

# FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

13, Place Albert 1er, B - 6530 Thuin (Belgique), tel : ++32.71.59.12.38, fax : ++32.71.59.22.29, internet : <http://www.fci.be>

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# STATUTES OF THE FCI



*January 2010*

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## STATUTES OF THE FCI

### Definitions

<b>Commission :</b>	Consultative body of the FCI
<b>Contract Partner :</b>	An organisation that has entered into a contract with the FCI.
<b>Executive Committee :</b>	Represents the General Committee between the latter's meetings
<b>FCI :</b>	Fédération Cynologique Internationale, worldwide canine organisation
<b>General Assembly :</b>	The supreme and legislative body of the FCI.
<b>General Committee :</b>	The executive body of the FCI
<b>Member :</b>	An organisation that has been admitted to the FCI by the General Assembly
<b>Secretariat General :</b>	Office in charge of carrying out the daily administrative work of the FCI
<b>National canine organisation :</b>	An all-breed national canine organisation recognised by the FCI. It is a member of the FCI unless a different meaning is evident from the text.
<b>Non member organisation :</b>	An organisation outside the FCI with which the FCI has entered into a cooperation agreement
<b>Section :</b>	A geographical sub-division of the FCI organised according to its own statutes and/or rules and to the statutes and rules of the FCI.
<b>Breed Standard:</b>	Ideal cynological description of a breed
<b>Secretary :</b>	The person in charge of writing the minutes of the General Assembly
<b>Legal residence :</b>	<b><i>Place where a person lives permanently. This concept is defined by the national laws of the countries</i></b>

**NB:** Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders and numbers

## **I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 1 Name and registered office**

The Fédération Cynologique Internationale whose registered office is presently situated in THUIN (Belgium), 13, Place Albert 1<sup>er</sup>, is governed by the provisions of Chapter III of the Belgian law dated June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1921 on non-profit making associations, foundations and international non-profit making organisations.

The registered office may be transferred to any other location in Belgium upon a simple decision taken by the General Committee.

Any change to the registered office must be published in the annexes to the 'Moniteur belge' and notified to the Public Federal Justice Department within one month following the date of the decision.

### **Article 2 Objectives**

The aims of the FCI are

- (1) to encourage and promote the breeding and use of purebred dogs whose functional health and physical features meet the standard set for each respective breed and which are able to work and to carry out different functions in accordance with the specific characteristics of their breed;
- (2) to protect the use, the keeping and the breeding of purebred dogs in the countries where the FCI has a member or a contract partner; to support the non-profit exchange of dogs and of cynological information between the members and to initiate the organization of shows, tests, trials and other activities like sport events, the use of dogs in rescue operations, etc.
- (3) to promote and support dogdom and dog welfare worldwide.

By issuing special regulations, the FCI shall in particular ensure :

- a) the mutual recognition of stud books, appendixes to the stud books and pedigrees, exclusive of any other;
- b) the mutual recognition of kennel names and judges and the establishment of an international directory of kennel names and judges;
- c) the promotion of ethics and scientific research, which is of fundamental importance in cynology, and the free exchange of scientific information between the members and contract partners ; the observance of the breed standards as approved by the FCI. Those breed standards must be recognized by all the members and contract partners as far as they are not in contradiction with the laws of their respective country;
- d) the standardization – to all possible extent – of the national regulations by issuing regulations for international shows and for the international beauty and working championships and by keeping a list of dogs eligible for these championships;

- e) seeking to maintain high standards of judges appointed to officiate at international shows, working tests and trials;
- f) supporting certain members and contract partners, if necessary, in conjunction with other international organizations, by providing professional information and necessary cynological experts;
- g) defining and publishing the characteristics of each breed after previous approval by the FCI (General Assembly or General Committee) based on the breed standards of the country of origin or of the country of patronage. The standard of a new breed or any change in an existing standard will only be internationally acknowledged by following the specific rules of the Standing Orders. Under any circumstances, the welfare of the dogs must be of the utmost priority;
- h) the mutual recognition of the penalties and procedures established by the members and contract partners.

### **Article 3 Non-discrimination and stance against racism**

Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or groups of people on account of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics or any other reason is strictly prohibited within the FCI and punishable by suspension or expulsion.

### **Article 4 Promoting friendly relations**

The FCI shall promote friendly relations :

- (a) between sections, members, contract partners and organisations. Every person and organisation involved in the dog world is obliged to observe the statutes, regulations and the principles of fair play ;
- (b) in society for humanitarian objectives.

## **II. MEMBERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP**

### **Article 5 Members**

The FCI has full members and associate members.

- a) The full members are the national canine organizations recognized by the FCI.
- b) The associate members are the national canine organizations recognized by the FCI which have entered into a special agreement that specifies their relations with the FCI.

## **Article 6 Partners**

- a) contract partners : the contract partners are the national canine organizations that have entered into a special agreement with the FCI and have to serve a probationary period before having the opportunity to apply for associate membership. Their relations with the FCI are governed by the statutes, the standing orders and the contract they entered into.
- b) non-member organizations : The FCI can enter into special agreements with other organizations.

## **Article 7 Request and procedure for application**

- a) The FCI accepts only one national canine organization per country. It must be non-profit-making and represent all the breeds recognized by the FCI.
- b) Only associated members can apply for full membership
- c) Only contract partners can apply for associate membership
- d) Full members are allowed to make an application to revert to associate membership.
- e) In order to become a member or a contract partner of the FCI, a national canine organization has to submit to the FCI Secretariat General a written application, signed by its legal representative, as defined in the standing orders.
- f) A contract partner or an associate member cannot apply for associate membership or full membership if it has not fulfilled all its obligations.
- g) The General Committee shall examine membership applications according to the statutes and rules of the FCI and shall report to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall take the final decision.
- h) A new member shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted. However, a newly admitted member is eligible to vote only from the next General Assembly.
- i) The General Committee shall examine the drafts of the partnership contracts and shall take the decision to conclude and sign these contracts with the contract partners and other non-member organizations upon application.

## **Article 8 Rights of full members, associate members and contract partners**

- a) In accordance with their status (Art. 5, 6 and 7), all members and contract partners shall enjoy all the rights granted to them under these statutes, the FCI standing orders, the FCI regulations, the circulars and the decisions of the FCI General Committee and General Assembly.
- b) Associate members can attend and take part in the General Assembly but cannot vote. They cannot propose candidates for the election of members to the General Committee and the mandatory commissions. Associated members can also take part in their section meetings where they have the right to take the floor but not to vote.  
They are allowed to take part in the meetings of the non-mandatory commissions where they have the right to take the floor but not to vote

- c) Contract partners have the right to attend the General Assembly as observers but they are not allowed neither to take the floor nor to vote. They can attend the non-mandatory commission meetings as observers but they do not have the right to vote or to take the floor.

Contract partners can also attend their section meetings as observers, where they have the right to take the floor but not to vote.

## **Article 9 Obligations of members and contract partners**

### **a) Obligation of full members**

- organization of one or more CACIB shows per year

### **b) Obligation of associate members**

- organization of one or more CACIB shows per year

### **c) Obligations of all members and contract partners**

- to comply fully with these statutes, the FCI regulations, the circulars and the decisions of the FCI General Assembly and General Committee at all times provided that they are not contrary to the laws enacted by the governments of the countries concerned
- to register new kennel names with the FCI international kennel names directory
- to pay their membership and partnership subscriptions and any fees due to the FCI
- to ensure that their own members comply with these statutes, the FCI regulations, circulars and decisions of the FCI General Assembly and General Committee at all times
- to comply fully with all other duties arising from these statutes and other regulations
- to recognize all the FCI breeds (provisional or definitive)
- to respect the FCI breeds standards and breed nomenclature
- to expel the persons who breed and/or sell dogs with economic purposes exclusively and/or who violate the code of breeding ethics as defined in Art.12 of the standing orders.

## **Article 10 Sanctions**

### **a) Sanctions against associate and full members**

- 1) The General Committee has the right to apply measures such as :

- Warning
- Suspension, for up to two years, from any activity and/or event under FCI patronage

- 2) The General Committee can propose to the General Assembly:

- Downgrading from full to associate membership
- Expulsion

b) Sanctions against the sections

The General Committee can propose sanctions against the sections to the General Assembly such as :

- Warning
- Depriving a section of its representation right in the FCI General Committee
- Depriving a section of any financial contribution from the FCI

c) in all the cases, the rights of defence will be guaranteed by the law

**Article 11 Suspension of members**

If a member seriously and/or repeatedly violates its obligations as a member, e.g. financial obligations or non-compliance with the FCI rules and regulations, the General Committee can, with immediate effect, temporarily abolish some or all its membership rights. This decision is valid until the General Committee decides otherwise but not longer than until the next General Assembly. The General Committee then puts forward the case and the reasons for its decision to the General Assembly for final settlement.

The member in question has the right to give its position to the General Assembly. The General Committee is responsible for informing the members and the contract partners as soon as it receives the above position.

The member in question has no right to claim financial compensation for the decisions taken according to this article.

**Article 12 Downgrading from full to associate membership and expulsion**

Following a decision by the General Assembly passed by a two-third majority vote, a member that repeatedly fails to fulfil its financial obligations (due invoices older than 12 months) towards the FCI or seriously violates these statutes, the FCI regulations or the decisions of the General Assembly and General Committee can be downgraded from full to associate membership or expelled.

The member threatened with expulsion or downgrading must be summoned to be able to present its case at the General Assembly.

**Article 13 Resignation of members**

Any member can resign from the FCI with effect from the end of a calendar year. A member wishing to resign has to have fulfilled its financial obligations with the FCI.

### **III SECTIONS**

#### **Article 14 Sections**

- a) The national canine organizations are allocated by the FCI General Committee into one of the following geographical sections:
1. Europe
  2. The Americas and the Caribbean
  3. Asia and the Pacific
  4. Middle East
  5. Africa

Should there be significant changes in the present position, these groupings will be reviewed by the General Assembly

- b) The sections, as geographical sub-divisions of the FCI, must work exclusively in the interest of the FCI according to their statutes and rules and to the following rules :
1. A section is made up of at least 5 full members. The members of a section must have registered altogether at least 100,000 dogs during the last year (in the studbooks and in the appendixes to the studbooks) in order to be allowed to have a delegate on the General Committee. The sections must have their own organization and/or rules insofar as these are not contrary to the FCI statutes or standing orders.
  2. It is up to each section's General Committee to make sure that its own members abide by the FCI statutes, rules and regulations. It must also make sure that its own members respect the FCI breed standards and FCI breed nomenclature.
  3. The FCI General Committee can delegate other duties and powers to the sections.
  4. The sections' statutes and/or regulations must be submitted to the FCI General Committee for approval. In addition, a yearly activity report and a yearly financial report have to be sent to the FCI General Committee by each section for information purposes.
  5. The sections are financed by membership fees set by the sections and a financial contribution set by the FCI General Assembly.
  6. The president of each section represents the section in question in the FCI General Committee. In his absence, the section General Committee decides who represents the section in the FCI General Committee.

### **IV. ORGANIZATION**

#### **Article 15 Bodies**

- A. General Assembly
- B. General Committee
- C. The Auditor
- D. The Commissions



## **A. GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Article 16 Composition, Competences**

- a) The General Assembly is made up of all the full members of the FCI under the direction of the President. In case the president is prevented from chairing the General Assembly, the vice-president or any person elected by the General Assembly will carry out this function.
  
- b) The competences of the General Assembly are as follows :
  1. to determine the general business of the FCI
  2. to approve the General Committee's report, the executive director's report, the Treasurer's report, the auditor's report, the budgets and the activity plans for the following and the next year.
  3. to set the membership/partnership subscription fees and the fees for the patronage of shows, trials, tests,
  4. to decide on the admission, downgrading and expulsion of members of the FCI where requested by the General Committee,
  5. to elect the members of the General Committee and the President. The President is elected among these elected members
  6. to elect the auditor
  7. to set up commissions
  8. to elect the members of the mandatory commissions
  9. to elect the member to host the General Assembly and/or the world dog show for the subsequent five years
  10. to amend the statutes and standing orders
  11. to recognise new breeds on a definitive basis and to approve their respective breed standards
  12. to bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member upon any person for meritorious service to the FCI
  13. to dissolve the sections,
  14. to dissolve the Federation
  15. to decide on any other proposal

The General Committee is allowed to submit proposals and requests to the General Assembly at any time. Furthermore, the General Committee can give its opinion to the General Assembly on any matter or proposal forwarded by the full members.

### **Article 17 Convening meetings, voting, elections**

- a) The ordinary General Assembly shall be held at least once every two years.
- b) A General Assembly can be an ordinary or an extraordinary General Assembly.

- c) Each member can be represented by a maximum of three delegates. Only full members present or represented by proxy are entitled to vote. Each member has one vote. Voting by proxy is allowed. A full member can vote by proxy for only one other full member.
- d) The executive director will send a written invitation to each member and contract partner latest four months before the date of the General Assembly. The General Assembly will not be held on the same days as the world dog show.
- e) The executive director is to be notified of proposals latest three months before the General Assembly. He shall draw up the agenda based on proposals from the General Committee, the full members and the mandatory commissions.  
The proposals for candidates (outgoing members and new candidates) for the General Committee and the mandatory commissions must be sent to the Secretariat General, in the same way as other proposals, for inclusion in the agenda. A candidate may not stand for election on the day of the General Assembly if his candidacy does not appear on the agenda. The agenda and relevant enclosures shall be sent by mail to the members and contract partners latest six weeks before the General Assembly. The agenda can be altered provided that three quarters of the full members present and eligible to vote agree to such a motion.
- f) The General Assembly is deemed to constitute a quorum and can take decisions regardless of the number of members present.
- g) Decisions on proposals must be approved by a majority of the cast votes. Abstentions are not taken into account.
- h) The election of candidates takes place by secret ballot unless the General Assembly decides otherwise.  
The candidates with an absolute majority (50% + 1) are elected in sequence according to the number of votes they have obtained. Spoilt and blank ballot papers are disregarded.  
Should insufficient candidates be elected with an absolute majority, a second vote shall be held immediately afterwards. The number of candidates required is elected according to the number of votes they have received following the simple majority principle. Spoilt and blank ballot papers are disregarded
- i) The elections of candidates are governed by the procedure described in the FCI Standing Orders.
- j) The General Assembly can only legitimately decide on amendments to the statutes if two thirds of the members are present or represented. Any amendment to the statutes and standing orders may only be adopted by way of a two-third majority vote. Abstentions are not taken into account.  
If the amendment relates to one of the founding objectives of the Federation (see Art. 2 (1) and (2) of the statutes), however, it will only be valid if passed by a three-quarter majority of the members present or represented at the General Assembly. Abstentions are not taken into account.  
Amendments to the statutes will only take effect after approval by the competent authority according to Art.50 § 3 of the law and after they have been published in the Annexes to the Moniteur Belge in accordance with Art.51 §3 of said law.

- k) The decisions of the General Assembly are recorded in a register of minutes signed by the person chairing the General Assembly and the Secretary. This register is kept at the FCI registered office where it can be inspected by all the members and contract partners but may not be removed.

### **Article 18 Extraordinary General Assembly**

Where necessary an extraordinary General Assembly can be called by the General Committee or at the request of at least a quarter of the full members.

The agenda must include all the proposals submitted by the members referred to above.

## **B. GENERAL COMMITTEE**

### **Article 19 Composition, voting, elections**

The General Committee consists of six (the President plus five) members elected by the General Assembly, plus the designated representatives of each section as referred to in Art.14, point b. All the members are elected for 4 years. The General Assembly elects 3 members every 2 years taking the rotation system into account. Every 2 years the General Assembly will elect the President. The 4 and the 2-year terms are the periods between, respectively 3 and 2 ordinary General Assemblies.

The candidates must have the nationality of a country whose national canine organisation is a full member of the FCI. Only one person per country whose national canine organisation is a full member of the FCI can be a member of the General Committee. This applies to the members elected by the General Assembly and those designated by the sections.

A member of the General Committee elected by the General Assembly cannot be the representative of a section on the General Committee at the same time.

New candidates and outgoing members can be elected only if they are supported by their own national organisation.

In the event of death or permanent disability or any other valid reason preventing a General Committee member from carrying out his duties, the composition of the General Committee will remain unchanged until the next General Assembly meets and elects a new member. The new member will sit on the General Committee until the term of office of his predecessor expires.

The General Committee shall be deemed to constitute a quorum when at least five members are present. The decisions of the General Committee are taken by way of a majority of the cast votes. In the case of a tied vote, the President or his deputy substitute has the casting vote.

## **Article 20 Competences**

The competences of the General Committee are as follows:

- a) to achieve the aims set out in the statutes
- b) to implement the decisions of the General Assembly
- c) to manage the day-to-day business, with the right to empower the executive director to do it, and to ensure that the statutes, the standing orders, the rules and regulations, the circulars and the decisions of the General Assembly and General Committee are observed
- d) to draw up the budget, the financial report and the General Committee report and submit these documents to the General Assembly for approval
- e) to approve the work and the programme of the commissions and assign tasks to them
- f) to approve all the special regulations drawn up by the commissions
- g) to approve the new breeds on a provisional basis and their respective standards
- h) to approve amendments to the standards
- i) to announce events
- j) to draw up and keep up to date the list of international judges
- k) to draw up and keep up to date the international directory of kennel names
- l) to take care of the communications to the press and of the public relations activities
- m) to appoint an Executive director and to conclude a working contract with him
- n) to elect, after each General Assembly, the Vice-President and the Treasurer from among the General Committee members elected by the General Assembly
- o) to settle in a fair way any problem that may arise between two or more members/contract partners. If a result is not obtained in a reasonable time, the matter is submitted to the arbitration committee.
- p) to make decisions regarding shows, trials, tests and titles and to take the final decision in cases of uncertainty and disagreement after previous consultation with the organizers of these events
- q) to decide on the admission, resignation and expulsion of contract partners. The contract partners threatened with expulsion shall present their case before the General Committee
- r) to conclude special agreements with other organisations
- s) to set the amount of all reimbursements.
- t) To bring or to support legal actions on behalf of the Federation. The president shall take the initiative to start legal proceedings

## **Article 21 Convening meetings**

Notices of General Committee meetings must be sent on behalf of the President by the Executive director and received by the members of the General Committee at least thirty days before the date of the meeting.

The General Committee shall meet at least twice a year.

## **Article 22 Special duties of the General Committee**

### **1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **Composition, powers, convening of meetings**

- a) The Executive Committee is made up of the President, the Vice-President and the Treasurer.
- b) The Executive Committee:
  - takes all decisions on urgent matters that cannot be postponed to the next meeting of the General Committee,
  - prepares the General Committee meetings
  - can call upon the President or a member of a commission to attend the meeting to discuss the activities and finances involved.
- c) The Vice-President assists the President.
- d) The notices of meetings shall be sent by the Executive director in the name of the President.

### **2. PRESIDENT**

- a) The President is the legal representative of the FCI. The instruments binding upon the Federation, other than those concerned with day-to-day management, are to be signed by the President, or barring that, by a special delegation of the Executive Committee.
- b) Together with the Executive director, he assures that the decisions of the General Committee are implemented.
- c) In urgent cases, he can take any decisions on behalf of the Executive and General Committees. He must, however, submit these decisions for the approval of the General Committee as soon as possible.
- d) The President of the FCI conducts the General Assembly and the meetings of the General and Executive Committees. If he is permanently or temporarily prevented from performing his official function, the meetings are conducted by the Vice-President.

### **3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

- a) The Executive director is the Chief Executive Officer of the Secretariat General and is an employee of the FCI. He has to report on his activity to the General Committee
- b) He shall be responsible, according to the instructions from the General Committee and/or the President, for:
  - implementing decisions passed by the General Assembly and the General Committee;

- managing and supervising the accounts of the FCI in a due and proper manner;
- writing the minutes for the meetings of the General Assembly, the Executive and General Committees ;
- the FCI correspondence;
- the relations with the sections, members, committees and commissions;
- organising the Secretariat General;
- the appointment and dismissal of staff working in the Secretariat General;
- presenting a report on the Secretariat General's activities and statistics of general interest to the General Assembly

#### **4. SECRETARIAT GENERAL**

The Secretariat General shall carry out all the administrative work of the FCI under the direction of the Executive director.

#### **5. TREASURER**

The treasurer, under instruction of the General and Executive Committees, supervises all the financial and economic affairs of the FCI and enforces all the decisions made by the above two Committees.

#### **C. AUDITOR**

##### **Article 23 : the Auditor**

Every two years, the General Assembly elects one person and a substitute from the full members to act as an auditor.

Said auditor has to examine, on basis of an official external audit report, the yearly balance sheets and profit and loss accounts as well as the accountancy and present a report to the General Committee and to the General Assembly. The General Committee can ask for a report from the above elected auditor at any time.

#### **D. COMMISSIONS**

The General Assembly sets up the mandatory and non-mandatory commissions. These commissions, consultative bodies of the FCI, are responsible to the General Committee and must submit reports on their activities.

##### **Article 24 General remarks**

- a) The General Committee determines the tasks of the mandatory commissions.
- b) Any commission can enlist the assistance of a maximum of two experts where the particular nature of the problems concerned necessitates this.
- c) All the commissions shall forward the minutes of their meetings and any other written reports exclusively to their members and to the General Committee through the Executive director within six weeks of the meeting at the latest.

- d) Without the consent of the General Committee the commissions are not permitted to publish their minutes other than through the channels of the FCI.

### **Article 25 Mandatory commissions : composition and elections**

The following commissions are mandatory :

1. the Legal Commission
2. the Scientific Commission
3. the Standards Commission

These three mandatory commissions are made up of a maximum of six members each elected by the General Assembly. The candidates must have the nationality of a country whose national canine organisation is a full member of the FCI. They cannot be members of the General Committee at the same time.

Only one person per country whose national canine organisation is a full member of the FCI can be a member of a mandatory commission

New candidates and outgoing members can be elected only if they are supported by their own national organisation. The candidates shall be elected for a term of office of four years. This 4-year term is the period between 3 ordinary General Assemblies.

In the event of death or permanent disability or any other valid reason preventing a mandatory commission member from carrying out his duties, the General Committee shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term.

### **Article 26 Non-mandatory commissions: composition**

- a) At the General Assembly, all the members and contract partners shall designate the non-mandatory commissions in which they wish to have a representative. The national canine organizations will then nominate one member for each commission on which they are represented. The members nominated must have the necessary qualifications and knowledge to carry out their duties. The General Committee will determine the deadline to be observed by the members and contract partners with regard to submitting the list of these commissions and the names of the delegates.
- b) After each General Assembly, the commissions shall elect one of their members as President. A national canine organization represented on a commission can nominate a substitute in the case of its representative being permanently or temporarily unable to carry out his duties. The presidents of the non-mandatory commissions are responsible for the administration of the meetings (with the exception of sending invitations to meetings and the agendas).

### **Article 27 Non-mandatory commissions : attendance and voting**

The associate members can be represented in the non-mandatory commissions and have the right to take the floor but not to vote.

The contract partners can attend the meetings as observers but they do not have the right to vote or to take the floor.

### **Article 28 Non-mandatory commissions : convening meetings**

The meetings are convened by the respective presidents via the Executive director at least two months before the date set for the meeting.

## **V. HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORARY MEMBERS**

### **Article 29 Honorary president and honorary members**

- a) The General Assembly can bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member on any person for meritorious service to the FCI.
- b) The General Committee shall propose the candidates.
- c) The honorary president or honorary member can attend the General Assembly as observers at their own expenses. They can join in the debates but may not vote.

## **VI. ARBITRATION**

### **Article 30 Arbitration Commission**

- a) In the event of disputes between two full/associate FCI members or contract partners, an Arbitration Commission composed of three members of the Legal Commission who do not belong to either party involved and who shall be appointed by the General Committee shall be called upon to give a ruling on the matter.
- b) The Arbitration Commission shall decide on complaints from members/contract partners where the rules of the FCI have been broken by either party.

### **Article 31 Procedure**

- a) Every full/associate member of the FCI or contract partner has the right to submit a complaint against another member/contract partner to the General Committee
- b) The subject of the complaint can be any kind of violation of the statutes or standing orders of the FCI.
- c) The complaints must be sent to the Executive director of the FCI in five copies in one of the official working languages together with evidence in writing and all the necessary documentation. The Executive director must receive the complaints within six months of the facts being produced or becoming known to the plaintiff and in any case no longer than one year after the incident.



- d) The Executive director will certify the date of the receipt of the complaint and send a copy of it to the other party, informing that it has the right to send a reply in five copies in one of the working languages within a period of three months. The reply must be accompanied by all the supporting documentary evidence.
- e) Once the Executive director has received the reply, he/she shall straightaway send one copy to the plaintiff for information purposes only and immediately send the files with all the documents of the parties involved to the members of the Arbitration Commission.
- f) The Arbitration Commission has the right to examine the evidence using all means, including hearings, before reaching its decision.
- g) A decision will be made in writing as soon as possible in one of the working languages, with copies sent to the two parties involved immediately by the Executive director.
- h) The Arbitration Commission will decide the sanction to be applied. It will transmit it to the General Committee which may lodge an appeal with the General Assembly. The same right is reserved to the parties concerned.

## **VII. FINANCES**

### **Article 32 FCI financial resources**

The financial resources of the FCI comprise, in particular:

- Membership and contract partnership subscription fees
- Voluntary amounts such as donations and bequests
- Other resources from the activities placed under the aegis of the FCI

### **Article 33 Approval of accounts and budgets**

The balance sheets and the profit and loss account for the current year and the budget for the following year shall be drawn up on 31<sup>st</sup> December each year. The balance sheets, the profit and loss accounts and the budgets are provisionally approved by the General Committee, and presented together with the audit reports for final ratification at the subsequent General Assembly.

## **VIII. CONCLUDING PROVISIONS**

### **Article 34 Dissolution**

In the event of voluntary dissolution, the General Assembly will designate two liquidators and determine their powers.

In all cases of voluntary dissolution or compulsory dissolution by the court at any moment in time or for any reason whatsoever, the disposable assets of the dissolved Federation will be transferred to associations with similar objectives, as designated by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly can only pronounce the dissolution of the Federation on condition that two thirds of the members are present. Any decision of dissolution shall only be adopted if passed unanimously by the members present.

### **Article 35 Entry into force and appeal of the decisions**

Decisions passed by the General Assembly, with the exception of amendments to the statutes, shall enter into force on the date set by the General Assembly. Any decision of the General Assembly can be appealed within a 90-day deadline after the it became effective

### **Article 36 Remunerations**

All offices within the FCI are exercised on a voluntary basis.

### **Article 37 Official working and authoritative languages**

English, French, German and Spanish are the official working languages of the FCI. They are used at the General Assembly.

English is the official language used at the General Committee meetings. English is the official and authoritative language for minutes, correspondence and announcements.

The documents addressed to the Belgian authorities are written in French.

The statutes, the standing orders, the decisions and announcements of the FCI shall be published in the four official working languages.

In the event of disputes concerning the statutes and the standing orders, the French text shall be the authoritative version.

### **Article 38 Unforeseen cases and force majeure**

Anything that is not explicitly provided for in these statutes, in particular the publications for the Annexes to the Moniteur belge, shall be settled according to the provisions of Chapter III of the Belgian law dated June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1921 concerning non-profit making associations, foundations and international non-profit making associations.

**Acapulco, May 22, 2007.**

***The amendments in bold and italic characters were approved by the General Assembly, Bratislava, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009***



President  
**Hans W. Müller**



Executive director  
**Yves De Clercq**