assemblies and to bring more coherence to the different levels of decision-making. The elections of Board members could take place just before the World Assembly during an elective regional assembly per region held on the evening before the opening of the World Assembly, for example. The Board members would then take up their duties the following day at the opening of the World Assembly.

Resolutions to be put to the vote at the Ordinary General Assembly

The proposals in Workstream 4 only affect the internal rules, which are the responsibility of the Board. Therefore, it is proposed that a resolution be put to a vote at the Ordinary General Meeting.

Draft resolution:

“In order to ensure the synchronisation of the terms of office between the different levels of the movement, the World Assembly in Piriápolis (Uruguay) asks the regional organisations to take the necessary steps to organise a regional elective assembly in the future before each Ordinary World Assembly (article 17 of the statutes), at the earliest six months before and at the latest the day before the World Assembly.

This regional assembly shall at least elect the Board members whose term of office shall begin at the next World Assembly (Rule 61 of the internal rules).

The regional organisations remain free to organise other meetings of their regional assemblies between two Ordinary World Assemblies.

The World Assembly requests the Board to amend the association's internal rules to incorporate this new rule.”

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THE WORLD!



EMMAUS WORLD ASSEMBLY

9-13 MAY 2022

ASSEMBLEE-MONDIALE-EMMAUS.ORG



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