

International non-profit Organisation FEST Federation for European Storytelling

Kasteelstraat 6

3740 – Bilzen (BE)

Following individuals:

- 1) Guido Tilkin
- 2) Yvonne Rose-Marie Lindfors
- 3) Theresa Amoon
- 4) M^a Rosario Pita Villares
- 5) Paola Balbi

have agreed among themselves and with all who will join later, to set up a non-profit organisation under the subject to the following conditions.

STATUTES

I. Name, registered office, purpose

Art. 1: The Federation for European Storytelling (FEST), known henceforth as the “Association”, is an international collaboration between associations and organisations in Europe devoted to the perpetuation and development of live oral storytelling. Storytelling is understood to be the live oral telling of stories, engaging directly with listeners to create a shared experience of storytelling. While welcoming and affirming technological means of communication, the primary experience is in real time and person to person.

Art 2: The registered office is located in 3740 Bilzen (BE), Kasteelstraat 6. The association falls under the judicial district of Tongeren.

Art. 3: The Association shall be a non profit-making organisation seeking to create a platform for the promotion of live oral storytelling in Europe. The Association shall strive to become a network through which associations and organisations in Europe will work together to promote:

Traditions

Traditions are storytelling practices and bodies of narrative which have been passed down through the generations. The work of FEST is based on respect for such traditions and the desire to both preserve and develop their essential characteristics for future generations.

Languages

Linguistic diversity is essential to storytelling in both its traditional and contemporary forms. The work of FEST respects and encourages diversity while also encouraging translation and communication between the languages of Europe.

Culture

FEST recognises and seeks to apply UNESCO definitions of culture along with UNESCO'S international agreements on cultural expression, languages, minority cultures, education and the preservation of non-material culture.

Objectives

FEST aims to be:

- a network
- a platform
- an advocate for storytelling

FEST as a federation will thereby be able to:

- Strengthen the expertise of storytelling in Europe,
- Elevate storytelling as an art form to increase its status amongst the general public,
- Support development of new generations of storytellers,
- Be a continuous hub for cross-European storytelling information, skill

- sharing, and potential collaborations,
- Allow participants to meet, share ideas, and network.
- Act, in the long term, as an advisory structure in the field of storytelling for the European Institutions as well as UNESCO, and other relevant authorities and institutions.

Art. 4: the association has been established for an indefinite duration. It can be dissolved at any time.

II. Members

Art.5: The association is composed solely of members.
The fullness of membership, including voting rights at the general meeting, comes exclusively to the members.

Art 6: Upon meeting membership criteria, membership is open to:

- National or regional organisations with legal status (criteria a charity or similar, has a board of directors, has members, states in their articles of memorandum that the company furthers oral storytelling)
- Storytelling organisations with legal status, minimum 2 years running
- International organisers of festivals which have been three or more years running and in which the programme consist of at least 70% storytelling events and features two or more foreign storytellers
- Educational Institutions: Universities/Colleges offering storytelling as subject and Storytelling schools that have been two or more years running.

Membership of FEST is not open to:

- Individual storytellers
- Organisations whose main aims are to promote an individual storyteller.

An interested party shall ask for membership by sending an application this effect to the Executive Committee of FEST. Acceptance as a member shall be decided upon by the Executive Committee during its first meeting after reception of the request for membership and if all membership criteria has been met.

Art. 7: The members shall be required to pay an annual subscription of max. € 200, the amount of which shall be decided upon on a yearly base at the General Meeting.

Art. 8: members of the association are required

- a. to comply the statutes and bylaws of the association and the decisions of its bodies
- b. not to harm to the interests of the association or any of its organs.

Art. 9: Members may resign from the Association by sending a letter or an email to this effect to the Executive Committee. Termination of the membership may only take place from the end of the Association's financial year.

Members who resign or whose membership has been terminated lose all rights over the

Association's assets on receipt of a written acknowledgement to the letter from the Executive Committee, or at the point at which terminated membership is otherwise notified in writing to the member concerned.

Each member of the Association shall have one vote in the General Meeting. Members who do not exercise their vote in person or by proxy for two successive meetings thereby cease to be members.

III. Executive Committee

Art. 10: The Association shall be administered by an executive committee composed of a minimum of five members, including a President, Secretary and Treasurer, appointed from their number.

The Executive Committee will govern and advance the work of the Association between the General Meetings.

The members who wish to put themselves forward for nomination to the following year's Executive Committee will be given the opportunity to do so beforehand. The Executive Committee shall then be elected at the General Meeting from among these members.

Executive Committee members may serve for a minimum of one year and maximum three years. After serving for three years, an Executive Committee member must step down for at least one year before being eligible for re-election. Elections to the Executive Committee take place annually during the General Meeting. The Executive Committee members may be dismissed during their term by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the General Meeting.

The AISBL host organisation must be represented as a member of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee member representing the organisation hosting the official seat of the FEST AISBL can stay in office as long as the organisation hosts the seat. If the host representative is not re-elected or dismissed as a committee member by the General Meeting, the seat will have to move to another organisation.

It is recommended that the President, Secretary and Treasurer serve for a minimum of two consecutive years.

The Executive Committee shall have overall managerial and administrative powers subject to the prerogatives of the General Meeting, though it may delegate such powers as it sees fit to employed staff and volunteers. Such delegated powers will be recorded in the Executive Committee register.

The Executive Committee shall adopt resolutions on the basis of a simple majority vote from its elected members present at its meeting. In the event of a tie, the President shall have the casting vote. All resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee shall be written down in a register kept in the Association's virtual archives. These virtual archives should be available to members upon request.

The Executive Committee members must insure that all due care is taken regarding

allocation of all finances and resources in order to hold General Meetings, as well as any other activities supported by the Association. This includes regular reports and communication between the core Executive Committee members and the host country's Executive Committee member, so that no undue financial risks are taken. Any and all legal action in which the Association is involved either as a plaintiff or defendant shall be handled by the Executive Committee, represented by its President or by two other Executive Committee members. Two signatures shall be required for all expenditures.

The Executive Committee may appoint professional associations or organisations based in member countries to carry out delegated tasks of administration, finance and event organisation. Such appointments will be time limited and task specific.

The Executive Committee is empowered to appoint up to two additional members who will be subject to approval or election at the next General Meeting.

The Executive Committee members execute their mandate free of charge, unless the General Meeting specifies otherwise.

IV. General Meeting

Art. 11: The General Meeting of FEST's members will take place annually with one or more representatives from each member. Regardless of how many representatives attend from one organisation, each organisation is allotted one vote as a member.

Each member of the Association may be represented at the General Meeting by an individual within the same organisation or by another member, provided that the said individual or member has a written proxy available for scrutiny at the meeting. No member may hold more than one proxy at any given General Meeting.

The General meeting shall have the exclusive power to do the following:

- elect the Executive Committee;
- modify the articles of the Association;
- dissolve the Association and redistribute its assets;
- set and approve long-term policies;
- approve the activity report;
- approve the budget for the forthcoming years as well as the accounts for the completed year prior to the General Meeting;
- discharge the Executive Committee if necessary.

The Executive Committee shall submit a program of events for the forthcoming year for approval by the General Meeting.

The Association shall have a General Meeting at least once per year.

Items that are not on the agenda of the General Meeting may not be voted upon.

Urgent matters can be entered into the agenda on the basis of a simple majority vote.

If not held at a FEST conference, the General Meeting shall be called by the Executive Committee by means of a standard letter or an email addressed to each member at least three months prior to the General Meeting. The General Meeting is summoned by the

Executive Committee in writing or by email giving particulars of the agenda at least 28 days in advance of the meeting.

Resolutions shall be adopted on the basis of a simple majority vote from the members who are present or represented at the General Meeting.

A minimum of a third of the membership must participate in person or by proxy for the General Meeting to be quorate. If the General Meeting is inquorate, a new meeting shall be called within a 3-month period. This second voting process may take place by email, and shall validly and definitively vote on the proposal regardless of the number of full members - see above – who participate. A simple majority vote of those members who participate is still required in order for the resolution to pass.

All resolutions adopted by the General Meeting shall be noted in a register that shall be approved by the Executive Committee. This register shall be kept within the Association's virtual archives where it shall be available to all members.

In order to amend the statutes and/or the corporate aim of the INPO, the rules hereafter apply:

V. Modifications, dissolution

Art. 12: Without prejudice to the stipulations of section III of the act of 27 June 1921, any proposal aimed at modifying the Articles of the Association or at dissolving the Association must come from the Council or from at least two thirds of the members of the Association.

The Executive Committee must notify members of the Association at least two months prior to the General Meeting, clearly identifying any matters that it intends to discuss that may modify the Statutes of the Association or dissolve the Association.

The General Meeting is only authorized to discuss and vote on such a proposal if at least two-thirds of the members of the Association are present or represented at the General Meeting.

Any resolution to modify the Articles of the Association or dissolve the Association must obtain a two-thirds majority vote from those present or represented in order to pass. However, in the event that the General Meeting fails to obtain the required quorum, a new voting process shall take place within three months of the inquorate General Meeting. This second voting process may take place by email, and shall validly and definitively vote on the proposal regardless of the number of full members - see above – who participate. A two-thirds majority vote of those members who participate is still required in order for the resolution to pass.

A resolution with regard to the dissolution of the Association may only be adopted by the General Meeting subject to the stipulation in this article under 5.1 and 5.2.

If the Association has been inactive for a period of three years, it shall be dissolved.

In the event of dissolution, the net assets of the Association shall be distributed to one or

more artistic or cultural institutions with similar objectives, agreed by a two-thirds majority of those members present or represented at the General Meeting.

The executive committee members are not personally bound by the commitments of the international non-profit. They are solely responsible for the fulfillment of their assigned task and liable for the shortcomings in their governance.

The members in that capacity have no personal obligation on the commitments of the international non-profit organization.

Any modifications made to the Statutes of Association shall only go into effect after they have been approved if such is necessary by Royal Decree and after the conditions for announcements described in section III of the act of 27 June 1921.

VI. General provisions

Art. 13: Any matters that have not been provided for the present Articles of the Association, namely the publications to be made in the appendices of the Belgian Gazette, shall be handled in accordance with legal provisions.

VII. Budgets, accounts

Art. 14: The financial year shall end on 31 December of each year. The Executive Committee shall be required to submit the accounts of the previous financial year and the budget for the following financial year to the General Meeting for approval.

In case of a disagreement on the budget, the General Meeting may appoint an auditor to verify the accounts of the previous financial year.

Transitional measures

Closure of the first financial year

The first financial year runs from today until December 31, 2013, under the condition the INPO is officially recognised as a legal entity.

First extraordinary general meeting

All parties meet in a first extraordinary general meeting and unanimously adopt the following resolutions:

- a) is appointed to the function of board member: the abovementioned founders
- b) the assignment of the board shall end immediately after the annual meeting of 2015
- c) the function of board member is unpaid

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee above mentioned convened in a meeting and decided unanimously to appoint the following functions:

President: Guido Tilkin, above named.

Secretary: Theresa Amoon, above named.

Treasurer: Yvonne Lindfors, above named.