



## Statutes of the International Academic Association of Planning, Law, and Property Rights

*Approved by the General Assembly at the Annual Conference in Aalborg, Denmark, 13th February 2009, article 8 adjusted by the General Assembly at the 2011 Annual Conference in Edmonton, Canada, 28 May 2011*

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### **Article 1 History of formation, Name and Form**

The establishment of the “International Academic Association of Planning, Law, and Property Rights” was first announced in a meeting convened in Mexico City during the second World Planning Schools Congress, and was launched in an inaugural conference in Amsterdam in February 2007 under the temporary name "International Academic Group on Planning, Law, and Property Rights". The Group evolved from a congress track on planning and law held under the auspices of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) since 1999, and from a Thematic Group on that topic under AESOP announced in 2003 at the AESOP congress in Leuven. This non-profit Association is an international, non-governmental organization free of political and religious ties dedicated to the promotion of academic knowledge, its creation and exchange. ExCo will consider where and how to provide legal registration to the Association.

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### **Article 2 Objectives**

The main objective of the Association is to foster international academic knowledge exchange on the themes of planning, law, and property rights. Specific objectives include:

- 2.1 To serve as a platform for cooperation among scholars and researchers interested in planning law and property rights.
- 2.2. To conduct academic congresses and other types of knowledge-exchange meetings among researchers
- 2.3. To promote knowledge exchange among those who teach planning law in universities in various countries in order to enhance the education of students in this field.
- 2.4. To mentor new scholars and graduate students interested in the fields of planning law and property rights.
- 2.5. To encourage academic publications.

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## **Article 3 Members**

The Association is made up of its members. Eligible for membership are:

- Academic staff of universities and colleges who teach or conduct research in the fields of planning law and property rights, as well as related topics such as land-use regulation, planning institutions, and planning theory.
- Researchers in university, public or private institutions who carry on research in the above fields
- Others interested in the above fields may make a special application, and ExCo has the authority to accept them as Associate Members.

ExCo may appoint a special Membership Committee to assess membership applications. Application is made by filling in the membership application form, to be found on the website. In the future, application for membership may require payment of membership fees.

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## **Article 4 Honorary Fellows and other academic honors bestowed by the Association**

The Association may decide to honour a small number of academics of exceptional world-renowned leadership in our field by granting them the title of "Honorary Fellow" of the Association. In the future, the Association may decide to create additional types of honors. ExCo may appoint an Honorary Fellows Committee. The term of office of Committee members will usually be for three years, but in special cases could be extended once. The committee's initial role would be to propose to ExCo the rules and criteria whereby the honorary title will be bestowed. These rules, if approved by ExCo, will be brought before the Assembly for its ratification. During the Association's formative years, until the rules and criteria proposed by the above Committee are approved, ExCo may propose to bestow the honor in special cases, and will bring the names to the Assembly for its approval.

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## **Article 5 Resignation and dismissal**

Member status is lost through:

- Resignation
- Dismissal, for non-compliance with the rules laid down by the statutes. Dismissal is decided by the ExCo.

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## **Article 6 Resources**

At the moment the Association does not have any resources and relies on the voluntary resources of its members. In the future the resources of the Association will consist mainly of membership dues. These may be complemented by grants, contributions and various other resources to enable the Association to carry out activities in keeping with its objectives.

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## **Article 7 Membership dues**

Members may –be required to pay membership dues based on a scale set by the ExCo.

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## **Article 8 Congresses and symposia**

In keeping with its objectives as defined in Article 2 above, the Association will hold congresses – usually on an annual basis. In addition, the Association may hold smaller symposia or workshops. An annual congress will be hosted by one or more of the members, together with academic departments at universities, research centers, or individual academics. The congresses may hold either a general Call for Papers on the broad topics covered by the Association, or on more specific topics. Symposia or workshops will focus on specific topics.

For each congress a call for host countries or universities will be distributed among the members. In cases where there is more than one candidate, the decision will be made by the Executive Committee, after consultation with the General Assembly. If consultation of the General Assembly (for example, if there is no General Assembly in a particular year or if the Call for host countries received proposals at a timing unsuited for a General Assembly consultation), the decision will be made by ExCo. Congresses will normally be planned two years in advance. However, during the Association's formative stage, the

ExCo has decided about the congress hosts for 2009, 2010 and 2011 in order to ensure continuity. For the preparation of congresses and other meetings, ExCo will usually appoint an Academic Congress Organizing Committee. For each annual congress, the chair of the academic organizing committee will usually be appointed as an ex-officio member of the ExCo for the duration of the year prior to the congress, and may be asked to continue to serve on ExCo until the commencement of the following year's congress. This overlap of terms of the outgoing and incoming heads of the Academic Congress Organizing Committees is intended to enable continuity of congress policy and accumulation of experiences.

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## **Article 9 Structure of the Association**

The Association consists of: the General Assembly and the Executive Committee (ExCo). At a future stage, the Association may decide to appoint an International Academic Advisory Board. In that case, ExCo will propose to the Association the criteria and rules for appointment of members to this body and the statutes to govern the operation of the Advisory Board.

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## **Article 10 General Assembly**

The General Assembly will meet annually (unless special circumstances arise). Meetings will usually be held in conjunction with the annual congress. Participation is open to all members. Out-going members of the ExCo are replaced by secret ballot during the annual congress, except for the appointed member representing the academic committee of the following year's congress. Decisions are taken by simple majority of members present. Decisions are preferably taken during the General Assembly, but may be replaced by internet-based votes or other communication forms (phone, mail).

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## **Article 11 Executive Committee**

The Association is directed by an Executive Committee, consisting of office holders - members of the Association - elected by the General Assembly for a two year term. Those holding office will not receive any financial remuneration. Office holder may be reelected for one more term. Elected ExCo positions, and the usual terms of service, are:

- President (two-year term)
- Vice-president (two-year term).

- Secretary-Treasurer (two-year term)
- PhD-student Coordinator (two-year term).

Appointed ExCo positions are:

- Representatives of local host committees of the annual congress as noted in Article 10.
- Liaisons with other academic groups (two-year term), such as (but not necessarily all):
  - o AESOP
  - o ACSP, IBR
  - o North American region
  - o Pacific Rim region
  - o Other relevant regions or associations or groups

As acknowledgement of the Association's roots and special relationship with AESOP, ExCo will give special priority to establishing formal affiliation between the two organizations as soon as that becomes financially feasible.

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## **Article 12 Elections**

Elections will be held at a special session designated during a meeting of the General Assembly convened during the annual congress. Under special circumstances – such as when no annual congress is held in a particular year – elections may be carried out via the internet or other appropriate media of communication.

Elections held during the annual congress are chaired by an elected or appointed ExCo member who will not take part in re-election, or by a member of the Association elected for that purpose by the General Assembly. The votes are counted by two independent members proposed by ExCo and ratified by the Assembly.

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## **Article 13 Amendment of the statutes**

Any member of the Association may propose amendments to the statutes by submitting them to the ExCo. The statutes may be amended by the General Assembly provided such amendments are proposed to its members three months beforehand and that they are in accordance with the objectives defined in Article 2. The new statutes will come into force immediately after the vote by the General Assembly, or as stipulated by the decision.