

# **Constitution of the Free International Wanderschule for Biodynamic Agriculture**

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## **Preamble**

The Free International Wandering School for Biodynamic Agriculture Culture (hereinafter referred to as "Wandering School") wants to enable people to practice honest biodynamic agriculture as the most sustainable way of farming in the world for their own motives in their countries. For this purpose it trains farmers and multipliers in holistic biodynamic methods and enables a worldwide exchange of experience in the sense of a beneficial international development cooperation. The worldwide networking of the biodynamic partners should have a beneficial effect on the economic and social development of all participating countries through fair dealings with each other.

In the spirit of the open-source idea, the school would like to see enthusiasm in the expanded view of agriculture arising from the anthroposophical knowledge of man and the world. This should spread and develop independently in the countries, adapted to regional and cultural needs.

The character of the wandering school, to learn from each other across cultures, also requires attentive joint opinion-forming and decision-making processes within the association. Therefore dialogue, listening to others, reconciling interests and finding the best solution for all should be the focus of the school's activities.

## **§ 1 Name, Seat and Fiscal Year**

(1) The association bears the name Freie Internationale Wanderschule für Biodynamische Agrar-Kultur.

After the entry in the register of associations, the name suffix "eingetragener Verein" is added in the abbreviated form "e.V."

(2) The seat of the association is Aichelberg.

(3) The financial year is the calendar year.

## **§ 2 Purpose of the Association**

The purpose of the association is to promote

- development cooperation
- education, training and vocational training
- nature conservation and landscape management as well as
- of science and research.

The purpose of the statutes is realised in particular by

- the education and further training of people in biodynamic farming, landscape design, increasing soil fertility and biodiversity, species-appropriate animal husbandry, successful business management and, in general, ecologically and economically sustainable farming methods

- the organisation and implementation of training courses, seminars and conferences
- the organisation of international exchange of experience among biodynamic farmers on issues such as landscape design, increasing soil fertility and biodiversity, species-appropriate animal husbandry and increasing the vitality of biodynamic farms
- the promotion of scientific research on topics of sustainability and the further development of biodynamic farming methods through cooperation with researchers and universities
- promoting worldwide cooperation between universities and research institutions and improving the availability of scientific results in all countries.

### **§ 3 Non-profit status**

(1) The association pursues exclusively and directly charitable purposes in the sense of the section "tax-privileged purposes" of the tax code.

(2) The Association acts selflessly; it does not primarily pursue its own economic purposes.

(3) The association's funds may only be used for purposes in accordance with the statutes. The members do not receive any contributions from the funds of the association.

(4) No person may be favoured by expenses that are alien to the purpose of the association as a corporation or by disproportionately high remuneration.

### **§ 4 Membership**

(1) The following may become members of the Association: all natural or legal persons involved in the production, processing and sale of biodynamic products or in biodynamic consultancy and research, as well as all associations, institutions and persons inspired by anthroposophy.

(2) Membership is acquired on the basis of a written application for membership by resolution of the Executive Board.

(3) Each member has the right to submit applications, inquiries, proposals or complaints to the Board.

(4) Every member has the right to participate in the General Assembly and to take part in the discussion. The general invitation shall be sent by post or e-mail.

(5) The members have to make financial contributions. The amount of the membership fee shall be determined by the General Assembly in a membership fee schedule, taking into account the tasks of the Association and the performance capabilities of the individual members on the recommendation of the Executive Board.

(6) The membership ends by death, resignation, exclusion, or with corporate members and legal entities with legal force of the dissolution resolution. If a corporate member decides to dissolve, this must be reported to the Executive Board immediately.

(7) The resignation must be declared in writing with a period of notice of 3 months to the end of the year.

(8) A member can be excluded by the Executive Board for important reasons. The member has the right to appeal to an arbitration court according to §10 if an arbitration court has been established and arbitration rules have been issued.

## **§ 5 Organs of the Association**

Organs of the association:

- The General Assembly
- The Board of Directors

## **§ 6 General Assembly**

(1) The affairs of the Association shall be regulated by the ordinary General Assembly to be convened by the Executive Committee. For this purpose, it may pass resolutions to which the organs of the Association are bound.

The ordinary General Assembly takes place once a year. The General Assembly may also be held by order of the Board of Directors using modern means of communication without a spatial meeting of the members (virtual assembly); further details are regulated in the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of Delegates.

(2) In particular, the ordinary General Assembly is responsible for:

- the receipt of the annual report from the executive board
- Approval of the annual financial statements and discharge of the Management Board from liability
- the approval of the budget and the fixing of contributions
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- the election and discharge of the Executive Board
- the election of the cash auditors
- strategic decisions on the association's policy
- the change of the statute, the resolution and the change of association rules, and the dissolution of the association.

(3) An extraordinary General Assembly must be convened by the Executive Committee if the Executive Committee or 1/3 of the members so request in writing.

(4) The written invitation to the members must be sent at least three weeks before the members meeting and must include the agenda. It can be invited in text form (§ 126b BGB). At the request of one member, an addition to the agenda shall be made, provided that the Board can notify the members of the addition by post or in text form one week before the meeting.

(5) The General Assembly constitutes a quorum if a proper invitation has been issued. It passes its resolutions by a majority of the votes cast.

For elections, the provisions governing the passing of resolutions shall apply mutatis mutandis, unless otherwise stipulated below. According to the resolution of the General Assembly, several offices to be elected may also be held by election of a group as a whole (block election) or between several groups of candidates (list election). If there are more candidates than there are offices to be filled, the candidates with the most votes are elected (relative majority); in the event of a tie, the election between the candidates concerned is repeated, after which, in the event of a new tie, the decision is made by lot.

(6) Resolutions on matters not included in the invitation may only be passed by a majority of 2/3 of the members. Amendments to the Articles of Association, including changes to the purpose of the Association, the dissolution of the Association and conversions in accordance with the Transformation Act, may only be decided with a majority of 2/3 of the votes of the members and only if the motion for resolution was announced with the invitation.

(7) Amendments to the Articles of Association which become necessary due to a change in legal regulations or at the request of the tax office or the register of associations may be decided by the Executive Board without the participation of the General Assembly

(8) Minutes shall be taken of the course of the meeting, which shall be signed by a member of the Board of Directors and by the minute-taker.

## **§ 7 Management Board**

(1) The association has at least one executive committee. The Executive Board manages the Association's business and represents the Association in and out of court. If several executive committees are appointed, each represents the association alone. The number of board members to be elected shall be decided by the General Assembly prior to the election of the board.

The executive committee is elected by the general assembly for a period of three years it remains in office until the new executive committee is elected and has accepted its election. Re-election is possible.

(2) In the event of the resignation of a member before the end of the term of office, the Board may co-opt another member for the remainder of the term of office.

(3) The executive committee shall elect a chairman and a deputy chairman from among its members. The chairman, in the event of his absence the deputy chairman, convenes the meetings of the executive committee, chairs them and may, in urgent cases, take provisional decisions alone. Such decisions require the immediate approval of the Executive Board.

(4) The Executive Board shall pass its resolutions unanimously. If this is not possible, the majority of the votes cast shall decide; in the event of a tie, the vote of the chairman shall decide.

(5) The Board of Directors may call upon members? to attend its meetings without the right to vote as required.

(6) The Executive Board shall convene the General Assembly and appoint the Chairperson of the Assembly.

(7) § 31a BGB applies regardless of whether the executive committee receives remuneration.

(8) Resolutions of the Executive Board shall be recorded in minutes.

(9) The Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

(10) The members of the executive committee are released from the restrictions of § 181 BGB (Insichgeschäfte).

### **§ 8 Data protection**

(1) The association collects, processes (stores, changes, transmits, blocks and deletes) and uses personal data of its members and third parties, using data processing equipment, insofar as this data is necessary for membership or the realisation of the association's purpose and its secondary purposes, or if the data collection is necessary to safeguard the legitimate interests of the association and there is no reason to assume that the person concerned has a predominant legitimate interest in the exclusion of processing and use.

(2) Personal data include, but are not limited to, name, date of birth, address, communication connections, bank details, bank code, account number, functions in the association, membership in specialist groups, acquisition of licenses, certificates, performance results and entry data.

### **§ 9 Dissolution of the Association**

(1) The dissolution of the Association can only be decided at the General Assembly . A majority of three quarters of the members present is required. The request for dissolution must be stated on the invitation.

(2) Liquidation shall be the responsibility of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

### **§ 10 Accumulation of the Association's Assets**

The association's assets remaining after the liquidation are allocated to Forschungsring e.V. in Darmstadt as a non-profit association, which has to use them directly and exclusively for non-profit purposes of promoting biodynamic agriculture.