



Rationale for the proposed amendments concerning the format of General Meetings and voting procedures

The Executive Committee proposes amendments to the Statutes to modernise the Association's governance framework by recognising online and hybrid formats for General Meetings and by allowing electronic voting. The current wording of the Statutes refers only to in-person meetings and does not explicitly provide for electronic participation or voting. The proposed amendments reflect the evolving practices of international associations such as CercleS and the practical realities of CercleS, whose members are based across multiple countries and institutions.

Allowing General Meetings to be held in online or hybrid formats will facilitate broader participation, reduce barriers associated with travel and provide greater flexibility in the organisation of meetings. Similarly, permitting electronic voting will enable members participating remotely to exercise their voting rights effectively and on an equal basis with those attending in person.

These amendments do not alter the powers, responsibilities or decision-making processes of the General Meeting. Rather, they provide a clear statutory basis for up-to-date methods of participation and voting while maintaining the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and democratic governance.

The Executive Committee, therefore, recommends that the General Meeting approve the proposed amendments to the Statutes.

Rationale for the proposal to introduce *per rollam* voting into the CercleS statutes

The Executive Committee proposes the introduction of a provision allowing the General Meeting to adopt resolutions *per rollam* (outside a formal meeting) by electronic written procedure.

The purpose of this amendment is to provide CercleS with a practical and transparent mechanism for decision-making in situations where convening a General Meeting is impractical, disproportionate to the matter under consideration or would cause unnecessary delays. As an international association, whose members are distributed across multiple countries and institutions, CercleS occasionally faces situations in which timely decisions are required between General Meetings.

The proposed procedure establishes clear safeguards to ensure democratic participation and transparency. All members would receive the full wording of the proposed resolution, together with supporting documentation or information on where such documentation may be consulted. A minimum voting period of fourteen calendar days would guarantee sufficient time for members to consider the proposal and cast their votes.

Furthermore, the Executive Committee would be required to communicate the outcome of the vote and, where applicable, the full text of the adopted resolution to all members.

The proposed amendment does not replace the General Meeting as the Association's principal decision-making body. Rather, it complements existing procedures by providing a flexible tool for addressing matters that arise between meetings while maintaining transparency, accountability and member involvement.

The Executive Committee, therefore, recommends that the General Meeting approve the proposed amendment to the Statutes.

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