



## **The DEMYC Constitution** **Approved by the 22nd DEMYC Congress** **Athens, Greece, 3-6 April 2008**

### **Article 1. Name**

The name of the organisation shall be „Democrat Youth Community of Europe“, hereinafter referred to as “DEMYC”.

### **Article 2. Aims and objectives**

The aim of DEMYC is to be a network of centre-right non governmental youth organisations in Europe. The objectives of DEMYC shall be as follows:

- a) To promote the role of democracy, freedom and human rights in Europe and worldwide through its international partners.
- b) To promote the role of young people in politics.
- c) To stress the importance of centre-right ideas and human dignity.
- d) To support European cooperation, integration and enlargement.
- e) To exchange experience and information.
- f) To provide a platform for training and campaigning.

And

g) To support the continuous development of a broad European network of young politicians of the centre right.

### **Article 3. Membership**

Any national youth organisation which declares its support of the aims and objectives as stated and signs the political platform of the DEMYC shall be eligible for membership of DEMYC.

There shall be the following categories of membership:

- Full membership shall be open to any national youth organisation and any regional youth organisation declaring its support for the aims and objectives, signing the political platform and paying the annual membership fee. (For the purpose of this rule all full members under the old constitution shall be considered full members under the new constitution).
- Observer membership shall be open to any national youth organisation and any regional organisation which declares its support of the aims and objectives of DEMYC and which wishes to be associated with the work of DEMYC (For the purpose of this rule all associate and observer members under the old constitution shall be considered observer members under the new constitution).

At least two-third of present full member organisations must vote for any successful application of full, or observer membership. Admission may be granted at any meeting of the Executive Committee but must be ratified by the next meeting of the Congress.

Requests for membership shall be submitted to the Chairman in writing. They shall comprise a statement on the adoption of the Constitution and by-laws of DEMYC, in addition to a copy of the by-laws of the applicant organization and information on its constitution and its background.

Applications for full, or observer membership must be sent at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which an application is to be considered. The DEMYC office is responsible for distributing applications to the DEMYC bureau and the DEMYC member organisations.

The DEMYC Bureau must convene and give a recommendation on the application for full or observer membership at least one week before the meeting at which the application is to be considered.

In order to become a full member, an organisation must be first approved as an observer member for at least 6 months. In special cases the DEMYC Executive committee can decide special agreements for acceptance as a member or observer of DEMYC. In these cases the decision has to be decided unanimously.

Admission to any individual or organisation to observe and attend a DEMYC Congress, DEMYC Executive Committee Meetings or DEMYC seminars may be granted by the DEMYC Bureau or DEMYC Executive Committee Meeting.

Any Member Organization may resign from DEMYC at any time. The Member Organization gives notice to the Bureau of the decision to resign by registered letter. Member Organizations that resign are obliged to fulfill their financial obligations toward DEMYC for the year during which the resignation is submitted and for all previous years.

The suspension and the exclusion of a member may only be decided by the Executive Committee. The decision must be reached by a two third majority and the agenda containing this issue must be announced to member organizations at least ten days prior to the meeting. The final decision must be taken by the Congress

#### **Article 4. Membership fees.**

All full, and observer members shall pay a membership fee on a scale to be decided by the Executive Committee upon prior recommendation of the Bureau. There shall be a basic sum per vote plus an amount for each organisation in the Congress member or group of members which shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee and adjusted at meeting of the Congress. All fees shall become due in the first month of each financial year. Failure by a full or observer member to pay a membership fee before the 15th of February shall automatically result in a suspension of voting right for that organisation. After the membership fee has been paid the voting right will automatically be reinstated.

Furthermore any person elected to a position within DEMYC will not be reimbursed any cost if his/her organisation hasn't paid the membership fee within the above deadline of the 15th of February.

## **Article 5. Committees**

### **A) Congress**

The supreme body of DEMYC is the Congress which shall meet every two years in the period from March to May.

The Congress shall:

- a) elect the members of the Bureau;
- b) receive the report of the work of DEMYC;
- c) approve the audited accounts of DEMYC;
- d) ratify membership acceptance and policy platforms;
- e) decide upon amendments to the constitution.

The representation to the Congress shall be:

1. Two representatives for each full independent member organisation. If there are more than one organisation from a country then each organisation will be entitled to have one representative.
2. One additional representative for complete 50.000 members in the organisation or more than 25% of votes in the previous parliamentary elections of the organisations' mother party. This rule applies only for independent, from the senior party, youth organisations. The maximum of votes a country shall be represented at the DEMYC Congress is three votes. In case of two organisations from the same country the larger organisation should hold the third vote.

Each participant is entitled to carry only one vote. The maximum of representatives to the Congress for each full member organisation shall be three. The minimum of representatives to the Congress for each full member organisation shall be one.

### **B) Executive Committee**

There shall be an Executive Committee which shall be the governing body of DEMYC and shall control the funds of DEMYC. The meetings are chaired by the Chairman, or, on his absence, by the vice-chairman who has received the most votes at the last Congress.

The Executive Committee shall meet not less than twice in any financial year and shall delegate its functions to the Bureau between its meetings.

The Executive Committee shall:

- a) approve and direct the policy of DEMYC;
- b) approve the workplan of DEMYC on the first Executive Committee meeting after the Congress;
- c) approve and direct the financial control of DEMYC;
- d) appoint representatives to other bodies;
- e) approve resolutions.

The representation to the Executive Committee shall be:

- the members of the Bureau;
- the financial auditors;
- one representative from each full member;

- one representative from each observer member;
- the European office bearers of the International Young Democrat Union(IYDU).

A simple majority of present full member organizations is required for any decision to be taken or resolution to be approved by the Executive Committee unless otherwise stated in the constitution.

A tentative agenda for the Executive Committee meeting shall be sent to the international secretaries of all Member Organizations at least ten days prior to such meeting.

The Bureau is responsible for drawing up the minutes of the meetings. All members shall receive copies of these minutes within four weeks of each Executive Committee meeting.

No votes (except elections for the replacement of a Bureau Member) shall be taken by secret ballot in any Executive Committee meeting.

The Financial Auditors are members of the Executive Committee, without voting-right and have to be informed prior to any larger economic decision made by the Bureau. The Financial auditors are prior to the congress to audit the DEMYC accounts. Financial auditors cannot come from the same organisations as any Bureau member.

### C) Bureau

Members of the Bureau shall be:

- the Chairman, elected by the Congress for a term of two years. He/she shall serve for not more than two terms in that function;
- the Secretary General, elected by the Congress for a term of two years. He/she shall serve for not more than two terms in that function;
- the Deputy Secretary General, elected by the Congress for a term of two years. He/she shall serve for not more than two terms in that function;
- maximum 6 Vice-Chairmen, elected by the Congress for a term of two years. They shall serve for not more than two terms in that function.

The ranking of the vice-chairmen – in absence of the chairman - is their number of votes at the last DEMYC Congress. The Congress must decide on the number of Vice-chairmen before beginning the election process of the Vice-chairmen.

All candidates must be nominated by their respective national organizations, four weeks prior to the date of the Congress.

Candidates for any position of the Bureau must obtain an absolute majority of the valid votes cast in order to be elected. Abstentions are not considered valid votes.

The Bureau shall have the responsibility over the general management of DEMYC, subject to direction from the Executive Committee.

Once elected, the Bureau shall cease to be representatives of their national organisations. The Members of the Bureau must come from different countries and must represent the major

languages and geographical regions. One organisation is not able to have more than one representative elected to the bureau or as financial auditor.

The Bureau must at their first meeting make their bylaws for the term and these bylaws must be presented to the DEMYC Executive Committee on the first meeting after the Congress.

The bureau is allowed to vote on proposals by email. The procedure of such decisions is decided by the bureau.

Membership of the Bureau is strictly personal. A representative of a member of the Bureau can not be admitted to meetings.

The mandate of the members of the Bureau will automatically expire if, during the course of the year, a member has not participated in at least half of the meetings.

The members of the Bureau may resign at any time, by giving notice to the Chairman of the decision to resign by registered letter.

The mandate of the Bureau Members is at any time revocable and they can be removed from office by the Executive Committee, based on a serious reason. At least two-third of present full member organizations must vote for any successful disqualification of a Bureau Member.

In the event of the death, resignation or disqualification of any officer of the DEMYC Bureau, such vacancy can be filled by the Executive Committee and in the same manner as provided therein for the election of such officer in the Congress.

The age limit of DEMYC Bureau members is 35 years.

The Bureau shall meet at least 4 times per year.

## **Article 6. Voting**

Congress:

all Bureau members and representatives of full and observer members shall have a vote except in the election of Bureau members when only representatives of full members shall vote.

Executive Committee:

all Bureau members and representatives of full members shall have a vote.

The Chairman shall have a second or casting vote which may only be exercised when all other votes have produced a tie.

## **Article 7. The DEMYC alumni club – „The MacGregor-Club“.**

The MacGregor-Club is a network of former DEMYC activists and officers.

The DEMYC Congress shall elect the Honorary Chairman of the MacGregor-Club.

The MacGregor-Club must have one event per year, which the Honorary Chairman and the DEMYC Bureau are responsible for.

**Article 8. Interpretation, commissions and alterations.**

The Executive Committee shall have power to interpret this constitution and to deal with any matter not provided in this constitution. Alterations may only be made at meetings of the Congress provided proper notice in writing has been given to all participating organisations. Two thirds of those organisations present and voting at a Congress meeting must vote for any amendment in order for this constitution to be altered.