

University Women of Europe.  
UWE

Groupe Européen des Femmes  
Diplômées des Universités.  
GEFDU

## CONSTITUTION

### Chapter 1. Name, seat, purpose, language

#### Article 1

The University Women of Europe/Groupe Européen des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (UWE/GEFDU) was formed according to Swiss law as a non-profitmaking, international association.

#### Article 2

The constitutional seat shall be in Switzerland. The Assembly has the power to determine the locality of the seat and to decide to transfer it. The headquarters shall be at the place of residence of the President.

#### Article 3

The purpose of UWE/GEFDU shall be:

- a. to promote action consistent with the aims of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) by cooperation with its European affiliates at various levels and to enable them to collaborate with European International Organisations as well as to promote in Europe the programme of IFUW.
- b. To participate in the progressive development of European society, by working to achieve the programmes of the Council of Europe and all other European governmental and non-governmental organisations dealing with European problems, particularly those affecting women.

#### Article 4

The official languages shall be English and French.

### Chapter II. Membership

#### Article 5

Any European affiliate of the IFUW, being incorporated under its national law, shall be admitted as a member of UWE/GEFDU upon application.

Any European affiliate of IFUW not being incorporated shall appoint an individual from among its members to be admitted as a member of UWE/GEFDU upon application.

#### Article 6

Membership is lost

- if the national federation or association is no longer affiliated to IFUW;
- by withdrawal;
- if the national federation or association is dissolved;
- by death if the member is an individual;
- by exclusion by the Assembly. The conditions and procedure for such exclusion shall be set out in the By-laws.

### Chapter III. The Assembly

#### Article 7

1. The members defined in Article 5 constitute the Assembly and have the right to vote at the meetings of the Assembly. Each member shall be allowed one vote.

2. The participating federations/associations shall appoint one of their members as their representative in the Assembly and shall give this member authority in writing.
3. If the member is an individual she may appoint another individual from among the members of her federation/association to represent her in the Assembly.

#### Article 8

The Assembly shall have power to take all decisions necessary for the activities of UWE/GEFDU.

#### Article 9

The Assembly shall meet at least once per calendar year.

The President shall summon the Assembly.

On request, by registered post, of at least one-third of the members, the President shall summon the Assembly for an extraordinary meeting.

#### Article 10

The quorum required at a meeting of the Assembly shall be half plus one of the members.

Whenever the quorum is not reached decisions shall be deferred.

For these decisions no quorum is required in the next meeting of the Assembly.

#### Article 11

1. Except where otherwise provided in the Constitution or By-laws, decisions of the Assembly shall be taken by a simple majority of the delegates entitled to vote and voting.
2. If there is a tied vote the proposal shall be deemed to be rejected.
3. Voting involving individuals shall be by secret ballot.
4. Except where otherwise provided in the Constitution or By-laws, postal voting is not allowed.

#### Article 12

Except where otherwise provided in the Constitution or By-laws, no-decisions can be taken on items not included in the agenda of the meeting unless, in cases of emergency, such items are added at the meeting with the consent of a two-thirds majority.

### Chapter IV. The Executive.

#### Article 13

UWE/GEFDU shall have an Executive consisting of three persons. No two members of the Executive shall have the same nationality. The Executive shall consist of the President, the Vice-President and the Treasurer.

#### Article 14

The Executive shall be elected by the Assembly and shall serve for a term of three years, renewal once.

The members of the Executive can be removed from office by decision of the Assembly taken by a majority of two-thirds of the delegates entitled to vote and voting.

#### Article 15

The President shall nominate a Secretary from her own federation/association. The Secretary shall attend the meetings of the Executive and the Assembly. She is entitled to speak but not to vote.

#### Article 16

The President shall summon the Executive.

The quorum shall be a majority of the Executive members.

Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority.

#### Article 17

The Executive shall administer UWE/GEFDU and shall have all powers necessary to do this apart from those powers given explicitly to the Assembly.

The Executive shall be responsible for carrying out the decisions of the Assembly and is empowered to act on behalf of UWE/GEFDU, provided that it takes no action involving financial commitments without prior authority of the Assembly.

#### Article 18

Official documents emanating from UWE/GEFDU shall be signed by two members of the Executive.

#### Article 19

Only the Assembly can take the decision whether to take or defend any legal action.

#### Article 20

The association will be represented in legal action both as plaintiff and as defendant by the President and one member of the Executive designated to that effect by the Assembly. Legal actions must be conducted through the courts of the Canton of Vaud.

### Chapter V. Finance

#### Article 21

Members shall pay annual dues at a rate to be determined by the Assembly each year. In the event of withdrawal the dues for that year must be paid.

#### Article 22

The financial year shall be 1 January – 31 December inclusive.

#### Article 23

The funds of UWE/GEFDU shall consist of:

- a) payments by the members;
- b) donations, subsidies and/or other legitimate sources. Every year, the Executive shall submit to the Assembly a financial statement for the past, and a provisional budget for the coming year. In the event of loss of membership the former member shall have no claim on the funds of UWE/GEFDU.

#### Article 24

1. Proposals for amendments to the Constitution and/or for dissolution of UWE/GEFDU shall be submitted by the Executive or by at least one-third of the members. The Executive shall inform the members at least ninety days in advance of the date of the meeting of the Assembly at which there is to be dissolution of proposed amendments or dissolution.
2. Decisions on these subjects require a quorum of two-thirds of the members and a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. If the quorum for the meeting is not reached, a new meeting shall be summoned as stipulated in Section 1 of this article and no quorum is required but there must be a two-third majority of the vote cast.
3. Unless otherwise provided an amendment to the Constitution shall come into force immediately after approval by the Assembly.

Article 25

In the event of dissolution, the Assembly shall allocate the assets to the members defined in Article 5 for purposes similar to those of UWE/GEFDU.

Chapter VII. By-laws, final dispositions.

Article 26

1. The Constitution shall be supplemented by By-laws.
2. Anything not covered by the Constitution and its By-laws shall be settled in accordance with Swiss law.

Article 27

This Constitution comes into force immediately after the approval by the Assembly, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1981.