

EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM FOR CHURCH AND STATE RESEARCH STATUTES

1.- The “European Consortium for Church-State Research” (hereafter “Consortium”) is hereby constituted.

The headquarters of the Consortium shall be the Istituto di Diritto internazionale e straniero (**Sezione di diritto ecclesiastico e canonico**) of the University of Milan, via Festa del Perdono, 7.

2.- The general purpose of the Consortium is to promote the development of studies of Ecclesiastical Law and of the relations between states and religious confessions in Europe.

In particular, it will be the Consortium’s task: a) to promote collaboration between Universities and other European cultural institutions undertaking research in this field; b) to make available funds and facilities for research to the members of the Consortium and to young scholars; c) to promote meetings and contacts between scholars (including non-members); d) to facilitate co-operation in the development of research and of specialist courses; e) to provide consultations and co-operation services on behalf of public and private, national and international institutions in relation to the activities carried out by the Consortium.

3.- Membership shall be open to individual scholars undertaking teaching or research activities in the fields referred to in Art. 2 and to individuals participating in the work of institutions interested in the same fields.

Memberships shall not exceed forty-five (45) members.

Each member country of the European Union shall have the right to at least one seat in the Consortium. This will remain vacant when this right is not taken up. No more than five members from the same country shall participate in the Consortium.

4.- Members who joined the Consortium before January 1, 2004, will become emeriti members on the first of January of the year following that in which they have attained the age of 75.

Members who joined the Consortium after January 1, 2004, will become emeriti members on the first of January of the year following that in which they have attained the age of 65. This provision shall not apply to the first member of each country that joined the European Union after December 31, 2003: they are entitled to be a member for a minimum period of 10 years, but in any case they shall become emeriti members at the attainment of 75 years of age.

From the age of sixty, any ordinary member who has completed ten years as member of the Consortium may, by a written communication to the President, become an emeritus member.

Emeriti members have neither the duties nor the rights of the ordinary members. Emeriti members cannot be elected President or member of the Executive Committee and will not be taken into consideration in calculating the majorities required by these statutes.

5.- New members shall be presented by at least three members from different countries. Membership is approved by the unanimous vote of the assembly, a quorum being validly constituted when at least one third of those with the right to participate are present.

6.- Each member shall pay annual enrolment fees on admission and subsequently by January first of each year. Fees will be approved by the General Assembly at the proposal of the Executive Committee. Members who fail to pay the subscription fees by this date shall be suspended from the exercise of every right and shall not be counted as part of the quorum. Failure to pay the annual fee within three months from the date of notice that payment is required shall automatically entail loss of membership.

7.- An annual ordinary members' assembly shall be convened once a year at the time of the annual congress. Extraordinary assemblies may be called at the discretion of the Executive Committee or when at least one third of the members make a written request. Failure to participate in three consecutive assemblies or four out of six assemblies will entail the automatic loss of membership unless the failure is appropriately justified and the justification accepted by the majority of the assembly.

8.- Decisions of the assembly are taken by absolute majority of the members present, provided that the quorum defined in Art. 5 is present.

9.- The Consortium's executive body shall consist of an Executive Committee which shall consist of the Consortium's president and four members, and in addition the Congress organisation delegate for the annual congress of the Consortium.

10.- The president shall hold office for one year and the members of the Executive Committee shall hold office for three years. They are elected by secret ballots for each position by the assembly of the Consortium members. An absolute majority of those present is required for the first vote; should this majority not be achieved, a "run-off" ballot shall be held between the two candidates who have obtained the greatest number of votes in each ballot.

11.- Policy decisions, administration and management tasks in relation to the Consortium's activity are carried out by the Executive Committee, which for this purpose, has the widest powers –both as regards ordinary and extraordinary administration– even with regard to third parties. The Committee shall take its decisions in accordance with the votes of the majority, provided at least three members are present. When there is no majority the president's casting vote shall prevail. Each member of the Committee may be represented by another member of the Committee by proxy; no member shall cast more than two votes. The Committee shall be empowered, according to the wishes of an absolute majority of those present, to appoint one or more of its members as representatives carrying out one or more tasks.

12.- Every amendment in the statute will require the favourable vote of two thirds of those present at the assembly.

TRANSITORY RULES

1.- The annual fee is fixed in 150 €. In the 2006 General Assembly a revision will be proposed.