

CCBE Statutes

As revised at the CCBE Plenary Session on 13 May 2022

I. Name

An international non-profit making association is hereby formed, to be named "COUNCIL OF BARS AND LAW SOCIETIES OF EUROPE" (CCBE), and in the languages of the states of its members as follows:

Full members	
Austria	Rat der Europäischen Anwaltschaften
Belgium	Conseil des barreaux européens Raad van Europese balies Rat der Europäischen Anwaltschaften
Bulgaria	Съвет на адвокатурите и правните общества в Европа
Croatia	Vijeće odvjetničkih komora Europe
Cyprus	Συμβούλιο των Δικηγορικών Συλλόγων της Ευρώπης
Czech Republic	Rada evropských advokátních komor
Denmark	Sammenslutningen af advokatråd i Europa
Estonia	Euroopa Advokaatuuride ja Õigusliitude Nõukogu
Finland	Euroopan asianajajaliittojen neuvosto
France	Conseil des barreaux européens
Germany	Rat der Europäischen Anwaltschaften
Greece	Συμβούλιο των Δικηγορικών Συλλόγων της Ευρώπης
Hungary	Az Európai Ügyvédi Kamarák Tanácsa
Iceland	Ráð Lögmannafélaga í Evrópu
Ireland	Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe
Italy	Consiglio degli Ordini Forensi Europei
Latvia	Eiropas advokātu kolēģiju un juristu biedrību padome
Liechtenstein	Rat der europäischen Anwaltschaften
Lithuania	Europos advokatūry ir teisininkų draugijų taryba
Luxembourg	Conseil des barreaux européens
Malta	Kunsill tal-Ghaqdiet Ewropej ta' L-Avukati
The Netherlands	Raad van Europese balies
Norway	Organisasjonen for europeiske advokatforeninger
Poland	Rada Adwokatur i Stowarzyszeń Prawniczych Europy
Portugal	Conselho das Ordens de Advogados da Europa
Romania	Consiliul barourilor europene

Slovak Republic	Rada advokátskych komôr Európy
Slovenia	Svet evropskih odvetniških zbornic
Spain	Consejo de la Abogacía Europea
Sweden	Rådet för de europeiska advokatsamfunden
Switzerland	Conseil des barreaux européens Rat der europäischen Anwaltschaften Consiglio degli Ordini Forensi Europei
Affiliate members	
United Kingdom	Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe
Associate members	
Albania	Këshillit të Bareve dhe Shoqatave Ligjore të Europës
Montenegro	Savjeta advokatskih komora i pravnih udruženja Evrope
North Macedonia	Совет на комори и адвокатски организации од Европа
Serbia	Saveta advokatskih komora i pravnih udruženja Evrope
Turkey	Avrupa Barolar Konseyi ve Hukuk Cemiyetleri
Observer members	
Andorra	Consell dels Col·legis d'Advocats d'Europa
Armenia	Եվրոպայի Փաստաբանների և Իրավաբանների Միությունների Խորհուրդ
Azerbaijan	Avropa Vəkillər Kollegiyaları və Hüquq Cəmiyyətləri Şurası
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Vijeće Advokatskih komora i Advokatskih društava Evrope Савјет адвокатских комора и правних удружења Европе Savjet odvjetničkih komora zemalja Europske unije
Georgia	ევროპის ადვოკატთა ასოციაციებისა და სამართლის საზოგადოებების საბჭო
Moldova	Consiliul barourilor europene
Russia	Совет адвокатских палат и юридических обществ Европы
San Marino	Consiglio degli Ordini Forensi Europei
Ukraine	Рада адвокатських та правничих товариств Європи

The French version of the statutes shall be the prevailing one.

II. Seat

The seat is located in the Brussels-Capital Region. The Standing Committee may transfer the seat at any time to any other place in the Brussels-Capital Region. Notification of that decision must be published in the "Moniteur belge".

III. Objects and activities

a) Objects

The CCBE is an international non-profit making association and its objects are:

1. To represent the member Bars and Law Societies, whether full, affiliate, associate or observer members, on all matters of mutual interest relating to the exercise of the profession of the lawyer, the rule of law and the proper administration of justice, as well as important developments in the law and jurisprudence, both at a European and international level, and the European courts.
2. To act as a consultative and intermediary body amongst its members, whether full, affiliate, associate or observer members.
3. To act, on behalf of its full members, as a consultative and intermediary body of the institutions of the European Union and the European Economic Area on all matters of mutual interest as listed under 1. above.
4. To act as a consultative and intermediary body between its members, whether full, affiliate, associate or observer members and the Council of Europe and other international organisations on all matters of mutual interest as listed under 1. above.
5. To monitor actively the defence of the rule of law, the protection of the fundamental and human rights and freedoms, including the right of access to justice and protection of the client, and the protection of the democratic values inextricably associated with such rights.

b) Activities

The activities that the CCBE aims to pursue to realise its objects are in particular:

- the organisation of the work of the Plenary Session, the Standing Committee, the Presidency and the Finance Committee,
- the setting up of Committees and Working Groups of experts dealing with matters referred to them related to the objects and activities of the CCBE,
- the organisation, promotion and financing of conferences and training events,
- the organisation of meetings and discussion panels,
- contacts and dialogue with European and non-European Bars as well as with European and international institutions and courts,
- the setting up of databases and libraries, and conducting research,
- the publication of any written documents or communications, in particular articles, comments, analyses, position papers, press releases, statistics, proposals for legal or regulatory texts,
- external and internal communications,
- enhancing administrative cooperation between Bars and Law Societies to ensure the free exercise by lawyers of their profession,
- facilitating the Bars and Law Societies in their efforts to protect lawyers in regard to violations of their rights.

The CCBE is entitled to undertake all steps in connection directly or indirectly with its objects. Further, it is entitled, in connection directly or indirectly with its objects and in accordance with legal and

statutory provisions, to acquire or dispose of personal or real property, to conclude contracts, and accept any donations, *inter vivos* or testamentary.

In its activities and in its internal organisation, the CCBE adheres to the principles of political and economic independence, sustainable development, respect of legal traditions, and diversity and inclusion.

IV. Members

a) Full members

1. Conditions and rules of admission, exclusion and resignation

The founders of the CCBE together with the organisations which are representative of the profession of lawyer, recognised as such by the authorities of the respective Member State of the European Union or the European Economic Area or the authorities of the Swiss Confederation, which are designated to form a national delegation in accordance with its national rules and are admitted in such capacity by the Plenary Session according to Article VII b), shall be the full members.

The Plenary Session may exclude a full member in accordance with the provisions of Article VII b), after having duly invited and permitted the member to present its arguments. The exclusion will have immediate effect as from the date on which the Plenary Session has voted on the exclusion.

A full member may resign at any time, by written notification delivered to the Secretariat at the latest six months before the end of the ongoing financial year. Any resignation has effect as of the first day of the next financial year.

The full member who has resigned or has been excluded has no rights to any assets of the association, is not entitled to be reimbursed any part of the subscriptions paid and must pay the subscriptions that have been fixed for the financial year in which its resignation is tendered, or exclusion has been decided.

2. Grouping of the full members in national delegations

The full members are grouped in national delegations, each of which shall be composed of a maximum of 6 individuals. Delegations, when nominating their members, shall adhere to the principle of diversity and inclusion.

Each delegation shall nominate a Head of delegation whose nomination shall be notified in writing to the Secretary-General.

Each delegation shall also nominate an Information Officer who shall be responsible for all communications.

b) Associate and observer members

1. Associate members

The associate members are the organisations which are representative of the profession of lawyer recognised as such and designated by the competent authorities of the respective State, member of

the Council of Europe, which is in official negotiations in view of its accession to the European Union, and which have been admitted as such by the Plenary Session according to Article VII b).

The associate members may attend meetings of the Plenary Session and the Standing Committee without a right to vote and be represented by no more than two individuals.

An associate member shall nominate a person who shall be responsible for all communications.

An associate member may be excluded by the Plenary Session in accordance with the provisions of Article VII b), after being convened and permitted to present its arguments. The exclusion will have immediate effect as from the date on which the Plenary Session has voted on the exclusion.

An associate member may resign at any time by written notification delivered to the Secretariat, at the latest six months before the end of the ongoing financial year. Any resignation has effect as of the first day of the next financial year.

The associate member who has resigned or has been excluded has no rights to any assets of the association, is not entitled to be reimbursed any part of the subscriptions paid and must pay the subscriptions that have been fixed for the financial year in which its resignation is tendered, or exclusion has been decided.

2. Observer members

The observer members are the organisations which are representative of the profession of lawyer in a Member State of the Council of Europe, and which have been admitted as such by the Plenary Session according to Article VII b).

The observer members may attend meetings of the Plenary Session and the Standing Committee without a right to vote and be represented by no more than two individuals.

An observer member shall nominate a person who shall be responsible for all communications.

An observer member may be excluded by the Plenary Session in accordance with the provisions of Article VII b), after being convened and permitted to present its arguments. The exclusion will have immediate effect as from the date on which the Plenary Session has voted on the exclusion.

An observer member may resign at any time, by written notification delivered to the Secretariat at the latest six months before the end of the ongoing financial year. Any resignation has effect as of the first day of the next financial year.

The observer member who has resigned or has been excluded has no rights to any assets of the association, is not entitled to be reimbursed any part of the subscriptions paid and must pay the subscriptions that have been fixed for the financial year in which its resignation is tendered, or exclusion has been decided.

The capacity of observer member implies compliance with these statutes and the adoption of the CCBE Code of Conduct.

c) Affiliate members

Full members which no longer qualify as organisations which are representative of the profession of lawyer, recognised as such and designated to form a national delegation by the authorities of each Member State of the European Union or the European Economic Area or the authorities of the Swiss Confederation may, unless the Plenary Session decides otherwise at a meeting of the Plenary Session

following the date upon which the above criteria are no longer met, be offered either a change of membership to the proper category or a new category on terms and conditions set by the Plenary Session. The concerned member will be offered the opportunity to present its view, including on the possibility to change its membership into another category or a new category. If the member in question does not accept a change of membership, this member will automatically cease to be a member of the CCBE by the end of the year the decision is taken by the Plenary Session.

With respect to full members which are in the above situation, the Plenary Session is entitled to create the new category of affiliate members, which are entitled to attend and participate in the meetings of the Standing Committee and the Plenary Session, and will be entitled to a number of votes determined by the Plenary Session by the double qualified majority defined in Article VII b) at the time of admission of such affiliated member. The Plenary Session can define a list of decisions on which such affiliate member is not entitled to vote because of its interests which do not coincide with the interests of organisations which are representative of the profession of lawyer which are recognised by Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area.

The Plenary Session may require that affiliate members from one country are grouped in a national delegation. Such delegation shall nominate a Head of delegation whose nomination shall be notified in writing to the Secretary-General, and shall furthermore nominate an Information Officer who shall be responsible for all communications. In such event, the affiliate members of such national delegation will attend the meetings of the Plenary Session through the appointed representatives of such national delegation.

Affiliate members, when nominating the members of their delegation, shall adhere to the principle of diversity and inclusion.

In the event that the affiliate member has not been authorised by the Plenary Session to form a national delegation, it will be entitled to participate in its own name in the meetings of the Standing Committee. In the event that it forms part of a national delegation, it will be represented in the Standing Committee by the Head of its delegation, or another member of the national delegation designated by them.

In the event that the affiliate member is not part of a delegation, it will cast its votes in accordance with Article VII in its own name and, in relation to any other provision of Article VII, such affiliated member will be considered to be a delegation.

In the event that the affiliate member is not part of a delegation, the Plenary Session will decide on the amount of subscription of such affiliate member in accordance with Article V b) 5.

V. General assembly or Plenary Session

a) Composition

The general assembly, called the "Plenary Session", shall comprise the full members present at a meeting grouped as national delegations. In addition, affiliate, associate and observer members may attend through their appointed representatives.

The bureau assists the Chair in the organisation of the meeting. The bureau of the meeting of the Plenary Session is composed of the Secretary-General and/or any other person designated by the President, or, in the absence of the President, by the Vice-Presidents.

b) Powers

All the powers necessary for the implementation and performance of the objects of the association shall be vested in the Plenary Session.

The following powers are solely within the jurisdiction of the Plenary Session and may not be delegated:

1. the approval of the budget and of the accounts;
2. the modification of the statutes;
3. the dissolution of the association;
4. the annual election of the President and the Vice Presidents;
5. fixing the amount of the subscriptions of each national delegation, associate and observer member on the basis of the advice of the Finance Committee;
6. the admission and the exclusion of full, affiliate, associate or observer members, the creation, defining the rights and obligations of a membership category and a change of a membership category;
7. the adoption of internal management rules;
8. the election of the Chair and the members of the Finance Committee.

c) Meeting rules

The Plenary Session shall meet at least once a year, convened by and chaired by the President, or, in the absence of the President, of one of the Vice-Presidents, at the place indicated in the notice of the meeting which may be given by any means in conformity with Article VII f).

The Secretary-General and the associate and observer members and any other person invited by the President may attend the Plenary Sessions but may not vote.

The Standing Committee can decide, or give the power to the President, to authorise to participate electronically in meetings of the Plenary Session. Whenever travelling or meeting physically is not possible or not permitted, it may be decided to have the Plenary Session by electronic means. The electronic means used for the meeting must permit deliberation and voting on the topics on the agenda and to reply to questions of participants in real time. The notice of such meeting will indicate the electronic means which will be used to such effect. The rules of the participation by electronic means will be made available on the website of the CCBE.

d) Procedures

The quorums, the rules and conditions of voting, the necessary majorities, the notifications and all the other rules in relation to the functioning of the Plenary Session are listed in Article VII.

VI. Standing Committee

a) Composition

The association shall be administered by a Standing Committee composed of as many members as there are delegations, the President and the three Vice-Presidents. The members of the Standing Committee shall be the Heads of delegation, or another member of the national delegations designated by them.

b) Powers

The Standing Committee shall have all powers of management and administration except those reserved to the Plenary Session. The Standing Committee may delegate certain specified and limited powers to one or more persons.

c) Meeting rules

All meetings of the Standing Committee shall be convened by the President, and shall be chaired by the President, or, in the President's absence, by one of the Vice-Presidents, at the venue indicated in the notification, which may be given by any means.

The Secretary-General and any person invited by the President may attend the meetings of the Standing Committee, without the right to vote.

Meetings of the Standing Committee can be organised with electronic means, which permit deliberation and voting on the topics on the agenda and to reply to questions of participants in real time. The notice of such meeting will indicate the electronic means which will be used to such effect. The rules of the participation by electronic means will be made available on the website of the CCBE.

d) Procedures

The quorums, rules and conditions of voting, required majorities, notifications and all the other rules in relation to the functioning of the Standing Committee are listed in Article VII.

A member of the Standing Committee may, in case of absence, by email or in writing to the Secretariat prior to or during the meeting, designate another member of the Standing Committee to participate and vote on behalf of such member. A member cannot vote and represent more than one other member in a meeting.

e) Urgent decisions taken by electronic mail

Where, as a consequence of events external to the CCBE, the President considers that a decision of the Standing Committee is urgent and therefore required before the next meeting, the decision may be taken by means of electronic voting by delegations, unless any delegation objects within the timeframe set by the Secretariat. The quorums, rules and conditions of voting, required majorities, notifications and other rules listed in Article VII shall apply to decisions taken by means of electronic voting. A delegation which does not vote shall be held to have abstained but not to have objected to the decision being taken by means of electronic voting.

No decision on the purchase of real property can be put to an electronic vote.

VII. Procedural rules

a) Weighting

The present, full and affiliate members have a number of indivisible votes allocated to their delegation as follows:

Austria	06 votes
Belgium	07 votes
Bulgaria	06 votes
Croatia	05 votes
Cyprus	03 votes
Czech Republic	07 votes
Denmark	06 votes
Estonia	03 votes
Finland	05 votes
France	18 votes
Germany	18 votes
Greece	07 votes
Hungary	07 votes
Iceland	03 votes
Ireland	06 votes
Italy	18 votes
Latvia	03 votes
Liechtenstein	02 votes
Lithuania	04 votes
Luxembourg	05 votes
Malta	03 votes
Norway	06 votes
Poland	12 votes
Portugal	07 votes
Romania	10 votes
Slovak Republic	05 votes
Slovenia	03 votes
Spain	18 votes
Sweden	06 votes
Switzerland	06 votes
The Netherlands	07 votes
United Kingdom	09 votes

New full members shall be allocated a number of votes as decided by the Plenary Session when taking a decision on their membership application.

The votes of each delegation shall be cast by the Head of delegation, or by the duly appointed representative of the Head of delegation.

b) Voting rules according to subject matter

The following decisions shall be adopted by double qualified majority, as defined hereafter, either by the Plenary Session or the Standing Committee, in accordance with their respective powers: a)

decisions setting policy frameworks and strategies, b) the suspension of a delegation's votes, c) the modification of the statutes, d) the admission or the exclusion of members, e) the dissolution of the CCBE, f) the election of the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Chair of the Finance Committee, g) the adoption of the budget, the fixing of the subscription for each member, and h) the approval of the accounts on the basis of the advice of the Finance Committee.

If there are two candidates or more for the election of the President, Vice-President or Chair of the Finance Committee, and if none of them has obtained a double qualified majority in the first round, a second round shall take place between the two candidates having obtained the highest number of votes. In the second round, the candidate having obtained the simple majority of votes is elected. After each round, the number of votes obtained by each candidate shall be announced to the Plenary Session and the results of the two rounds shall be minuted.

If two candidates receive the same number of votes, the candidate having obtained votes from the larger number of delegations shall be preferred.

All other decisions, including those relating to the day-to-day administration and the appointment of the Secretary-General, shall be taken by way of a simple majority vote.

Double qualified majority means cumulatively:

- (i) a number of valid votes equal to or greater than 2/3 of the votes cast, and
- (ii) the approval of at least 2/3 of the delegations that have cast a valid vote.

Simple majority means a number of votes greater than half of the votes cast.

The majority is calculated by disregarding blank, invalid votes, and abstentions.

c) Quorum

The Standing Committee shall deliberate validly only if at least half of the delegations disposing of their votes are present or represented.

The Plenary Session shall deliberate validly only if at least two-thirds of the delegations disposing of their votes, consisting of or comprising at least two-thirds of the votes, are present or represented. In the event that at least two-thirds of the delegations comprising two-thirds of the voting rights are not present at any Plenary Session, a new Plenary Session shall be convened, which shall deliberate validly notwithstanding the number of delegations present or represented and/or the number of votes present or represented.

d) Representation rules

A delegation may be represented at the Plenary Session by another delegation in possession of a written proxy which shall be handed over to the Secretary-General.

A delegation may not hold more than one proxy.

e) Suspension of the votes

At the beginning of each Plenary Session or Standing Committee meeting, the delegations or the members of the Standing Committee may decide to suspend the votes of any delegation which has not paid in full its subscription due for the current year or the previous years.

f) Notification

Notice of the meeting of the Plenary Session or the Standing Committee shall be sent not later than 15 days before the meeting and shall include the agenda. As a consequence of extraordinary events, the President on their own initiative or at the request of at least five delegations may at any time with not less than seven days written notice call for a meeting of the Plenary Session or Standing Committee. A call shall include the agenda.

g) Agenda

No decisions may be taken on an item which is not on the agenda. The agenda shall be set by the President. Any delegation may request that an item be put on the agenda of the next meeting provided that any such request shall be made at least 10 days before that meeting. If that time limit is not adhered to, the inclusion of any item for decision not included in the notice, is subject to the unanimous approval of all the delegations or members of the Standing Committee present or represented at the meeting.

h) Protection of the minority

In the event that any decision taken with a double qualified majority is to be subject to external publication or communication (including to the Bars and Law Societies of the European Union as enlarged by the EEA), any dissenting delegation may require that its opinion or its reasoned abstention be published or communicated at the same time and in the same manner as the decision itself.

i) Minutes of the decisions

All decisions, either of the Plenary Session or the Standing Committee, shall be communicated to each delegation, and recorded in registers kept by the Secretary-General who will place them at the disposal of the members, for consultation purposes at the seat of the association.

VIII. Presidency

a) Composition

The President shall be elected for a term of one year beginning on the 1st of January. The Plenary Session shall elect the President from among the Vice-Presidents. If no Vice-President is available for election, then the President shall be elected from among the members of the delegations.

The Plenary Session shall elect for the same term as the President, three Vice-Presidents to be referred to as the First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President and the Third Vice-President. The First and Second Vice-Presidents shall be elected from among the Vice-Presidents and the members of the delegations. The Third Vice-President shall be elected from among the members of the delegations.

Delegations, when nominating and electing a member to the Presidency, should seek to ensure that gender balance is achieved in the composition of the Presidency.

While exercising the functions of President or Vice-President, such officers shall not be members of a national delegation.

Should the office of President be vacated for any reason, the First Vice-President shall assume the position of acting President and shall remain eligible for election for the following year.

b) Powers

The President, or, in the President's absence, one of the Vice-Presidents, shall direct the association, preside over its meetings and represent it in its dealings with third parties. The Vice-Presidents shall exercise any function assigned to them by the association or by the President, including the coordination of the work of committees and working groups, and reporting to and advising the President with regard to their work.

IX. Committees and working groups

a) Finance Committee

The Finance Committee (i) advises the Presidency and/or the Plenary Session and Standing Committee in financial matters of the association (ii) reviews and provides guidance to the Presidency and the Secretariat on the budget and the annual accounts for the purpose of submission by the Secretary-General to the Plenary Session (iii) and follows the execution of the budget. The Finance Committee consists of at least three and at most eight members, one of whom shall be the Chair. The Chair and the other members of the Finance Committee shall be elected, for a term of two years in accordance with Article V b) 8. and VII b) which may be renewed for up to two further periods of two years, but the total period of a person's membership of the Committee shall not exceed six years.

The members of the Finance Committee shall possess the relevant expertise to fulfil their task. The Chair shall be elected from among the members of the national delegations.

Delegations, when nominating and electing a member to the Finance Committee, should seek to ensure that gender balance is achieved in the composition of the Finance Committee.

b) Statutes Committee

The Plenary Session may establish a Statutes Committee which is entrusted with advising the Plenary Session on (i) any conflicts of interest with respect to a delegation raised by another delegation in respect of a decision of the Standing Committee, and (ii) the interpretation of these statutes or any internal regulations. The internal regulations of such a Statutes Committee will be presented for approval to the Plenary Session.

c) Other committees and working groups

The President may establish such other committees and working groups as the President considers useful and may appoint any person to be the Chair or Vice-Chair of a committee or working group. The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of committees and working groups shall be appointed for a term of two years which may be renewed for up to two further periods of two years, without prejudice to the right of the President to change the Chair whenever necessary.

Delegations, when nominating candidates for Chairs and/or appointing members of the committees and working groups, should adhere to the principle of diversity and inclusion.

d) Conflict of interest

The committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs, as well as the members of the Finance Committee, in the exercise of their functions, ensure that the principles defended by the CCBE and the defence of its interests are respected. They shall avoid any situation of conflict of interest of any kind.

When a member of a delegation, committee or working group has been delegated to express a CCBE position, the appointed person must, if they have personal opinions to express at the same time, indicate that these only reflect their personal point of view.

X. Secretary-General

a) Nomination of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General shall be appointed by the Standing Committee. The Secretary-General shall be paid such remuneration as may be agreed by the Standing Committee upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

b) Powers

Without prejudice to what is provided in Article VI b), the Secretary-General shall undertake the daily management of the association under the supervision of the President and the Vice-Presidents and the representation of the CCBE before the European institutions and internationally.

Daily management includes the power to carry out all acts and take all decisions which are required for the day-to-day business of the CCBE and the acts and decisions which because they are of minor interest or urgent do not require a decision of the Standing Committee, including the power to represent the CCBE within daily management towards third parties. Within daily management, the Secretary-General can delegate powers to employees or other persons, including to represent the CCBE within the limits of such powers.

XI. Finances

a) Subscriptions

All CCBE members shall pay a subscription, the amount of which shall be fixed annually by the Plenary Session having considered the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

The percentage of the total subscription to be paid by any member shall reflect the proportion of the total votes held by that member.

Exceptions to this rule may be made by the Plenary Session taking into account the following:

- The number of lawyers entitled to practise in each Member State;
- The GNP of each Member State;
- The population of each Member State.

The amount of the subscription of each delegation fixed in respect of any year shall remain in effect until the Plenary Session approves a new budget or a change of the size of the subscriptions.

b) Finances

The financial year starts on the 1st of January and will end on the 31st of December of each year.

On the basis of the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Plenary Session shall adopt an annual budget, approve the accounts of the previous year and discharge the members of the Standing Committee, the President and Vice-Presidents.

The Finance Committee shall ensure that proper accounts are kept and shall each year verify the income, expenditure and balance sheet to the first Plenary Session after the closing of the accounts.

XII. Representation of the association

All decisions binding on the association shall (except in case of special proxy) be signed by the President or by one of the Vice-Presidents, and those concerning the daily management of the association, by the Secretary-General, who shall not be obliged to furnish evidence of the powers by which they do so.

However, the President may only represent the association in the signature of an act of purchase or sale of real property or a right in real property, as well as of credit or mortgage, with the explicit authorisation of the Plenary Session or the Standing Committee.

All proceedings involving the association, either as plaintiff or defendant shall be conducted by the Standing Committee represented by the President or by one of the Vice-Presidents.

XIII. Bye-Laws

The Plenary Session shall adopt Bye-Laws to facilitate the operation of these statutes.

XIV. Amendments of the statutes, dissolution and liquidation

The Plenary Session may only deliberate on an amendment to the statutes of the association if at least two-thirds of delegations whose votes have not been suspended, comprising at least two-thirds of the votes, are present or represented. However, if the meeting is not attended by at least two-thirds of the delegations comprising two-thirds of the votes, a new Plenary Session shall be summoned, which will rule validly notwithstanding the number of delegations or the number of votes present or represented.

The same rules apply in case of dissolution of the association. After the payment of the debts of the association, its assets shall be assigned to another association which will make use of them for purposes as far as possible similar to the objects of the CCBE.

Any decision to dissolve or liquidate the association must be made by a Plenary Session. When a member leaves the association, that member shall have no entitlement to any of the assets of the association.

XV. Conciliation

In the event of a dispute in a State represented at the CCBE which affects the legitimacy of representation of a national delegation or of an affiliate, associate or observer member, the President, or, in default, the Standing Committee, may appoint a conciliator, whose function will be to mediate between the parties.

The CCBE may offer its resources to mediate in case of conflict concerning deontological rules between CCBE member organisations.

The CCBE may on the same basis arbitrate where the interested parties agree, concerning difficulties arising out of cross-border legal practice.

XVI. General provision

The items not dealt with in the statutes shall be dealt with by the statutory provisions of the Belgian Code on Companies and Associations concerning non-profit making associations, international non-profit making associations and foundations.