Statutes of the European Society of Biochemical Engineering Sciences (ESBES)

1. NAME

The name of the Association is the European Society of Biochemical Engineering Sciences and the official abbreviation is ESBES.

2. LEGAL STATUS AND DOMICILIATION

ESBES is a non-profit association established for an indefinite period. Its registered office is:

ESBES - European Society of Biochemical Engineering Sciences (ESBES)

Avenue des Arts 56

1000 Bruxelles

Belgium

3. MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

ESBES promotes cooperation in Europe among scientific and professional associations and individuals with activities in biochemical engineering sciences. Its objectives include:

- Providing a platform for scientific views and exchange

- Supporting professionals in industry and academia

- Promoting networking, education and training

- Influencing policy and public awareness

- Fostering academic-industrial collaboration

- Supporting European R&D and innovation

4. LANGUAGE

The official language of ESBES is English.

5. MEMBERSHIP

ESBES offers two main categories of membership: Institutional Membership and Individual Membership.

5.1 Institutional Membership

Institutional Membership is open to organizations whose activities encompass the field of biochemical engineering sciences and who support the mission of ESBES.

Institutional Members have voting rights in the General Assembly (one vote per institution).

5.1.1 Member Associations

European not-for-profit scientific and technical professional associations may become Member Associations, provided they:

- support the ESBES mission,

- pay their membership fees

- are accepted by the Board of Directors,

- and commit to the statutes of ESBES.

5.1.2 Corporate Members

Companies and institutions, whether based in Europe or outside, whose activities relate to biochemical engineering sciences may become Corporate Members, provided they:

- support the ESBES mission,

- pay their membership fees

- are accepted by the Board of Directors,

- and commit to the statutes of ESBES.

5.2 Individual Membership

5.2.1 Individual Members

Individuals with expertise or interest in biochemical engineering sciences are welcome to apply for Individual Membership. Individual Members have to:

- support the ESBES mission,

- are accepted by the Board of Directors,

- and commit to the statutes of ESBES.

Individual Membership is free. However, the Board may change this in the future if necessary.

Members are encouraged to participate actively in sections or working groups.

Individual Members are invited to attend the General Assembly They have no voting rights.

5.2.2 Honorary Members

Individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to ESBES may be granted Honorary Membership by the Board of Directors. Honorary Members do not have voting rights but may attend the General Assembly in an advisory capacity.

6. GOVERNANCE

6.1 General Assembly

6.1.1 Composition and Voting Rights

The General Assembly of ESBES shall convene at least once per year. The Board of Directors may call for an Extraordinary General Assembly at any time, provided that notice is given at least three months in advance.

An Extraordinary General Assembly may also be convened upon request by the members, provided that the request is supported by 30 % of the voting members of the General Assembly. In this case as well, a notice period of three months shall apply.

The General Assembly is the highest authority of ESBES and includes:

- Voting members:

- Institutional Members (one vote per institution)

- Non-voting participants:

- Honorary Members

- Members of the Board of Directors

- Section and Working Group Chairs

- Representative of the Secretariat

6.1.2 Responsibilities

The General Assembly shall:

- Elect the President, the Scientific Vice President, and the Executive Vice President, based on Board of Directors proposals.

- Hear and vote on the reports of the President, Scientific Vice President, and Executive Vice President (including financials).

- Approve the budget, dues, and other levies.

- Amend the statutes or decide on the dissolution of the Association.

- Rule on appeals regarding membership issues.

- Remove officers or Board members if necessary.

6.2 Board of Directors

6.2.1 Composition

The Board of Directors is chaired by the President and consists of:

- President

- Scientific Vice President

- Executive Vice President

- Section Chairs

Chair of the Industrial Advisory Board (co-opted)

6.2.2 Responsibilities

The Board of Directors:

- Develops strategic direction and policy

- Implements General Assembly decisions

- Reviews and proposes candidates for the officer roles

- Reviews budget and financial matters

- Approves membership applications

- Approves creation and dissolution of Sections and Working Groups

- Awards honorary membership and other recognitions

6.3 MANAGEMENT

6.3.1 President

Elected normally for a 3-year term, renewable normally once.

Chairs meetings, represents ESBES, appoints delegates, and recommends working groups.

6.3.2 Scientific Vice President

Elected for a 3-year term, renewable once.

Coordinates scientific activities, coordinates scientific activities working closely with Sections , and reports to the Board of Directors and General Assembly.

6.3.3 Executive Vice President

Elected normally for a 3-year term, normally renewable once.

Oversees finance, operations and General Secretariat, and presents the annual budget.

6.3.4 Secretariat

Contracted by ESBES. Prepares the budget working with EVP, manages communications, records, and finances.

6.4 Sections and Working Groups

6.4.1 Sections

Established by the Board upon Scientific VP recommendation. Chairs are elected by the Section members for a period of 3 years re-electable once and confirmed by the President. They may raise funds and must report annually.

6.4.2 Working Groups

Temporary groups for specific tasks and dissolved upon the completion of the task (usually within the same year). They are created by the Board of Directors.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Fees and Expenses

All ESBES officers serve on a voluntary basis. Travel costs are not reimbursed unless pre-approved in the Budget.

7.2 Budget and Administration

The Secretariat prepares the annual budget under the EVP's control. It is reviewed by the Board and approved by the General Assembly annually.

7.3 Revenue Sources

Dues from members, royalties, sponsorships, grants, and investment income.

7.4 Expenses

Must align with the approved budget. Expenses beyond the budget require Board of Directors approval.

8. AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

Amendments may be proposed by the Board of Directors or any Member via the Board of Directors for consideration The agreed amendments must be submitted to the General Assembly and approved by a simple majority. Text must be circulated 4 weeks in advance of the respective General Assembly Meeting

9. DISSOLUTION

A proposal must be submitted to the Board of Directors 8 months before the General Assembly and notified to members 5 months before. Requires a two-thirds majority vote. Remaining assets after all outstanding commitments are fulfilled go to a similar non-profit organization.