



MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION OFFICE
FOR ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**STATUTES OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE
ENVIRONMENT ENTITLED**

***“MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENT,
CULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”
MIO-ECSDE***

Whereas a period of successful operation of twelve years has elapsed during which MIO-ECSDE has acted as an effective federation of Mediterranean NGOs working in the areas of the protection of the Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development with active participation of more than 80 Members.

The initial Founders, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Belgium and the “Elliniki Etairia” (Hellenic Society for the Protection of the Environment and the Cultural Heritage – and since 2008 Hellenic Society for Environment and Culture), Greece, joined by the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), as well as the NGOs represented in the Executive Bureau of the organization (see attached list at the end) agree and confirm the Statutes of the organization as an International Federation of Environmental, Cultural and Developmental Organisations, in the form of an independent legal entity, a civil, non-profit society for the Protection of the Environment and Culture and the promotion of Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region according to the article 741 *et seq.*, of the Greek Civil Code, subject also to the requirements and publicity provisions of Article 784 of the Greek Civil Code in conformance with Article 107 of the Greek Civil Code and Article 12 of the Greek Constitution, under the name “Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development”, in abbreviation “MIO-ECSDE”.

This Organization is the continuation and absorbs the pre-existing civil society with the same name as adopted with the statutes of 1993 (No 19511) and amended in 2000 (No 12958) incorporated as amended herewith.

Whereas the Mediterranean Sea and its Basin is an environmentally crucial region requiring urgent protection, a fact recognized by the reviewed Barcelona Convention (1975 and 1995), the setting up of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development and a series of declarations and resolutions,

Whereas the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation as defined in conclusion of the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean conference of November 1995 will lead to new policies in the field of security, free trade zone, both having a major environmental component,

Whereas the role of the protection of the natural environment is directly related to the strengthening of the Cultural Heritage and the Sustainable Development of the region as it was recognized also at the Rio UNCED in 1992 and Mediterranean Agenda 21 of 1994,

Whereas for the implementation of the aforementioned, the role of non-governmental organizations is of decisive importance for the active participation of the citizens,

Whereas the contracting parties wish and could contribute, in an essential way, to the implementation of the aforementioned,

Whereas a pilot period has already successfully elapsed during which the MIO-ECSDE/EEB was operational as a “project” under the supervision of the Elliniki Etairia and the co-ordination of Prof. M. J. Scoullou, and was followed by a period of 2 years concluded by an assessment of the services MIO-ECSDE is and should be offering and because the amendments to the Statutes of 2000 do not cover all of the needs that arise from the expansion of the activities of the members and the staff,

The terms and conditions of this establishment as adopted in 1993 and amended in 2000 and as complemented by the Internal Rules and Regulations of MIO-ECSDE, are as follows:

ARTICLE 1: THE NAME

The name of the Organisation is: “Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development” (MIO-ECSDE).

ARTICLE 2: THE MEMBERS

The full Members are the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), the Hellenic Society for Environment and Culture, the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) and NGOs working on goals compatible with those of MIO-ECSDE at the Mediterranean (including Jordan and Portugal) and/or at National level provided that they accept the Statutes and the Internal Rules and Regulations and on the condition that they are not part or branches of political parties, religious organizations or profit-making enterprises.

Corresponding members can be: NGOs from non-Mediterranean countries, other organizations, institutes from Mediterranean countries, local groups, etc.

Applications for full and corresponding members are submitted according to the criteria described in the Internal Rules and Regulations of MIO-ECSDE.

Full and corresponding members are accepted by decision of the two-thirds of the MIO-ECSDE Executive Bureau and approved by the MIO-ECSDE Forum (Annual General Meeting).

ARTICLE 3: THE SEAT

The seat of the Organisation will be Athens (12 Kyrristou str. 10556) while other offices, branches, etc. in Greece or other countries can be established and operate in order to effectively promote its objectives.

ARTICLE 4: OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

MIO-ECSDE is a technical and political instrument facilitating the intervention of NGOs in the Mediterranean scene, in narrow co-operation with all socio-economic actors in the region and related international and national organizations and authorities willing to play an active role in favour of the environment, culture and sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region.

The objective of the Organization is:

- to contribute directly and indirectly to the protection of the environment, aquatic (including marine), terrestrial and atmospheric, of the Mediterranean Region, including wild flora and fauna, biotopes, forests, coasts, as well as the conservation, restoration and promotion of the cultural elements of cities, archaeological and traditional settlements and monuments and in general, the cultural heritage of the populations bordering the Mediterranean, aiming at the promotion of the sustainable development of the area under the conditions of Peace. In this sense it may also assist or facilitate the functioning of thematic or other networks or initiatives with relevant objectives.

The specific goals of the Society are:

- to promote the co-operation, understanding and collaboration of the Mediterranean peoples, especially between the NGOs of the European Union, the Mediterranean Countries of Europe, those of Africa and Asia, for the protection of the Natural and Cultural heritage of the Mediterranean, and its sustainable development,
- to assist with all available means (political, financial, etc.) the establishment, operation, strengthening, co-operation and co-ordination of the efforts and activities of environmental, cultural and development organizations in the Mediterranean,
- to promote the co-operation on issues of environment and sustainable development between Mediterranean NGOs and/or Governments, National Parliaments, International Organisations and productive sectors active or having interest in the Mediterranean Area,
- to promote research, study and education on Mediterranean issues, as well as the collaborations between NGOs and Scientific and Academic Institutions aiming at the deeper comprehension of the natural and man-made Mediterranean environment and also the expansion of high quality environmental education and education for sustainable development, environmental awareness and sensitization of Mediterranean public opinion, including Public Authorities,
- to draft, carry out and/or support programmes, projects and studies in Greece and abroad, and undertake all the necessary actions for their implementation as well as for the dissemination of their results through publications, public presentations, memoranda, etc., on the entire spectrum of issues mentioned above,
- to facilitate (through capacity building, funding, etc.) a decentralized cooperation amongst NGOs, thematic networks and topic centres located in the Mediterranean region and which are in charge of specific themes of its competence.

ARTICLE 5: DURATION

The duration of the Organisation will be unlimited.

ARTICLE 6: FUNDS

The Organisation is an international, public interest, non-profit organization, and therefore there is no distribution of profits, capital, shares or interest to its members.

The funds of the Organisation can only be used for the accomplishment of the objective and goals and of the Organisation.

The endowment of the Society will be constituted by the capital contribution of the Founding and other members, other support from physical or legal entities private or public, from assistance by States, the European Union, the United Nations or other International Organisations or any other fund that accrue to the organization from other sources within and outside Greece. The Organisation can receive funds from services rendered in the fields of its expertise and from the sales of its publications and other products in order to finance its operation and activities.

In order to effectively implement its programme, the Organisation can transfer funds to collaborating members, experts and providers in Greece and abroad.

The Founding Members, EEB and Elliniki Etairia had initially subscribed 125,000 (one hundred and twenty five thousand) DR or 500 (five hundred) ECU, thus constituting an initial capital of 250,000 (two hundred and fifty thousand) DR or 1000 (one thousand) ECU to begin operations.

The liability for each Founding Member is limited to the amount of their initial subscription.

The annual fees of the Members are defined according to a two-third decision of the Executive Bureau approved by the AGM.

ARTICLE 7: THE ORGANS

The organs of the Organisation are the following:

- the Executive Bureau
- the Chair and the Co-Chair
- the MIO-ECSDE Annual General Meeting which is also called "Forum"
- the Mediterranean Advisory Council (if and when it becomes functional)

The everyday work of the Organisation is facilitated by the Secretariat acting under the guidance of the Executive Bureau and supervised by the Chairperson, assisted by the Co-Chairperson.

ARTICLE 8: THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU, THE CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR

The Members of the Executive Bureau are elected by the MIO-ECSDE Forum amongst its full members for a term of two years according to the following composition:

- (a) one (1) member from NGOs of each of the E.U. Mediterranean Member States (including Portugal)
- (b) an equal to (a) number of member NGOs from non E.U. Mediterranean States (including Jordan)
- (c) up to three (3) members representing international environmental, cultural and/or development NGOs active in the Mediterranean
- (d) one (1) member from the European Environmental Bureau and one Member from Elliniki Etairia as initial founding members
- (e) One (1) member from RAED as cofounder

A representative of the Mediterranean Advisory Council (if it exists) could participate as Observer.

The General Assembly elects one Chairperson and one co-Chairperson among the Members of the Executive Bureau, securing the regional balance

The Executive-Bureau should meet at least once a year on invitation by the Chair. It has quorum if one-half (1/2) of its members are present or properly represented with a proxy by another member of the Executive Bureau. The results of its meetings are communicated to all its members.

The Executive Bureau has the authority to make decisions on each issue of policy of the organization or operation, governing and management of the Organisation.

The Executive Bureau establishes or abolishes *ad hoc* committees, confirms financial expenditures and approves the annual budget.

The Executive Bureau meets extraordinarily upon invitation by the Chairperson or at the written request of the two thirds (2/3) of its Members.

A quorum at the Executive Bureau meetings is designated as one half of the members, present or represented, plus one. Binding notifications or apologies to the meetings must be reported to the Chairperson at least 10 (ten) days previous to the fixed date of the meeting. If a quorum is not established, a new meeting must take place within 15 (fifteen) days with the same terms. If again a quorum is not established, a new meeting should take place within 15 (fifteen) days, where a quorum is designated as half (1/2) of the members present or represented irrespective of overall number.

Decisions at the Executive Bureau meeting require a majority of votes of Members of the Executive Bureau present or represented.

At every meeting Minutes are kept and signed by the Chairperson and are circulated within 45 (forty five) days of the meeting. The Minutes are ratified at the next meeting of the Executive Bureau.

Decisions could be taken between meetings with the agreement of the majority of the Executive Bureau, through consultation by exchange of views using written or electronic means or teleconferencing and other means that are decided by the Executive Bureau.

The Chairperson, binds the Organisation with his/her signature under the Organisation's name. He/She co-ordinates the activities of the Organisation according to the decisions of the Executive Bureau. He/She represents the Organisation in front of Public and other Authorities, the Court and in all other transactions.

The term of the Chairperson and Co-Chairperson is one (1) year and there is no limit on new mandates thereafter.

The Executive Bureau or the Chairperson could designate specific roles or tasks to particular members of the Executive Bureau (e.g. the role of Treasurer) and/or to members of the staff of the Secretariat in the case of e.g. submission, signing and/or supervision of specific projects and contracts.

ARTICLE 9: THE MEDITERRANEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL (MAC)

The Mediterranean Advisory Council consists of representatives of donors (Governments, public and private entities), International Organisations (European Union, European Parliament, UNEP/MAP, CIESM, etc.), and personalities from the entire Mediterranean region, civil society, scientific, business, and political space. The members are nominated by the Executive Bureau and the Mediterranean Advisory Council itself and are confirmed by the Executive Bureau for a period of 3 (three) years with no restriction for re-nomination.

The Council meets at least once every second year and, provided the members have been notified 12 (twelve) weeks in advance, it has a quorum irrespective of the number of the represented members. Consultations could be made through mail, fax, e-mail, etc.

The Mediterranean Advisory Council debates on general environmental issues, such as ethics, responsibilities, security, civil society rights, etc. in the Mediterranean, and addresses its recommendations to the Executive Bureau. It may propose and indicate directions for new MIO-ECSDE activities.

The Members of the Council elect their Chairperson. The Council decides about its representation in the Executive Bureau where he/she can participate as observer with the right to speak.

The Advisory Council could propose to the Executive Bureau persons who merit an honorary title or office. Personalities invited to participate are not remunerated but also are not obliged to contribute financially to its work.

The functioning of the MAC is not a prerequisite for the smooth operation of MIO-ECSDE and its operation will be decided by the Executive Bureau when conditions are favorable.

ARTICLE 10: THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (THE MIO-ECSDE FORUM)

Full and Corresponding Members compose the MIO-ECSDE Forum. Full members that have paid their due fees only have voting right.

The Chairperson and Co-Chairperson are responsible for the call for the Annual General Meeting (AGM). This shall happen with 6 (six) weeks notice in advance, which may be effected by post, fax or e-mail and shall include an agenda with the following items with a written annotation to each item:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the previous Meeting
2. Matters arising
3. Report from the Chairperson
4. Presentation of Accounts
5. Budget
6. Discussion of the Activities
7. Future activities
8. Elections (if appropriate)
9. Approval of New Members (if appropriate)
10. Approval of revision of annual fees of members (if appropriate)
11. Any other business.

MIO-ECSDE facilitates to the extent feasible the participation in the AGM and other meetings of the NGO Members of the MIO-ECSDE Forum and informs them regularly through a Newsletter.

ARTICLE 11: DISSOLUTION

In the case where the Organization becomes inactive or does not any longer serve the aims and goals described in Article 4, the Executive Bureau or the AGM may request the dissolution of the Organisation. Such a decision should be unanimous.

In the event of the dissolution of the Organisation there is no distribution of profit, capital, shares or interest to its members. The two initial Founding Members could only request the return of their contribution to the initial capital without interest.

The remaining capital funds and all assets of the Organisation are to be transferred to another suitable non-profit legal entity by unanimous decision of the members, without right to sell it or change the use of it.

ARTICLE 12: ACCOUNTS

The financial accounts and the books of the Society will be kept on an annual basis. The financial period terminates on 31 December of each year. An external independent auditor, appointed by the Executive Bureau, will supervise the Society's financial situation and its Books and will audit the Annual Budget and Accounts.

ARTICLE 13: CHANGE OF THE STATUTES

The AGM (the MIO-ECSDE Forum) with a simple majority or the Executive Bureau unanimously could decide on possible changes in its Statutes, including a change to another non-profit legal entity. In such an event, the property of the Society, as well as the programme of its activities, are transferred to the new legal entity.

ARTICLE 14: ARBITRATION

Any dispute that may occur between members of MIO-ECSDE and the Organisation due to the application and the interpretation of the Statutes will be resolved according to the provisions of the Greek Civil Code Procedure on Arbitration (Articles 867-903)

The present document has been approved and signed by the Members of the Executive Bureau:

Chairman : Prof. Michael J. Scoullos (Greece)

Co-Chairman : Dr. E. Adly (Egypt)

Members (in alphabetical order):

Mr. Z. Alawneh

Jordan

Mr. M. Alves

Πορτογαλία

Prof. G. Arapis

Hellenic Society

Mr. V. Attard

Malta (represented by the Chairman)

Mr. RN Bendaoud

Algeria

Ms P. Bonelli

Italy

Mr. G. Cingal

EEB (represented by Mr. G. Arapis)

Mr. M. Ermis	Turkey (represented by P. Askogan)	
Prof. M. Ftouhi	Moroco	
Mr. J-V Geronimi	Franch	
Mr. M. Ghandour	Lebanon	
Koç. A. Juarez	Spain (represented by Mr. E. Bone)	
Prof. Y. Nouri	Tunisia	
Mr. A. Rabi	Palaistine	
Ms A. Theodosiou	Cyprus (represented by Ph. Ioylianou)	
Mr. M. Vogrin	Slovenia	