



**EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE
GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE**

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION FIRST ADOPTED AT MITWITZ, MAY 1993
MODIFIED MADRID NOVEMBER 1999**

1. The name of the Association shall be "The European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage", hereafter referred to as the Association. Its official address shall be that of its Executive Secretary and its working language shall be English. It shall be equally lawful for the Association to conduct its business through recorded meetings, by letter and by telefacsimile.
2. The Objectives of the Association are to improve the status of Geological Heritage Conservation (Geoconservation) and the protection of Sites and Landscapes of geological interest (the so called geotopes) throughout Europe by:
 - a. the promotion of a co-ordinated European policy for Geoconservation;
 - b. the recognition, categorisation and documentation of sites of geological interest on a unified basis so as to define those sites whose conservation is a matter of European concern;
 - c. the provision of information and advice on all matters relating to Geoconservation;
 - d. the organisation and conduct of research projects in furtherance of the above;
 - e. the promotion of public awareness of Geoconservation and of its applications;
 - f. the encouragement of the exchange of ideas and information on Geoconservation through the holding of meetings and conferences, the production of a Newsletter and other publications, and by any other means likely to achieve the objects of the Association;
 - g. the promotion of an International Association for Earth Science Conservation.

MEMBERSHIP

3. Membership of the Association shall be open to all individuals and organisations interested in promoting the above Objectives, subject only to the

payment of an annual subscription to be fixed by the Council of the Association. In fixing the level of this subscription, the Council shall have regard to the financial circumstances of the various Member States and shall offer discounts where this is necessary to prevent the exclusion of the majority of the nationals of any Member State. On the proposal of the Council, the General Assembly may honour persons of exceptional merit and achievement (in terms of the Objectives of the Association) by conferring Honorary Membership on such persons.

4. All members, whether individual or institutional, shall have equal voting rights at all General Meetings of the Association.

STRUCTURE

5. The Association shall carry out its work through the following bodies:

- a. A General Assembly;
- b. A Council;
- c. An Executive Committee;
- d. Project Groups.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

6. The General Assembly supervises the conduct of the affairs of the Association. The Assembly shall meet at intervals not longer than four years during international conferences organised by the Association or in any other way the Council might decide. In the event of more than 10% of the Members of the Association notifying the Executive Secretary that in their opinion an Extraordinary Meeting of the General Assembly is required, the Council shall convene and conduct such a meeting under the provisions of Article 7. All members not in default with their subscription shall be entitled to attend and to vote at meetings of the General Assembly.

7. Each meeting of the General Assembly will receive from the Council the Reports of the President, the Secretary and of the Treasurer for the period since the preceding meeting. Such Reports, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted and the nominations for the President of the Association (who is to be elected by the General Assembly) and for those Council Members elected directly by the General Assembly (See Article 14 below), will be published in the Newsletter or otherwise circulated to all members at least two months before each meeting of the General Assembly. All members shall have the right to propose topic and motions (including votes of confidence) for discussion at the General Assembly, subject to three months' notice being given to the Executive Secretary.

8. Each General Assembly will receive invitations from potential hosts for its next meeting and shall decide its location. The position of the General Assembly on this and all other issues shall be determined by an open vote. Absent members may express their views by means of a postal or fax vote. Should the General Assembly fail to decide the time and place of its next meeting, the responsibility for doing so will pass to Council.

COUNCIL

9. Subject to the decisions of the General Assembly, the Council is the policy making body of the Association. [~~deleted~~ – It shall meet at least once a year] *It shall meet at least every second year*, agendas will be circulated in advance and votes by post or by fax will be valid. Each meeting shall decide the location of the next Council meeting, having considered invitations from potential hosts. As far as possible, meetings shall be convened in all Member States in rotation.

10. The Council shall consist of one representative from each Member State ("National Members"), together with representatives (in number as nearly as possible one-fifth of the whole Council) to be elected, irrespective of nationality, by the whole membership at a General Assembly ("General Members"). All Council Members must be members of the Association.

11. Member States to be represented on Council must be European and must be accorded full diplomatic recognition by the EC.

12. National Members shall be nationals of the State which they represent and the means of their selection shall be as democratic as possible. The preferred method is through the balloting of National Committees (or equivalent groups of nationals) for Earth-science Conservation where these exist, but in countries without such committees, other methods may be employed. Each National Member shall inform the Secretary of the means by which he/she was selected. Otherwise the selection of a Council representative by a Member State is the concern of that State alone.

13. On the 1st January 1993, and every two years thereafter, the Executive Secretary shall call on all Member States to select their National Representatives who will assume their duties as Council Members on 1st April following and shall serve for two years from that date. Such National Representatives shall be re-electable.

14. The General Members of the Council will be elected by the whole membership at each General Assembly and will serve until the succeeding Assembly. Any member of the Association, not later than four months before any General Assembly may offer his/her services as a General Member to the Executive Secretary and he/she will circulate voting papers showing the names

of all such candidates to the Membership of the Association as part of his/her Report (See Article 7 above). Balloting will take place at the General Assembly and votes by post or by fax, received by the Executive Secretary seven days before the Assembly opens, shall be valid. Not more than one General Member shall be elected from the nationals of any one Member State.

15. The Council may co-opt appropriately qualified advisors as might be required. When the Council considers the specific project or issue on which their advice has been sought, such advisors will rank equally with Council Members in relation to closed discussions and voting rights, provided such advisors are Members of the Association.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

16. In 1993, and every two years thereafter, *and in 2000 and every two years thereafter*, the Council at its [*deleted – Annual*] Meeting shall elect an Executive Committee to undertake the day to day management of the Association. The Committee shall meet as required, the quorum being 50%, and shall consist of the President, one or more Vice-Presidents, an Executive Secretary, a Second Secretary, a Treasurer, a Press Officer and such other Officers and Members as the Council shall decide. All Officers shall be immediately re-electable, but the President shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. Casual vacancies on the Committee will be filled by Council as they arise, by election within the Council, to be approved by the next General Assembly.

17. The President is the senior representative of the Association in all its official functions, but may delegate general or specific responsibilities to the Vice President(s) and/or to other members of the Executive Committee as he/she sees fit.

18. The Executive Secretary is responsible for co-ordinating all functions of the Association and for the recording and dissemination of all information inside and outside the Association relating to these functions. He/she will convene all Council and Executive Committee meetings and will circulate agendas of the business to be transacted at each. He/she is the official contact point of the Association.

19. The Second Secretary assists the Executive Committee and minutes all Executive Committee meetings and all Council meetings and will be responsible for editing and circulating the Newsletter.

20. The Treasurer is responsible to the Executive Committee and the Council for the control of the Association's finances, also the keeping of accounts to be audited yearly by a professional audit office to the satisfaction of the Association.

21. The Press Officer is responsible to the President and the Council and is charged with the promotion of the Association's aims and activities, and all marketing of the image, name and activities of the Association.

PROJECT GROUPS

22. The conservation work of the Association shall be carried out by Project Groups, established by the Council for a fixed period to advance the study of particular branches of Earth-science conservation. For each Group, the Council shall appoint a Convenor who is responsible to the Council for the Project.

23. Subject to the prior approval of the Executive Committee, Project Groups may co-opt appropriately qualified conservationists or other experts (whether members of the Association or not) to assist in their work. Such co-opted members of a Project Group shall rank equally with the nominated members in relation to closed discussions and voting concerned with the Group's specific project.

24. Convenors of Project Groups will report to every Council Meeting held during the duration of their project.

FOUNDER MEMBERS

25. Those members of the Association, defined as Founder Members in Article 3 of the Lom Constitution, shall have the right to attend and to participate fully in all the proceedings of the Council but, unless they have also been elected as National or General Members of the Council under the provisions of Articles 10 to 14, they shall have no vote on constitutional matters.

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES

26. These Articles may only be modified by the vote of a two-thirds majority of all Members at a General Assembly, at a closed business meeting. The proxy votes of absent Members, conveyed by letter or fax to the Executive Secretary, shall rank equally with those of the members present.

27. These Articles will come into force when ratified by (1) one-third of those invited to the 1992 Annual Meeting and (2) two-thirds of the Founder Members, as required by the Lom Articles of 1990.

[Amendments to the articles, as agreed by Council at its November 1999 meeting in Madrid, are shown in *italics*.]

WAPW 23 May 2000