

Bylaws for INFORSE - Europe

Article 1. NAME - HEADQUARTERS

International Network for Sustainable Energy - Europe (INFORSE - Europe) is an independent non-governmental and non-profit body. The network is registered as an international association (forening) in Århus, Denmark.

Article 2. AIM

The aim of INFORSE - Europe is to promote a sustainable energy development within Europe; and worldwide in cooperation with other INFORSE regions.

Article 3. DURATION

INFORSE - Europe is registered for an indefinite period of time. A general meeting may decide to dissolve it at any time.

Article 4. MEANS

In order to promote a sustainable energy development, INFORSE - Europe may dispose of all means within the law to:

- exchange of information and networking among NGOs;
- promote and coordinate public education and awareness creation, for instance by organizing international campaigns;
- provide a focal point for lobbying international bodies, multi-lateral development banks, donor agencies and multi-national corporations;
- implement a mechanism for soliciting and channelling support to grassroots, local, national, regional and international NGOs;
- liaise with multilateral agencies in order to achieve a more sustainable development;
- support the formulation and implementation of national and regional sustainable energy strategies, including proposals for education, research and development, dissemination, and legislation. Cooperate with other INFORSE regions of updating the worldwide sustainable energy strategy that INFORSE is formed on;
- study strategies and barriers for the implementation of sustainable energy solutions.

These means can include publishing activities and tendering for financial support to carry out the activities.

Article 5. MEMBERS

Core membership of INFORSE - Europe is open to non-governmental federations and organizations working for a sustainable energy development, established in accordance with the relevant laws in one or more European states and supporting the policy platform for INFORSE - Europe in word and in practice.

Associate membership is open to all federations and organizations established in Europe.

Individuals can not become member of INFORSE - Europe; but are asked to join an appropriate member-organization.

Each Federation or organization wishing to become a member, shall send a written application to one of the coordinators. This application must be approved by the coordinators.

The coordinators need not give reasons for their decisions regarding membership. An applicant whose request for membership has been turned down, can appeal this to the General Meeting and the case will be heard during an ordinary General Meeting.

Core members can act on behalf of INFORSE - Europe within the law and after notifying the

INFORSE - Europe coordinators about their activity, but only in matters not involving the economy of INFORSE - Europe. If the coordinators of INFORSE - Europe has an objection against the activity, it shall not be started as an INFORSE - Europe activity until all core members of INFORSE - Europe have been asked about their view and no core member objects against the activity. Members that act in the name of INFORSE-Europe shall report these activities to the INFORSE-Europe board. Core members of INFORSE - Europe shall be informed about the activities made in the name of INFORSE - Europe, e.g. by an INFORSE newsletter.

Article 6. MEMBERSHIP FEE

There is no membership fee. Voluntary contributions from members are welcome.

Article 7. RESIGNATION, REPULSION

Members may resign in writing to one of the coordinators. The resignation comes into effect 30 days after receipt of their letter by the coordinator.

Members can be expelled by a decision of a General Meeting made with 2/3 majority of the core members present.

Article 8. REDRESS/CLAIMS

Core members may contest a decision made by the coordinators. Appeals should be addressed to a General Meeting that will settle the dispute.

Further details can be defined by regulation made by a General Meeting.

Article 9. GENERAL MEETING

A General Meeting must be composed of more non-coordinator delegates than coordinators.

Each core member must designate one delegate.

The General Meeting is composed of delegates appointed by the core member organizations and representatives of associate member organizations. Each delegate has one vote. A Delegate can only represent one core member organization at a meeting. The General Meeting is open for observers from member organizations, beside the delegates and representatives. No decision may be reached concerning a matter not on the agenda. Written comments from members not present at the General Meeting have to be presented at the meeting.

Decisions at the General Meeting are in general taken by consensus. When no consensus is possible a vote can be made among the delegates. A decision by vote is made by 2/3 majority of the delegates.

Elections are made by the delegates.

The General Meeting shall take place at least every second year.

The coordinators will send invitation and agenda to all members not later than eight weeks before the General Meeting.

Proposals for change of bylaws must be received by one coordinator not later than six weeks before the General Meeting.

Proposals for new items to the agenda must be received by one coordinator not later than four weeks before the General Meeting.

The coordinators will send the final agenda to all members not later than three weeks before the General Meeting.

At least one fifth of the core members can call an extraordinary General Meeting. Such a call should be made minimum 2 months and maximum 4 months before the extraordinary General Meeting.

The General Meeting is the supreme authority of INFORSE - Europe and its decisions are final. It may:

- endorse coordinators annual report and accounts,

- approve plan of action for INFORSE - Europe and budget until the next General Meeting,
- formate and dissolve working groups for special tasks,
- elect five Board members, a first and a second alternate Board member and coordinators,
- decide on the general policy and policy platform of INFORSE - Europe,
- expel members,
- pronounce final judgement in cases of dispute,
- announce the following general meeting.

Article 10. BOARD

The Board of INFORSE-Europe consists of 5 persons elected by the general meeting among representatives of INFORSE-Europe's member organisations. Each person is elected for two years unless the General Meeting decides otherwise. If a Board member is unable to fulfil his/her obligations as board member or does not represent an INFORSE-Europe member anymore, an alternate replaces him/her.

Between general meetings the Board is the highest authority of INFORSE-Europe. It shall:

- Develop working programme of INFORSE-Europe in cooperation with coordinators and secretariat.
- Consider policy positions of INFORSE-Europe, in cooperation with coordinators and members
- Approve new projects that INFORSE-Europe participates in
- See that decisions of the General Meeting are put into effect

Article 11. COORDINATORS

There are at least two coordinators.

The coordinators are elected at the General Meeting for a period until the next General Meeting.

The coordinators shall:

- Lead the secretarial functions of the network
- Facilitate exchange of information among members
- Assist the Board in development of working programme
- Organize the General Meeting, submit agenda for the meeting to the members, submit financial reports and budget to the meeting,
- Assist the Board in putting decisions of the General Meeting into effect.

The coordinators are responsible for the general accounts and managing of the funds of INFORSE - Europe. They will report on financial matters to the Board and to the General Meeting.

In economic matters INFORSE - Europe is represented by the coordinators.

Applications for projects are signed by one coordinator. The bank transfers are signed by one coordinator in the respective country, where the coordinator is. Project contracts can be signed by one coordinator after approval by the board and the other coordinator. This can be done by email or fax.

Article 12. LANGUAGE

The operating language of INFORSE - Europe is English.

Article 13. CHANGE OF BYLAWS

These bylaws can be changed by a General Meeting with 2/3 majority of core members present, if a written proposal for change is received by one coordinator not later than six weeks before the General Meeting. The coordinators shall send proposals for change of bylaws to all members not later than 3 weeks before the General Meeting.

Article 14. DISSOLUTION

INFORSE - Europe can be dissolved following a decision by the General Meeting made with 2/3 majority of the core members present.

After payments of all debts and liabilities any remaining assets of INFORSE - Europe shall be used for

work for sustainable development after a decision made by the General Meeting that dissolves INFORSE - Europe.

As approved at the General Meeting of INFORSE - Europe, at Energie-und Umweltzentrum am Deister, Germany, July 9, 1994. Revised at General Meeting of INFORSE-Europe, at Agigea, Romania, September 17, 2005.

INFORSE coordinators -----
Emil Bedi Gunnar Boye Olesen

Chairman at the General Meeting 17/9-05 -----
Ion Zamfir

Rapporteur at the General Meeting 17/9-05 -----
Pete West