

F E P E D A

asbl

**European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children
Fédération Européenne des Parents d'Enfants Déficients Auditifs
Europäischer Verband der Eltern hörgeschädigter Kinder
Federación Europea de Padres de Niños con Discapacidad Auditiva**

European Association with Charitable Status

Constitution

F E P E D A

asbl

**European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children
Fédération Européenne des Parents d'Enfants Déficients Auditifs
Europäischer Verband der Eltern hörgeschädigter Kinder
Federación Europea de Padres de Niños con Discapacidad Auditiva**

European Association with Charitable Status

Constitution

Preamble

It is hereby constituted a
European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children
entitled:
Fédération Européenne des Parents d'Enfants Déficients Auditifs asbl
In abbreviated form: F E P E D A asbl.

whose object is:

- to bring together the national associations of parents and friends of deaf and hearing impaired children, and
- to improve the quality of life and represent the rights of deaf and hearing impaired children and young people and their families
- in this context, to encourage cooperation, friendship and the exchange of information between such national associations.

FEPEDA comprises parents of children of all sorts of hearing impairment:

- deaf: profoundly deaf from birth or deafened before having learned to speak (prelingual deafness),
- deafened: having lost hearing capacity after having learned to speak (postlingual deafness),
- hard of hearing,
- deaf-blind,
- any other kind of hearing impairment and conditions, especially the combination of different impairments (including physical and mental disability).

FEPEDA recognises the special needs and role of families with hearing impaired children. It commits itself to humane and democratic principles, recognises all possible choices in education and communication and encourages member organisations to cooperate in a spirit of tolerance and understanding.

NAME

Item 1

European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children (hereinafter referred to as FEPEDA) is a non-profit association within the meaning of Art. 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code with its registered office in Binningen.

OBJECT OF FEPEDA

Item 2

The object of FEPEDA is to unite national associations of parents and friends of hearing impaired children and young people across Europe and to cooperate with other European organisations, especially with organisations concerned with hearing impaired people.

in order to:

1. improve the quality of life of all children and young people suffering from a degree of hearing deficiency and of their families irrespective of their social, cultural and financial statuses.
2. to promote and contribute to research, and to ensure the exchange of knowledge with a view to increasing the choice of parents and further their influence in the education of their children.
3. to encourage access of hearing impaired children and young people to education, culture, and employment, as well to allow them full access to citizen's rights all over Europe.
4. to inform and educate the general public about the needs and the achievements of hearing impaired people and to influence national and European policies.
5. to encourage friendship, mutual understanding, cultural and recreational opportunities and exchange between hearing impaired children and youngsters and their families in all countries of Europe.
6. to create a foundation for the benefit of hearing impaired children and young people and of their families.

As many of these objectives may require financing, all member organisations are urged to become aware of the financial assistance available to member organisations from the various Funds of the European Union.

It is a requirement of FEPEDA to have a written mission statement which is compatible with the objectives outlined above.

MEMBERS OF FEPEDA

Item 3

1. FEPEDA comprises:

- **Full Members:** national associations of parents of deaf or hard-of-hearing children of countries defined in the preamble of countries of the European Union.
 - **Associate Members:** similar national associations of deaf and hard-of-hearing children of other European countries and regional associations of parents of deaf or hard-of-hearing children of countries without a national association or without the national association as a member of FEPEDA.
 - **Observing Members:** Regional associations of parents of deaf or hard-of-hearing children; individuals and private and public bodies, who by their actions, may contribute to the realisation of the objectives of the FEPEDA.
2. The associations and persons who were present at the Meeting of Inauguration held in Luxembourg on 23 June 1990 are granted the status of Founding Members. Founding members were the associations from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain, The Netherlands and UK.
3. The admission of new members is decided at the General Assembly on a proposal from the Management Committee. Applications for membership have to be addressed to the Management Committee at least 6 weeks before the General Assembly. New members have to agree with the constitution of FEPEDA. National member-associations may use a veto against the admission of other national member-associations of their own country provided they have expressed their viewpoint to the satisfaction of the other members of FEPEDA.
4. The rights of a member may be suspended if the Management Committee is of the opinion that those are no longer in accordance with the conditions under which its membership was accepted. A final decision is left to the General Assembly.
5. A member's own resignation from FEPEDA must be made by the General Assembly of the member organisation. To be valid the resignation has to be communicated by registered letter to FEPEDA.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Item 4

1. The General Assembly comprises Full Members, who enjoy full rights, Associate Members who enjoy full rights, Associate Members of non-EU-countries who enjoy full rights except the right to vote on matters concerning the European Union, and Observing Members who are not entitled to vote. Regional associations as observing members are entitled to vote with the approval of their national association.
2. If there is disagreement about which matters concern the European Community, the president, having consulted other members of the Executive Committee, shall make a final decision.

3. Full Members votes are weighted according to the key taken from the weighting of votes of EU-Member States in the Council of Ministers.
4. Associate Members' votes are weighted on the same principles, the details of which are to be decided by the General assembly on the basis of a proposal of the Management Committee.
5. In the eventuality that one country be represented by more than one association, the votes allocated to their country will be divided between these associations at the beginning of the General Assembly either by mutual agreement of these associations, or if missing this agreement, by decision of the Management Committee.
6. The General Assembly possesses full authority in order to fulfill the FEPEDA objectives. Particular areas of competence concern the:
 - definition of the general policy of the FEPEDA,
 - election and dismissal of members of the Management Committee,
 - appointment of auditors,
 - acceptance of the Federation's accounts,
 - cost of annual fee,
 - granting of honorary membership or merit awards,
 - admission and exclusion of members on a proposal of the Management Committee,
 - decisions on the rules of procedure on a proposal of the Management Committee
 - modification of the constitution and the dissolution of the Federation.
7. The General Assembly will meet at least once a year, under the chairmanship of the President, at the Registered Office or any other venue as is stipulated in the notification, including online meeting. The notification will be prepared by the secretariat and sent at least 30 days before the date of the General Assembly. The agenda will be sent jointly with the notification.
8. Members of FEPEDA will be represented at the General Assembly by one member of their own Management Committee or by a person in possession of a written authorisation. It is possible for the delegate of a member of FEPEDA to represent another member.
9. After having been duly convened, the General Assembly can only deliberate upon the various items included in the agenda.
10. Decisions of the General Assembly are taken on the basis of a simple majority of the members present or represented, except for those decisions for which the law requires that a different kind of majority is adopted.
11. The decisions of the General Assembly will be minuted, signed by the president and kept by the secretariat of the FEPEDA, who will make them available for consultation.

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Item 5

1. FEPEDA is administered by the Management Committee elected at the General Assembly. Each EU-country having a full or associate FEPEDA member is entitled to have one representative on the MC. There can be also up to five MC members from non-EU-countries.

Each member of the Management Committee shall have their membership reaffirmed every three years by their national association. The first reaffirmation shall take place no later than the 3rd anniversary of the adoption of this new constitution.

2. The Committee members, representing Associated Members of non-EU-countries, shall have voting rights except on matters concerning the European Union.
3. Should a member of the Management Committee no longer be able to serve, the national association, represented by the member in question, shall designate another person to serve in his/her stead.
4. The Management Committee shall elect an Executive Committee for three years. The role of this Executive Committee is to prepare the meetings for the MC. The Executive Committee shall consist of: President, Vice President and from two to four members of the Management Committee.

The President may appoint someone to act as a Secretary, who has the right to attend all meetings of governing bodies. The Secretary does not, however, have a right to vote unless he/she is also a member of the Management Committee.

5. The Management Committee shall physically or online meet at least twice a year at the invitation of the president.
6. The quorum at the Management Committee meetings for the purposes of decisions shall be one third of its members.
7. Decisions of the Management Committee are taken on the basis of a simple majority of the members attending the meeting and are included in the minutes which shall be circulated to every member of the Committee. The minutes of the Management Committee's deliberations shall be available for consultation by the members of FEPEDA.
8. The Management Committee is responsible for the management of the FEPEDA. Its particular areas of responsibility comprises the:
 - invitation to the General Assembly,
 - presentation of the Annual Report,
 - presentation of the financial report of FEPEDA, and
 - receipt of gifts and donations.
9. The Management Committee is represented by the President or, in his/her absence, by the Vice President.
10. For the purpose of dealing with urgent decisions, a written procedure must be adopted as follows:
 - a draft explaining the various points relevant to the decision shall be sent to all members of the Management Committee and the member has to confirm the receipt of the draft,
 - The absence of a further response from a member shall be considered as acceptance of the decision,
 - the veto of more than one third of the members of the Committee forces the decision to be suspended until the next meeting of the Management Committee.

ANNUAL FEE

Item 6

1. The nominal amount of the annual fee is fixed by the General Assembly. The actual amount for each country is calculated by multiplying this nominal amount with the coefficient applied to vote apportionment as prescribed in Item 4.
2. Members are not entitled to vote if the annual fee for the previous year is not paid.
3. The Association's assets are exclusively liable for the Association's liabilities.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Item 7

The financial and social activities of FEPEDA are reported on annually. The Annual Accounts are presented to the General Assembly for approval.

Accepted at the extraordinary General Assembly in 8th September 2023.

André Cuenca
President



Franziska Geiser-Bedon
Executive Committee member (treasurer)



