



## 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. Articles 1-12 amended by the General Assembly at the 2022 Annual Conference in Gent, Belgium, July 8, 2022.*

---

### **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.

---

### **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 conferences 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.

---

## **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 upon special application to the ExCo, which 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.

---

## **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. Until rules and criteria proposed by the above Committee are approved, if so convened, ExCo may propose to bestow the honor in special cases, and will bring the names to the Assembly for its approval.

---

## **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.

---

## **Article 6 Resources**

The Association does not collect or maintain any independent resources and relies on the voluntary resources of its members. pursuant to article 7 and acting through the general assembly and administration by the exco, the association may decide to institute membership dues. in the interim or

in lieu of membership dues, the exco may administer on behalf of the association grants, contributions and various other resources to enable the Association to carry out activities in keeping with its objectives.

---

## **Article 7 Membership dues**

Through formal adoption by the general assembly, members may be required to pay membership dues based on a scale set by the ExCo.

---

## **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 conference will be hosted by one or more of the members, together with academic departments at universities, research centers, or individual academics. The conferences 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 conference 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 on behalf of the General Assembly. Conferences will normally be planned two years in advance.

For each annual conference, the, exco will convene an academic conference organizing committee, chaired by the president, and consisting of the elected and appointed members of the Exco, the conference host representative(s) for the upcoming conference, the conference host representative(s) for the conference immediately prior, and as appropriate the conference host representative(s) for the next scheduled conference. This committee will administer established procedures, or establish new procedures as appropriate and necessary, for making a call for papers, accepting papers for presentation, and otherwise administering the conference event. The exco will establish procedures and committees as it deems appropriate for administering regional conferences and other meetings.

---

## **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.

---

## **Article 10 General Assembly**

The General Assembly will meet annually (unless special circumstances arise). Meetings will usually be held in conjunction with the annual conference. Participation is open to all members. Out-going members of the ExCo are replaced by secret ballot during the annual conference, except for the appointed member representing the academic committee of the following year's conference. 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).

---

## **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-General (two-year term)
  
- PhD-student Coordinator (two-year term).

There shall be only a single member of the association serving as president at any one time, with no concurrent or overlapping terms of office. There may be up to two members serving concurrently as vice-president, secretary-general, or PhD-student coordinator for a given term, pending agreement of the candidate members to serve concurrently and a majority affirmative vote by the general assembly. consistent with articles 10 and 12, the general assembly may decide to elect only one of the two candidates put forward to serve individually, or for the two candidates put forward to serve concurrently. The chair of the election proceedings acting pursuant to article 12 may establish a step-wise or other special voting procedure as he or she deems appropriate to yield a clear and acceptable outcome.

Appointed ExCo positions are:

- Representatives of local host committees of the annual conference as noted in Article 8.
  
- 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.

---

## **Article 12 Elections**

Elections will be held at a special session designated during a meeting of the General Assembly convened during the annual conference. Under special circumstances – such as when no annual conference 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 conference 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.

---

## **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.