

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETAS LINGUISTICA EUROPAEA

Article One: Name and Purpose

- 1.1 The Society shall be known as the 'Societas Linguistica Europaea' (hereafter 'the Societas').
- 1.2 Its aims shall be the fostering and advancement, in European countries and elsewhere, of the scientific and scholarly study of language in all its aspects.

Article Two: Membership

- 2.1 Membership of the Societas shall be open to individuals and to associations, whether incorporated or unincorporated.
- 2.2 There shall be two classes of member: Ordinary Members and Associate Members. Individuals shall be eligible for Ordinary Membership and associations for Associate Membership.
- 2.3 All applicants shall be required to submit a completed Form of Application for Membership to the Secretary. Acceptance of applications shall be by written notification from the Secretary (this may include email notification, where appropriate), and membership shall be governed by the terms contained in the completed Application Form, as amended from time to time by vote of the annual Business Meeting in accordance with this Constitution. An applicant whose application for membership has been accepted shall become a Member only upon payment of an admission fee (where applicable) and the membership dues stipulated by the Societas.
- 2.4 Any admission fee and the membership dues of the Societas shall be fixed by vote of the annual Business Meeting of the Societas on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.
- 2.5 A Member who fails to pay his or her dues within the time

prescribed shall forfeit the rights of membership while such default continues, but these rights shall be restored on payment in full of all arrears. A Member in default for two years shall forfeit membership after notification by the Secretary. A Member may pay dues in advance for up to three years, and such dues shall be considered as paid in full regardless of any change in the level of dues which may come into effect after the date on which they were paid.

2.6 A Member who is in breach of the terms of membership as defined in Article 2.3 shall forfeit the rights of membership.

Article Three: Administration

3.1 The Officers of the Societas shall be a President, a Past President, a President-Elect, a Secretary, a Treasurer and the Editor of each journal published by the Societas. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be entrusted to one person by vote of the annual Business Meeting of the Societas.

3.1.1 The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer and chief representative of the Societas. He or she shall normally chair Business Meetings (subject to the provisions of Article 4.3.2) and meetings of the Executive Committee (subject to the provisions of Article 3.5.2).

3.1.2 The President-Elect and the Past President shall act as Vice-Presidents of the Societas, deputizing for the President as provided for in this Constitution, and on other occasions, when requested to do so by the President, the Executive Committee, or a Business Meeting.

3.1.3 The Secretary shall be responsible for communicating relevant information and decisions to the membership, and to this end shall maintain a list of Members of the Societas. He or she shall also take the minutes of Business Meetings (subject to the provisions of Article 4.3.2) and meetings of the Executive Committee (subject to the provisions of Article 3.5.2).

3.1.4 The Treasurer shall have charge of the Societas's finances and shall be responsible for their administration. He or she shall

prepare annual accounts, which shall be presented to the Business Meeting of the Societas held in the following year. The Treasurer shall have the power to disburse the funds of the Societas within the limits and subject to the constraints agreed from time to time by the Executive Committee and by the Business Meeting of the Societas.

3.1.5 The Editor of each of journal published by the Societas shall have charge of that journal, and shall have power to order its publication, upon certification from the Treasurer that sufficient funds are available. The Editors may call on any Ordinary Member of the Societas for assistance in the performance of their duties. The Editor of each journal shall have due regard for the guidelines for submission to that journal, as amended from time to time. In exceptional circumstances, the Editors shall have discretion to accept or solicit an article from a non-member. The Editor of each journal shall submit a report on that journal to each annual Business Meeting.

3.1.6 Other responsibilities may be assigned to the Officers of the Societas from time to time by the Executive Committee or by a Business Meeting.

3.2 The offices of President-Elect, President, and Past President shall represent three phases of a single position, as follows. The person elected to the office of President-Elect shall serve in this role for one year, after which he or she shall automatically become President, also for a period of one year. An individual demitting office as President shall, likewise without further nomination or election, serve a final one-year term, as Past President.

3.3 Subject to the provisos of Articles 3.1 and 3.2, Officers other than the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Editor of each journal published by the Societas shall be elected annually by the Business Meeting of the Societas, held in accordance with Article 4.3. Any person who has held the office of President shall be ineligible for subsequent election to the office of President or President-Elect.

3.4 The Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Editor of each journal published by the Societas shall be elected by a Business Meeting of the Societas to serve for a three-year term. Each of the

foregoing Officers shall be eligible for re-election on no more than two occasions.

3.5 There shall be an Executive Committee of the Societas.

3.5.1 The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Officers specified in Article 3.1 above and six other Ordinary Members of the Societas, two of the six being elected each year to serve for three years. At the expiry of their three-year term, these members shall be ineligible for immediate re-election to the Executive Committee. Between Annual Meetings of the Societas, the Executive Committee shall have power to take any action for which specific provision has not been made by a previous Business Meeting. The minutes of every meeting held by the Executive Committee shall be made available to the membership as a whole as soon as is reasonably possible and may be discussed at the next Business Meeting following their publication. The Secretary may on his or her own initiative, and shall at the request of any other member of the Committee, ask the Executive Committee to vote on specific questions by postal ballot, by email, or by any other appropriate means of communication.

3.5.2 The Executive Committee shall hold a regular meeting at the time and place of the Annual Meeting of the Societas; the President and the Secretary acting jointly shall have the right to call special meetings of the Committee. A special meeting of the Executive Committee shall also be convened if requested by more than half the members of that Committee. The time and place of any meeting of the Committee shall be notified at least three weeks in advance to all its members. Meetings of the Committee shall normally be chaired by the President. In the absence of the President, the Past President shall chair the meeting; if both the President and the Past President are absent, the meeting shall be chaired by the President-Elect. If neither the President nor either of the Vice-Presidents is present, the meeting shall elect another current member of the Executive Committee to perform this function. If the conduct of the President or the Past President or the President-Elect becomes a matter for discussion and that person is chairing the meeting, then he or she shall vacate the chair, and the meeting shall elect another current member of the Executive Committee to act as Chair until such time as the issue has been resolved. The President shall determine the order of

business in conjunction with the Secretary, but any member of the Committee shall be entitled to raise further questions for the consideration and action of the Committee. The Secretary shall take the minutes of the meeting. If the Secretary is absent, the meeting shall elect another current member of the Executive Committee to take the minutes.

3.5.3 If necessary, the Executive Committee may conduct its business by post, by email, or by any other appropriate means of communication.

3.5.4 All decisions of the Executive Committee shall be by simple majority vote; abstentions shall be included in the total number of votes cast. In the event of a tie, the vote cast by the Chair shall be decisive. Any other member of the Executive Committee who is not present at a meeting of the Committee may, by written proxy, appoint an Ordinary Member of the Societas to attend and vote in his or her stead; but no one person shall by virtue of holding proxies or for any other reason have the right to cast more than one vote. The Executive Committee may invite Ordinary Members of the Societas who are not members of that Committee to attend meetings of the Committee, but they shall not have the right to vote at such meetings.

3.5.5 Specific responsibilities may be assigned from time to time by the Executive Committee to its individual members.

3.5.6 The Executive Committee may set up *ad hoc* Subcommittees or Working Parties to deal with specific issues. Such Subcommittees or Working Parties shall consist of members of the Executive Committee, but may also include Ordinary Members of the Societas who are not members of the Executive Committee.

3.6 There shall be a Scientific Committee of the Societas.

3.6.1 The Scientific Committee shall consist of five Ordinary Members of the Societas, one of the five being elected each year to serve for five years. At the expiry of their five-year term, members of the Scientific Committee shall be ineligible for immediate re-election to that Committee. The member whose term is about to expire shall act as Chair of the Committee. No Officer of the Societas (as defined in Article 3.1 above) may concurrently be a member of the Scientific Committee.

3.6.2 The business of the Scientific Committee shall be to evaluate, review, and promote the publications of the Societas, to have charge of any scientific publication of the Societas other than its journals, to assist the Local Organizer of each Annual Meeting of the Societas, notably in drawing up a programme and in refereeing and selecting abstracts, as provided for in the guidelines for the organization of Annual Meetings of the Societas, as amended from time to time, and to assist the organizers of other scientific meetings of the Societas, including Summer Schools.

3.6.3 The Scientific Committee may conduct its business by post, by email, or by any other appropriate means of communication. Decisions of the Scientific Committee shall be by simple majority vote; in the event of a tie, the vote cast by the Chair shall be decisive.

3.7 There shall be a Nominating Committee of the Societas.

3.7.1 The Nominating Committee shall consist of five Ordinary Members of the Societas, one of the five being elected each year to serve for five years. At the expiry of their five-year term, members of the Nominating Committee shall be ineligible for immediate re-election to that Committee. The member whose term is about to expire shall act as Chair of the Committee. No member of the Executive Committee or the Scientific Committee may concurrently be a member of the Nominating Committee.

3.7.2 The business of the Nominating Committee shall be to make nominations for the vacant positions in the Societas, as specified more fully in Article 3.9.1 below.

3.7.3 The Nominating Committee shall be autonomous, and shall not be directed by any Officer of the Societas, nor by any of its other

Committees.

- 3.7.4 The Nominating Committee may conduct its business by post, by email, or by any other appropriate means of communication. Decisions of the Nominating Committee shall be by simple majority vote; in the event of a tie, the vote cast by the Chair shall be decisive.
- 3.8 The following procedures shall apply in the event of a vacancy arising amongst the Officers of the Societas or on any of its committees.
- 3.8.1 Except as provided for in Article 3.8.4, any vacancy shall be filled in the first instance by a temporary substitute appointed by the Executive Committee, and then for the remainder of the term of the original holder of the position by a replacement elected in a by-election to be held at the time of the next following regular election.
- 3.8.2 By-elections shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures prescribed for regular elections set out in Article 3.9, save only that the two-month notice period for nominations made by the Nominating Committee shall be waived if the vacancy to be filled has arisen less than two months before an Annual Meeting of the Societas.
- 3.8.3 Notwithstanding Articles 3.5.1, 3.6.1, and 3.7.1, a temporary substitute shall be eligible for immediate election to the position he or she has been holding. Likewise, a replacement elected to a position in a by-election shall be eligible for immediate re-election to that position at the end of his or her mandate, provided he or she has served for less than half the normal term for the position in question.
- 3.8.4 If the position of Past President falls vacant during the year, it shall not be refilled, and if the position of President falls vacant, the President-Elect shall assume the Presidency immediately and continue to serve until the end of the year during which he or she would normally have been President; in these circumstances, no vacancy shall be declared for either office, but a new President-Elect shall be elected in the normal way and at the normal time.

3.9 All elections shall be conducted as follows.

3.9.1 Voting shall normally take place during the annual Business Meeting of the Societas, held in accordance with Article 4.3 below.

3.9.1.1 The Nominating Committee, having ascertained that each person considered for nomination will serve if elected, shall nominate one person for each position to be filled at the annual election, and the Secretary shall, at least two months before the date of the annual Business Meeting, circulate to the Ordinary Members, by post, by email, or by any other appropriate means of communication, notice of these nominations.

3.9.1.2 In addition, any Ordinary Member may nominate any eligible Ordinary Member of the Societas other than him- or herself as a candidate for a position to be filled. If the Secretary receives, not later than three weeks before the date of the annual Business Meeting, communications from six or more Ordinary Members nominating the same person for the same position, he or she shall enquire of the nominee whether that person will serve if elected. Upon agreeing to do so, such a person shall have equal standing with the persons nominated by the Nominating Committee; in this case, the names of the individual members who have made the nomination shall be published by the Secretary.

3.9.1.3 The nominations made by the Nominating Committee, as well as those made by six or more individual members, shall be put before the Business Meeting by the Secretary. If no nominations have been received by the time of the Business Meeting for a position which is to be filled, the presiding officer (as defined in Article 4.4 below) shall call for nominations from the floor.

3.9.1.4 If there is only one nominee for a position, that person shall be declared elected unopposed, without a ballot, provided that no objection is raised from the floor. If an objection is raised, then a secret ballot shall be held for the position in question, to be supervised by the Secretary, unless the Secretary is the nominee, in which case the conduct of the election shall be entrusted to an Ordinary Member of the Societas who is willing to perform this function, proposed from the floor and elected by show of hands. If

such a ballot is held, the nominee shall be declared elected only if he or she obtains more votes in favour than against.

3.9.1.5 If there are two or more nominees for any one position, voting for that position shall be by secret ballot, to be supervised by the Secretary, unless the Secretary is one of the nominees, in which case the conduct of the election shall be entrusted to an Ordinary Member of the Societas who is willing to perform this function, proposed from the floor and elected by show of hands.

3.9.1.6 If, despite a call for nominations from the floor, there are no nominees for a given position, a vacancy shall be declared, and the position shall be filled in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 3.8.

3.9.2 If for any reason whatsoever an Annual Meeting cannot be called, or is cancelled by the Executive Committee in accordance with Article 4.6 below, or if a Business Meeting is inquorate, as defined in Article 4.3.1 below, the election scheduled for this meeting shall be conducted by postal ballot, by email, or by any other appropriate means of communication. At the time nominations close — that is, three weeks before the due date of the annual Business Meeting — the Secretary shall have ascertained whether nominations have been received for all positions which are to be filled. (The due date of the annual Business Meeting shall be defined as follows: if a Business Meeting has been called, then the due date shall be the date scheduled for that meeting, even if it is inquorate or cancelled; if a Business Meeting cannot be called, the due date for the Business Meeting shall be one year from the date of the previous Business Meeting.) If, on the due date of the annual Business Meeting, there are no nominees for a given position, a vacancy shall be declared, and the position shall be filled in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 3.8. If there is only one nominee for a position, that person shall be declared elected unopposed, without a ballot. In respect of any position for which there are two or more nominees, the Secretary shall distribute one ballot paper to each Ordinary Member. In order to be accepted as valid votes, these ballot papers must be completed and returned to the Secretary no later than one calendar month after their distribution. At this time, the Secretary shall count the votes received and notify all members of the Societas of the total number of votes cast for each candidate.

The votes received in respect of any position for which the Secretary is a nominee shall be counted by another member of the Executive Committee.

3.9.3 For election to any position in the Societas, a simple majority of the votes cast, not including abstentions, shall be sufficient. In the event of a tie, the result shall be determined by drawing lots. This procedure shall be supervised by the Secretary, unless the Secretary is one of the nominees, in which case the drawing of lots shall be entrusted to an Ordinary Member of the Societas who is willing to perform this function, proposed from the floor and elected by show of hands, or, if the election is taking place in accordance with Article 3.9.2, to another member of the Executive Committee.

3.9.4 Any nominee may withdraw his or her candidacy at any time before a vote is held as specified in Articles 3.9.1 and 3.9.2.

3.10 All Officers of the Societas and all members of its Committees shall be Ordinary Members in good standing.

3.11 Any Officer of the Societas and any member of any of its Committees may be removed from office by a motion of 'no confidence' passed by a two-thirds majority of those present at a Business Meeting. Any vacancy created by this procedure shall be filled by nomination from the floor, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Article 3.9.1, and subject also to Article 3.8.4.

3.12 All nominations shall be without prejudice or constraint, save as provided in Article 3.10 above. None the less, it is desirable in principle that, over time, the Officers of the Societas and the membership of its various Committees should reflect an equitable representation of both sexes, relevant geographical areas, and the various theoretical tendencies, intellectual traditions, and subdisciplines within linguistics, and that, at any one time, no single one of the above should predominate.

Article Four: Meetings

- 4.1 There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Societas, at such time and place as shall be determined by the Executive Committee. The meeting shall be devoted to the presentation and discussion of scholarly papers and to the transaction of the business of the Societas.
- 4.2 Arrangements for the Annual Meeting shall be made by a Local Organizer appointed by the Executive Committee and under its supervision. To this end, the Executive Committee shall receive a specific proposal from the Local Organizer regarding the time of the Annual Meeting and an outline of its scholarly programme. The proposal shall be submitted at least three months before the Annual Meeting of the preceding year. The Local Organizer shall constitute a Local Committee to assist in the planning and organization of the Annual Meeting, and at least one member of this Local Committee shall be a member of the Executive Committee nominated by the Executive Committee. The Annual Meeting shall be organized with due regard for the guidelines for the organization of meetings of the Societas, as amended from time to time. After the conclusion of each Annual Meeting the Local Organizer shall prepare a written report on the conference, which shall be distributed to the members of the Executive Committee and made available to the membership of the Societas as a whole.
- 4.3. A Business Meeting of the Societas shall be held as part of each Annual Meeting.
- 4.3.1. The order of business at the Business Meeting shall be determined by the Executive Committee, although any Member of the Societas shall be entitled to propose items for inclusion on the agenda. Unless determined otherwise in this Constitution, decisions of the Business Meeting shall be by simple majority vote; abstentions shall be included in the total number of votes cast. The quorum for a Business Meeting shall be twenty ordinary members or five per cent of the total number of Ordinary Members at the time of the meeting, whichever is the greater. A meeting which is inquorate may hold discussions, but no vote taken at such a meeting shall be valid.

4.3.2. The Business Meeting shall normally be chaired by the President. In the absence of the President, the Past President shall chair the Business Meeting; if both the President and the Past President are absent, the Business Meeting shall be chaired by the President-Elect. If neither the President nor either of the Vice-Presidents is present, the meeting shall elect another Ordinary Member who is willing to perform this function to act as Chair. If the conduct of the President and/or of either or both of the Vice-Presidents and/or of the Executive Committee as a whole becomes a matter for discussion, the President (or the relevant Vice-President, as the case may be) shall vacate the chair, and the meeting shall elect another Ordinary Member, who is not a member of the Executive Committee, and who is willing to perform this function, to act as Chair until such time as the issue has been resolved. In each case, the election of an Ordinary Member to chair the meeting shall be by nomination from the floor and show of hands. The Secretary shall take the minutes of the meeting. If the Secretary is unable to be present, the meeting shall elect another Ordinary Member who is willing to perform this function to take the minutes. This election shall take place by nomination from the floor and show of hands.

4.4 The Executive Committee may call special meetings of the Societas.

4.5. In exceptional circumstances, the Executive Committee, after consultation with the Local Organizer, may cancel an Annual Meeting of the Societas. Such cancellation shall take place only as a result of *force majeure* or Act of God.

Article Five: Dissolution

5.1 The Societas may be dissolved by a vote in favour of dissolution cast by nine-tenths of the Ordinary Members. Such a vote shall take place by postal ballot, by email, or by any other appropriate means of communication.

5.2 Upon the dissolution of the Societas, its assets shall be disposed of as determined by the largest number of votes cast by Ordinary Members, consulted by postal ballot, by email, or by any other appropriate means of communication.

Article Six: Amendments

6.1 Any five Members of the Societas, acting jointly or separately, may propose amendments to the Constitution. Such proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary in writing (this may include email, where appropriate) not later than ten days prior to the next Business Meeting of the Societas. The Business Meeting shall consider the proposals, and in the case of a vote in favour by a simple majority, the Secretary shall without delay submit the proposed amendments to the entire voting membership by postal ballot, by email, or by any other appropriate means of communication. An amendment shall be adopted in the event of a vote in favour by at least two-thirds of the Members whose reply is received by the Secretary within a period of three months from the date of the Secretary's communication with the members.

6.2 An amendment thus adopted shall become effective immediately, and the Secretary shall notify all Members of the Societas of the changes that have been introduced in the Constitution as a result of the amendment.

Article Seven: Text of the Constitution

7.1 The Executive Committee may ask the annual Business Meeting to adopt a translation into another language as a parallel version of the Constitution; in case of dispute the English version shall be binding.