

STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECORISQ ASSOCIATION

Name and headquarters

Article 1

The International EcorisQ Association (ecorisQ) is a non-profit Association governed by the present statutes and, secondarily, by Articles 60 et seq. of the [Swiss Civil Code](#). It is neutral politically, and non-denominational.

Article 2

The Association's headquarters are located in the Canton of Geneva, Switzerland. The Association shall be of unlimited duration.

Purpose

Article 3

The Association shall pursue the following aim:

- To promote sustainable protection against natural hazard risks by bringing together science and practice for the development and dissemination of transparent tools for natural hazard and risk analyses.

Its key activities are:

- creating and governing an international network on natural hazard risk management
 - stimulating exchange of knowledge and dissemination of innovative transparent tools
 - initiating and participating in research, technology or development projects
 - standardising methodologies and assisting in respective international debates
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Resources

Article 4

The Association's resources come from:

- donations;
- legacies;
- private and public subsidies;
- membership fees;
- any other resources authorized by the law.

The funds shall be used in conformity with the Association's aims.

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Members

Article 5

The Association comprises:

- individual members: students or all physical persons that are not professionally active in the field of natural hazard risks, eco-engineering or protection forest management. All individual members pay the membership fee fixed by the General Assembly. Individual members only have a consultative vote in the Association.
- collective members: professional moral persons (companies, governmental agencies, schools/universities, research institutes, NGOs, etc.). All collective members pay the membership fee fixed by the General Assembly.
- honorary members: persons who, by their actions and commitments, have rendered outstanding services to the Association. They are exempt from membership fees.

Requests to become a member must be addressed to the board. The board admits new members and informs the General Assembly accordingly.

Membership ceases:

- on death
- by written resignation notified to the board at least six months before the end of the financial year
- by exclusion ordered by the board, for just cause, with a right of appeal to the General Assembly. Appeals must be lodged within 30 days of the board's decision being notified
- for non-payment of dues for more than one year.

In all cases the membership fee for the current year remains due. Members who have resigned or who are excluded have no rights to any part of the Association's assets.

Only the assets of the Association may be used to meet commitments. Members have no individual responsibility.

Organs

Article 6

The Association's organs are:

- The General Assembly,
- The Board,
- The Auditor.

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General Assembly

Article 7

The General Assembly is the Association's supreme authority. It is composed of all the members. It shall hold an Ordinary Meeting once each year. It may also meet in extraordinary session whenever necessary, by decision of the board or at the request of one-fifth of the members.

The General Assembly shall be considered valid regardless of the number of members present.

The board shall inform the members in writing of the date of the General Assembly at least six weeks in advance. The notification, including the proposed agenda, shall be sent to each member at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting.

Article 8

The General Assembly:

1. shall approve the admission and expulsion of members;
2. appoints the members of the board and elects, at a minimum, the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer;
3. notes the contents of the reports and financial statements for the year and votes on their adoption;
4. approves the annual budget;
5. supervises the activity of other organs, which it may dismiss, stating the grounds therefore;
6. appoints an auditor for the Association's accounts;
7. decides on any modification of statutes;
8. decides on the dissolution of the association;
9. fixes the annual membership fees.

Article 9

The General Assembly is presided over by the President of the Association.

Article 10

Decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by a majority vote of the members present. In case of deadlock, the President shall have the casting vote.

Decisions concerning the amendment of the Statutes and the dissolution of the Association must be approved by a two-third majority of the members present.

Article 11

Votes are by a show of hands. If requested by at least five members, they take place by secret ballot.

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Article 12

The agenda of the ordinary annual session of the General Assembly must include:

1. approval of the record of the previous General Assembly
 2. the board's annual report on activities
 3. report of the Treasurer and of the Auditor
 4. setting of membership fees
 5. approval of the budget
 6. approval of reports and accounts
 7. election of board members and auditor
 8. other business
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Board

Article 13

The Board is authorized to carry out all acts that further the purposes of the Association. It is authorized to manage the Association's daily business.

Article 14

The Board is composed of at least 5 members elected by the General Assembly. Each member's term of office shall last for 4 years and is renewable 3 times. The Board meets as often as required.

Article 15

The board members act voluntarily and can only be compensated for their effective and travel costs. Eventual fees cannot exceed that paid for official commissions. For activities exceeding the usual function, each board member can receive appropriate compensation.

The paid employees of the association have only a consultative vote in the board.

Article 16

The functions of the Board are:

1. to take all measures to attain the goals of the Association;
2. to convene General Assemblies;
3. to take decisions with regard to admission of new members, to resignations of members, and to their possible expulsion;
4. to ensure the Statutes are applied, to draft rules of procedure, and to administer the assets of the Association.

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Article 17

The Association shall be validly bound by the joint signature of the President and the Treasurer of the Association.

Various provisions

Article 18

The financial year shall begin on 1st of January and end on 31st of December of each year. The treasurer is responsible for the finances of the Association. The Auditor appointed by the General Assembly shall audit the Association's accounts every year.

Article 19

In the case of the Association being dissolved, the assets should be allotted to a non-profit organisation pursuing goals of public interest similar to those of the organisation and benefiting from tax exemption. The goods cannot be returned to the founders or members, nor be used to their own profit.

The present Statutes have been approved by the Constituent General Assembly of 6 December 2013 at Geneva

For the Association:

The President
Dr. Luuk Dorren

The Vice-Président
Dr. Massimiliano Schwarz