

# By-Laws of the Advocacy Committee of the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology

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# 1 General Provisions

## 1.1 Name of the Committee and establishment

The Advocacy Committee (hereinafter "**Committee**") has been established by the Board of the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (hereinafter "**EULAR**" and the "**EULAR Board**") in accordance with the statutes of EULAR (hereinafter "**Statutes**"). The Committee forms a part of EULAR and has no legal personality in the sense of art. 52 of the Swiss Civil Code.

## 1.2 Statutes and By-Laws

The Statutes and these by-laws (hereinafter "**By-Laws**") shall apply to the Committee. In case of conflict between the provisions of the Statutes and the ones of these By-Laws, the provisions of the Statutes shall prevail.

## 1.3 Objectives of the Committee

The Committee supports EULAR's aims to reduce the impact of rheumatic and musculo-skeletal diseases (RMDs) on the individual and society and to improve the social position and the quality of life of people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases in Europe.

In furtherance of these aims, the Committee focuses on the activities in the field of advocacy, in particular:

- a) advocating the needs of people with RMDs;
- b) advocating research in rheumatology;
- c) advocating education in rheumatology;
- d) promoting the EULAR brand as a reliable source of information;
- e) coordinating the work of the Sub-Committee(s);
- f) providing strategic guidance on all EULAR messages to internal and external audiences.

The Committee does not pursue gainful or self-help purposes.

## 2 Members of the Committee

### 2.1 Composition

The members of the Committee (hereinafter "**Members of the Committee**") are natural persons with specific knowledge and experience in the field of the Committee.

The Committee is composed of the following Members:

- a) five members of a National Scientific Society;
- b) two members of either a National PARE Organisation or of the PARE Committee;
- c) two members of either a National HPR Organisation or of the HPR Committee;
- d) two members of the EMEUNET community;
- e) one member of the paediatric community;
- f) up to 13 specialists in the field of the Committee.

The Members of the Committee are nominated for a term of four years, commencing at the first Meeting of the Committee held after his/her nomination. Nomination for a second term is possible by exception.

### 2.2 Rights of the Members of the Committee

Each Member of the Committee has the right to:

- a) participate, speak and vote at the Meeting of the Committee (Section 3.1);
- b) propose Members of the Committee (Section 2.3) and members of the Chairmanship of the Committee (Section 4.4) to the EULAR Board;
- c) propose members of the Sub-Committee(s);
- d) receive the minutes of the Meeting of the Committee (Section 3.6) and approve them;
- e) exercise all other rights arising from the Statutes, these By-Laws and other regulations of EULAR or the Committee.

- f) participate on a case-by-case basis in meetings with external stakeholders representing EULAR per pre-approved agenda points.

The Members of the Committee have the obligation to act in compliance with the Statutes, these By-Laws and other regulations.

### **2.3 Nomination of the Members of the Committee**

Before 1<sup>st</sup> December of each year, the Members of the Committee (Section 2.2), the members of the Chairmanship of the Committee (Section 4.4), the members of the EULAR Board, the members of the Council of EULAR and every Ordinary Member of EULAR may propose to the EULAR Board candidates to be nominated as Members of the Committee. Each nominated candidate will receive from the EULAR office an application form and must return it to the EULAR Board together with his/her CV and/or a motivation letter highlighting the specific knowledge and experience useful for the Committee and a statement of conflict of interests.

The EULAR Board nominates the Members of the Committee as a rule at its spring meeting. If sufficient candidates with specific knowledge and experience in the field of the Committee are proposed, the EULAR Board will consider a fair representation of the regions, gender and age-groups.

### **2.4 Exclusion**

The EULAR Board may exclude a Member of the Committee if he/she has not attended three out of four sequential Meetings of the Committee, except if the Member of the Committee was prevented from attending them due to personal circumstances with no fault of his/her, such as due to illness, accident, public duties, birth or death in the family, etc.

The EULAR Board may exclude a Member of the Committee for cause.

## **3 Meeting of the Committee**

### **3.1 Composition**

The Meeting of the Committee is composed of the Members of the Committee. The rights of the Members of the Committee are set out in Section 2.2.

The members of the Presidency of EULAR have the right to attend the Meeting of the Committee. They have the right to speak, and to make proposals but not to vote.

The chairperson of the Meeting of the Committee may allow further persons to attend the Meeting of the Committee. They have no right to speak nor to vote.

### **3.2 Competences**

The Meeting of the Committee has the following competences:

- a) formulate the strategic direction for advocacy of RMDs;
- b) review, discuss and approve the activities and actions within the scope of the Committee;
- c) review, discuss and approve the activities and actions of its Sub-Committee(s);
- d) set guidelines to the chairmanship for bursaries and grants.

### **3.3 Resolutions and quorum**

The Meeting of the Committee passes its resolutions by the simple majority of the votes.

The consent of all Members of the Committee and of the Chair to a proposal is equivalent to a resolution of the Meeting, provided no Member of the Committee or the Chair requests a Meeting of the Committee and provided such consent is given in writing or by electronic communication means.

No resolutions may be made on proposals relating to items on the agenda that were not duly notified; exceptions to this is the proposal to convene a Meeting of the Committee.

### **3.4 Meetings and convocation**

The Meetings of the Committee are held twice a year, extraordinary Meetings of the Committee can be convened as and when required.

The Meetings of the Committee are, as a rule:

- a) a one-day meeting (noon to noon) between the months of September and February, with a focus on strategical issues in the field of the Committee;
- b) a meeting during the EULAR Congress, with a focus on operational matters.

The Chairmanship of the Committee convenes the Meeting of the Committee together with the agenda at least 20 days in advance by regular mail or by electronic communication means to the last communicated address of the Members of the Committee.

The meetings may also be held, partly or totally, by telephone or video conference or by other means.

At least 10 Members of the Committee may request that the Chairmanship of the Committee convenes a Meeting of the Committee. Every Member of the Committee can request that the Chairmanship of the Committee places a particular item on the agenda.

### **3.5 Chairperson**

The Chair of the Committee takes the chair of the Meeting of the Committee, in his/her absence the Chair-Elect or in his/her absence any Member of the Committee

The chairperson conducts the Meeting of the Committee. The chairperson designates a secretary. The chairperson may decide upon the way the votes are conducted.

### **3.6 Minutes**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Committee must be signed by the chairperson and by the secretary of the Meeting of the Committee. The minutes must at least mention the resolutions taken.

The Members of the Committee and the EULAR Board are entitled to receive the minutes by regular mail or by electronic communication means.

## **4 The Chairmanship of the Committee**

### **4.1 Composition**

The composition of the Chairmanship of the Committee is set out in Section 4.5.3 of the Statutes. For convenience reasons, Section 4.5.3 of the Statutes is reproduced below:

The Chairmanship of each Committee is composed of the Chair-Elect, the Chair and the Past Chair.

The members of the Chairmanship of each Committee are elected for a term of four years, commencing either at the end of the EULAR Congress or at the first meeting of the Committee or of the Council held after his/her election, whichever comes first. During the first year of his/her term, the elected member of the Chairmanship holds the office of Chair-Elect, during the two next years the office of Chair and during the last year the office of Past Chair.

The election of the Chairmanship of each Committee occurs every two years. Re-election is not possible.

The Chair-Elect is the deputy of the Chair; he/she has no right to vote [*in the Council*].

The Past Chair assists the Chair and secures continuity. He/she has an advisory function with no right to vote [*in the Council*].

## **4.2 Competences**

The Chairmanship of the Committee manages the Committee and represents it within EULAR. The Chairmanship of the Committee reports to the EULAR Board.

The Chairmanship of the Committee has the following competences:

- a) overall management of the Committee;
- b) development of an annual plan in line with EULAR's strategy;
- c) preparation of the Meeting of the Committee and implementation of its decisions;
- d) propose Members of the Committee (Section 2.3) and members of the Chairmanship of the Committee (Section 4.4) to the EULAR Board;
- e) propose establishment or termination of Sub-Committees (Section 5);
- f) supervise Sub-Committees (Section 5);
- g) review, discuss and approve/reject bursaries and grants.

## **4.3 Rights of the members of the Chairmanship of the Committee**

Each member of the Chairmanship of the Committee has the right to receive information from the other members of the Chairmanship of the Committee and each member of the Chairmanship of the Committee has the obligation to inform the other member.

## **4.4 Elections of the Chairmanship of the Committee**

Before 1st December of each year, the Members of the Committee (Section 2.2), the members of the Chairmanship of the Committee (Section 4.2), the members of the EULAR Board, the members of the Council of EULAR and every Ordinary Member of EULAR may propose to the EULAR Board candidates for the Chairmanship of the Committee. Each nominated candidate will receive from the EULAR office an application form and must return it to the EULAR Board together with his/her CV and/or a motivation letter highlighting the specific knowledge and experience useful for the Committee and a statement of conflict of interests.

The EULAR Board elects the Chairmanship of the Committee as a rule at its spring meeting.

#### **4.5 Vacancy in the Chairmanship of the Committee**

In case one of the members of the Chairmanship is unable to complete his/her term of office, the EULAR Board may appoint a successor to hold office until the end of the remaining term that was originally foreseen.

## **5 The Sub-Committees**

The EULAR Board may establish up to three Sub-Committees.

The Sub-Committee must be governed by the organisational rules that fulfil the following conditions:

- a) supports EULAR's and the Committee's objectives (Section 1.3);
- b) defines its membership;
- c) provides its members with the right to participate, speak and vote at the meetings of the Sub-Committee;
- d) has a chair;
- e) reports to the Chairmanship of the Committee;
- f) does not follow gainful or self-help purposes;
- g) obeys to the principle of volunteerism, meaning that no member of the Sub-Committee or the chair of the Sub-Committee may receive a salary.

## **6 Finances**

### **6.1 Funds**

The Committee is not allowed to accept financial means other than the financial support of EULAR.

### **6.2 Volunteerism**

No Member of the Committee may receive a salary.



## **7 Amendments of the By-Laws and dissolution**

The EULAR Board may amend these By-Laws. The Meeting of the Committee may send suggestions to the EULAR Board.

The EULAR Board may decide upon the dissolution of the Committee.

## **8 Entry into force and transitory provisions**

These By-Laws enter retroactively into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

The EULAR Board nominates Members of the Committee and defines their term of office together with their nomination so that every year approximately one fourth of the term of the Members of the Committee ends.

Glasgow, 20 January 2021

On behalf of the Board of the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology

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