

Statute Unified European Left group

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

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A) NAME, OBJECTIVES, VALUES AND PRINCIPLES, STRUCTURE AND HEADQUARTERS

ARTICLE 1- NAME

The name of the political group is: Unified European Left group in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). Its abbreviation is: UEL (English) and GUE (French). Throughout this document the abbreviated form "UEL" and "the Group" will be used.

ARTICLE 2 – OBJECTIVES, VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

2.1 UEL operates in the framework set out by PACE: to promote and protect human rights, rule of law and democracy.

2.2 The Group is in particular inspired by the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social Charter and by other conventions, arrangements and activities which promote and protect human dignity, social and gender equality, organized solidarity and sustainable development of the planet.

ARTICLE 3 – STRUCTURE

The organs of the Group are:

- Plenary Assembly
- Bureau
- Presidency
- Chairperson(s)
- Secretary General

ARTICLE 4 – HEADQUARTERS

The UEL group has its headquarters in Strasbourg.

ARTICLE 5 – LOGO



B) MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE 6 – ADMISSION

Representatives and substitutes belonging to a delegation in the Parliamentary Assembly may candidate themselves to join the Group.

Candidate members have to fill in the membership form providing their personal details and history track of national party affiliation.

Candidate members should agree to respect this Statute before joining the Group.

No Assembly member may belong to more than one political group.

The admission has to be approved by simple majority¹ of the Group.

ARTICLE 7 – TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall end when membership of PACE ends, or with resignation from or dismissal by the Group. Membership may be suspended by decision of the Group.

ARTICLE 8 – RESIGNATION

Any member may resign from the Group at any time, by written notice to the Presidency providing the decision to resign, reason and details about future or alternative membership. The resignation may come into effect immediately or as otherwise specified in the letter of resignation upon decision by the Presidency.

ARTICLE 9 – SUSPENSION, DISMISSAL

The proposal to suspend or dismiss a member may be submitted by at least five members of at least five political delegations in the Group, as well as by the Bureau or the Presidency.

ARTICLE 10 – REASONS

The reasons for suspension or dismissal may include the following:

- Not acting in accordance with the fundamental objectives, values, and principles of Article 2 of this Statute.

¹Simple majority: is obtained when there are more votes in favour than against. In that case, abstention votes cannot be assimilated as votes against.

- Not fulfilling the conditions for membership or obligations set out in Article 16 of this Statute.
- Harming the internal or external functioning of the Group.

ARTICLE 11 – RIGHT FOR A HEARING

The member concerned has the right to be heard by the Presidency before the vote on the termination of its membership.

ARTICLE 12 – SUSPENSION: DECISION

The decision to suspend a member is to be taken by the Plenary Assembly or by the Bureau. The decision includes the term of the suspension. No term should be longer than one year. During this period of suspension, all rights and privileges of membership are temporarily withdrawn, except the right to attend the group meetings. Furthermore, the Plenary Assembly or the Bureau might decide to maintain certain rights.

ARTICLE 13 – DISMISSAL: DECISION

The decision to dismiss a member is to be taken by the Plenary Assembly. The dismissal shall come into force at the end of the month following the decision or may in particular cases have direct effect, if the Plenary Assembly decides so.

ARTICLE 14 – RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP

A member who resigned from UEL or was suspended or dismissed may renew its membership after a vote by the Plenary Assembly.

C) RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS OF UEL

ARTICLE 15 – RIGHTS

Members of UEL have the following rights:

- to participate in group activities.
- to debate during group meetings.
- to make amendments to proposals to the Group.
- to vote in group meetings.

- to be provided with political and administrative support and service by the Group's secretariat.
- to be appointed as speaker on behalf of the Group on top of the list of speakers in plenary meetings of PACE.
- to elect the Presidency and the Bureau of the Group.
- to be promoted as rapporteur for a specific report.
- to be a candidate on behalf of the Group for the Monitoring committee, the Rules committee, and the Election of Judges committee.
- to be a candidate to participate on behalf of the Group in PACE elections observation missions.
- to be a candidate on behalf of the Group for other PACE activities.

ARTICLE 16 – OBLIGATIONS

Members of UEL are expected to:

- participate in the activities of the Group
- show respect and tolerance towards different opinions within the Group
- support other members in participating in the activities of the Group
- comply with the rules and regulations of the Group
- respect the PACE code of conduct when representing the Group
- notify the Group of any changes in national political affiliation or other relevant national developments

D) ORGANS AND COMPOSITION

ARTICLE 17 – PLENARY ASSEMBLY

Members of the Group together form the Plenary Assembly when it meets according to the rules.

ARTICLE 18 – ROLE PLENARY ASSEMBLY

The Group's Plenary Assembly:

- Deals with both matters relating to the Parliamentary Assembly and to the external affairs of the Council of Europe as well as internal Group matters.
- Discusses the position to be taken by the Group with regard to resolutions, recommendations and other proposals made to PACE and its committees.

- Elects the members of the Bureau of the Group

ARTICLE 19 – VOTING IN THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY

Decisions of the Plenary Assembly shall be taken by a simple majority of votes cast except for cases specified in a different way by the rules of procedure.

ARTICLE 20 – BUREAU

The Bureau that consists of the Chairperson or co-chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons, the Treasurer and members of the Group is elected by the Plenary Assembly at the first part session of each year. The Secretary General, who is appointed by the Presidency is ex officio member of the Bureau.

ARTICLE 21 – ROLE OF BUREAU

The Bureau is responsible for the preparation of the meetings of the Plenary Assembly and for the execution of decisions taken by the Plenary Assembly.

ARTICLE 22 – PRESIDENCY

The Presidency consists of the Chairperson or co-chairpersons of the Group and Vice-Chairpersons. The Members of the Presidency agree among themselves on the allocation of areas of responsibility. The Presidency is responsible for leading the Group in group meetings and in between meetings. The Presidency represents the Group externally and informs the Plenary Assembly of its strategic and political decisions.

ARTICLE 23 – CHAIRPERSON(S)

The Chair of the Group shall be held by a single Chairperson, or be collective, and ensured by a First and a Second Chairperson. Chairpersons are elected by the Plenary Assembly. In line with article 25 of the Statutes, the First and Second Chairpersons must be of a different gender. The First Chairperson participates ex officio at the Committees specified at article 24, according to the rules of the Council of Europe. In all other issues there is an equal distribution of competences between the two Chairpersons and not a hierarchy between them. The mandate(s) can be prolonged by the Plenary Assembly in its first session of each year.

ARTICLE 24 – EX OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson of the political group is ex officio member of

- the Bureau and the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly
- the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy
- the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
- the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)
- the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities, and Institutional Affairs

ARTICLE 25 – GENDER BALANCE

The Group aspires having a gender balance in all its organs and activities.

E) SECRETARIAT

ARTICLE 26 – SECRETARY GENERAL

The Secretary General is appointed by the Presidency for a specific term. At the end of a term, the Presidency can prolong or end the appointment.

ARTICLE 27 – ROLE

The Secretary General carries out the decisions of the UEL organs and is directed by the Chairperson or co-chairpersons.

ARTICLE 28 – RESPONSIBILITIES

The Secretary General is responsible for the functioning of the Group and running of the UEL office. The Secretary General works in close cooperation with the Chairperson or co-chairpersons of the Group fulfilling a supportive role. These tasks include the Group Management, Coordination and the Internal and External Communication.

F) GROUP ACTIVITY DURING THE PART SESSIONS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ARTICLE 29 – GROUP MEETINGS

The Plenary Assembly meets during each Ordinary Part Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The Plenary Assembly or the Bureau may decide to hold less or extra meetings during or outside each session when needed. The meetings can be held in in-person, hybrid, or remote format.

All members of the Group are to be invited to the Group meetings.

ARTICLE 30 – PARTICIPATION BY SPECIAL GUESTS AND PARTNER FOR DEMOCRACY DELEGATIONS

Members of special guest delegations and of delegations with partner for democracy status may be allowed by the Plenary Assembly to participate in the work of UEL according to the conditions established by UEL.

G) VOTING

ARTICLE 31 – VOTING RULES

31.1 In matters upon which the present Regulations have not anticipated other arrangements, decisions are adopted by a simple majority of the votes cast.

32.2 Votes may take place by acclamation, a show of hands, or by secret ballot if three members present so request it.

33.3 During a vote each member has the right to abstain.

H) BUDGET

ARTICLE 32 – BUDGET

32.1 At the instance of the Assembly, the Committee of Ministers authorises each year the payment of an annual block grant to the political group supplemented by per capita

grants per member so that the groups can meet their political and administrative requirements.

32.2 Budgetary allocations are based on the membership of the Group on 30 June in the previous year.

32.3 According to the rules of the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly the Chairperson or co-chairpersons and Treasurer of the group guarantee the way funds are used.

32.4 The Plenary Assembly elects 2 auditors each year.

32.5 Voluntary donations, contributions to the group or special earnings may be added to the yearly budget of the group. The voluntary donations are made public on the website of UEL.

32.6 The budget shall be prepared and approved by the Group's Bureau, in accordance with the PACE regulations and rules regarding the funding of the political parties on European level.

1) DISSOLUTION OF THE GROUP

ARTICLE 33 – REQUEST

1/3 of the Plenary Assembly may request to put a discussion on the dissolution of the Group on the agenda of the meetings during the next Part Session of the Parliamentary Assembly.

ARTICLE 34 – DECISION

34.1 A decision on the dissolution of the Group can only be taken after all its members have been, in written form, informed at least two months in advance before the vote

34.2 A 2/3 majority of the votes cast by secret ballot is required. Abstentions are not taken into account in the calculation of the majority.

35.3 A decision on the dissolution of the Group needs a quorum of 2/3 of the total of all MP's who are member of the Plenary Assembly.

36.4 If it is established that there is no quorum, the vote shall be postponed and placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

J) DISPUTE SETTLEMENT AND GUIDANCE

ARTICLE 35 – DISPUTES

When disputes arise, it is the responsibility of the Chairperson or co-chairpersons to take the role of mediator and foster conflict resolution.

ARTICLE 36 – ABSENCE OF GUIDANCE

In cases the rules of this Statute do not provide clear guidance, the Presidency may propose to the Plenary Assembly how to act before the decision on that question.

K) AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTE

ARTICLE 37 – PREPARATION AND DECISION

37.1 Amendments of these statutes are decided by the Plenary Assembly only after thorough preparation and debate two part sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly in advance.

37.2 The amendments may enter into force before the decision in case the Plenary Assembly decides accordingly by a 2/3 majority.