

# **ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE APHASIE**

## **CONSTITUTION**

Uncut text as amended by the Extraordinary General Assembly of November 24, 2001, Cambridge

### **THE ASSOCIATION AND ITS OBJECT**

#### **ARTICLE 1**

A non-profit international association is hereby constituted under the name of " Association Internationale Aphasie ", in abbreviation " AIA ".

This association has a scientific and philanthropic purpose and is governed by the Belgian Law of October 25, 1919, as later amended.

#### **ARTICLE 2**

The registered office of AIA shall be established in the Brussels conurbation. It may be transferred to any other place in the Brussels conurbation by simple decision of the administrative board to be published within one month in the Annexes au Moniteur Belge.

For the time being, the office is established at Avenue des Héros 50, B-1160 Brussels.

#### **ARTICLE 3**

The duration of the association is not limited.

#### **ARTICLE 4**

The object of AIA is to promote the rehabilitation and in particular the restitution of the communication capacity of the aphasic person, to preserve his or her human dignity and to defend his or her interests and those of their close proximity in the fields of therapy and familiar, social and professional reintegration.

Its means are

1. promote and maintain the cohesion, the consultation and collaboration between the national associations, its members;
2. induce the constitution of national associations in countries where such associations do not yet exist;
3. contribute on international level to the information of the general public and authorities on aphasia and the problems it creates;
4. organise lectures, round tables, seminars, study sessions to the intention of its members;
5. obtain information on innovations and progresses implemented in the different countries and dispatch them;
6. contribute to the work of study commissions on international level.

AIA shall lay special emphasis on all aspects of its object which are specifically European and establish all useful relations with the institutions of the European Union.

# **THE ASSOCIATION'S MEMBERS**

## **ARTICLE 5**

A. Affiliates of AIA are national associations of people with aphasia, the constitution and activity of which are conform to article 4, paragraph 1 of the present constitution.

Each country may be member of AIA by only one association, namely that one which admits all the aphasics of the country.

B. The national associations of countries in the European Union are **members** of AIA.

The national associations of countries outside the European Union are **associated members**.

Groups and persons, who take in their respective countries the initiative to constitute a national association, but whose efforts have not yet been successful, are **observer members**.

Associations and persons who back the goal of AIA and wish to grant their moral assistance, their intellectual contribution or their financial support, are **corresponding members**.

C. The admission of a new affiliate is pronounced by the general assembly.

## **ARTICLE 6**

Members shall pay an annual contribution not exceeding 1.000 EUR to be set yearly by the general assembly at the suggestion of the administrative board and on the basis of a distribution key adopted by the general assembly.

The member who refuses or delays this contribution has no vote in financial matters to be settled by the general assembly and is not entitled to receive financial subvention that AIA could be determined to grant its members.

The general assembly may decide to collect a special contribution apart from the annual fee, fix its amount and the terms of payment by which each member or associated member shall participate.

## **ARTICLE 7**

If a member violates material or moral interests of AIA, the administrative board may, at voting majority and after having heard the representatives of the said member, pronounce its exclusion.

This member may lodge an appeal against this decision with the first subsequent general assembly which shall decide in conclusion by the majority of members and associated member as present.

If the member to be excluded refuses or renounces without valuable reason to present his point of view before the administrative board or the general assembly, his exclusion shall be pronounced as of right.

During the period of time between the decision by the administrative board and that to be made by the General Assembly, the representatives of the member involved shall not take part in the AIA assemblies and activities.

## **ARTICLE 8**

Any member shall be free to resign from the AIA by addressing written notification to the administrative board.

## **ARTICLE 9**

The member ceasing to belong to the Association shall have no rights on the association's funds and shall not be entitled to claim reimbursement of yearly subscriptions already paid or other services rendered.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **ARTICLE 10**

Each national association, member or associated member to AIA, names a vice-president AIA who shall be responsible for the relations between AIA and the national association.

General assemblies are constituted by the national delegations, under the leadership of their vice-president.

The national AIA-vice-president casts a single vote in the name of his national association or delegation. He shall be given authority by his national association to take decisions which place his national association under obligation.

### **ARTICLE 11**

The general assembly is legally constituted when the majority of members, associated members and observer members, as far as their annual fee has been settled, meet. It is vested with the full powers necessary to achieve the object of the AIA.

In particular, it shall decide on the general policy guidelines, approve the activity report of the administrative board and assess the financial situation.

Members and associated members sit in the general assembly with decision making vote, observer and corresponding members with advisory vote.

At the end of the biennial mandate, the general assembly appoints the president and elects the members of the administrative board and of the body of auditors.

Written candidacies to the administrative board and the body of auditors must be received by the acting president one month at latest before the general assembly.

### **ARTICLE 12**

The ordinary general assembly shall meet of its own free right every year preferably in a country belonging to the European Union.

The administrative board according to the year's working calendar fixes the date of the general assembly.

The AIA president convenes the ordinary general assembly two months at least before its date. The notification to attend mentions the agenda.

An extraordinary general assembly must be convened by the AIA president at the request of three national associations on a date within a period of three months.

When an ordinary or extraordinary general assembly does not attain the necessary quorum, a second assembly shall be convened which shall decide whatever be the number of members present.

### **ARTICLE 13**

The general assembly shall be presided over by the president in office or, in his place, by the secretary general. If both are unable to act, the assembly shall name a president to take the chair..

### **ARTICLE 14**

In cases the present constitution or the law do not provide for in another way, resolutions shall be adopted by majority vote of members and associated members present.

Voting by proxy shall be forbidden.

Decisions shall be notified to all members at the administrative board's instigation.

#### **ARTICLE 15**

The general assembly may decide on internal byelaws.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**

#### **ARTICLE 16**

The administrative board is constituted by the president and four administrators.

Members of the administrative board are appointed for a renewable period of two years. The term of office of the presidency may only be renewed once.

On its first meeting, the new administrative board appoints to the functions of secretary general, of treasurer as well as of representative in charge of relations with authorities and corporate bodies on European level and of representative in charge of the action programme's elaboration.

The administrative board may name an assistant secretary.

Appointments referred to here above are personal.

Unless the general assembly's other decision, administrators may not be affiliates of the same member-association..

Holding a mandate as administrator excludes that one of national delegate.

In relation with needs and possibilities and in order to improve the management of daily affairs, the board may nominate other persons than administrators.

AIA is represented by the president who may name an administrator or a vice-president as his representative from case to case.

#### **ARTICLE 17**

An administrator's office shall come to an end by resignation, expiry of the term for which the aforementioned office had been conferred or at the request of the general assembly.

#### **ARTICLE 18**

The administrative board is vested with the fullest powers to manage and represent the association; it may initiate all administration and disposal acts which are not assigned to the general assembly and more particularly provide, subject to the general assembly's approval, for any vacancy arisen during the term of office.

The board may, at its own responsibility, delegate parts of its powers.

It may form committees, commissions and working groups to investigate specific problems.

Resolutions are passed by majority vote of administrators present; in case of a tied vote the president shall have the casting vote.

The president and the secretary general, acting in conjunction, have the power to commit the association in order to fulfil its object, without being obliged to refer before third parties to a previous decision of the board.

#### **ARTICLE 19**

The board meets at the request of the president or of two administrators, the call to convene the board notifying the agenda.

#### **ARTICLE 20**

In the course of the first quarter of the year, the treasurer shall submit to the administrative board the accounts of the past financial year. The subsequent general assembly shall declare itself on the financial management and the budget statement for the following financial year presented by the board..

#### **ARTICLE 21**

Members and associated members shall not be liable, under no circumstances, for AIA commitments.

Only AIA resources shall guarantee such commitments.

### **LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

#### **ARTICLE 22**

All acts which commit the association are, unless special powers are given, signed by the president or the secretary general who shall not have to justify to third parties their authorisation to this effect.

#### **ARTICLE 23**

Legal actions, whether as plaintiff or defendant, shall be followed on behalf of AIA by its administrative board, represented by both the president and the secretary general or by two administrators delegated for this purpose by the administrative board.

#### **ARTICLE 24**

Any modification of the constitution is proposed, at least three months before the general assembly convened to decide upon, by whether the administrative board or by at least four members or associated members with no outstanding annual subscription.

#### **ARTICLE 25**

Any proposal to amend the constitution shall be notified to all members and associated members, in writing before the general assembly convened to vote on the above mentioned proposal.

#### **ARTICLE 26**

Any proposal to dissolve AIA issued by at least five members or associated members shall be notified in writing and at least six months before the general assembly convened to rule.

The general assembly decides on the proposal under the conditions stipulated in article 28.

## **ARTICLE 27**

Net assets, movable and immovable property resulting from the dissolution of AIA shall be allocated to one or more associations of aphasics, designated by the general assembly and having objects similar to those of AIA.

## **ARTICLE 28**

All items not provided for in the present Articles of Association shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Belgian Law of October, 25th, 1919, as later amended, which grants legal status to International Associations with a philanthropic, religious, scientific, artistic or educational purpose.

## **ARTICLE 29**

The French version of the present constitution and internal by-law shall be the only binding.

## **ARTICLE 30**

The present constitution annuls and replaces those of May 31, 1991, published at the Moniteur Belge on September 3, 1992 with the identification number 14207/92.

## **ARTICLE 31**

The following associations were affiliated to AIA on November 24, 2001:

### MEMBERS

Bundesverband der Aphasiker  
founding member D-  
97080 Würzburg, Germany  
represented by Prof Dr Joachim Baltes

Fédération Belge des Aphasiques  
founding member  
Avenue des Héros 50, B-1160 Bruxelles, Belgium  
represented by Jacques vanden Borre

HjerneSagen DK-  
2650 Hvidovre, Danmark,  
represented by

Associació d'afàsics de Catalunya Pere  
Verges 1, E-08020 Barcelone, Spain  
represented by Mercedes Parellada Montoro

Aivohalvaus- ja Dysfasialiitto ry  
Suvilinnantie 2, FIN-2600 Turku, Finland,  
represented by Terttu Elo

Fédération Nationale des Aphasiques de France,  
founding member, Rue  
Montyon 22, F-76610 Le Havre, France  
represented by Robert Chevallier

Greek Aphasia Association  
Kaftadzogloy Str.23,GR 11144-Athènes, Greece  
represented by Alexandra Economou

Associazione Italiana Afasici I-  
00168 Roma, Italy  
represented by Dr Rinalda Sabbadini

Afasi Letzebuerg, founding  
member, Rue Ch.Arendt,  
38, L-1134 Luxembourg, Luxembourg  
represented by Ernest Rasqué

Afasie Vereniging Nederland  
Heijenoordseweg 3, NL-6813 GG Arnhem  
represented by Erik Weehuizen

Associação Nacional de Afásicos Rua  
do Conde de Redondo, 13/5°, P-1150-101  
Lisbonne, Portugal represented by  
Maria De Luz Rocha

Afasiforbundet i Sverige  
Kampementsgatan 14, S-11538 Stockholm,  
represented by Marianne Akerlund

Speakability founding  
member Royal Street  
1, SE1 7LL Londres, GB  
represented by Philip Dann

#### ASSOCIATED MEMBERS

Eesti Afaasialiid

EE-3006 Viimsi , Estonia  
represented by Kylli Roht

Schweizerische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Aphasie  
Zähringerstrasse 19, CH-6003 Luzern Switzerland  
represented by Luitgardis Sonderegger-Muller

Japanese Aphasia Peer Circles,  
JAP 162 Shinjiku-ku, Tokyo, Japan  
represented by Mutsumi Myata

National Aphasia Association 29  
JohnSt., New York, NY 10038, USA  
represented by Dr Don Olson

#### OBSERVER MEMBER

Aphasie Club A-  
1030 Wien, Autstria represented  
by Dr Jacqueline Stark

#### ARTICLE 32

On 24.11.2001, the board is composed as follows:

Mrs Sue GILPIN, Fowlmere nr Royston, Great  
Britain, president

Mrs Monique LINDHOUT, AE Westervoort, The  
Netherlands, secretary general;

Mr. Luc MEYER, Luxembourg, Luxembourg,  
treasurer; Mr.  
Raymond BASSEM, Bruxelles, Belgium, in charge  
of European affairs;

Mr. Erich RIEGER, Würzburg, Germany, in charge  
of the action program

Their mandate will end with the 2003 General  
Assembly.