

Young European Movement UK: Constitution

As approved by the General Meeting on Saturday 21st February 2015

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YOUNG
EUROPEAN
MOVEMENT

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Nature

- 1.1 The organisation called "The Young European Movement" (YEM) or "JEF UK" is an unincorporated association consisting of such persons as may declare support for its objectives, have been admitted to membership according to the procedures set out in this Constitution, and subscribe to the principles & aims of the organisation.
- 1.2 The Young European Movement acts as the youth section of the European Movement in the United Kingdom. It is the British section of JEF Europe ("Jeunes Européens Fédéralistes" in French, "Young European Federalists" in English, "Junge Europäische Föderalisten" in German).
- 1.3 The Young European Movement may cooperate in the attainment of its objectives with that Company limited by guarantee known as European Movement of the United Kingdom Ltd. (company number 551817), or with any other company recognised by JEF Europe or the European Movement UK as advancing the objectives of this constitution (and the expression "the Company" is used in this constitution to describe any company referred to in this paragraph).

2. Objectives

The objectives of The Young European Movement shall be:

- 2.1 To advocate and promote European integration in the UK; particularly when defending European integration against Eurosceptic and nationalist criticism, where appropriate, and to work to ensure discussion of the EU remains factually correct and well-informed.
- 2.2 To advocate reforms which would make the EU more integrated efficient and democratic, and more committed to exercise its weight and influence to the benefit of the wider world;
- 2.3 To work for the creation of a Pan-European federation as the first step towards peace and world federalism, and for a freer, more democratic and more just society;
- 2.4 To present a platform on which young people can engage with European issues, further awareness of such issues, and participate in the democratic development of the United Kingdom and other European states;

3. Activities

The Young European Movement may do all such things as may reasonably advance its objectives including, but not limited to:

- 3.1 Informing public opinion about Europe and the European Union and developing, publicising and carrying out policies and proposals for the promotion, advancement and maintenance of understanding, cohesion, co-operation and unity amongst the countries and peoples of Europe and between them and the rest of the world;
 - 3.1.1 Publication of newsletters and other forms of periodicals or magazines;
- 3.2 Discussing European integration and related issues with key political players from universities, governmental and non-governmental organisations, thus encouraging a widening and deepening of European integration;
- 3.3 Promoting European integration to young people from across Europe and in the United Kingdom;

- 3.4 Working for a common European identity which respects national and regional diversity;
- 3.5 Campaigning with young people in the United Kingdom for the European Union in the UK and the rest of Europe;
- 3.5.1 Organising meetings, demonstrations, and events aimed at spreading the ideals of the Young European Movement;
- 3.6 Supporting and maintaining a network of affiliated branches throughout the United Kingdom, specifications for which are given in this document;
- 3.7 Maintaining links with appropriate organisations with particular reference to the Young European Federalists;
- 3.8 Undertaking such educational and social activities as may advance its objectives, especially but not exclusively the 'Europe at School' programme;
- 3.9 Ensuring the long-term sustainability of a pro-European organisation for young people in the United Kingdom which works as a platform for young people and young professionals with discussions and dialogue.

4. Powers

- 4.1 In furtherance of its objectives and its activities, the Young European Movement shall have power to acquire, deal with in any manner and dispose of property whether real or personal, heritable or moveable and to incur liabilities, all as it thinks fit and that by any of the following means:
- a) It may do so on its own account and through agents on its behalf, to the extent permitted by law;
- b) It may do so through the medium of the Company or other person as Trustee or Trustees;
- c) It may do so by entering into contractual or other arrangements with the Company whereby the Young European Movement is given the use of property belonging to the Company and that on such terms as may be agreed between the Company and the Movement;
- d) It may enter into contractual or other arrangements with the Company whereby the Movement engages the Company as principal to carry out any objectives or activities of the Movement and to enter into contacts and incur liabilities in connection therewith;
- e) And the Young European Movement shall have power to transfer or cause to be transferred to the Company as principal any property of which the Young European Movement may be owner or beneficial owner or in respect of which the Young European Movement is entitled to a conveyance, and that by way of gift, or at such consideration as may be agreed between the Young European Movement and the Company;
- 4.2 In exercising these powers, the Young European Movement may:
- a) Raise money by subscriptions, donations, and in any other lawful manner;
- b) Enter into any contracts insofar as it may consider it necessary or convenient to do so for the promotion of its objectives;
- c) Do all such other things that are, in the opinion of the Young European Movement, necessary or desirable for, or conducive to, the achievement of any of its objectives.

5. Membership

- 5.1 Membership of the Young European Movement shall be open to all persons aged 35 years and younger who declare their support for its objectives;
- 5.2 Applications from persons to join the Young European Movement may be referred by any officer or Member of the Young European Movement to the National Board, who may reject such application without any explanation being given;
- 5.3 The National Board may from time to time make such rules for such classes of membership, including student, university, unwaged, affiliate and associate membership, the mode of approval of such Members and all other things touching thereon as the National Board may judge expedient, providing, however that nothing in such rules shall derogate from or be in conflict with this Constitution;
- 5.3.1 The National Board should aim to keep membership fees as low as possible, recognising that they are the money required for the JEF Europe subscription and a show of commitment by members, rather than a main source of income;
- 5.4 All non-YEM JEF Europe members who currently reside in the United Kingdom should enjoy the same rights as Young European Movement Members without having to pay a membership fee to the Young European Movement;
- 5.4.1 All European fee-paying members of the Young European Movement are also members of JEF-Europe;
- 5.4.2 Members of the Young European Movement who are still in compulsory education, shall not be subject to membership fees administered by the Young European Movement;
- 5.5 There shall be maintained a central list of all Members (of whatever class) of the Movement;
- 5.5.1 At the end of each quarter local branches must submit a current record of their membership and the National Board must send a return document with any local branch members who have paid through the central system;
- 5.6 The National Board shall determine annually subscription rates for all classes of Members, to be payable in Pounds Sterling or Euro;
- 5.7 All Members of whatever class shall have the right to receive calling notices for General Meetings, to submit motions, and to participate in its deliberations;
- 5.7.1 Only individual Members in good standing with the Young European Movement shall be eligible to stand for election and vote at general meetings;
- 5.8 Membership of the Young European Movement shall be deemed to have lapsed 90 days after a written reminder that a membership subscription is overdue for payment has been sent to the Member in question.
- 5.8.1 Upon the expiry of said period of 90 days, if the subscription remains unpaid, the Member shall cease to be a Member and to enjoy the rights of membership attaching to the class of which he is a Member (declaring that, for the avoidance of doubt, until the expiry of the said period without payment of arrears, the Member shall continue to enjoy the full rights attaching to membership of that class);
- 5.9 A General Meeting may make such Rules as it may consider appropriate to discipline, suspend, or expel Members who, by the judgement of a majority of those in attendance, have acted or are acting inconsistently with the constitution and any standing orders of the Young European Movement, who break its rules, or who publish any statement or who are guilty of any conduct which is detrimental to its standing or reputation;

5.10 Non-members of YEM can be given, or have withdrawn, the status of honorary membership by decision of the National Board or of a General Meeting;

5.10.1 Honorary members have no voting rights and serve only a ceremonial purpose;

5.10.2 Honorary members may, if requested to do so by the National Board or a General Meeting, carry out specific tasks which help the YEM function but will remain answerable in doing so to the National Board.

6. Structure

6.1 In order to attain its objectives, the functions of the Young European Movement shall be carried out by and through the following bodies and committees:

- a) Members (General Meeting);
- b) National Board (The Board);
- c) Regional Sections (As and where established)
- d) Local Branches;

6.2 The Young European Movement is independent from all political parties and pursues its objectives autonomously or in connection with affiliated organisations;

6.3 The Young European Movement shall be affiliated with the European Movement UK;

6.3.1 To maintain affiliated with the Young European Movement the European Movement UK shall:

- a) Have a constitution with objectives similar to and compatible with the objectives of the Young European Movement;
- b) Have a democratic constitution with at least biennial elections to a committee with at least a Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer with all Members being eligible to vote;
- c) Demonstrate and continue to demonstrate a commitment to an annual level of activity;
- d) Maintain such minimum membership as the General Meeting may require.

6.3.2 The recognition or withdrawal of recognition of the European Movement UK as an affiliate shall be by a two-thirds majority decision of a General Meeting;

6.3.3 All members of the European Movement UK under the age of 35 will also be deemed to be Members of the Young European Movement.

6.4 The Young European Movement shall be the official section of JEF-Europe in the United Kingdom;

6.4.1 To maintain affiliated with the Young European Movement JEF Europe shall:

- a) Have a constitution with objectives similar to and compatible with those of the Young European Movement;
- b) Have a democratic constitution with at least biennial elections to a committee with at least a President, a Secretary-General, and a Treasurer with all members being represented;

- c) Demonstrate and continue to demonstrate a commitment to an annual level of activity;
- d) Maintain such minimum membership as the JEF Federal Committee may require.

6.4.2 The recognition or withdrawal of recognition of JEF-Europe as an affiliate shall be by a two-thirds majority decision of a General Meeting;

6.4.3 Representation of the Young European Movement in all the bodies of JEF-Europe is the responsibility of the National Board.

7. General Meetings of Members

7.1 The Members of the Young European Movement acting in General Meeting shall be the sovereign body of the Young European Movement and determine the policies of the organisation and, so far as not otherwise provided for in this constitution or delegated by them to the National Board, shall take charge of the conduct of the Young European Movement's affairs;

7.2 The Members of the Young European Movement, when acting at the General Meeting, may resolve to rescind or invalidate any decision adopted by the National Board providing any liabilities or obligations to a third party have been fulfilled;

7.3 All individual Members shall be entitled to participate in General Meetings;

7.4 The National Board shall convene an Annual General Meeting at least once in each calendar year, with an Annual General Meeting to be held 12±3 calendar months after the previous Annual General Meeting;

7.4.1 If the National Board fails to send a call for a General Meeting within 14 calendar months of the previous AGM, the Executive Board of JEF Europe shall be charged with the task and must call an Annual General Meeting within five weeks;

7.5 The business to be discussed at the Annual General Meeting shall include but not be limited to:

- a) Presentation and approval of the National Board's Annual Report on Activities;
- b) Consideration and approval of the Annual Accounts of the Movement, the Annual Budget, and the next year's Strategy Document;
- c) The Election of the National Board;
- d) Any resolutions and amendments to resolutions proposed;
- e) Any amendments proposed to the Young European Movement's Constitution;
- f) The appointment of prominent supporters as patrons of the Young European Movement;
- g.) The revocation of the official YEM status of sections that have been suspended by the Board;
- h) Approval of official status for new local, university, or regional sections;
- i.) The hearing of any appeals by those expelled by the National Board
- j) Voting on other motions submitted to the Annual General Meeting, including any motions of impeachment of members of the National Board;

7.6 The National Board may, and upon such a request as is referred to in 7.7 shall, convene a Special General Meeting for the purpose of considering such matters as may be specified in the calling notice, and any other matters as may competently be discussed;

7.7 No fewer than 20 individual Members or 15% of the total membership (whichever is lower) may by written request addressed to the President, failing whom any member of the National Board of the Young European Movement requiring the National Board to convene a Special General Meeting;

7.7.1 The request shall contain notice of the business sought to be discussed. The National Executive shall be bound to convene the Special General Meeting so as to be held within 70 days of the date of receipt of the request;

7.8 Save as otherwise provided in 7.11, Members shall be sent Notice of General Meetings ("calling notice") at least 28 days before the scheduled meeting. The calling notice shall specify:

a) Details of the time and location of the meeting;

b) Draft agenda (which, in the case of Special General Meetings requested in terms of 7.7, shall include the business specified in the request);

c) An explanation of how to submit motions for consideration by the meeting.

7.9 A Motion for consideration by the meeting may be submitted to the National Board at least 7 days before the meeting by an individual Member as proposer together with at least one seconder; or by an individual branch, or by a Regional Section, or an affiliated group, which motions so submitted shall not require a seconder.

7.10 Members shall be sent Notice of the full agenda ("final Agenda Notice") including all submitted motions at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

7.11 In relation to any Special General Meeting convened under 7.6 or 7.7 where the National Executive judges there to be special urgency, such meeting shall be convened by calling notice sent not less than 7 days prior to the meeting, in which shall be specified:

a) Details of the time and location of the meeting;

b) The agenda (which, in the case of Special General Meetings requested in terms of 7.6, shall include the business specified in the request);

c) An explanation that motions for consideration by the meeting may be submitted and be dealt with as emergency motions specified under 7.17;

7.12 Both the calling notice and the final agenda notice shall be sent to Members at their respective last known postal &/or e-mail address;

7.12.1 That any person entitled to attend the General Meeting, through mistake, inadvertence or any other accidental cause or any cause out of the control of the Movement or its officers, committees or bodies, may not have received the calling notice and final agenda notice or either of them shall not invalidate the meeting nor any business conducted thereat;

7.13 A General Meeting shall elect from its membership in attendance two members to act as a Presidium who will Chair the General Meeting;

7.13.1 The Presidium shall have a deliberative and a casting vote;

7.13.2 The Presidium is to not include the President or any vice-Presidents of the Young European Movement;

- 7.14 The quorum of the meeting or any electronic vote shall be twenty individual Members representing or at least 15% of the entire membership, whichever is lower;
- 7.15 Save as otherwise specified herein; voting shall be by a simple majority of those present and voting on a show of hands, or if requested by a secret ballot;
- 7.16 Members may vote either in person or via proxy with written authorisation explicitly stating how the proxy shall vote;
- 7.16.1 A proxy need be a Member of the Young European Movement;
- 7.16.2 Each member of the Young European Movement can carry a maximum of one proxy vote;
- 7.17 Emergency motions may be accepted at any time by the sole discretion of Presidium provided that the same shall have been submitted in writing and it judges that there exist special circumstances which precluded their prior submission under 7.10;
- 7.18 Amendments to motions may be accepted by the Presidium at any time prior to a vote on the motion if they are, in the view of the Presidium, relevant to the subject matter of the original motion and are not contradictory to its original intent;
- 7.19 There may from time to time be adopted such standing orders for the conduct of General Meetings as may be approved by the Members in General Meeting, provided only that no provision of the standing orders shall conflict with any provision of this constitution.
- 7.20 The following Procedural Motions may be moved at any time but shall have priority in the following order:
- PM1 to remove one or both Presidium members;
- PM2 to overturn a ruling of the Presidium;
- PM3 to adjourn the General Meeting for a specified period of time;
- PM4 to alter the agenda in a specific way to allow consideration of an issue;
- PM5 to refer the matter under consideration to a specified body or person for further consideration;
- PM6 that the matter under consideration be deferred to later in the meeting or to a later General Meeting, as specified;
- PM7 to issue a specific instruction to the Presidium, such instruction shall not contradict the Rules of procedure;
- PM8 that the General Meeting shall vote on the resolution, amendment, or part as it now stands;
- PM9 to take the resolution or amendments in parts, as specified;
- PM10 to allow a non-Member of YEM to speak;
- PM11 that the resolution or amendment be withdrawn.
- a) PM1 and PM2 need to be carried by a two-thirds majority.
- b) All other procedural motions need to be carried by a simple majority.

8. The National Board (The Board)

- 8.1 The National Board is responsible for implementing the aims of the organisation and the decisions and policies of the membership as adopted at General Meetings; presenting its projects for the year according to an annual work plan agreed by the Board at least 8 weeks after a General Meeting;
- 8.2 Meetings of the National Board shall be responsible for determining the direction of the Young European Movement between General Meetings and shall have the binding power to resolve any conflicts of priorities that may arise between different parts of the Young European Movement, unless and until a General Meeting should discuss the matter and decide otherwise;
- 8.3 The National Board shall be responsible for the drawing up of a draft Annual Report on Activities for the consideration of the General Meeting under paragraph 7.5(a);
- 8.4 The National Board shall, through the Treasurer, be responsible for the financial administration of the Young European Movement and prepare the draft Annual Accounts for consideration by the General Meeting under paragraph 7.5(b);
- 8.5 All members of the National Board shall be Members of the Young European Movement;
- 8.6 The voting members of the National Board shall be:
- a) The President of the Young European Movement;
 - b) The Vice President of the Young European Movement;
 - c) The Treasurer;
 - d) The Local Branches' Officer;
 - e) The International Officer;
 - f) Up to five other officers;
- 8.6.1 The outgoing National Board shall recommend on the presumptive portfolios of the five officers to be elected and the incoming National Board shall be free to change or reallocate them.
- 8.6.2 The National Board may amend the portfolios of the officers on the National Board, but cannot amend the positions of Secretary General, Treasurer, Vice-President or President without the approval of the Members at a General Meeting;
- 8.7 The National Board shall be elected annually by the Membership at an Annual General Meeting by simple majority;
- 8.7.1 The members of the National Board shall take office immediately at the end of the General Meeting where they are elected;
- 8.8 The Vice-President does not have a portfolio but may be assigned one by the National Board;
- 8.8.1 The role of the Vice-President is to support the general work of the National Board;
- 8.9 The International Officer shall be responsible for maintaining links with the Young European Federalists (JEF Europe) failing whom, the rest of the National Board as a collective;
- 8.10 The National Board shall meet on at least six occasions in each calendar year with at least two weeks between meetings, save for emergency meetings;
- 8.10.1 Meetings of the National Board may be called:

- a) By resolution of the National Board, upon such date as the National Board may determine;
- b) By the President of the Young European Movement upon such date as they may determine;
- c) Upon a written request by at least two members of the National Board addressed to the President, failing whom to the board as a whole. A meeting should then be called to take place within at least 21 days of the receipt of the request, either by the President or by a majority of the members of the National Board;
- 8.11 There shall be sent to all members of the National Board a Notice calling a meeting of the National Board ("calling notice") at least 7 days before the date of the meeting. The calling notice shall include:
- a) Details of the time and location of the meeting;
- b) An agenda together with (as far as reasonably practicable) the draft Minutes of the previous meeting and any papers, reports and other documents to be discussed at the meeting;
- 8.12 The calling notice shall be sent to each person entitled to receive it at their nominated email address, failing which, their postal address;
- 8.13 That any person entitled to attend the meeting, through mistake, inadvertence or any other accidental cause or any cause out of the control of the Young European Movement or its officers, committees or bodies may not have received the calling notice shall not invalidate the meeting nor any business conducted thereat;
- 8.14 The National Board will be chaired by the President of the Young European Movement, failing whom the Vice-President, failing whom by a member elected by the meeting;
- 8.15 The chair of the meeting shall have a deliberative and a casting vote;
- 8.16 The quorum shall be three voting members;
- 8.17 Voting shall be by a simple majority of those members who are present and voting, with each voting member entitled to a single vote, save as provided for in paragraph 8.15;
- 8.17.1 In the event of an individual holding more than one position on the National Board they will only be entitled to cast a single vote and receive no additional vote, save as provided for in paragraph 8.15;
- 8.18 The National Board may from time to time adopt such Standing Orders for the conduct of its meetings as it may consider expedient, provided only that no provision of such standing orders shall conflict with any provision of this constitution;
- 8.19 A member of the National Board holds office until their term expires or in the event of the passing a motion to remove them from office passed by two thirds of those present and voting at a General Meeting;
- 8.20 No member may hold more than one position on the National Board, with the exception of the Vice-President;
- 8.21 In the event of a casual vacancy of an Officer position, the National Board may co-opt from the membership;
- 8.22 In the event of a casual vacancy in the position of President, the Vice-President shall accede to the position of President (pro tempore) and immediately call a General Meeting;

8.22.1 At the subsequent General Meeting a new President shall be elected to the National Board;

8.23 Reports of National Board meetings shall be made available to all Members, except that the Board may, by a majority vote, restrict knowledge of certain items discussed where they see fit;

8.24 Members of the National Board should attend all official meetings where possible. They should participate fully in the work of the National Board, carrying out their responsibilities and duties. The National Board has the power to suspend a member of the National Board for the following reasons:

- a) Failure to give apologies for absence for official meetings more than three times i.e. meetings of the National Board or General Meetings;
- b) Failure to attend more than two consecutive meetings or more than three meetings in the space of six months;
- c) Failure to engage with the work of the National Board, and failing to carry out portfolio duties and responsibilities appropriately and efficiently;
- d) Failure to comply and adhere to this Constitution;

8.24.1 Any Board Member who the National Board has decided to suspend shall have their case put to a General Meeting, which will have the final decision in the matter, including re-instatement, sanction, dismissal or expulsion;

8.24.2 The Board Member in question will not be entitled to vote;

8.24.3 The Board Member is entitled to attend and speak at the meeting in their own defence;

8.25 The National Board has the right to suspend Members with clear justification presented to them and it being made clear that they have a right to appeal the decision by way of a General Meeting (which must be called within 70 days of a wish to appeal said suspension);

8.26 The National Board may appoint project managers, acting under the authority of the National Board, to undertake specific work in line with the aims of the Young European Movement and the annual action plan.

9. Local and University Branches

9.1 There may be branches of the Young European Movement, which shall be such bodies (whether or not incorporated) as shall have been recognised as affiliated branches by the Young European Movement according to the following procedure:

9.2 To be and to remain eligible for recognition, branches shall:

- a) Have a constitution (written or unwritten) having objectives similar to and compatible with the objectives of the Young European Movement;
- b) Accept the principles, the constitution and positions of the Young European Movement and JEF-Europe, and may additionally adopt internal statutes;
- c) Have a democratic constitution with annual elections to a committee with at least a Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer with all members of the branch being eligible to vote;
- d) Have reached agreement with the National Board as to the name of the branch and the geographical area to be covered by it;

e) Have a bank account in the name of the branch and have agreed to submit (and have submitted) to the Treasurer of the Young European Movement an annual account of the branch's financial transactions;

f) Demonstrate and continue to demonstrate a commitment to an annual level of activity;

g) Maintain a minimum membership of three members, and to submit to the National Board of the Young European Movement a list of current members when required to do so;

h) Submit a report on activities every six months, failure to do so for two consecutive terms and its status of an official YEM local branch may be suspended by a vote of the National Board;

9.2.1 If the local branch is a university the report on activities in paragraph 9.2(h) may be submitted at the close of each academic term;

9.2.2 Should a local or university section fail to attend two consecutive meetings where their representation is needed without an apology and without setting a proxy vote, its status as an official YEM local or university section may be suspended by a vote of the National Board;

9.3 The final recognition and withdrawal of recognition of a branch shall be by decision of a General Meeting;

9.4 Those bodies wishing to affiliate as branches shall inform the Local Branches' Officer of their wish to affiliate, and shall furnish such information as may be required to demonstrate the matters referred to in paragraph 9.2. The Local Branches' Officer, in consultation with the National Board, shall make a recommendation to the next General Meeting concerning the application;

9.5 The branch shall notify to the Local Branches' Officer of the Young European Movement any change in its constitution, and shall, when required to do so, furnish them such information as they may reasonably require to demonstrate the continued eligibility for affiliation of the branch;

9.6 The Local Branches' Officer shall be responsible for supporting existing branches, developing new branches, and co-ordinating grassroots activity within the region;

9.6.1 The Local Branches' Officer may delegate responsibility over branches to regional representatives who report to them directly;

9.6.1.1 The position of a Regional Representative may be created with a geographical area corresponding to any of the EU electoral regions of the UK providing the region contains three or more branches, or over 100 paid members, whichever is lower;

9.6.1.2 Regional Representatives may be elected by way of an online election open to all members registered with a branch in the EU electoral region through a simple majority vote;

9.6.1.3 The Local Branches' Officer may call meetings with Regional Representatives, giving them at least 14 days' notice of an online meeting and 30 days' notice for a meeting in person;

9.6.1.4 The Local Branches' Officer reserves the right to interact directly with local branches which are themselves within the remit of a Regional Representative;

9.6.1.5 The Local Branches' Officer, in conjunction with Regional Representatives, may establish standing orders for the running of any Regional Council meetings they should choose to call and shall be the Chair of said meetings;

9.6.1.6 Members of the National Board may attend Regional Council meetings as observers;

10. Communications

10.1 All communication with the Membership shall be via email, and only failing that via post. Only in cases where Members do not own an email account will communication be exclusively via post.

10.2 The Young European Movement National Board will maintain a database of members within which will be included at minimum: name, date of birth, branch(es) with which they are associated and their e-mail address (and postal address where appropriate);

10.3 The Young European Movement may choose to share this information with the European Movement's National Executive and the Secretary-General of JEF Europe insofar as this is legal according to British Law, where it is seen as necessary, and where a decision to share such information has been made by a majority of the National Board;

11. Elections

11.1 Elections for the European Movement UK National Council:

11.1.1 The Young European Movement UK has two seats for representatives to the National Council in addition to that of the President;

11.1.2 The two seats will be filled by an election among the members of the National Board for who should attend each meeting, failing which a co-option from among the Membership by agreement of a simple majority of the members of the National Board;

11.2 Elections for the National Board:

11.2.1 All elections for the National Board shall take place at a General Meeting;

11.2.1 The voting shall be by secret ballot;

11.2.2 Where positions for any Member of the National Board are uncontested due to lack of candidates, the sole candidate must receive 50% +1 of the votes in order to be elected;

11.2.3 A Calling Notice for nominations shall be sent to the membership at least 28 days before the Annual General Meeting;

11.2.4 The deadline for receipt of nominations shall be set out in the call for nominations, but in no circumstances be more than two days before the General Meeting;

11.2.5 The National Board shall propose a Returning Officer who is not a paying, voting member of the Young European Movement to oversee the elections process who shall be empowered to rule on the validity of nominations, to exclude any candidate whose conduct in the elections is inconsistent with any standing orders adopted, and to officiate at the count;

11.2.5.1 The Returning Officer may not be a candidate in the elections, nor may they propose or second a nomination for any candidate;

11.2.5.2 The National Board's proposal of a Returning Officer must be agreed by a simple majority of those present at the General Meeting, failing whom an election is held in the room for one person in the room to fill the position of Returning Officer;

11.2.6 Candidates shall have the right to be present, or nominate a representative to be present, at the count.

General Voting:

11.2.7 An electronic vote on any issue in the running of the YEM, including the holding of elections, can be called for by the National Board or by a General Meeting for any issue arising out of discussions that take place in the Young European Movement and defined by the two aforementioned bodies provided that the following criteria are fulfilled:

- a.) All members shall be notified of the medium that will be used for the purpose of collecting votes at least one week prior to the opening of the ballot,
- b.) All members must be allowed access to the medium,
- c.) This includes but is not limited to:
 - ci.) Websites owned by the YEM UK,
 - cii.) E-mail correspondence;

12. Finances

12.1 The Treasurer shall cause there to be kept and maintained full books of account and shall cause there to be presented to the National Board such periodic management accounts as it may require;

12.1.1 Additionally the Treasurer shall cause there to be presented to the Annual General Meeting annual accounts of the transactions of the Young European Movement with its funds, all as more particularly provided for elsewhere in this constitution;

12.2 The General Meeting shall decide on such rules for the financial management of the Movement as shall ensure compliance with paragraph 12.1 and shall also facilitate good and efficient financial administration of the Young European Movement;

12.3 Subject to the continued affiliation in paragraph 6.4 the Treasurer shall pay JEF-Europe membership fees each year, when required;

12.3.1 JEF-Europe fees shall honestly reflect the number of Members of the Young European Movement;

12.4 The membership fee to join the Young European Movement shall be divided between a national membership fee and a European fee to be paid in the Young European Movement bank account or to local or university sections' bank accounts;

12.4.1 The European membership fee is decided by the Congress of JEF-Europe in Euros (€);

12.4.2 The National Board should reach agreement with individual local branches as to the division of the membership fee in accordance with the following priorities in order from highest to lowest:

- a.) Payment of the membership fee to JEF-Europe
- b.) What will best support the activity of the Local Branches
- c.) What will best support the activity of the National Board

12.3 An arrangement shall be negotiated by the National Board with the European Movement for EM members under 35 to pay a fee to YEM, not to be lower than the European fee.

13. JEF Europe

13.1 The Young European Movement shall play a full part in the political agenda of JEF Europe, participating fully in all events and activities, where possible;

13.2 The National Board shall send at least 1 officer to the JEF Federal Committee and Congress;

13.3 The International Officer is the Young European Movement's representative at the JEF-Europe Federal Committee and the first voting representative at JEF-Europe's Congresses, failing whom the President, failing whom any member of the National Board;

13.4 The Young European Movement's votes at a JEF Europe Congress should be allocated in the following way until all voting positions are filled:

- a.) Vote given to International Officer
- b.) Vote given to President
- c.) Votes distributed to all members of the National Board
- d.) Votes distributed to local branch Chairs with preference given to local branches in order of largest to smallest
- e.) Votes distributed by way of a general, online election among all paying members of the Young European Movement, open only to fully paid and registered members of the Young European Movement;

13.4.1 Should any of the positions listed above be unable to attend a JEF-Europe Congress, the vote should be handed down to the next level of vote allocation;

13.5 The representative(s) of the Young European Movement shall vote at the JEF Federal Committee and Congress based on the common positions agreed on at National Board and General Meetings;

13.5.1 The Young European Movement representative(s) shall vote according to their conscience(s) in cases not covered by existing policies and resolutions.

14. Amendments to the Constitution

14.1 This Constitution may be amended by a motion (or any amendment thereof) carried by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting at a General Meeting, provided however that a minimum of 28 days' notice of such motion shall have been given in writing to Members;

14.2 That any person entitled to attend the meeting, through mistake, inadvertence or any other accidental cause or any cause out of the control of the Young European Movement or its officers, committees or bodies may not have received notice of the motion shall not invalidate the proceedings following upon the notice of the Motion.

15. Interpretation of the Statutes

15.1 At any General Meeting of the Young European Movement, the Presidium shall uphold and interpret the Statutes;

15.2 The interpretation of the statutes by the Presidium may be overturned by two-thirds of those present at the meeting in which the dispute arises.

16. Arbitration Proceedings

16.1 Notwithstanding any other provision of the Constitution, any Member may appeal to the General Meeting, which shall arbitrate on all disputes arising within the statutes;

16.1.2 A sub-committee shall present its opinion to the entire General Meeting on the matter;

16.2 The Arbitration Sub-Committee shall be elected by the General Meeting and be composed of:

- a) Two ordinary Members of the Young European Movement;

- b) A member from the Regional Councils (where possible);
- c) A Chair of a local branch;
- d) A former member of the National Board who has not served on the National Board for at least a year;
- e) A member of the National Board;
- f) A member of the National Executive of the European Movement UK (if the matter concerns a European Movement related dispute);
- g) A member of the Executive Board of JEF-Europe (if the matter concerns a JEF-Europe related dispute);

16.2.1 No Member may sit on the Arbitration Sub-Committee if they are themselves a party to the dispute;

16.3 Arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in private with only the parties at issue in attendance;

16.3.1 A Member being investigated for disciplinary procedures may waive their right to privacy;

16.4 Any Member of the Arbitration Sub-Committee shall deliver no dissenting opinion in public;

16.5 All the decisions of the Arbitration Sub-Committee in arbitration proceedings are final and shall be reached by simple majority.

17. Dissolution

17.1 The Young European Movement may be dissolved by means of a motion to that effect carried by a three-fourths majority of the Members present and voting at a General Meeting, provided however that a minimum of 56 days' notice of such motion shall have been given to Members in writing advising them of the proposal of dissolution;

17.2 In the event that such a resolution for the winding-up of the Young European Movement is passed, the Treasurer or such other person or persons as the General Meeting may appoint shall proceed to wind up its affairs and, for that purpose shall be deemed to be granted all powers as may be necessary and shall pay over any remaining balance to such other body as may be specified in the Resolution; provided, however, that in no circumstances shall any of the surplus assets be returned to the Members as individuals;

17.3 The Treasurer and/or the rest of the National Board General shall report to the membership within one year of the decision being taken to inform them that the winding-up is complete or if any outstanding matters remain.

17.4 Any assets remaining, where possible, should be allocated to JEF-Europe with the aim of re-establishing a presence in the United Kingdom.

MOVEMENT