

# Statutes of the Societas Birgitta-Europa (SBE)

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## § 1 Legal Formalities

- (1) The Name of the Association is “Societas Birgitta Europe”. The short name is SBE.
- (2) The Domicile of the SBE is in Vadstena in Sweden.
- (3) The SBE is internationally active.
- (4) The SBE is Christianity Ecumenical aligned.
- (5) The accounting year is the calendar year.
- (6) The SBE has all the requirements to meet in order to be eligible for funding by the European Union.

## § 2 Objectives

- (1) The targets of the SBE are:
  - a. The scientific interpreting of the Spirit und the opus of the holy Bridget in a perpetual measure of value.
  - b. Supporting and maintaining the order of holy Bridget (Ordo Sanctissimi Salvatoris OSsS) and her monasteries.
  - c. Cultural exchange (international relations, tourism).
- (2) The objectives of the SBE shall be achieved by the following tasks:
  - a. Annual international meetings in various places of Europe.
  - b. Joint venture projects.
  - c. International network, human relationship.
  - d. Coverage the continuance of the monasteries (by membership, sponsoring, foundations, initializing communication between the monasteries particularly between the several branches, and so on).

## § 3 Membership

- (1) Members can be:
  - a. natural persons and
  - b. Legal entities such as organizations, clubs, foundations, corporations, municipalities, institutions, ecclesiastical establishments and educational institutions.
- (2) The suffrage of the members results according to their status as a natural (one vote) or judicial person (two votes).
- (3) The membership arises on request, which is accepted or rejected by the board. If the potential member enters an objection against the board’s rejection, the objection is passed to the general assembly.
- (4) The membership ends by resignation, exclusion, death of individual or liquidation of judicial persons. A delay of more than two payments results with exclusion.

## **§ 4 Membership Fee**

The membership fee is set by the General Assembly corresponding to §3, Pt. 2, concerning the amount, possible discounts and exemptions.

## **§ 5 Board**

- (1) The board of the SBE consists of the following officers:
  - the President,
  - the Vice President,
  - the Secretary and
  - the Treasurer.
- (2) The positions are to be assigned by natural persons.
- (3) The election of officers is carried out by the general assembly through simple majority. The term ends by election of a successor, by resignation or by death.
- (4) The SBE is represented by the President or by the Vice President in lieu of the president. Both, the President and the vice president of the SBE, represent the association in sole agency.
- (5) The Board pursues the goals and tasks of the SBE according to § 2. The board is accountable to the general assembly
- (6) The secretary and the treasurer execute the administrative tasks in accordance with the President's/Vice President's instructions.

## **§ 5 Auditing**

- (1) The audit is carried out by two auditors. They are elected by the general assembly in same manner as the board.
- (2) The duties of the auditors are:
  - review of the statutory exercise of the offices of the management; in particular the financial management and the statutory use of funds,
  - the auditors are reporting to the general assembly,
  - discharging board members of the association line in the general assembly.
- (3) The Auditors are to be granted access to the association's entire documentation at any time.

## **§ 6 General Assembly**

- (1) The General Assembly takes place at least once a year. Place and date will be set by the general assembly itself.
- (2) The general assembly is planned and organized by the secretary.
- (3) The general assembly is led by a member of the Board.
- (4) To conduct elections, two persons are determined by the general assembly.
- (5) The general assembly is quorate if invitations were formally correct and just in time.
- (6) The invitations to the general assembly have to be advertised with an added draft of the agenda four weeks ahead. Proposed resolutions and nominations by members have to be conveyed to the secretary at least three weeks ahead of the general assembly. In case of changes the final agenda has to have been passed to the members at least two weeks ahead of the general assembly.

- (7) The agenda of the general assembly has to contain the following mandatory items:
  - report of the president,
  - report of the treasurer (financial report),
  - report of the auditors and discharge of the board,
  - elections if necessary,
  - decisions on place and time of the next annual general assembly, ,
  - Others.
- (8) Voting can also be conducted by survey. Decisions through survey have to be announced to the members promptly.
- (9) General assembly and surveys decide by simple majority, except amendments and dissolution. In the case of a tie applications are to be rejected. If a tie occurs during elections, the first nominee on the list is elected.
- (10) The language of documents, correspondence, lectures and in general discussions of the SBE is English. In an unanimous manner the general assembly may decide another language. In any case of important decisions each member can desire translations.

### **§ 7 Amendments**

Amendments of the statutes require a two-thirds majority of the valid votes. Amendments become effective immediately.

### **§ 8 Dissolution of the SBE**

- (1) The SBE has to be liquidated if less than one-third of the members, or less than four individual members, insist on its continuation.
- (2) The liquidation is to be carried out by the secretary.
- (3) Assets are to be utilized in compliance with § 2 of these statutes.

### **§ 9 Severability clause**

If any provision of this agreement is prohibited by law or judged by a court to be unlawful, void or unenforceable, the provision shall, to the extent required, be severed from this agreement and rendered ineffective as far as possible without modifying the remaining provisions of this agreement, and shall not in any way affect any other circumstances of or the validity or enforcement of this agreement.  
Altomünster, the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2014

Altomünster, 04<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Marc van den Brand  
President

Gerhard Gerstenhöfer  
Secretary