

THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF THE EUROPEAN JUDICIAL TRAINING NETWORK

Amended by the General Assembly held in Gdansk on 11-12 June 2025

I. Name, seat, purpose and activities

Article 1 – Name

1. There shall be established an international non-profit Association under the name of “EUROPEAN JUDICIAL TRAINING NETWORK”, abbreviated “EJTN”, in French “RESEAU EUROPEEN DE FORMATION JUDICIAIRE”, abbreviated R.E.F.J.
2. This Association shall be governed by the provisions of the Code of Companies and Associations.

Article 2 – Seat

The registered office of the Association shall be in the Brussels-Capital Region.

Article 3 – Purpose

1. The Association, which is devoid of any profit motive, has as its aim the promotion of training programmes with a genuine European dimension for primarily national judges and prosecutors, understood functionally, as well as for court staff. The meaning of court staff for the purposes of the Network is defined by the General Assembly.
2. The Association shall exclusively and directly pursue purposes of a non-profit making character.

Article 4 – Activities

Within the context of deepening the European Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, EJTN shall promote co-operation on the following topics:

- the analysis and identification of the training needs of the judiciaries of member states;
- the exchange and dissemination of experience in the field of judicial training;
- the design of programmes and common methods for collaborative training, in particular using new technology;
- the co-ordination of members' programmes and activities in matters relating to European law and those which concern initiatives of the European Union
- in collaboration with the Council of Europe (where appropriate) to provide expertise and know-how to European, and other national and international

institutions in order to promote the ideals inherent in an area of Freedom, Security and Justice;

- the promotion and advancement of the legal systems of candidate countries seeking accession to the European Union;
- the promotion of the activities referred to in Article 4(2) among its members and others who are, or who may be, invited to participate.

In this context:

1. The EJTN will establish an annual programme of activities which will be designed and carried out by one or more of its members and/or the secretariat.
2. In particular, this programme will contain activities which will promote among its members and others invited to participate :
 - the comparison and exchange of judicial best-practice;
 - understanding of the judicial systems of Member States of the European Union;
 - understanding of the means of judicial cooperation within the European Union;
 - language skills;
 - support to candidate countries with the design and execution of their training programmes, and to promote familiarisation with means of judicial cooperation;
 - the development of common instruments of training, particularly in judicial cooperation;
 - the development of judicial skills and of those who are appointed to act as trainers within member states.
3. The Network shall take all necessary measures to ensure that its activities are communicated among European judges, prosecutors and court staff .
4. The participation of European judges, prosecutors and court staff in the activities of the EJTN will be regulated according to the national rules of each member state governing such participation.

II. Members

Article 5 – Categories of members - Founding Members

The association is composed of members and associate members.

The founding members are reported below and are included in the category of members.

The following were the founding members of the Network:

For Germany:

- the Federal Ministry of Justice, Berlin for the Federal Republic of Germany

For Austria:

- the Federal Ministry of Justice, Vienna

For Belgium:

Conseil Supérieur de la Justice, Brussels

For Denmark:

- Domstolsstyrelsen, Copenhagen

For Spain :

- the Consejo General del Poder Judicial, Barcelona
- the Ministry of Justice, represented by the Centro de Estudios Jurídicos de la Administración de Justicia (CEAJ), Madrid

For Finland:

- Oikeusministeriö, Helsinki, for Finland

For France:

- Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature, Paris / Bordeaux

For Greece:

- National Judges School, Thessalonica

For Ireland:

- Judicial Studies Institute, Dublin, for the Chief Justice

For Italy:

- Consiglio Superiore della Magistratura, Rome

For Luxembourg:

- the Ministry of Justice, Luxembourg

For the Netherlands:

- Stichting Studiecentrum Rechtspleging, Zutphen

For Portugal:

- Centro de Estudos Judiciários, Lisbon

For the United Kingdom:

- Judicial Studies Board of England and Wales, London
- Judicial Studies Board for Northern Ireland, Belfast
- Judicial Studies Committee for Scotland, Edinburgh

For Sweden:

- Domstolsverket, Jönköping

In its capacity as a training institution at European level

- the Academy of European Law, Trier

Article 6 – Admission –Membership

1. Membership is available to all national institutions of the Member States of the European Union primarily carrying out the training of professional judges and - excluding countries based on the common law system - professional prosecutors, ensuring that judicial independence and impartiality are not compromised nationally. Those institutions in Member States of the European Union which are involved in judicial training at the level of the European Union – particularly in European Law – may also be members.
2. Applications for membership will be submitted to the Secretary General, who forwards them to the Steering Committee as soon as possible. On the basis of the application, the Steering Committee makes a recommendation to the General Assembly. If there is already a member from the country of the applicant, the applicant must provide a declaration with an agreement with that member. The declaration entails at least agreement on type of membership, payment of a fee and division of voting rights. Admission of a new member requires a unanimous decision by the General Assembly.
3. Members may terminate their membership of the Network by giving written notice to that effect to the Secretary General. Such resignation becomes effective from the time and date on which the notification is received by the Secretary General. A member shall remain liable for all acts done by, and all liabilities incurred by, the Network until the time and date when notification of resignation is received as above.

4. The exclusion of a member of the Association may only be proposed (a) by the Steering Committee; (b) in writing; and (c) served by the Secretary General on all members of the Association no later than one month before the commencement of the General Assembly which shall consider the proposal. The decision to exclude shall be taken only by a General Assembly. The member who is the subject of the proposal shall have the right to contest it.
5. The Steering Committee may propose the exclusion of a member for any grave and weighty cause including, but not limited to, a serious breach of conduct whereby the reputation of the Network is affected, or is capable, to affect it, or in the event of a breach of the reasonable standards of behavior expected from a member of an international organisation representing the training needs ~~of members~~ of judges and prosecutors.
6. In the event that the Steering Committee proposes the exclusion of a member in accordance with Article 6(4) the Committee may suspend the member in question until the decision whether or not to exclude has been taken by the General Assembly PROVIDED ALWAYS that the member whose exclusion is proposed shall have an absolute right to be heard by the Committee as to why such a decision should not be taken.
7. Upon the suspension of a member by the Steering Committee pending the resolution of the proposal by the General Assembly, or upon the exclusion of a member by the General Assembly, that member shall not be entitled to attend any further meetings of the Network and For the avoidance of doubt, a member of the Network which is excluded ~~expelled~~ pursuant to this Article shall be entitled to a refund of subscriptions paid amounting to the number of whole months remaining in the current year. Such refund shall be calculated on a per month basis by dividing the subscription actually paid by twelve.
8. For the avoidance of doubt, a member of the Network which is excluded pursuant to this Article shall be entitled to a refund of subscriptions paid amounting to the number of whole months remaining in the current year. Such refund shall be calculated on a per month basis by dividing the subscription actually paid by twelve.
9. Any member of the Network which is not a member of the Steering Committee may propose the exclusion of another member by submitting the reasons in a written statement to the Secretary General who shall ensure that the proposal is Steering Committee for consideration or, if the matter which gives rise to the proposal is urgent, shall consult the Chair of the Steering Committee to decide the appropriate step(s) to take.

A member who was, but no longer is, a member of the Association has no claim on the

Association's assets and its voting rights shall be withdrawn.

Article 7 – Admission - Associate membership

1. The associate membership is available to all national institutions of the Member States of the European Union primarily carrying out the training of court staff and which are not eligible for membership under Article 6 (1). *Mutatis mutandis*, the associate membership is acquired and lost according to the Article 6.
2. The status of associate membership does not grant eligibility for the bodies of the Network with the exception of the Committees and Working Groups charged with consideration of specific programmes or questions of organization as referred to in Article 10.8.
3. The status of associate membership entitles to attend the meetings of the General Assembly, without the voting rights, at the expense of the Network.

Article 8 – Membership fees

1. Members as well as associate members shall pay an annual membership fee which will be used to defray in part the operational costs of running the Association
2. The annual fee for members and associate members shall be determined by the General Assembly, on a proposal from the Steering Committee.
3. The fee for members and associate members is calculated on the basis of the gross national income of the European Union Member State to which the member belongs having regard to the financial needs of the Association.
4. For the members referred to in Article 6(1), second sentence, the fee is determined on the basis of the budget of the member concerned. The fee of the associate members takes into account the extent to which court staff is entitled to participate in the activities of EJTN.
5. The annual fee thus fixed may not exceed the sum of EUR 50.000¹ per European Union Member State represented in the Association. Article 11(4) shall apply to any variation of the level of annual subscriptions to be paid to the Network.

¹ The maximum amount of the fee was increased to EUR 50 000 by decision of the General Assembly of Bucharest in 2019 but the decision was not reflected in the Articles of Association. The change in the text will be made when the amended Articles of Association are published. / Le montant maximum de cotisation a été porté à 50 000 euros par décision de l'Assemblée Générale de Bucarest en 2019 mais cette décision n'a pas été reportée dans les statuts. La modification sera effectuée lors de la publication de la version modifiée des statuts.

6. Further arrangements for fixing annual membership fees, their payment and collection can be laid down in a financial regulation adopted by the General Assembly on the proposal of the Steering Committee. Such regulation shall be added to the Rules of Procedure of the Network.

III. Bodies of the Network

Article 9 – Bodies

The EJTN will consist of a General Assembly, a Steering Committee and a Secretary General.

Article 10 – General Assembly

1. The General Assembly is endowed with all the powers necessary to achieve the aims of the Association.
2. The Presidency of the General Assembly will be held by a member from the state which at that time holds the Presidency of the European Union. If the Presidency of the Union is held by a State which is not represented in the EJTN, then the Presidency of the General Assembly will be retained by the member from the State which previously held it.
3. The date on which the General Assembly shall be convened will be such as to enable the Secretary General to comply with the requirements of Belgian Law as to the filing of the Network's accounts with the relevant Belgian authorities.
4. The General Assembly will comprise representatives of each member of the Network. It will meet regularly at least once in each calendar year and shall be convened by the President at the venue indicated in the convening document.
5. The Secretary General, on behalf of the President, shall notify the members, the associate members and observers of the Network of the date on which the General Assembly is to be convened at least one month before the first day of the General Assembly. The convening documents shall include the draft agenda which shall be determined by the Steering Committee
6. The General Assembly has the power to amend the Articles of Association as well as to deliberate on the transformation, the restructuring or the dissolution of the association. It will adopt Rules of Procedure for all bodies of the Network.
7. The General Assembly has the power to determine the general policy and activities of the EJTN. It elects the members of the Steering Committee from the members of the EJTN. It also elects the Secretary General in accordance with the provisions of these Articles of Association.

8. The General Assembly may set up Committees and Working Groups charged with consideration of specific programmes or questions of organisation and will determine membership of these. For the avoidance of doubt, the Secretary General, may engage such professional or technical expertise as may be necessary. Working Groups may set up sub-groups and/or ad hoc groups to assist in their work. In consultation with the Secretary General, and within the resources available, these groups may also engage such professional or technical expertise as they deem necessary.
9. The Secretary General, the Steering Committee, ad hoc Committees and Working Groups will report to the General Assembly.
10. The General Assembly shall approve the budget and the accounts.

Article 11 – Quorum and Voting in the General Assembly

1. The General Assembly is quorate if half of the members are attending in person or online.
2. Each Member State represented in the EJTN will have six votes to be allocated as they see fit.
3. Institutions responsible for judicial training at European level will have three votes.
4. The General Assembly shall act on the basis of a simple majority of the votes cast, with the exception of changes to these Articles of Association; adoption and amendment of the Rules of Procedure; voting on the level of membership fees ; adoption and amendment of internal regulations; the exclusion of a member or associate member of the Association in accordance with Article 6(4)), voting on the application of the waiver clause, and the dissolution of the EJTN, which must be approved by at least three quarters of the votes cast and the voting on membership which requires unanimity.
5. Members can be represented at the General Assembly through a proxy delivered to another member or to the Secretary General. A member or the Secretary General cannot execute more than 5 proxies. However, if the proxy is for the execution of a decision of the General Assembly before a Notary, such limitation for the Secretary General does not apply.
6. Decisions can be taken by any means that allow members to communicate with each other (telephone- or video- conference). Decisions come into force on the date of the conference call or videoconference and are deemed to have been taken at the seat of the association. Members may also, by unanimity, take in writing, all decisions which fall within the powers of the General Assembly with the exception, however, of decisions which require an amendment to the Articles of Association, and, more generally,

decisions which are adopted in authenticated form, before a notary.

7. Meeting reports, minutes and decisions of the General Assembly will be communicated in writing to all members of the Network by the Secretary General no later than one month following the date on which the General Assembly terminates.
8. Decisions and the minutes adopted by the General Assembly shall be recorded in a register signed by the Secretary General and lodged with his/her secretariat. The Secretary General shall make them available to members on request.

Article 12 – Steering Committee

1. The Steering Committee is the administrative body of the Association in accordance with article 2:10, 7° of the Code of Companies and Associations. It shall consist of a minimum of five members and a maximum of nine members.
2. The Steering Committee will assist and advise the President and supervise the Secretary General. It may make proposals and take initiatives which may be necessary between meetings of the General Assembly and which shall then be referred to it.
3. Members from the country of origin of the Secretary General shall not be members of the Steering Committee.
4. The General Assembly shall elect the members of the Steering Committee to serve for a term of office of three (3) years starting from the date on which the new Secretary General enters into duties, unless the commencement date or termination of such term is agreed otherwise by the General Assembly.
5. At the first meeting of the Steering Committee following entry into effect of this clause or at the first meeting of a new Steering Committee, the members shall elect one of its members to serve as Chair of the Steering Committee throughout the period of during which it holds office.

Article 13 – Convening of the Steering Committee

1. The Committee shall meet at the request of one or more members of the Committee or at the request of the Secretary General and be convened by the secretariat.
2. The meeting shall be convened by any suitable means of communication.
3. The Committee is not quorate unless half of its members are attending in person or online.

Article 14 – Voting in the Steering Committee

1. Decisions of the Steering Committee require the votes of a majority of the members attending in person or online in order to pass or to refuse a proposal. In case of equality of vote relating to a decision on the policy of the association as provided under Rule 11, (f) of the Rules of Procedure, the Chair has a casting vote.
2. Decisions can also be taken in writing or by any means that allow members of the Steering Committee to communicate with each other (eg telephone or video-conference). Decisions come into force on the date of the written resolution (or at the date of the conference call or videoconference) and are deemed to have been taken at the seat of the association.
3. Decisions of the Steering Committee shall be recorded in a register signed by a member of the Steering Committee and stored within the secretariat. The Secretary General shall make them available to members of the Association on request.

Article 15 – Secretary General

1. The Secretary General to serve at the conclusion of the term of office of the incumbent Secretary General shall be elected by the General Assembly which is held closest to, and prior to, the expiration of the incumbent's term of office.
2. Unless the General Assembly determines otherwise, the term of office of the Secretary General shall be three years starting from the first of January of the year following his/her election. If a Secretary General leaves office before his/her term of office has expired, the successor shall be elected at the next possible General Assembly.
3. A Secretary General is eligible for a second term of office, whether immediate or otherwise, but for no further term. A Secretary General who is elected to succeed the incumbent shall be a citizen of a different Member State of the European Union and from a different member of the Network.
4. The Secretary General shall be a person with professional experience as a judge or prosecutor belonging to the judiciary from a Member State of the European Union represented in the Network.
5. Major tasks and responsibilities of the Secretary General comprise:
 - To support the Steering committee with a view of ensuring the proper management of the Network and its finances;
 - Initiating, with the other bodies of the Network, co-ordinating and monitoring the

activities of the Network;

- Identifying the need for political or strategic action and proposing policy initiatives to the Steering Committee and the General Assembly;
- Liaising with the European Commission, the Council of Europe and other organisations and bodies;
- Ensuring the external representation of the Network;
- Where appropriate, ensuring compatibility between the programme of activities of the EJTN and the priorities set by the European Union;
- Attending meetings of the organs and Committees of the Network as appropriate;
- Disseminating information about, and the conclusions, of projects undertaken by one or more members of the Network;
- Acting as head of the secretariat, which he/she shall organise (including the power to delegate) in such manner as he/she sees fit, subject always to these Articles of association and the Rules of Procedure.

6. Any official documents committing the Network shall be signed by the Secretary General who is not required to justify this vis-à-vis third parties. In pursuing or defending legal actions, the Secretary General will act on behalf of the Network.
7. In the event that the Secretary General becomes incapable of acting for a period of time which, in the opinion of the majority of the Steering Committee, is detrimental to the best interests of the Network, the Assistant Secretary General or, if no such office has been created, the Chair of the Steering Committee shall undertake such functions of the Secretary General as might be necessary to ensure the continuing viability of the Network until such time as the Secretary General is able to resume his/her duties.
8. In the event that the Steering Committee determine by a majority that the Secretary General has become permanently incapable of acting in his/her official capacity on behalf of the Network, the Assistant Secretary General or, if no such office has been created, the Chairman of the Steering Committee shall convene a General Assembly on behalf of the President to elect a new Secretary General for a full term of office.
9. The Steering Committee may, in the case of grave faults and on the basis of a majority of at least three quarters of the votes of all members of the Committee, suspend the Secretary General during his/her tenure. Following such suspension:
 - I. the Assistant Secretary General or, if such a post has not been created, the chair of the Steering Committee for the time being, shall undertake such of the

functions of the Secretary General as may be necessary to ensure that the business of the Network continues to be carried out as far as possible;

- II. the Steering Committee shall present a motion to the next General Assembly that the Secretary General should be discharged and give reasons in writing why such discharge is recommended. A vote of at least three quarters of the entire membership of the Network is required to carry a motion for the discharge of the incumbent Secretary General;
- III. In the event that the General Assembly discharges the Secretary General from so acting they will immediately elect a new Secretary General for a full term of office.

10. For the avoidance of doubt:

- a. The Steering Committee are at liberty extraordinary to call an General Assembly for the purposes referred to in paragraph 9 (ii) above;
- b. If a Secretary General is elected to take office before the end of the mandate of the incumbent Steering Committee, the mandate of any member of the Steering Committee from the same country as Secretary the General new will cease on the same day when the new Secretary General takes office. In this case the General Assembly may elect another member to the Steering Committee to serve for the remainder of the mandate.

Article 16 – Assistant Secretary General

- 1. Upon a proposal by the Steering Committee or one fifth of the members, the General Assembly may decide to create the position of an Assistant Secretary General.
- 2. The Assistant Secretary General shall be a person with professional experience as judge or prosecutor belonging to the judiciary of a Member State of the European Union represented in the Network. He will be elected by the General Assembly for a term of three years or such other period as the General Assembly might determine.
- 3. The Assistant Secretary General will act under the authority of the Secretary General. He has authority to represent the Network externally in respect of day-to-day business.
- 4. The tasks and responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary General shall be set out in detail in the Rules of Procedure.

Article 17 – Secretariat

- 1. The Network shall have a permanent secretariat functioning administrative unit. as a an administrative unit.

2. The secretariat shall act under the authority and at the direction of the Secretary General.

IV. Budgets and accounts

Article 18 – Annual Budget and Administration of the Accounts

1. The financial year shall start on 1 January and conclude on 31 December.
2. Funding received from the European Union, or given by the members of the Network for the purposes of financing its structures and administration, is to be administered by the Secretary General who will be accountable for its expenditure to the General Assembly.
3. Contributions (in kind and in money) for specific and defined projects and activities will be fixed by individual agreement between participants in the project. All such agreements shall be brought to the knowledge of all Members.
4. The Secretary General prepares the draft of the budget and the draft of the annual accounts of the association relating to the preceding financial year for examination by the Steering committee.
5. The Steering committee submits to the approval of the General Assembly, the budget and annual accounts which the Steering committee has approved upfront.

V. Observers

Article 19 : observers

1. The institutions of the European Union and the Council of Europe are entitled to attend meetings of the General Assembly and the Working Groups of the Network as observers. To be admitted as observer the conditions laid down in Article 6 (2) are applicable.
2. National institutions mainly in charge of the training of professional judges and/or prosecutors as well as court staff in countries negotiating their membership in the European Union are entitled to be admitted as observers under the conditions laid down in Article 6 (1) and (2) or Article 7 (1).
3. National institutions mainly in charge of the training of professional judges and/or prosecutors as well as court staff in countries belonging to the Council of Europe may be admitted as observers under the conditions laid down in Article 6 (1) and (2) or Article 7 (1).
4. Observers are entitled to attend the meetings of the General Assembly and the working groups of the network without having the right to vote. They are not entitled to any

financial assistance to facilitate their attendance. Observers from countries for which EJTN funding is accessible have the same rights and duties as formulated in Article 7 and Article 8.

5. The provisions of Article 6, para 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9 also apply to the observers. In the event of suspension, the observer shall not be entitled to attend any further meetings of the Network.

VI. General matters

Article 20 – Modification of the Articles of Association and Dissolution

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of the Code on companies and associations, any proposal which aims to modify the articles of Association or will lead to the dissolution of the Association must emanate from the Steering Committee or at least one fifth of members.
2. The Steering Committee must inform members of the Association of the formulation of any proposal of the above nature no later than a date three months before the commencement date of the General Assembly which shall deliberate such a proposal
3. No decision about a proposal which falls within Article 20(1) above is valid unless it is approved by a majority of three quarters of the votes cast in the General Assembly.
4. If three quarters of the members of the Association are not attending in person or online at a meeting of the General Assembly which has to decide whether or not to approve a proposal falling within Article 6(4) or 20(1), a further meeting of the General Assembly shall be convened at which the vote of three quarters of the members actually are attending in person or online shall be required to approve the proposal regardless of whether or not the said Assembly is quorate under Article 11(1) of these Articles.
5. Modifications to the Articles of Association related to the particulars referred to in article 2:10, § 2, 3°, 6°, 8° and 9° of the Code of companies shall be made by authentic deed. The modifications to the aim of the association shall not become effective until approval by the competent authority.
6. In case of liquidation, net assets after liquidation shall be allocated to one or several non-profit organisations that should have a not for profit aim similar to the aim of the Association, determined by the General Assembly, with the majority stipulated in this Article.

Article 21 – Other Applicable Rules

Any matter not covered by these articles of Association and particularly the formalities relating to publication shall be regulated by the Rules of Procedure and the internal regulations adopted by the General Assembly, or in accordance with the provisions of the Belgian Code of companies and associations.

The internal regulations in force at the date of these articles of association is dated of 11 June 2025 .

Article 22 – Language regime

1. The official language of the association is French.
2. The working languages of the EJTN are English and French. Any official Association documents shall be drawn up in either of these languages

Article 23 – Interpretation

Save where the context otherwise implies or expressly allows, the word “month” shall be taken as a reference to a calendar month.

Article 24– Waiver clause

In the event of special circumstances it is possible to request a permanent or temporary waiver of certain conditions and obligations outlined in the Articles of Association. The request will be directed to the Steering committee, which will then make a recommendation to the General Assembly for a decision on the request.

The waiver clause is not applicable to the unanimity rule in Article 6.

Done at Gdansk, 12 June 2025