

## **Articles of association for Spreefolk e.V.**

*(unofficial translation)*

*adopted on 10.11.2006 and amended on 12.01.2007, 27.08.2020, 23.09.2021, 30.08.2022 and 03.07.2023*

### § 1 Name, place of registration, financial year

The association bears the name 'Spreefolk'.

Once it has been entered in the register of associations, its name will include the suffix e.V.

The place of registration of the association is Berlin.

The financial year is the calendar year.

Minutes shall be kept of all meetings and assemblies, which shall be signed by the keeper of the minutes and the chairperson of the meeting.

### § 2 Purpose and goals of the associations

The association 'Spreefolk' pursues exclusively and directly charitable purposes, in the sense of the section 'tax-privileged' purposes of the German tax code. The purpose of the association is to support and promote traditional culture, whereby any ideological colouring of the term must be excluded. The aim of the association is to disseminate predominantly Western European traditional dances and music to the public and to promote their acceptance.

To this end, the association organises courses and other events in which traditional music and dance are taught and practised. The aim is to appeal to people of all age groups.

The association also seeks contact with domestic and foreign groups that have similar objectives.

The association is a non-profit organisation and does not primarily pursue its own economic purposes. The association's funds may only be used for the purposes set out in the Articles of Association.

### § 3 Association funds

Members shall not receive any benefits from the Association's funds. No person may be favoured by expenses that are alien to the purpose of the association or by disproportionately high remuneration.

The association receives the funds to fulfil its tasks through membership fees, donations and other contributions.

The membership fee is determined by the General Assembly.

The cash audit takes place annually.

### § 4 Liability

The association is liable with the association's assets.

## § 5 Members and end of membership

(1) Any natural person who recognises the Articles of the Association and is prepared to support the objectives of the Association may become a member of the Association. Membership is applied for in writing to the Executive Board and the Executive Board decides on admission. Admission to the Association may be refused by the Executive Board if admission would be detrimental to the interests and reputation of the Association. Membership shall commence upon receipt of the first membership fee.

(2) Membership shall be suspended if membership fees are more than three months in arrears. Members with suspended membership are not entitled to vote.

(3) Membership ends with a written declaration of resignation or the death of the member. Membership can be terminated by exclusion due to behaviour that is contrary to or detrimental to the association. Expulsion is effected at the request of the Executive Board by the General Assembly. The member must be notified of the expulsion.

## § 6 Rights and obligations of members

Members enjoy all rights arising from the Articles of Association, in particular from the purpose of the Association.

Members are obliged to comply with the provisions of the Articles of Association and to promote the objectives of the Association.

## § 7 Bodies of the Association

(1) The bodies of the Association are the Executive Board, the General Assembly and the auditors.

(2) The Executive Board consists of a minimum of three and a maximum of seven members elected by the General Assembly by simple majority. The General Assembly elects a chairperson, one or two deputies and a treasurer from the members of the Executive Board.

(3) The term of office of the Executive Board is two years. Re-election is possible. The current members of the Executive Board shall remain in office after the expiry of their term of office until successors have been elected. The General Assembly can vote the Executive Board out of office at any time with a simple majority.

(4) Board meetings can be convened at any time if required. The Executive Board passes its resolutions in meetings or by way of written votes. With the consent of all members of the Executive Board, meetings may also be held by video or telephone link or in any other electronic form; written votes may be taken by e-mail. The Executive Board is quorate if at least 2 (with 3 Executive Board members) or 3 (with 4 or 5 Executive Board members) or 5 (with 6 or 7 Executive Board members) of the Executive Board members are present. Resolutions are passed by a simple majority of the Executive Board members present; in the event of a tie, a motion is deemed to have been rejected.

(5) Members of the Executive Board may be appropriately remunerated for activities as trainers or for artistic activities.

(6) The Executive Board works on an honorary basis. However, the General Assembly may decide that it shall receive appropriate remuneration for its time spent, the amount of which shall be determined by the General Assembly of Members.

#### § 8 Tasks of the Executive Board

The Executive Board manages the business of the Association. The Executive Board is responsible for the following tasks in order to fulfil the objectives of the Articles of Association:

- the administration of the Association's assets,
- preparation and organisation of the General Assembly,
- presentation of the annual report and financial report,
- the coordination of events,
- informing and involving association members in current or planned projects.

The Executive Board may delegate individual tasks.

Each member of the Executive Board is authorised to represent the association alone.

#### § 9 Tasks of the General Assembly

(1) The regular General Assembly takes place once a year. The minimum agenda items for each regular General Assembly are acceptance of the annual report and cash report, discharge of the Executive Board and election of the Executive Board and auditors.

(2) Extraordinary General Assemblies are convened by the Executive Board as required. Extraordinary General Assemblies must be convened if at least ten per cent of the members request this from the Executive Board, stating the agenda.

(3) The General Assembly shall be convened in writing by the Executive Board. An agenda must be attached to the invitation. Sending e-mails is sufficient to fulfil the written form requirement, provided that the member has provided an e-mail address for this purpose. The invitation shall be sent at least four weeks in advance for a regular General Assembly and at least one week in advance for an extraordinary General Assembly.

(4) Every member has a seat and vote in the General Assembly and the right to vote unless otherwise stipulated in these Articles of Association. Votes may be transferred to other members for voting purposes by written authorisation. Each person present at the General Assembly may only cast their own vote and, if applicable, one other vote transferred by proxy per ballot or vote.

(5) A General Assembly is quorate if it has been duly convened and at least three voting members are present in addition to the members of the Executive Board present. For amendments to the Articles of Association, at least a quarter of the members entitled to vote must be present.

(6) The General Assembly shall appoint a chairperson and a secretary.

(7) Any member may submit motions for the agenda of the General Assembly. At the beginning of the General Assembly, the General Assembly shall decide on the inclusion of additional items on the agenda.

(8) Unless otherwise stipulated in these Articles of Association, resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority of the votes present. In the event of a tie, the motion is deemed to have been rejected. A request for a secret ballot must be granted.

(9) By resolution of the Executive Board, members may be authorised to participate in the General Assembly without being present at the meeting venue and to exercise membership rights by means of electronic communication (hybrid General Assembly). By resolution of the Board of Directors, a General Assembly may be held in such a way that members can exercise their membership rights exclusively by means of electronic communication (virtual General Assembly). The technical systems for exercising members' rights by means of electronic communication must be made known to the members in advance. The organisation of secret elections and votes must be technically ensured. The use of technical systems that are suitable for exercising members' rights by means of electronic communication, including the holding of secret elections and votes, is also permitted for elections and votes if the Executive Board decides to do so when the meeting is held in person.

#### § 10 Cash auditor

The two cash auditors appointed by the General Assembly have the task of checking the cash report. They announce the results of their audit to the Executive Board and the General Assembly.

The auditors may not be members of the Executive Board.

#### § 11 Amendment of the Articles of Association and dissolution of the Association

The Articles of Association can be amended with a three-quarter majority of the votes present at the General Assembly.

A three-quarter majority of the votes present at the General Assembly is required to dissolve the association. The dissolution can only be decided at a General Assembly to which the members submitting the motion for dissolution have been invited.

If the association is dissolved or if tax-privileged purposes cease to exist, the assets of the association shall be transferred to the 'Deutsches Volksliedarchiv (DVA)' in Freiburg, which must use them directly and exclusively for charitable, benevolent or ecclesiastical purposes.

Resolutions on the future utilisation of the assets may only be implemented after the approval of the tax office.

#### § 12 Entry into force

The Articles of Association shall enter into force as soon as they have been adopted by the founding Assembly.