



## CONSTITUTION

As Approved by the General Meeting on 28 June 2009

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### 1. Nature

- 1.1 The organisation called "The Young European Movement" (YEM) or "JEF UK" is an unincorporated association consisting of such persons as may declare support for its objects, have been admitted to membership according to the procedures set out in this Constitution, and subscribe to the funds of the organisation.
- 1.2 The Young European Movement acts as the youth section of the European Movement in the United Kingdom. It is the UK section of JEF-Europe ("Jeunes Européens Fédéralistes" in French, "Young European Federalists" in English, "Junge Europäische Föderalisten" in German).
- 1.3 The Young European Movement may cooperate in the attainment of its objects with that Company limited by guarantee known as European Movement of the United Kingdom Ltd. (company number 551817), or with any other company recognised by the European Movement UK as advancing the objects of this constitution (and the expression "the Company" is used in this constitution to describe any company referred to in this paragraph).

#### 2. Objectives

The objects of The Young European Movement shall be:

- 2.1 To advocate European integration in the UK.
- 2.2 To advocate reforms which would make the EU more integrated efficient and democratic, and more committed to exercise its weight and influence to the benefit of the wider world.
- 2.3 To work for the creation of Pan-European federation, the first step towards peace and world federalism, and for a freer, more democratic and more just society;
- 2.4 To present a platform on which young people can engage with European issues, further awareness of such issues, and participate in the democratic development of the United Kingdom and other European states.

### **3. Activities**

The Young European Movement may do all such things as may reasonably advance the objects including, but not limited to:

3.1 Informing public opinion about Europe and the European Union and developing, publicising and carrying out policies and proposals for the promotion, advancement and maintenance of understanding, cohesion, co-operation and unity amongst the countries and peoples of Europe and between them and the rest of the world;

3.1.1 Publication of newsletters and other forms of periodicals or magazines;

3.2 Discussing European integration and related issues with key political players from universities, governmental and non-governmental organisations and thus encourage a widening and deepening of European integration;

3.3 Promoting European integration to young people from across Europe and in the United Kingdom;

3.4 Working for a common European identity which respects national and regional diversity;

3.5 Campaigning with the young people of the United Kingdom for the European Union in the UK and the rest of Europe;

3.5.1 Organising meetings and demonstrations aimed at spreading the ideals of the Young European Movement;

3.6 Supporting and maintaining a network of affiliated branches throughout the United Kingdom, all as more specifically hereinafter provided for;

3.7 Maintaining links with appropriate organisations with particular reference to the Young European Federalists;

3.8 Undertaking such educational and social activities as may advance its objects;

3.9 Ensuring the long-term sustainability of a pro-European organisation for young people in the United Kingdom which works as a platform for young people and young professionals with discussions and dialogue.

### **4. Powers**

4.1 In furtherance of its objects and its activities, the Young European Movement shall have power to acquire, deal with in any manner and dispose of property whether real or personal, heritable or moveable and to incur liabilities, all as it thinks fit, and that by any of the following means:

a) it may do so on its own account and through agents on its behalf, to the extent permitted by law;

b) it may do so through the medium of the Company or other person as Trustee or Trustees;

c) it may do so by entering into contractual or other arrangements with the Company

whereby the Young European Movement is given the use of property belonging to the Company and that on such terms as may be agreed between the Company and the Movement;

d) it may enter into contractual or other arrangements with the Company whereby the Movement engages the Company as principal to carry out any objects or activities of the Movement and to enter into contacts and incur liabilities in connection therewith;

e) and the Young European Movement shall have power to transfer or cause to be transferred to the Company as principal any property of which the Young European Movement may be owner or beneficial owner or in respect of which the Young European Movement is entitled to a conveyance, and that by way of gift, or at such consideration as may be agreed between the Young European Movement and the Company;

4.2 In exercising these powers, the Young European Movement may:

a) raise money by subscriptions, donations, and in any other lawful manner;

b) enter into any contracts insofar as it may consider it necessary or convenient to do so for the promotion of its objects;

c) do all such other things as in the opinion of the Young European Movement are necessary or desirable for, or conducive to, the achievement of any of its objects.

## **5. Membership**

5.1 Membership of the Young European Movement shall be open to all persons aged 35 years and younger who declare their support for its objects;

5.2 Applications from persons to join the Young European Movement may be referred by any officer or Member of the Young European Movement to the National Board, who may reject such application without any explanation being given;

5.3 The Federal Committee may from time to time make such rules for such classes of membership, including student, university, unwaged, affiliate and associate membership, the mode of approval of such Members and all other things touching thereon as the Federal Committee may judge expedient, providing, however that nothing in such rules shall derogate from or be in conflict with this Constitution;

5.4 All non-YEM JEF-Europe members who currently reside in the United Kingdom should enjoy the same rights as Young European Movement Members without having to pay a membership fee to the Young European Movement;

5.4.1 Any non-YEM JEF-Europe member may only be entitled to free reciprocal membership for a maximum period of 12 continuous months in any 3 year period;

5.4.2 All European fee-paying members of the Young European Movement are also members of JEF-Europe;

5.5 There shall be maintained a central list of all Members (of whatever class) of the Movement;

5.6 The Federal Committee shall determine annually subscription rates for all classes of Members, to be payable in Pounds Sterling or Euro;

5.7 All Members of whatever class shall have the right to receive calling notices for general meetings, to submit motions, and to participate in its deliberations;

5.7.1 Only individual Members in good standing shall be eligible to stand for election and vote at general meetings;

5.8 Membership of the Young European Movement shall be deemed to have lapsed 90 days after a written reminder that a membership subscription is overdue for payment has been sent to the Member in question.

5.8.1 Upon the expiry of said period of 90 days, if the subscription remains unpaid, the Member shall cease to be a Member and to enjoy the rights of membership attaching to the class of which he is a Member (declaring that, for the avoidance of doubt, until the expiry of the said period without payment of arrears, the Member shall continue to enjoy the full rights attaching to membership of that class);

5.9 The Federal Committee may make such Rules as it may consider appropriate to discipline, or suspend or expel Members who, in the judgement of the Federal Committee have acted or are acting inconsistently with the constitution and any standing orders of the Young European Movement, who break its rules, or who publish any statement or who are guilty of any conduct which is detrimental to its standing or reputation.

## **6. Structure**

6.1 For the attainment of the foregoing objectives the functions of the Young European Movement shall be carried out by and through the following bodies and committees:

- a) Members (General Meeting);
- b) Federal Committee (The Committee);
- c) National Board (The Board);
- d) Local and University Sections;

6.2 The Young European Movement is independent from all political parties and pursues its objectives autonomously or in connection with affiliated organisations;

6.3 The Young European Movement shall be affiliated with the European Movement UK;

6.3.1 To maintain affiliated with the Young European Movement the European Movement UK shall:

- a) have a constitution having objects similar to and compatible with the objects of the Young European Movement;
- b) have a democratic constitution with at least bi-annual elections to a committee with at least a Chair, and a Secretary and Treasurer with all Members being eligible to vote;
- c) demonstrate and continue to demonstrate a commitment to an annual level of activity;
- d) maintain such minimum membership as the Federal Committee may require.

6.3.2 The recognition or withdrawal of recognition of the European Movement UK as an affiliate shall be by decision of the Federal Committee;

6.3.3 All members of the European Movement UK under the age of 35 will also be deemed to be Members of the Young European Movement.

6.4 The Young European Movement shall be the official British Branch of JEF-Europe;

6.4.1 To maintain affiliated with the Young European Movement JEF-Europe shall:

- a) have a constitution having objects similar to and compatible with the objects of the Young European Movement;
- b) have a democratic constitution with at least bi-annual elections to a committee with at least a Chair, and a Secretary and Treasurer with all members being eligible to vote;
- c) demonstrate and continue to demonstrate a commitment to an annual level of activity;
- d) maintain such minimum membership as the Federal Committee may require.

6.4.2 The recognition or withdrawal of recognition of JEF-Europe as an affiliate shall be by decision of the Federal Committee;

6.4.3 Representation of the Young European Movement in all JEF-Europe organs is the task of the National Board;

## **7. General Meetings of Members**

7.1 The Members of the Young European Movement acting in General Meeting shall be the sovereign body of the Young European Movement and determine the policies of the organisation and, so far as not otherwise provided for in this constitution or delegated by them to the Federal Committee, shall take charge of the conduct of the Young European Movement's affairs;

7.2 The Members of the Young European Movement, when acting at the General Meeting, may resolve to rescind or invalidate any decision adopted by the National Board or Federal Committee so long as no liability or obligation has been created towards a third party;

7.3 All individual Members shall be entitled to participate in General Meetings;

7.4 The National Board shall convene an Annual General Meeting at least once in each calendar year, such Annual General Meeting to be held no more than 13 calendar months after the previous General Meeting;

7.4.1 If the National Board fails to send a call for a General Meeting within 12 calendar months of the previous congress, the Federal Committee shall be charged of the question and must call a new congress within 5 weeks;

7.5 The business to be discussed at the Annual General Meeting shall include:

- a) Presentation of the Federal Committee's Annual Report on Activities;
- b) Consideration and approval, if thought fit, of the Annual Accounts of the Movement;
- c) The Election of the National Board;
- d) The election of directly-elected Members of the Federal Committee;
- e) Any resolutions and amendments to resolutions proposed;
- f) Any amendments proposed to the Young European Movement's Constitution.]

7.6 The National Board may, and upon such a request as is referred to in 7.7 shall, convene a Special General Meeting for the purpose of considering such matters as may

be specified in the calling notice, and any other matters as may competently be discussed;

7.7 No fewer than 20 individual Members or 15% of the total membership (whichever is the lower) may by written request addressed to the President, failing whom the General Secretary, of the Young European Movement require the National Board to convene a Special General Meeting;

7.7.1 The request shall contain notice of the business sought to be discussed. The National Executive shall be bound to convene the Special General Meeting so as to be held within 70 days of the date of receipt of the request;

7.8 Save as otherwise provided in 7.11, Members shall be sent Notice of General Meetings ("calling notice") at least 28 days before the scheduled meeting. The calling notice shall specify:

- a) details of the time and location of the meeting;
- b) draft agenda (which, in the case of Special General Meetings requested in terms of 7.7, shall include the business specified in the request);
- c) an explanation of how to submit motions for consideration by the meeting.

7.9 A Motion for consideration by the meeting may be submitted to the Secretary at least 7 days before the meeting by an individual Member as proposer together with at least one seconder; or by an individual section, or by a Regional Council, or an affiliated group, which motions so submitted shall not require a seconder.

7.10 Members shall be sent Notice of the full agenda ("final Agenda Notice") including all submitted motions at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

7.11 In relation to any Special General Meeting convened under 7.6 or 7.7 where the National Executive judges there to be special urgency, such meeting shall be convened by calling notice sent not less than 7 days prior to the meeting, which notice shall specify:

- a) details of the time and location of the meeting;
- b) the agenda (which, in the case of Special General Meetings requested in terms of 7.6, shall include the business specified in the request);
- c) an explanation that motions for consideration by the meeting may be submitted and be dealt with as emergency motions specified under 7.17;

7.12 Both the calling notice and the final agenda notice shall be sent to Members at their respective last known postal or e-mail address;

7.12.1 That any person entitled to attend the General Meeting, through mistake, inadvertence or any other accidental cause or any cause outwith the control of the Movement or its officers, committees or bodies, may not have received the calling notice and final agenda notice or either of them shall not invalidate the meeting nor any business conducted thereat;

7.13 A General Meeting shall be chaired by the President, failing whom by a Member nominated by the National Board, failing whom a Member elected by the meeting;

7.13.1 The person chairing the meeting shall have a deliberative and a casting vote;

7.14 The quorum of the meeting shall be two individual Members representing at least 15% of the entire membership;

7.15 Save as otherwise specified herein, voting shall be by a simple majority of those present and voting on a show of hands, or if requested a secret ballot;

7.16 Members may vote either in person or via proxy with written authorisation explicitly stating how the proxy shall vote;

7.16.1 A proxy need not be a Member of the Young European Movement;

7.17 Emergency motions may be accepted at any time in the sole discretion of the chair of the meeting provided that the same shall have been submitted in writing and s/he judges that there exist special circumstances which precluded their prior submission under 7.10;

7.18 Amendments to motions may be accepted by the chair of the meeting at any time prior to a vote on the motion if they are, in the view of the chair, relevant to the subject matter of the original motion and are not contradictory to its original intent;

7.19 There may from time to time be adopted such standing orders for the conduct of General Meetings as may be approved by the Members in General Meeting, provided only that no provision of the standing orders shall conflict with any provision of this constitution.

7.20 The following Procedural Motions may be moved at any time but shall have priority in the following order:

PM1 to remove the present Chair;

PM2 to overturn the Chair's ruling;

PM3 to adjourn the General Meeting for a specified period of time;

PM4 to alter the agenda in a specific way to allow consideration of an issue;

PM5 to refer the matter under consideration to a specified body or person for further consideration;

PM6 that the matter under consideration be deferred to later in the meeting or to a later General Meeting, as specified;

PM7 to issue a specific instruction to the Chair, such instruction shall not contradict the Rules of procedure;

PM8 that the General Meeting shall vote on the resolution, amendment, or part as it now stands;

PM9 to take the resolution or amendments in parts, as specified;

PM10 to allow a non-Member of YEM to speak;

PM11 that the resolution or amendment be withdrawn.

a) PM1 and PM2 need to be carried by a two-thirds majority.

b) All other procedural motions need to be carried by a simple majority.

## **8. The Federal Committee (The Committee)**

8.1 Between General Meetings, the policy and decision-making body of the European Movement shall be the Federal Committee;

8.2 The functions of the Federal Committee shall include the following:

- a) to ensure the implementation of the decisions and policies of the membership as adopted by General Meetings;
- b) to formulate and adopt policy between General Meetings and to be responsible for such policy decisions to the Members in General Meeting;
- c) to adopt the Annual Budget and Forward Plan;
- d) to appoint prominent supporters as patrons of the Young European Movement;
- e) to adopt the Annual Report on Activities for submission to the Annual General Meeting;
- f) to adopt the Annual Accounts of the Movement for submission to the Annual General Meeting;
- g) to discipline, suspend and expel Members;
- h) to maintain links with the Young European Federalists;

8.3 The following shall be the voting members of the Federal Committee:

- a) the President of the Young European Movement;
- b) the Vice-President of the Young European Movement;
- c) the Treasurer;
- d) the Secretary General;
- e) the International Officer;
- f) one delegate from each recognised local branch or recognised university society;
- g) up to eight Members elected directly by the membership according to the procedures hereinafter set out;

8.4 The Federal Committee may from time to time invite other persons to participate in such meetings or parts of meetings of the Federal Committee as it may in its discretion determine, under declaration that no such invited person shall be entitled to vote at said meeting.

8.4.1 The Federal Committee should keep the European Movement informed about upcoming meetings should they wish to attend as observers;

8.5 The Federal Committee shall meet on at least two occasions in each calendar year and must hold a meeting within six months of a General Meeting;

8.5.1 Meetings of the Federal Committee may be called:

- a) by resolution of the Federal Committee, upon such date as the Federal Committee may determine;
- b) by the President of the Young European Movement upon such date as s/he may determine;
- c) upon a written request by at least eight voting members of the Federal Committee addressed to the President, failing whom the Secretary. The Secretary shall call the meeting to take place within at least 21 days of the receipt of the request;

8.6 There shall be sent a Notice calling a meeting of the Federal Committee ("calling notice") at least 7 days before the date of the meeting. The calling notice shall include:

- a) details of the time and location of the meeting;
- b) an agenda together with (so far as reasonably practicable) the draft minutes of the previous meeting and any papers, reports and other documents to be discussed at the meeting

8.7 The calling notice shall be sent to each member at his nominated e-mail address, failing which, his postal address;

8.7.1 That any person entitled to attend the meeting, through mistake, inadvertence or any other accidental cause or any cause outwith the control of the Young European Movement or its officers, committees or bodies may not have received the calling notice shall not invalidate the meeting nor any business conducted thereat;

8.8 The Federal Committee shall be free to elect a chair and a vice-chair among its members;

8.8.1 The chair of the meeting shall have a deliberative and a casting vote;

8.9 The quorum shall be 50% of all voting members;

8.10 Voting shall be by a simple majority of those members who are present and voting;

8.11 Meetings may be held in either in person or through a conference-call via telephone or internet link;

8.12 The Board shall report on the advancement of its annual action plan at every Federal Committee and the Treasurer shall also present the financial situation of the organisation;

8.13 The Federal Committee shall deal with the following business:

- a) Approval of minutes, activity report of the Board and financial report;
- b) Approval of any co-opted member of the Board;
- c) Revocation of the official YEM status of sections that have been suspended by the Board;
- d) Approval of official status for new local, university, or regional sections;
- e) Vote on other motions submitted to the Federal Committee, including any motions of impeachment of members of the National Board;

8.14 The Federal Committee may establish such subcommittees or working groups as it feels necessary to fulfil its responsibilities, (provided however that at least one of the members of such subcommittees or working groups shall be a member of the Federal Committee), and shall appoint the chairmen of such subcommittees or working groups;

8.15 The Federal Committee may from time to time adopt such standing orders for the conduct of its meetings and those of its subcommittees and working groups as it may consider expedient, provided only that no provision of such standing orders shall conflict with any provision of this constitution.

## **9. The National Board (The Board)**

9.1 The National Board is responsible for implementing the aims of the organisation, and shall present its projects for the year according to an annual work plan agreed by the Board at least 8 weeks after a General Meeting and such a plan shall be communicated to the Federal Committee;

9.2 Meetings of the National Board shall be responsible for determining the direction of the Young European Movement between Federal Committees and shall have the binding power to resolve any conflicts of priorities that may arise between different parts of the Young European Movement, unless and until a Federal Committee Meeting should discuss the matter and decide otherwise;

9.3 The National Board shall be responsible for the drawing up of a draft Annual Report on Activities for the consideration of the Federal Committee under paragraph 8.2(e);

9.4 The National Board shall, through the Treasurer, be responsible for the financial administration of the Young European Movement and prepare the draft Annual Accounts for consideration by the Federal Committee under paragraph 8.2 (f);

9.5 All members of the National Board shall be Members of the Young European Movement;

9.6 The voting members of the National Board shall be:

- a) the President of the Young European Movement;
- b) the Vice-President of the Young European Movement;
- c) the Treasurer;
- d) the Secretary General;
- e) up to five other officers;

9.6.1 The outgoing National Board shall recommend on the presumptive portfolios of the five officers to be elected and the incoming National Board shall be free to change or reallocate them.

9.6.2 The National Board may amend the portfolios of the officers on the National Board, but cannot amend the positions of Secretary General, Treasurer, Vice-President or President without the approval of the Members at a General Meeting;

9.7 The National Board shall be elected annually by the Membership at an Annual General Meeting by simple majority;

9.7.1 The members of the National Board shall take office immediately at the end of the General Meeting where they are elected;

9.8 The Vice-President does not have a portfolio but may be assigned one by the National Board;

9.8.1 The role of the Vice-President is to support the general work of the National Board;

9.9 The National Board shall meet on at least six occasions in each calendar year with at least two weeks between meetings, save for emergency meetings;

9.9.1 Meetings of the National Board may be called:

- a) by resolution of the National Board, upon such date as the National Board may determine;
- b) by the President of the European Movement upon such date as he may determine;
- c) upon a written request by at least four members of the National Board addressed to the President, failing whom to the General Secretary. The General Secretary shall call the meeting to take place within at least 21 days of the receipt of the request;

9.10 There shall be sent to all members of the National Board a Notice calling a meeting of the

National Board ("calling notice") at least 7 days before the date of the meeting. The calling notice shall include:  
a) details of the time and location of the meeting;  
b) an agenda together with (so far as reasonably practicable) the draft Minutes of the previous meeting and any papers, reports and other documents to be discussed at the meeting;

9.11 Additionally, there shall be sent at least 7 days before the date of the meeting to all members of the Federal Committee a copy of the calling notice including the agenda for the meeting, and, as soon as reasonably practicable after the meeting, a copy of any Minutes which may have been approved at the meeting;

9.12 The calling notice shall be sent to each person entitled to receive it at his nominated e-mail address, failing which, his postal address;

9.13 That any person entitled to attend the meeting, through mistake, inadvertence or any other accidental cause or any cause outwith the control of the Young European Movement or its officers, committees or bodies may not have received the calling notice shall not invalidate the meeting nor any business conducted thereat;

9.14 The National Board will be chaired by the President of the Young European Movement, failing whom the Vice-President, failing whom by a member elected by the meeting;

9.14.1 The chair of the meeting shall have a deliberative and a casting vote;

9.15 The quorum shall be four voting members;

9.16 Voting shall be by a simple majority of those members who are present and voting, with each voting member entitled to a single vote, save as provided for in paragraph 9.14.1.;

9.16.1 In the event of an individual holding more than one position on the National Board they will only be entitled to cast a single vote and receive no additional vote, save as provided for in paragraph 9.14.1;

9.17 The National Board may from time to time adopt such standing orders for the conduct of its meetings as it may consider expedient, provided only that no provision of such standing orders shall conflict with any provision of this constitution;

9.18 A member of the National Board holds office until their term expires or in the event of the passing a motion to remove them from office passed by two thirds of those present and voting at a General Meeting or three quarters of those present and voting at a Federal Committee;

9.19 No member may hold more than one position on the National Board, with the exception of the Vice-President;

9.20 In the event of a casual vacancy of an Officer position, the National Board may co-opt from the membership, to be approved by the membership at the next Federal Committee;

9.21 In the event of a casual vacancy in the position of President, the Vice-President shall accede to the position of President (pro tempore) and immediately call a General Meeting;

9.21.1 At the subsequent General Meeting a new President shall be elected to the National Board;

9.22 In the event of a casual vacancy in the positions of either the Vice-President or the General Secretary the President shall immediately call a meeting of the Federal Committee where a replacement will be approved;

9.23 Meetings of the National Board shall be open to all Members, except that the Board may, by a majority vote, close such parts of the meeting as they see fit;

9.24 Members of the National Board should attend all official meetings where possible. They should participate fully in the work of the National Board, carrying out their responsibilities and duties. The National Board has the power to suspend a member of the National Board for the following reasons:

- a) Failure to give apologies for absence for official meetings more than once i.e. meetings of the National Board or General Meetings;
- b) Failure to attend more than two *consecutive* meetings or more than three meetings in the space of six months;
- c) Failure to engage with the work of the National Board, and failing to carry out portfolio duties and responsibilities appropriately and efficiently;
- d) Failure to comply and adhere to this Constitution;

9.24.1 Any Board Member who the National Board has decided to suspend shall have their case put to the Federal Committee, which will have the final decision in the matter, including re-instatement, sanction, dismissal or expulsion;

9.24.2 The Board Member in question, if holding a position on the Federal Committee, will not be entitled to vote;

9.24.3 The Board Member, if he does not hold a position on the Federal Committee, is entitled to attend and speak at the meeting in his own defence;

9.25 The National Board may appoint project managers, acting under the authority of the National Board, to undertake specific work in line with the aims of the Young European Movement and the annual action plan.

## **10. Local and University Branches**

10.1 There may be branches of the Young European Movement, which shall be such bodies (whether or not incorporated) as shall have been recognised as affiliated branches by the Young European Movement according to the following procedure:

- 10.2 To be and to remain eligible for recognition, branches shall:
- a) have a constitution (written or unwritten) having objects similar to and compatible with the objects of the Young European Movement;
  - b) accept the principles, the constitution and positions of the Young European Movement and JEF-Europe, and may additionally adopt internal statutes;
  - c) have a democratic constitution with annual elections to a committee with at least a Chair, and a Secretary and Treasurer with all members of the branch being eligible to vote;

- d) have reached agreement with the Federal Committee as to the name of the branch and the geographical area to be covered by it;
- e) have a bank account in the name of the branch and have agreed to submit (and have submitted) to the Treasurer of the Young European Movement an annual account of the branch's financial transactions;
- f) demonstrate and continue to demonstrate a commitment to an annual level of activity;
- g) maintain a minimum membership of three members, and to submit to the General Secretary of the Movement a list of current members when required to do so;
- h) submit a report on activities every six months, failure to do so for two consecutive terms and its status of an official YEM local branch shall be suspended by a vote of the National Board;

10.2.1 If the local branch is a university the report on activities in paragraph 10.2(h) may be submitted at the close of each academic term;

10.2.2 Should a local or university section fail to attend two consecutive meetings where their representation is needed without an apology and without setting a proxy vote, its status as an official YEM local or university section shall be suspended by a vote of the National Board;

10.3 The final recognition and withdrawal of recognition of a branch shall be by decision of the Federal Committee;

10.4 Those bodies wishing to affiliate as branches shall inform the Secretary General of their wish to affiliate, and shall furnish such information as may be required to demonstrate the matters referred to in paragraph 10.2. The Secretary General, in consultation with the elected representative for the region concerned, shall make a recommendation to the next meeting of the Federal Committee concerning the application;

10.5 The branch shall notify to the Secretary General of the Young European Movement any change in its constitution, and shall, when required to do so, furnish to the Secretary General such information as the Secretary General may reasonably require to demonstrate the continued eligibility for affiliation of the branch;

10.6 The elected regional branch representative shall be responsible for supporting existing branches, developing new branches, and co-ordinating grassroots activity within the region;

10.7 The Federal Committee may make rules for the formation and running of Regional Councils by branches or members of the Movement. Such rules shall conform to the following minimum requirements:

- a) that Regional Councils shall have as their sole purpose the coordination of local and/or university within their geographical boundaries;
- b) that each Regional Council shall include at least two branches of the Young European Movement within the geographical area, including university branches;
- c) the constitution of each Regional Council shall be subject to approval by the Federal Committee;

10.7.1 Regional Councils may be recognised on an interim basis by the National Board pending a meeting of the Federal Committee;

10.7.2 Regional Councils shall have no representation in national organisations of the Young European Movement, although chairs of the Regional Councils may attend Federal Committee meetings as observers.

## **11. Communications**

All communication with the Membership shall be via email, and only failing that via post. Only in cases where Members do not own an email account will communication be exclusively via post.

## **12. Elections for the Federal Committee**

12.1 The elections for the up to eight additional ordinary members to be elected to the Federal Committee will be conducted at the Annual General Meeting.

- a) Members shall be sent a written call for nominations at least 45 days before the Annual General Meeting at which the result is to be declared, said written call to be sent with the calling notice for the meeting;
- b) Nominations shall be sent so as to be received by the Returning Officer by 12 noon on the day 21 days before the meeting;
- c) Members shall be sent candidate details and ballot papers at least 14 days before the meeting, said papers to be sent with the agenda for the meeting.

12.2 The Federal Committee shall appoint a Returning Officer to oversee the elections process for officers, the Federal Committee and the National Board, who shall be empowered to rule on the validity of nominations, to exclude any candidate whose conduct in the elections is inconsistent with any standing orders adopted, and to officiate at the count.

12.2.1 The Returning Officer may not be a candidate in the elections, nor may they propose or second a nomination for any candidate.

12.3 All elections shall be by secret ballot, except where by virtue of votes via proxy with the written permission of the voter.

12.4 Candidates shall have the right to be present, or nominate a representative to be present, at the count.

12.5 The decisions of the Returning Officer with regard to the conduct of the election may be referred to the Federal Committee, only in the event of a two-thirds majority vote of those present at a General Meeting.

## **13. Elections for the European Movement UK National Council**

13.1 Elections will be held annually, on a rotating basis, for one of the two Young European Movement members sitting on the European Movement UK National Council.

13.1.1 Elections for these positions will be on the basis of a simple majority and no existing post will prevent a Member from sitting on the National Council;

13.1.2 If no candidate is put forward then this position will be taken up by the President of the Young European Movement, failing that the Vice-President, failing that a person appointed by the National Board;

13.2 Elections will take place at the Annual General Meeting;

13.3 The voting shall be by simple majority on a show of hands, or if requested by any Member through a secret ballot, except where by virtue of votes via proxy with the written permission of the voter;

13.3.1 The proxy voter need not be a Member of the Young European Movement;

13.4 In the event of a casual vacancy in either position, a replacement shall be appointed by the Federal Committee and submitted to the Members for approval at the next General Meeting.

## **14. Elections for the National Board**

14.1 All elections for the National Board shall take place at a General Meeting;

14.2 The voting shall be by secret ballot, except where by virtue of votes via proxy with the written permission of the voter;

14.3 Where positions for any Member of the National Board are uncontested due to lack of candidates, the sole candidate must receive 50% +1 of the votes in order to be returned;

14.4 A Calling Notice for nominations shall be sent to the membership at least 28 days before the Annual General Meeting;

14.5 The deadline for receipt of nominations shall be set out in the call for nominations, but in no circumstances be more than two days before the General Meeting;

14.6 The Federal Committee shall appoint a Returning Officer to oversee the elections process for officers, the Federal Committee and the National Board, who shall be empowered to rule on the validity of nominations, to exclude any candidate whose conduct in the elections is inconsistent with any standing orders adopted, and to officiate at the count;

14.6.1 The Returning Officer may not be a candidate in the elections, nor may they propose or second a nomination for any candidate;

14.7 The decisions of the Returning Officer with regard to the conduct of the election may be referred to the Federal Committee, only in the event of a two-thirds majority vote of those present at a General Meeting;

14.8 Candidates shall have the right to be present, or nominate a representative to be present, at the count.

## **15. Finances**

15.1 The Treasurer shall cause there to be kept and maintained full books of account and shall

cause there to be presented to the National Board and to the Federal Committee such periodic management accounts as those bodies may require;

15.1.1 Additionally the Treasurer shall cause there to be presented to the Annual General Meeting annual accounts of the transactions of the Young European Movement with its funds, all as more particularly provided for elsewhere in this constitution;

15.2 The Federal Committee shall make such rules for the financial management of the Movement as shall ensure compliance with paragraph 15.1 and shall also facilitate good and efficient financial administration of the Young European Movement;

15.3 Subject to the continued affiliation in paragraph 6.4 the Treasurer shall pay JEF-Europe membership fees each year by January 31, when required;

15.3.1 JEF-Europe fees shall reflect the number of Members of the Young European Movement;

15.4 The membership fee to join the Young European Movement shall be divided between a national membership fee and a European fee to be paid in the Young European Movement bank account or to local or university sections' bank accounts;

15.4.1 The European membership fee is decided by the Congress of JEF – Europe in Euro;

15.4.2 Members of university society sections are dispensed of paying the national membership fee and instead university society sections should put in place a system to allow their members to be members of JEF-Europe and participate in its activities;

15.4.3 The European fee shall be collected by the university society section and transferred to the YEM bank account;

15.5 An arrangement shall be negotiated by the National Board with the European Movement for EM members under 35 to pay a fee to YEM, not to be lower than the European fee.

## **16. JEF-Europe**

16.1 The Young European Movement shall play a full part in the political agenda of JEF-Europe, participating fully in all events and activities, where possible;

16.2 The National Board shall send at least 1 officer to the JEF Federal Committee and Congress;

16.3 The representative of the Young European Movement shall vote at the JEF Federal Committee and Congress based on the common positions agreed on at the National Board meetings, in line with the policies and motions passed by the Congress and Federal Committee;

16.3.1 The Young European Movement representative shall vote according to his/her conscience in cases not covered by existing policies and resolutions.

## **17. Amendments to the Constitution**

17.1 This Constitution may be amended by a motion (or any amendment thereof) carried by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting at a General Meeting, provided however that a minimum of 28 days' notice of such motion shall have been given in writing to Members;

17.2 That any person entitled to attend the meeting, through mistake, inadvertence or any other accidental cause or any cause outwith the control of the Young European Movement or its officers, committees or bodies may not have received notice of the motion shall not invalidate the proceedings following upon the notice of the Motion.

## **18. Interpretation of the Statutes**

18.1 At any meeting of the Young European Movement, the Chair shall uphold and interpret the Statutes;

18.2 The interpretation of the statutes by the chair may be overturned by two-thirds of those present at the meeting in which the dispute arises.

## **19. Arbitration Proceedings**

19.1 Notwithstanding any other provision of the Constitution, any Member may appeal to the Federal Committee, which shall arbitrate on all disputes arising within the statutes;

19.1.2 A sub-committee shall present its opinion to the entire Federal Committee on the matter;

19.2 The Arbitration Sub-Committee shall be elected by the Federal Committee and be composed of:

- a) two ordinary Members of the Young European Movement;
- b) a member from the Regional Councils;
- c) a member from the Local Sections;
- d) a former member of the National Board who has not served on the National Board for at least a year;
- e) a member of the National Board;
- f) a member of the National Executive of the European Movement UK;
- g) a member of the European Bureau of JEF-Europe (if the matter concerns a JEF-Europe related dispute);

19.2.1 No Member may sit on the Arbitration Sub-Committee if they are themselves a party to the dispute;

19.3 Arbitration proceedings of the Federal Committee shall be conducted in private with only the parties at issue in attendance;

19.3.1 A Member before the Federal Committee for disciplinary procedures may waive their right to privacy;

19.4 Any Member of the Arbitration Sub-Committee shall deliver no dissenting opinion in public;

19.5 All the decisions of the Federal Committee in arbitration proceedings are final and shall be reached by simple majority.

## **20. Dissolution**

20.1 The Young European Movement may be dissolved by means of a motion to that effect carried by a three-fourths majority of the Members present and voting at a General Meeting, provided however that a minimum of 56 days' notice of such motion shall have been given to Members in writing advising them of the proposal of dissolution;

20.2 In the event that such a resolution for the winding-up of the Young European Movement is passed, the Treasurer or such other person or persons as the General Meeting may appoint shall proceed to wind up its affairs and, for that purpose shall be deemed to be granted all powers as may be necessary and shall pay over any remaining balance to such other body as may be specified in the Resolution; provided, however, that in no circumstances shall any of the surplus assets be returned to the Members as individuals;

20.3 The Treasurer and Secretary General shall report to the membership within one year of the decision being taken to inform them that the winding-up is complete or if any outstanding matters remain.