

Statutes of Gesellschaft für das Buch e.V.

Art. 1 Name and domicile

- (1) The society bears the name "Gesellschaft für das Buch – Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, Freunde und Förderer e. V." ("Society for the Book – Friends and Patrons of the German National Library").
- (2) The society is entered into the register of associations at the district court in Frankfurt am Main.
- (3) The society is domiciled in Frankfurt am Main.
- (4) The society's business year is the same as the calendar year.

Art. 2 Purpose

- (1) In cooperation with the German National Library (Leipzig, Frankfurt am Main) as the federal institution that is serving as the central archival library and national bibliographic centre for German-language publications issued since 1913, the purpose of the society is to delineate and promote the various aspects of media, in particular the book, and thus to make an active contribution to cultural and intellectual life in Europe.
- (2) This also enables the German National Library to emphasize its importance and increase its external impact.
- (3) The society fulfils its purpose in particular by
 - | arranging exhibitions
 - | holding competitions
 - | promoting book design
 - | author readings, literary discussions
 - | issuing its own publications
 - | studies and discussions, also on technical and economic considerations.

Art. 3 Public Benefit Status

The purposes served by the society are directly and exclusively public-benefit as specified in the chapter on "Tax-Privileged Purposes" in the German Fiscal Code (in particular section 52 par. 2 no. 1 AO). The society acts altruistically and does not work primarily in its own commercial interest. The society's funds may only be used for the purposes specified in these Statutes. Members do not receive financial contributions from the society's funds. No person may benefit from expenditure unrelated to the society's purposes or from unreasonably high compensation.

Art. 4 Membership

- (1) Members can be natural or legal persons or groups of persons.
- (2) The board makes decisions on written applications for membership.
- (3) Membership begins on the date on which the committee issues written approval of the application for membership. On joining the society, members undertake to help serve the society's purposes.
- (4) The committee may confer honorary membership on persons who have achieved special merit in the field of media, in particular the book. No fee is charged for honorary membership.
- (5) Membership ends
 - a) on the death of the member,
 - b) by sending a letter of resignation to the administrative office (Gesellschaft für das Buch – Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, Freunde und Förderer e. V. c/o Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, Adickesallee 1, 60322 Frankfurt am Main). Membership may only be terminated at the end of the year after giving a quarter's notice.
 - c) by exclusion, if the member has severely harmed the society's interests. In such cases, the committee will issue a written decision including the grounds for the decision after it has heard the member. The member may appeal against the committee's decision within one month; a decision concerning this appeal will be made by the members' meeting.

Art. 5 Society funds

- (1) The society has the following means at its disposal in order to fulfil its purposes:
 - a) membership fees,
 - b) endowments, donations and other subsidies.
- (2) Membership fees are paid annually and become due on 31 March for the current year. Members who join during the year are in principle required to pay the membership fee for the whole year. The committee will make decisions on any exceptions.
- (3) Income may only be used for the purposes specified in these Statutes. The committee will make decisions concerning the reimbursement of member expenses.

Art. 6 Organs, liability of organ members and representatives

- (1) The society's organs are the committee and the members' meeting.
- (2) The liability of organ members, special representatives and society members authorised to represent the society is limited to wilful intent and gross negligence. If these persons are held liable by third parties despite no wilful intent or gross negligence having taken place, they may file a claim with the society requesting reimbursement of the expenses incurred while repudiating the third-party claims together with indemnification for these claims.

Art. 7 Committee

- (1) The committee comprises
 - a) the chairperson,
 - b) two vice-chairpersons,
 - c) the treasurer,
 - d) the secretary,
 - e) the Director-General of the German National Library acting in an advisory capacity.
- (2) The persons specified in paragraph 1 points a) to d) are each authorised to act alone as the society's representatives in and out of court.
- (3) The members' meeting elects the committee with members a) to d) for a period of three years. The committee remains in office until the next elections. Committee members may be re-elected. Moreover, committee members may be elected jointly in one ballot. If a committee member leaves the committee, the remaining members are entitled to co-opt another member to take the departed member's place until the end of the departed member's period in office. The Director-General of the German National Library is a member of the committee by virtue of his/her office.
- (4) The committee is responsible for all tasks that these Statutes do not assign to the members' meeting. The committee may appoint a director. Paragraph 6 no. 2 shall apply to this director as appropriate.
- (5) The committee is quorate if at least three members are present including the chairperson or one of the vice-chairpersons. Committee resolutions are passed by majority vote.

Art. 8 Members' meeting

- (1) An ordinary members' meeting is convened by the committee once a year. The invitation must be issued 14 days beforehand and include the agenda.
- (2) A members' meeting must be convened if the society's interests render this necessary or if at least one quarter of the members issue a written request for a meeting citing the reasons.
- (3) The main tasks performed by the members' meeting include the following:
 - a) election of the committee and of two auditors,
 - b) fixing membership fees including discounts for specific groups,
 - c) passing resolutions on the budget, acceptance of the auditor's report and the accountability report issued by the committee,
 - d) discharging the committee,
 - e) passing resolutions on amendments to these Statutes and on dissolving the society,
 - f) formation of resolutions on applications submitted by the committee and the members,
 - g) resolutions on re-admitting members after they have been excluded by the committee.
- (4) The secretary is required to draw up a record of the results of the members' meeting; these minutes are then signed by the chairperson and sent to each member no later than four weeks

after the meeting.

Art. 9 Amendments to Statutes

Resolutions on amendments to these Statutes may only be passed during a members' meeting specially convened for this purpose and must be approved by a majority of two-thirds of the members present.

Art. 10 Dissolution of the society

- (1) The society may only be dissolved if three quarters of its members vote to do so.
- (2) If the society is dissolved or abolished, or if its previous purpose ceases to be relevant, the society's assets will be transferred to the German National Library, which may only use them exclusively and directly to the public benefit.

Art. 11 Inception

This new version of the Statutes will come into force on being entered into the society's register and will render all previous versions null and void.

Frankfurt am Main, 15 April 2008