



Issue: LIFE Statutes and need for revision in General Assembly 2023

Dear Members,

On May 1 2019, the Belgian law governing societies and associations was fundamentally reformed to modernise and simplify it.

LIFE is registered in Belgium as a not-for-profit association (asbl), and must ensure that its statutes conform with the new regulation. This must be done before the end of the year – by December 31 2023 at the latest.

I am sending you a draft copy of the new statutes which must be approved by LIFE's General Assembly of all its members. Meeting on September 7, LIFE's Board of Directors unanimously approved the statutes. On behalf of LIFE, I ask your association to do so. If you are unable to do so, please inform me of the reasons why you are unable to. You will be required to approve these Statutes in the following General Assembly Meeting

The draft I am sending you is not very different to the statutes approved by many of you when we met on-line at LIFE's General Assembly in November 2021.

I am attaching a copy of the draft statutes in English. The machine translation into your language may not be perfect, but I hope it will be good enough for you to understand the key elements.

The main differences between the old and new regulatory conditions are as follows:

- The scope of the activities, as well as the aims and objectives, must be described in the statutes;
- The powers of the General Assembly have been increased;
- The rules governing the Board of Directors have been slightly modified:
 - o Directors are jointly and severally liable (they share all responsibilities equally).
 - o Rules on conflicts of interest in relation to assets have been introduced. However, there are no moral rules, which can be remedied by mentioning them in the articles of association;
 - o The term "administrative body" is used instead of "board of directors". This lexical change has no practical consequences;
- The rights and obligations of members must be set out in the statutes;
- Other new features include:
 - o Notice of the AGM must be sent at least 15 days in advance;
 - o The exceptional circumstances in which the Board of Directors may take a decision unanimously and in writing must be defined

Please note the following:

Article 2.2 of the new statutes includes a new activity to address gender and the role of women, as follows:

- Support women active in small-scale low impact fisheries, all along the value chain, for their work to be recognised and respected, to be provided with targeted specialised professional training, to be fully integrated into stakeholder consultations and in the decision-making processes that affect them;

Membership conditions: no change (Article 3) in the new statutes

General Assembly

You will note that the role and responsibilities of the General Assembly has been enlarged.

I am happy to try and answer any questions you may have.

Best wishes,

Marta Cavallé

Executive Secretary

Low Impact Fishers of Europe