



**BY-LAWS**

**I. Introduction**

1. These By-laws are intended to supplement the Constitution of the EAS by specifying various detailed procedures. In case of conflict between the Constitution and the By-laws, the former shall be paramount.

**II. Membership**

1. Persons applying for ordinary membership normally shall do so on the standard application form. The application should be supported by two Ordinary Members. The latter requirement is waived for Members of Affiliated Societies and IAU members.
2. Students for an advanced degree applying for Junior membership normally shall do so on the standard application form. The application should be supported by the supervisor and one (other) Ordinary Member. At the beginning of the year following the award of the Ph.D. (or equivalent) degree, the Junior membership shall cease and the Junior Member may request to become an Ordinary Member. No person may be Junior Member for more than seven years unless Council decides otherwise because of exceptional circumstances. Junior Members are entitled to a reduced annual contribution (to be set by Council). They have the same rights and privileges as Ordinary Members.
3. Affiliated Societies may provide lists of their members satisfying the conditions for membership to become Ordinary or Junior members.
4. Council may award the status of Honorary member to a non-member who has rendered meritorious service to the goals of the Society. Honorary members pay no dues and have the same rights and privileges as Ordinary Members, with the provision that they cannot vote nor become Council Officers.
5. Council may approve requests by an Organisation desiring to support the goals of the Society to be awarded an Organisational membership. Organisational Members are not entitled to vote.
6. A member who has not paid after due warning, for two years, the dues established by Council according to chapter VI, Article 2, of these By-Laws, ceases to be a member of EAS.

**III. Affiliated Societies**

1. Council may decide on a special membership fee for the members of an Affiliated Society if
  - a) that Society collects and transmits the dues for the EAS members belonging to that Society,
  - b) other circumstances are considered by Council to justify such a special membership fee.

2. Council may decide to allow the publication of papers presented at meetings of Affiliated Societies in a publication of the Society under conditions to be set by Council.

#### **IV. The Council**

1. Members of Council will serve for a period of four years with half of the Council rotating off every two years. The President, one Vice-President, the Treasurer and three Councilors will rotate off together; the other Vice-President, the Secretary and the other four Councilors will rotate off two years later.
2. Council will notify, by e-mail, the Ordinary Members and the Affiliated Societies, of the posts on the Council that will become vacant, no later than eight months before the vacancies normally arise. Ordinary Members may nominate candidates, provided such candidates have indicated in writing that they are willing to serve if elected. Nominations need to arrive, by email, to Council no later than one month after receiving the notification of the vacant posts. Council will then appoint a Nominating Committee, composed of one Council member not in the slate of candidates and at least four members, tasked to prepare a balanced slate of candidates, which will include more candidates than the number of vacant posts. The Nominating Committee may propose to reconfirm Council members eligible for a second term in the same position. The proposed slate will then be sent to all Ordinary Members by email. Ordinary Members may vote for the number of candidates needed to fill all the vacant posts or fewer, but not more. The candidates having received the largest number of votes, by a count of the ballots received within one month from the date on which the ballots were e-mailed, will be considered to have been elected.
3. If in accordance with Article 14 of the constitution, a resolution has been passed which states that the membership has no confidence in the Council, a Committee, composed of at least five members who served in past Councils and are no longer Council members, shall be appointed by the General Assembly to propose a slate of candidates for elections to Council. The elections will take place according to Art IV.2 of the by-laws. The Council shall resign as soon the result of the election is known. The new President, one Vice-President, the Treasurer and three Councilors will serve for two years and the other Council members for four years. Members of the preceding Council are not excluded from being appointed to the new Council.
4. If for any reason the positions of six or more members of the Council are vacant, an extraordinary General Assembly will be called to initiate a Council election under the procedure described in Art IV.3 of the by-laws. Members of the preceding Council are not excluded from being appointed to the new Council.
5. At the meetings of the Council seven members, including at least two Officers, present shall constitute a quorum.

#### **V. Meetings of the Society**

1. The meeting of the Society with the Affiliated Societies is called Business Meeting.
2. The agenda of a General Assembly of the Society, including the resolutions proposed by Council, shall be mailed to the members at least two months before the date of the meeting.
3. At the General Assembly, 50 Ordinary Members present shall constitute a quorum.

4. A group of at least ten Ordinary Members may propose resolutions for consideration at the General Assembly by notifying, in writing, the President or the Council member acting on his behalf no later than 24 hours before the beginning of the General Assembly.
5. If the majority of the Ordinary Members voting approves a resolution and if Council agrees to the resolution, it shall be deemed to have been adopted. If Council does not agree to the resolution, a mail ballot will be sent to all ordinary members within one month after the General Assembly, and the matter will be decided by the two-thirds majority of the members voting, whose ballots will have been received less than one month after they were mailed.
6. A resolution which includes a provision for the expenditure of funds may only be considered if the source of these funds is explicitly stated.
7. Amendments which do not fundamentally change a resolution may be proposed by Ordinary Members present at the General Assembly and adopted by a majority of those present and voting.
8. An Ordinary Member present at the General Assembly may propose that additional items be placed on the agenda. Resolutions adopted by the majority of the Ordinary Members voting concerning these additional items will be only in the nature of an advice to Council.

## **VI. Finances of the Society**

1. The Council shall establish a budget for a two-year period. The budget will be communicated to the members of the Society.
2. The Council shall establish a schedule of annual contributions for the different classes of membership. The contributions shall be expressed in Euro and may be converted to other currencies as appropriate on the basis of the exchange rates in force at the time the schedule is established. The contributions cannot be increased by more than the cumulative inflation correction – determined for Geneva, Switzerland – since the last preceding change, without approval by the membership. A proposal for such a larger change has to be made to the membership by mail no less than four months before the beginning of the calendar year for which the increase is sought; for approval, a majority of the votes received two months after the ballots have been mailed shall be required.
3. Council may also set membership fees for particular categories of members (retired, unemployed, etc.) and for Organisational Memberships.

## **VII. Communication**

1. Mail from Council to the members of the Society can be sent out by normal mail or by electronic communication, including in those cases in the Constitution or in the By-Laws, which mention the use of mail (e.g., elections, invitation to the General Assembly, mail ballots and amendments of Constitution and/or By-Laws).

## **VIII. Amendments**

1. Proposals to amend the Constitution or the By-Laws shall be mailed to the members at least two months before the General Assembly at which they are to be considered.

2. A group of at least 50 Ordinary Members may also propose such amendments which should be received by the President no later than three months before the General Assembly.
3. In cases where a mail ballot is to take place, the ballots will be mailed within one month after the General Assembly, and the matter will be decided by the appropriate majority of the ordinary members voting whose ballots will have been received less than one month after they were mailed.

Geneva, December 2008

[Updated Article IV.2 adopted at the EAS General Assembly 2017]

[Adopted at the EAS General Assembly 2022, and after e-mail ballot closing on 15 Sep 2022]