

CONSTITUTION OF THE
SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN MOVEMENT

1. NAME

The organisation shall be called THE SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN MOVEMENT, hereinafter referred to as “the Council”.

2. AIMS

The aims of the Council shall be -

- a) to advance the goal of European unity;
- b) to advance the cause of greater understanding and co-operation between the democratic States of Europe;
- c) to ensure that the interests of Scotland are promoted within the institutions of the European Union, and other European Bodies; and
- d) to press for improved processes of democratic accountability within the institutions of the European Union.

Those aims may be furthered in the following ways:

- i) by informing public opinion in Scotland about Europe, and by promoting understanding, co-operation and unity amongst the countries and peoples of Europe and between them and the rest of the world.
- ii) by organising lectures, conferences, seminars and public discussions on political, economic, cultural and other issues pertaining to Europe, by arranging debates and providing speakers to address meetings;
- iii) by maintaining links with other European organisations and in particular the International European Movement, and
- iv) by campaigning for and issuing information about European unity.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(a) Membership shall be open to individual and corporate members (being companies, educational institutions, not-for-profit organisations or European groups within political parties) who subscribe to, or are academically or professionally interested in, the aims of the Council as set out above.

(b) Subscriptions for and within each category of membership may be set by the Annual General Meeting from time to time. Different rates of subscription may be determined having regard to the circumstances of individuals or bodies.

4. GENERAL MEETINGS

(a) An Annual General Meeting of the Council shall be held during the last quarter of the year. It shall consider the reports presented to it by the appropriate office bearers, deal with such matters as are entrusted to it by this Constitution and consider such motions as are duly proposed and seconded by members and accepted by the President as being in order for discussion. Additionally, it shall elect as honorary officers the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Council, and the members of the Council whenever such elections shall be required.

(b) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be summoned by the Executive Committee or on the request of at least 20 members of the Council.

(c) The quorum of a general meeting shall be the lower of 25 individual fully paid-up members or 20% of the fully paid-up individual membership.

5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(a) The Executive Committee shall consist of the honorary officers, each of whom shall hold office for a term of two years and each of whom shall be eligible for re-election at the end of his term of office, together with:

i) ten individual members elected at an Annual General Meeting, each of whom shall hold office for a term of two years and each of whom shall be eligible for re-election at the end of his term of office

ii) one member elected by the corporate members acting by simple majority

iii) one member nominated by the Young European Movement or such successor group as may be recognised by the Council, and

iv) such additional members, not exceeding five, as may be co-opted from time to time by the Executive Committee to achieve greater balance between political parties, groups or organisations or for other good reasons.

(b) The Executive Committee may for appropriate reasons invite not more than two non-voting observers to attend a meeting or meetings of the Committee.

(c) The Chairman, and in his absence, the Vice-Chairman or ad hoc Chairman for the meeting, shall have and exercise a casting vote.

(d) It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to keep such accounts of income and expenditure as may be necessary and to present accounts for approval by the AGM certified by an independent examiner appointed by the Annual General Meeting.

6. PRESIDENTS

The Annual General Meeting may elect one or more distinguished men or women, who have given service to the European cause, as President and Vice Presidents or Patrons of the Council.

7. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

The Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting summoned for that purpose may amend the constitution by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, provided that the amendment(s) has (have) been circulated to members at least 21 days before the date of the meeting.

Amended and adopted by Annual General Meeting, Glasgow, 14 November 2009