

Balkan Environmental Association (B.EN.A.)

Statute



Thessaloniki 1998

1. Name, Seat, Business Year

- 1.1 The Association bears the name “Balkan Environmental Association” (B.EN.A).
- 1.2 The seat of the Association is in Thessaloniki, Greece where it is registered in the District Court of Thessaloniki.
- 1.3 The financial year is the calendar year.

2. Objectives of the B.EN.A

- 2.1 The objectives of the B.EN.A are:
 - 2.1.1 To bring together its members and other interested persons from scientific political or economical domains in order to examine the current problems of environmental protection in the Balkan region. They shall investigate solutions to these problems on regional, national and international basis. For this purpose B.EN.A shall make a critical appraisal of the problems concerning the protection of man, animals and plants in the Balkan region from harmful effects of chemicals or climatic agents.
 - 2.1.2 To give suggestions and recommendations concerning environmental quality and safety so as to enable the regulatory bodies of the various Balkan Countries to take proper decisions regarding the evaluation of the risk of chemicals and physical agents.
 - 2.1.3 Specifically the aims of the B.EN.A are as it follows:
 - 2.1.3.1 i)Development of international co-operation on reducing of the transboundary pollution (through air and water). Development of air and water quality assessment and improvement through collaboration among affected countries.
 - 2.1.3.2 Development of strategies and options for environmental protection of Balkan rivers and lakes.
 - 2.1.3.3 Wetland quality monitoring.
 - 2.1.3.4 Development of the environmental quality management system for the region.
 - 2.1.3.5 International research projects for neighbouring countries regarding the cross-border pollution.
 - 2.1.3.6 Development of international programmes for restoration and sustainable improvement of ecological safety of cross - border regions.
 - 2.1.3.7 Establishment of, an integrating framework for the support of local and international environmental issues.
 - 2.1.3.8 Organizing and planning activities on environmental and civilization , issues - conferences.
 - 2.1.3.9 Engagement of activities on transboundary pollution as that affects public health.
 - 2.1.3.10 The B.EN.A is a non-profit organization, in accordance with European Union law regulations for non-profit organizations. It has no intention

to make profit. All the income and assets of the B.EN.A shall only be used for purposes which are in accordance with its statute and to meet the necessary expenses incurred in this regard including administrative expenses. No part of the assets of the Association will be turned over to any member at the termination of the membership.

3. Membership

3.1 The Association consists of:

- 3.1.1 Founding members
- 3.1.2 Full members
- 3.1.3 Supporting members
- 3.1.4 Honorary members

3.2 The founding members of B.EN.A. are the specialists who were present during the period 19-21 of November 1998 in Thessaloniki, took part in the elections of the Executive Committee of B.EN.A. and the members of the Advisory Committee of the National Representatives whose names appear in Appendix I.

3.3 Full members of the B.EN.A are people from science, industry, law and politics who are interested on environmental problems. They should be considered as independent persons and not as persons representing point of views of any social or national groups. Persons are admitted to full membership by written application upon the proposal of a member and by the decision of the Executive Committee.

3.4 Supporting members are natural persons, N.G.O's (non-governmental organizations) or legal entities, public corporations and institutions as well as other governmental, academic and international organizations. Admission to membership is according to paragraph 3.3.

3.5 Honorary members are persons who have rendered meritorious services to Environmental Protection related to B.EN.A. The General Body admits them to the Association on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, which is subject to approval by the General Body.

4. Membership fees

4.1 The annual fees for a full member is 50€, supporting members, 200€ . JEPE will cost 50€ for BENA members.

4.2 Honorary members and full members above 60 years of age are exempted from membership fees.

4.3 Voluntary contributions or donations by members, non-members and organizations may be accepted by the Association.

5. Termination of Membership

5.1 The membership is terminated:

- i) in case of death of the member,
- ii) by written withdrawal from the Association

- iii) in case of expulsion by a decision of the General Body, upon a recommendation of the Executive Committee,
- iv) if a member is in arrears of his/her dues for more than two years,
- v) As far as the corporate bodies or legal entities, as given under paragraph 3.4, are concerned with their dissolution.

6. Organs of the B.EN.A.

6.1 The Organs of the Association are:

- i) The General Body.
- ii) The Executive Committee.
- iii) The Advisory Committee of the National Representatives.

7. General Body meeting

7.1 The General Body meeting takes place at least once a year. The meeting is to be convened by written invitation addressed to each member of B.EN.A. by the General Secretary at least 6 weeks before the date of the meeting. The invitation is to be accompanied by the agenda.

7.2 The duties of the General Body are:

- i) To approve the report of the Executive Committee on last year's activities.
- ii) To approve the report of the treasurer, the annual balance for the last year, as well as, the activities of the Executive Committee.
- iii) To elect the President, Vice - Presidents, General Secretary, Treasurer, Special Secretary, and other members of the Executive Committee and the National Representatives with the substitutes for the Advisory Committee.
- iv) To appoint the Executive Director who should be a permanent resident of Thessaloniki and serves the same period as the Executive Committee.
- v) To take decisions on:
 - a. The expulsion of members, The admission or expulsion of honorary members The amendment of the statutes of the Association
 - b. The liquidation of the Association as well as, the important matters concerning the Association, which may be presented to by the members or by the Executive Committee.

7.3 Special meetings of the General Body are to be convened:

- i) by the Executive Committee
- ii) if it is required by the interests of the Association
- iii) if it is requested by the 1/3 of the full members and will take place by writing to the General Secretary explaining the purpose and reasons for the request. The meeting will be convened as under paragraph 7.1.

- 7.4 The President shall preside over the General Body meetings. In case he is not available, the meeting will be presided by the Vice - President or by any other member of the Executive Committee in the order outlined under paragraph 8 of the statute.
- 7.5 The General Body constitutes a quorum regardless of the number of members present. The General Body is considered properly represented if there is at least one representative person from each constitutive country. Each full member present has one vote. Minutes of the General Body meeting have to be transcribed and kept by the General Secretary. They have to be signed by both the General Secretary and the President of the Association. Decisions will be taken by a simple majority of the members present. In case of a tie, voting shall be repeated two more times, and after that it will be decided by lottery.
- 7.6 A two-thirds majority of the members present is necessary for revision of the statute.
- 7.7 The General Body can decide upon any problems non-specified in this Statute.

8. The Executive Committee

- 8.1 The Executive Committee consists of:
- i) The President
 - ii) Three Vice - Presidents
 - iii) The General Secretary
 - iv) The Treasurer
 - v) The Special Secretary
 - vi) Two members.
 - vii) Executive Director
- 8.2 The Executive Committee is to be elected by the General Body. The term of office of the members of the Executive Committee is five years.
- 8.3 The President alone or the General Secretary along with the Treasurer will represent the Association legally and extra judicially.
- 8.4 The Executive Committee handles the affairs of the Association. It may adopt rules of procedure.
- 8.5 The expenses of the members of the Executive Committee incurred at the services of the Association will be reimbursed.
- 8.6 The President may appoint committees consisting of members to look after the interests of the Association.
- 8.7 The Executive Director co-ordinates the business of the Association and is permanently situated in the Technological Educational Institution (TEI) of Thessaloniki.

9. Reports and Publications

The Association will report at least twice a year on scientific works, lectures, meetings and other activities related to environmental protection significant to the Balkan region. The

publications will be in English. Any other language spoken in the Balkan countries can be admitted with the respective translation into English.

10. BA.NET

The Balkan Network (BA.NET) is the electronic tool for communication of the B.EN.A. In particular, the BA.NET is promoting the environmental education and research within the frame of sustainable development using flexible educational systems, as distance learning, Open University, Selective Studies Programmes e.t.c.

11. Dissolution of the Association

- 11.1 The decision to dissolve the Association can only be taken during a special meeting of the General Body, which has to be convened specially for this purpose at least one month before the date of the meeting for dissolution. At least 50% of the full members must be present or be represented at this meeting. Members not able to attend may vote by proxy if they have given a written authorisation.
 - 11.2 The decision to dissolve the Association requires a three-fourths majority of the votes cast. In case there is no quorum because 50% of the full members are not present or not properly represented, a second meeting has to be convened. The second meeting forms a quorum regardless of the number of members present.
 - 11.3 The same General Body which decides on the dissolution of the Association shall decide on the use of the assets of the Association.
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12. Place of Performance and Jurisdiction

The place of performance for any transaction resulting from this statute as well as the place of jurisdiction is Thessaloniki.