



# PREAMBLE

Since the past iron, steel and mineral resources have connected people beyond all bounds. Towns and communities are hoping to get international partnership and friendship in a peaceful Europe in order to take care of the regional cultures of Europe.

The fundamental targets and strategies were settled at a working meeting in Arles sur Tech in the year 2000. The foundation of the union is the legal result of the resolutions passed at the foundation meeting on June 16th, 2001 in Olbernhau.

# ARTICLES

**Union "Ring of European cities of iron works"** ("Ring der Europäischen Schmiedestädte"; "L`anneau des villes europeennes de la ferronnerie", "Kolo Miast Kowalskich Europy"; in accordance with the resolution of the general meeting on June 16th, 2001)

## §1 Name, Seat and Financial Year

- The union is called "Ring of European cities of iron works".
- The union is written down in the national unionregister in Chemnitz.
- Olbernhau is the seat of the union.
- The financial year is the calendar year.

## §2 Aim and purpose of the union

2.1 The Union's purpose is to support the member communities' development, based on their rich, industrial heritage and traditions of metal working; to promote the variety of local cultures within and between the member communities; and to be a network for reflection on and support for member communities' identities in peaceful coexistence.

2.2. The union's purpose shall be realized by following contributions of the union:

2.2.1. Community of interests:

- The union shall support and promote international cooperation whereby communities can become more conscious of the richness of their industrial history and connected cultural heritage, and build a more tolerant society through reflecting on the ancient and modern interconnectedness of industry, trade and identity.
- The union shall support and promote traditional and modern artisanal and industrial methods of metal work in order to help maintain the connection between the material and mental world of the member communities' cultural heritage.

- The union shall, when appropriate, represent the clearly stated common interests of its member communities at the European level.
- The union shall assist its member communities in obtaining European means of support, and stand as representative for projects of common interest to its members when this is necessary to obtain such support.
- The union influences the metal design and the ironcraft with the communal plans of development and supports the setting up of coordinated communal management programmes.

#### 2.2.2. Communication:

- The union and its members shall support, encourage and, when appropriate, organize exchange programs between the member communities aimed primarily at youth, volunteers and business that reinforce the union's purpose.
- The union and its members shall actively participate in an open and on-going dialogue over ideas and projects to further the goals of the union.
- The union shall develop and implement a concise communications strategy across a variety of platforms to engage with the public in order to promote the goals.
- The union and its members shall cooperate in developing the marketing and content of the member communities as travel destinations, and shall in that respect have a broad perspective on relevant activities and potential synergies.

#### 2.2.3. Education on all levels:

- The union and its members shall, to the extent possible within the respective member communities' national education systems, contribute to furthering tolerance and intercultural cooperation among children, youth and marginalized adults in particular, and shall in this respect aim at connecting their education institutions' teachers and students in cross-border networks between member communities.
- The union may contribute to the development and dissemination of traditional and modern methods of metal working within the public and private education system.

#### 2.2.4. Innovation:

- The union and its members shall continuously work to improve the union's working methods.
- The union and its members shall contribute to innovation in both the public, civil and private sectors, and shall foster partnerships and networks across borders and sectors aimed at innovations in technology, industry and governance.

### **§3 Public Utility**

The association shall exclusively and directly serve non-profit objectives as intended in the section of the Tax Code on "Purposes eligible for tax relief". The resources of the Association will only be employed for purposes in accordance with the statutes. The Association operates selflessly. It does not primarily pursue its own economic purposes. The members receive no allowances from the means of the Corporation. No person may be favoured by financial benefits, which are alien to the purpose of the Corporation, or by disproportionately high remuneration.

## **§4 Membership**

4.1. The members of the union are communities at the municipal level where the community's identity is strongly connected to industrial history and its connected cultural heritage, and in which metal working has played or continues to play an important part. All members of the union must subscribe to the union's statutes.

4.2. The membership is obtained by a written declaration of accession and its acceptance by the general meeting.

4.3. The membership comes to an end by leaving and dismissal from the union.

4.4. A leaving has to be announced by letter and is permitted at the end of the calendaryear by keeping a period of three months.

4.5. A member can be dismissed by decision of the general meeting corporation, if it has given serious offense to the interests of the union, if it hasn't paid the annual subscription in spite of two demand-notes, and also if it has not attended the general meeting twice without any excuse. The member must get the chance of justification before the decision.

## **§5 Subscriptions and donations**

The members give annual subscriptions and financing contributions for projects, the amount of which is defined by the general meeting corporation.

## **§6 Agencies of the Union**

The union consists of following agents:

- 6.1. the general meeting corporation
- 6.2. the board

## **§7 General Meeting Corporation**

7.1. The g. m. c. consists of all members of the union and decides in all matters of the union, which are not part of the board's competence.

7.2. Each member can vote with one voice and is represented by the mayor or by a trusted person authorized by the mayor. One member can represent not more than two voices. The g.m.c. is competent to pass resolutions if there is a quorum of two thirds present (2/3 entitled members to vote).

7.3. The ordinary g.m. is in conference at least once a year after getting a written invitation by the president. It is possible to make resolutions by sending a letter to all the members. It's also to be held according to special interests of the union. If one fourth ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of all the members make a resolution by letter, the president has to call an ordinary meeting within 30 days. The time-limit for dispatching the invitations is 4 weeks. The agenda has to be added.

7.4. The g.m. out of the ordinary discusses the matter of changing the statutes or splitting up the union. The modification for the invitations is supposed to be the same as in 7.3.

7.5. At the g.m. the members of the body have to make a report on the status of the union and give an account. Votes of urgency are permitted if two thirds of the present members give consent to the urgency.

7.6. The g.m.'s tasks in particular:

- Relieving the board.
- Election of the board and of the auditors.
- Laying down the (membership)subscriptions and financing contributions for projects
- Deciding the annual budget and the plans for actions
- Passing the resolution for the agenda (standing orders)
- Consulting and passing a resolution for changing the statutes
- Admitting of a new member
- Exclude members (see §4.5.)
- Appointing counsellors and subcommittees

7.7. A written copy of each general meeting has to be made, containing at least the passed resolutions as well as the election results. The written copy is signed by the president

## **§8 Board**

8.1. The board consists of:

- the president
- the vice president
- the treasurer
- min. three and max five sitting members, with equal rights to the other members
- The board has the option to ask the chairperson of the competent council to join the board meetings and advise the board without the right to vote.
- The same applies for the secretary.

8.2. The president and the vice president make up the board within the meaning of article 26 of the "Federal Lawgazette" (§26 BGB). The president and the vice president are always authorized to individual representation. For internal affairs the vice president represents the union only if the president is prevented from being present. The sitting members have the same voting rights as the other members of the board, and contribute to the operational activities of the board.

The treasurer manages the account of the union. He executes the financial transactions supervised by the president, and he is responsible for the book-keeping. The managing director arranges all administrative preparations and executes the decisions (resolutions) of the body. The President and the Vice-President have to be a mayor or vice mayor. As treasurer, sitting member or auditor also communal councils can be elected.

8.3. The members of the board are elected by bare majority for the period of 3 years. Their function isn't finished by the end of the period but by the election of a new board. These members are eligible for re-election.

8.4. The board is head of the union and has following tasks:

- active realization of the statutory tasks and aims
- giving the statement of accounts by the end of the financial year
- preparing the management plans and a rough estimate
- of the budget for the current and the coming year
- preparing the general meetings
- realizing the passed resolutions of the general meetings
- placing of orders and taking up staff
- execution of the agenda

8.5. The board is competent to pass resolutions if half the number or more members are present. The board passes resolutions with bare majority; with equality of votes the president gives the casting vote - in case of prevention the vice president. It is possible to make resolutions by sending a letter to all the members.

8.6. The resolutions have to be put in writing by the secretary and signed by the president.

8.7. The function of the board is honorary. Necessary expenses – if applied - are refunded and have to be proved separately in the financial report.

## **§9 Managing office**

The general meeting corporation can found a managing office to support the board. The managing director is responsible for the managing office and coaches the board. The rules of procedure describes the seat, aim and purpose and rights and duties.

## **§10 Auditors**

They are elected by the general meeting corporation for the period of one year. Their re-election is possible. The treasurer has to give an insight into the accounts and the book keeping at any time. The auditors have to present a written report to the g.m.

## **§11 Receipts**

The union hopes to get following receipts:

- Annual subscriptions from the members
- Subventions from the EU, the states, countries, districts, communities and other organizations
- Receipts out from properties (holdings) which are created (founded, produced)
- Payment for services done by the union
- Financial contributions from members and cooperative institutions
- Donations of things (objects) and money

## **§12 Disbandment of the union**

12.1. The disbandment of the union can only be decided by an extraordinary general meeting, called for this reason, with the majority of (2/3) two thirds of the members.

12.2. Upon dissolution of the association or in absence of purposes eligible for tax relief, the assets of the association shall fall to a legal person according to public law in the area subject to the constitutions, to be spent on the promotion of knowledge and research of the blacksmith's work.

12.3. As long as the g. m. doesn't decide in another way, the president and the treasurer are together substitutive authorized liquidators.

## **§13 Date of establishment**

The day of the establishment of the union is the June 16, 2001

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