

STATUTES IOBC/WPRS

*ENGLISH VERSION***ART. I: Name and Seat**

1. The West Palearctic Regional Section (WPRS), hereafter referred to as "the Section", is a scientific association connected with the International Organisation for Biological Control of noxious animals and plants (IOBC). Its activities cover European and Near East countries as well as North African countries, belonging preferably to the West Palearctic bio-geographical region.
2. The seat of the Section shall be in Zürich (Switzerland) at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich: ETH Zürich). The Secretariat may be in the country where the General Secretary is resident.
3. The Section is registered as a Non Profit Association and the legal principles governing its establishment and functioning are described in Articles 60 to 79 of the Swiss civil code.

ART. II: Functions

1. The Section shall:
 - (a) promote the development of biological control of pests and diseases and in a more general way, integrated protection in the context of integrated crop production; also to promote international cooperation to these ends,
 - (b) collect, evaluate and disseminate information on biological and integrated controls,
 - (c) promote national and international research, training, coordination of large scale application and maintain public awareness of the economic, ecological and social importance of new development in plant protection,
 - (d) arrange conferences, meetings and symposia, and take any other action to implement the general objective of the Organization.
2. The Section may consult or collaborate with international or national, governmental or nongovernmental organisations.

ART. III: Membership

1. Membership of the Section shall be open to all individuals and all organisations, public or private, that desire to promote the objectives as defined in Art. II.
2. There are four categories of membership.
 - (a) Individual membership is open to all who are interested in biological and integrated control.
 - (b) Institutional membership is open to any institution and includes official organisations, academies, universities and learned societies, etc.
 - (c) Supporting membership is open to any person or institution interested in promoting the objectives defined in ART. II.
 - (d) Honorary membership may be conferred by Council on anyone who has made outstanding contributions in the fields of biological and integrated control.

ART. IV: Application for Membership

1. Application for membership shall be addressed to the President of the Section. The Council decides on the propriety of admission of institutional members, the executive committee on the propriety of admission of the supporting and individual members.
2. In becoming a member of the Section, a new member at the same time becomes a member of the global IOBC with its associated benefits.

ART. V: Withdrawal of Membership

1. Members may resign from the Section by a written notice sent to the General Secretary or any member of the Executive Committee.
2. Any member whose contribution is one year into arrears is assumed to have resigned and thus to have lost membership.

ART. VI: Finances

1. The revenue of the Section shall consist of :
 - (a) annual membership contributions
 - (b) special funds
 - (c) gifts and contributions of any nature.
2. The annual membership contribution shall be paid by each member according to the conditions described in the bye-laws. Any change in this amount must be accepted by the General Assembly for the duration of the session following proposals made to the Council at least one year beforehand. The Executive Committee shall determine the conditions of remittance of the contributions.
3. The contributions remitted to the Section shall constitute its normal revenue. They shall be used to fulfil its function and also to provide regular contributions to the Global Organisation.
4. In addition to the above resources, the Section may receive special funds for financing particular research. The Executive Committee will decide about the acceptability of such funds according to the spirit of the statutes.
5. Only the assets of the Section may be used to cover its obligations. Personal liability of members is excluded.

ART. VII: General Structure

1. The Section shall comprise
 - (a) a General Assembly,
 - (b) a Council,
 - (c) an Executive Committee, if necessary assisted by a Sub-Committee for Programmes,
 - (d) an Auditing Committee,
 - (e) bodies given scientific and technical responsibilities according to the bye-laws.

ART. VIII: General Assembly

1. Participants to the General Assembly include:
 - (a) the representatives of the Institutional Members
 - (b) the members of Council and the Auditing Committee
 - (c) the convenors of Groups and Commissions and specialists invited because of their personal competence.
 - (d) the individual members and the supporting members.

ART. IX: Meetings of the General Assembly

1. An ordinary session is held every four years.
2. The General Assembly may meet in a special session if requested through the President, by at least a third of Institutional Members or on the decision of the Council.
3. The place and date shall be fixed by the Council upon proposal by the Executive Committee.
4. The notices convening the General Assembly shall be sent at least five months beforehand.

ART. X: Responsibilities of the General Assembly

1. The General Assembly, on the members' vote (institutional members have ten votes each; individual and honorary members have one vote each; supporting members have no vote):
 - (a) elects the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General, the Treasurer, the members and deputy members of the Council for the duration of the following session;
 - (b) elects the members of the Auditing Committee;
 - (c) decides on modifications of the Statutes;
 - (d) decides on the dissolution of the Section (cf. Art. XXI) ;
 - (e) considers the activities of the Council and the Executive Committee and shall approve the accounts on the advice of the Auditing Committee;
 - (f) discusses the report of the Executive Committee concerning the activities of the Section in the period following the previous ordinary meeting;
 - (g) decides on the general work programme for the following session;
 - (h) fixes the amount of the membership fees for the following session,
 - (i) approves the bye-laws prepared by the Council.

ART. XI: Council

1. Apart from the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General and the Treasurer, the Council shall consist of at least 6 members and 3 deputies elected for the following session and recruited among the members. The titular Council members shall be re-eligible for more than two terms only if their mandate is different and the interest of the organisation so requires it. No country may have more than two members.
2. In general, the Council meets every two years, but approval for specific matters such as agenda for the General Assembly asked for by the Executive Committee by mail.
3. The persons responsible for the bodies in charge of scientific and technical tasks may be asked by the Executive Committee to attend the Council meetings as advisers. .
4. The notices convening a meeting shall be sent at least one month beforehand.

ART. XII: Responsibilities of the Council

1. The Council shall
 - (a) approve and supervise the work programmes of the Section
 - (b) ensure the functioning of the Section and execute the programme of activities established by the General Assembly
 - (c) decide on the establishment and termination of all the bodies in charge of scientific or technical tasks;
 - (d) appoint or/and approve the persons responsible for the bodies in charge of scientific and technical tasks, define these tasks and take all the measures necessary for the proper functioning of these bodies
 - (e) appoint the scientific counsellors and specialists according to ART. VIII and to the bye-laws
 - (f) appoint if necessary, and after proposal by the Executive Committee, a Sub-Committee for Planning and administrators to assist the Secretary-General and the Treasurer. The latter two can be replaced by the assistant administrators in case of absence or resignation
 - (g) draw up the budget and oversee the financial management of the Section.
 - (h) nominate temporary personnel
 - (i) approve the bye-laws proposed by the technical bodies under it (Expert Groups, Commissions, Working Groups, Study Groups, etc.)
 - (j) decide on temporary installations necessary for work on biological and integrated control once the finance is assured
 - (k) approve the agenda for the meetings of the General Assembly
 - (l) undertake any other task assigned to it by the General Assembly
 - (m) appoint from among its members the representative of the Section to the Global Organization
 - (n) adopt its own procedure and designate persons authorized to sign for the Section.

ART. XIII: Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, one to three Vice-President(s), the Secretary General and the Treasurer.
2. It shall conduct the business of the Section according to the decisions of Council.
3. It shall meet as often as necessary, according to a procedure described in the bye-laws.
4. It shall report on its activities to Council and ask Council to confirm emergency measures.

ART. XIV: Auditing Committee

1. The Auditing Committee shall consist of three members nominated for the following session by the General Assembly and chosen from outside the Council.
2. The members of the Auditing Committee may be re-elected. An equitable distribution of the membership between the countries represented in the Section must be guaranteed. No country may have more than one member.
3. The Auditing Committee is required to check on the financial management of the Section. It may request the help of a professional auditor.

ART. XV: Other Bodies

1. To achieve the aims defined in Art. II of the present Statutes, the Executive Committee may take the initiative to establish the bodies (Expert Groups, Commissions, Working Groups, Study Groups, etc.) responsible for scientific or technical tasks. The operating methods of these bodies shall be defined by the bye-laws.

ART. XVI: Quorum and Votes

1. The quorum at the ordinary General Assembly will be reached when at least one third of the potential votes of members are present or represented. For modifications of the statutes, the requested quorum is of half of the potential votes of members. If the quorum is not attained, a new General Assembly shall be held, and shall constitute the quorum, independently of the number of members present or represented. Members are considered as represented if they have designated their representatives by writing to the President before the meeting.
2. All voting members (i.e. institutional, individual and honorary members) shall participate in the election of the new council and Auditing Committee, as well as in the vote concerning the modifications of the statutes. The rule shall consist of ten votes for each institutional member and one vote for each individual or honorary member. The voting shall be validated by one third of the expressed votes at least for the election of the Council, and by one half for the modifications of the statutes. Votes may take place by mail (if the quorum is not attained same disposition as in the previous paragraph).
3. The decisions of all the bodies of the Section are taken by a majority of the votes, except in the cases covered by Art. XX.3 and Art. XXI.1 of the present Statutes.
4. In case of equality of votes in the Council or Executive Committee, the President decides.
5. Voting shall be secret.

ART XVII: Statutes of Personnel

1. Members of statutory bodies of the Section shall receive no payment for services, except the allowances cited in Art. XVIII.
2. The Section may recruit no permanent personnel but may appoint temporary technical workers, whose appointment and payment shall be decided by Council.
3. The age limit for members having responsibilities under WPRS shall be fixed by the bye-laws.

ART. XVIII: Allowances

1. Members of the Council, the Executive Committee and the Auditing Committee attending official meetings on behalf of the Section may receive travelling expenses and a subsistence allowance fixed by the bye-laws and approved by the General Assembly.
2. Experts invited to meetings may receive from the Section subsistence allowances and travelling expenses fixed by the Executive Committee.
3. Attendance at a General Assembly shall not automatically entitle a member to subsistence or travelling expenses from the Section.

ART. XIX: Agenda for the General Assembly

1. The President decides on the agenda in agreement with the Council.
2. Any proposal arising from a member of the Section and intended for discussion in the General Assembly shall be transmitted to the President at least three months before that meeting for inclusion on the agenda.
3. The General Assembly may only take decisions on matters placed on the agenda.

ART. XX: Changes in Statutes

1. Changes in the Statutes can be proposed by the Council or by any of the institutional members of WPRS.
2. The texts of proposals for modifications of the Statutes shall be transmitted to the Members three months before the General Assembly.
3. Changes in the Statutes shall be adopted when supported by a majority of the votes cast in the General Assembly.

ART. XXI : Dissolution

1. Dissolution of the Section shall be effected by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in the General Assembly.
2. The assets of the dissolved Section shall be assigned according to a decision taken by the General Assembly.

ART. XXII: Validity

The French text so deposited shall be authoritative in respect of any disputes arising from interpretation of the Statutes.

The original Statutes of the "Organisation Internationale de Lutte Biologique contre les animaux et les plantes nuisibles (OILB)" were deposited in the ARCHIVES FEDERALES HELVETIQUES in Bern (Switzerland) on 21 June, 1957 under the number J.11.75. The Statutes were amended by the first General Assembly (Paris, 26-28 February 1958) and by the third General Assembly (Montreux, 16-18 September 1965).

The modifications adopted by the General Assembly in Madrid (1974) are included in the present version.

The modifications adopted by the General Assembly in Lisboa (1993) are included in the present version.

The modifications adopted by the General Assembly in Vienna (1997) are included in the present version.

The modifications adopted by the General Assembly in Monte Verita (2001) are included in the present version.

The modifications adopted by the General Assembly in Agadir (2009) are included in the present version.

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