EFAS Members Notice

Changes to the Constitution

Dear EFAS members,

I hereby notify you of the suggestion to alter the EFAS Constitution. The changes will be presented and voted upon during our next General Assembly, taking place on 5 October 2018 at 11.30 at the Starling, Geneva (Switzerland).

As explained earlier this year, EFAS would like to formally register itself as a not-for-profit society in Switzerland in order to:

- Benefit from specific fiscal advantages to not-for-profit societies (tax break, VAT recuperation) which could help the Society save up to 30,000€ per year, to be re-invested in projects.
- Protect itself more soundly with a clear legal frame.

In order to register in Switzerland, EFAS is however requested to adapt its Constitution slightly, and officially adopt its new statutes in French.

To facilitate the understanding of the changes, a document has been created to explain each of the suggested change, in English. Please review carefully. Changes are of the following nature:

- Addition of wording related to Swiss legislation
- Reorganisation of the document to present bodies in 'standard' order (from General Assembly down to Audit body)
- Updates to match current practice: (ie reference to 'cheques' has been updated to 'payments' as cheques have limited usage today; Reference to fac simile has been removed etc.)

A vote will be taken at 11.30 on Friday 5th October in Geneva, during the General Assembly. The rules of Article 17 shall be applied:

17. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY
(A) The Constitution shall be altered only by the vote of at least two-thirds of the Voting Members of the Society present at the meeting specially convened for the purpose. In addition two thirds of the votes of the attending member National Societies shall also need to be in favour of any such Constitutional change. The vote of the National Society shall be cast by the President of that National Society or by his/her representative who shall be nominated in writing to the Honorary Secretary. For the purpose of changing the Constitution only each National Society shall have a minimum of one vote. In addition each National Society shall have one extra vote for each full two hundred and fifty voting members of that Society.
The Honorary Secretary shall despatch a notice of such meeting and of every proposed alteration by post or facsimile to every Member not less than twenty-eight days before the date of the meeting, and no rule shall be altered unless such notice has been given in accordance with the relevant section of the appropriate Act.
(B) One hundred voting members of the Society will constitute a quorum at a meeting convened to alter the Constitution.

Voting members shall be counted as both individual votes and the votes cast by the National Societies such that the total vote shall equal or exceed 100 votes.

We thus also request ALL National Societies to also communicate the name of their President or his/ her representative that will cast the vote on behalf of the national Societies.

Number of votes per Society will be communicated 7 days before the meeting, based on most recent numbers communicated by the Societies.

Donald J. McBride

_____

Hon. Secretary EFAS

Donald J. McBride