



STATUTES OF EMMAUS EUROPE

Modified on the 24th October 2023

Preamble

Whereas the Emmaus International Association was constituted during the second General Assembly of the Emmaus Movement held in Montreal, Canada, from 2 to 4 July 1971;

Taking into account the last modification of the Statutes of the Emmaus International Association, adopted by the latter's Extraordinary General Assembly held on 1 December 2021 (online meeting) and 11 May 2022 at Piriápolis in Uruguay , of which Article 29 Paragraph 5 entrusts the Ordinary General Assembly with the exclusive power "to set the number and extent of the Regions as well as the number of representatives per Region, upon recommendation of the Board";

Taking into account the decisions adopted by the Emmaus International Ordinary General Assembly in its closing session of 22 November 2003 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; in particular Motion 2, which gives a mandate to the Board to "work to implement the Statutes resulting from the vote by the Extraordinary General Assembly, and especially to revise the number and extent of the regions as well as the number of representatives per region, called 'Councillors of Emmaus International', which will be valid until ratification by the next Ordinary General Assembly" scheduled for 2007;

Taking into account the decisions made by the Emmaus International Board during its meeting in Châtenay-Malabry, France, from 18 to 23 October 2004, and in particular its motions 14.4 creating a "Europe continental region" and 14.5, setting the number of Councillors of this region at twelve;

The Emmaus International Member Organisations of the Europe continental region meeting on 21 May 2005 in Paris, France, decide to constitute the "Emmaus Europe" association and for this purpose adopt the present statutes.

Preliminary note

In order to avoid any ambiguity between the Emmaus International Statutes, bodies and structures and those of Emmaus Europe, and unless otherwise specified in the present statutes, the following terms refer to those of Emmaus International when the first letter of each word is capitalised:

Emmaus International: General Assembly, Association, Executive Committee, Board, Councilor, Member Organisation, National Organisation, Regional Organisation, Internal Rules, Statutes.

Emmaus Europe: regional assembly, association, (regional) executive, regional council, member organisation, internal rules, statutes.

Summary

I - NAME AND CONSTITUTION	3
II - AIM AND OBJECTIVES	3
III - MEMBER ORGANISATIONS.....	4
IV - BODIES.....	6
IV – 1. REGIONAL ASSEMBLY	7
IV – 2. REGIONAL COUNCIL.....	10
IV – 3. REGIONAL EXECUTIVE	13
IV – 4. PRESIDENT	15
IV – 5. VICE-PRESIDENT	16
V - FINANCIAL RESOURCES.....	16
VI - ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING	16
VII - GENERAL PROVISIONS	17
VIII - MODIFICATION OF THE STATUTES AND DISSOLUTION	18
IX - INTERNAL RULES	18

I - NAME AND CONSTITUTION

Article 1

Under the name Emmaus Europe, a civil society association in the form of a federation of the Emmaus organisations in Europe is established.

Emmaus Europe is a non-profit organisation whose action falls within the scope of the orientations and requirements of Emmaus International as defined by the Universal Manifesto, the Statutes and other fundamental documents, as well as by the decisions of the General Assemblies.

Article 2 – Headquarters

The headquarters of Emmaus Europe are established at 47, avenue de la Résistance 93100 Montreuil, France.

The Emmaus Europe board, hereinafter called the regional council, can transfer the headquarters to another location in Europe, and in relation to this issue has the corresponding power to modify the statutes.

II - AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Article 3 – Aim

Emmaus Europe is the Regional Organisation of Emmaus International for the European continent, as defined by article 59 of the Emmaus International Statutes. As such, its general aim is to implement Emmaus International's policies and decisions on the continent. Its undertakings towards Emmaus International are comprehensively formalised in a contract signed with Emmaus International in accordance with Rule 97 of the Emmaus International Regulations.

The aim of Emmaus Europe, directly and/or through the intermediary of the National Organisations where they exist, is to:

- 1. Reinforce and safeguard the identity of Emmaus in Europe, in order to fight against all forms of exclusion and of social, racial, political, economic, religious, philosophical, ethnic, gender and other forms of discrimination, and to fight for the recognition and effective enjoyment of the rights of the poorest people, in Europe and everywhere in the world;*
- 2. Serve as a liaison and mutual-aid body between the Emmaus members in Europe, all the while respecting their respective personality and their individual autonomy;*
- 3. Contribute and ensure that the activity of its members complies with the Emmaus International orientations, and especially its fundamental documents and the decisions of its General Assemblies.*
- 4. Jointly with Emmaus International protect the Emmaus and Abbé Pierre names and the Emmaus International logo in the region.*

Article 4 – Objectives

To achieve its aims, Emmaus Europe strives to:

1. *Coordinate the region’s member organisations;*
2. *Organise political, economic and social training for the various people involved in the activities of Emmaus in the region, in order to make them capable of fulfilling their political role at local, national and regional level;*
3. *Gather all the information needed to develop the political stance of the Movement in order to refer it to the region’s member organisations, and contribute ideas so that the Emmaus International working groups run properly;*
4. *Lobby political authorities and European political bodies;*
5. *Form alliances with other European organisations that share the same aim in order to work together to combat extreme poverty and its causes in all parts of the world, and especially in Europe;*
6. *Examine, adopt and monitor the regional solidarity initiatives proposed by the members of the region.*

III - MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Article 5 - Definition

The members of Emmaus Europe are the non-profit associations or organisations that have legal status in the country of their registered headquarters and have been accepted as members of Emmaus International.

Article 6 - Rights

Each Emmaus Europe member organisation has the right to:

1. *Keep its freedom, its distinctive nature and its right to be different, with a view to better implementing the values contained in the fundamental documents of Emmaus International, the Statutes, and the decisions made at General Assemblies and regional assemblies, according to the requirements of the local context;*
2. *Know the identity of all the Emmaus Europe members, the state of Emmaus Europe’s accounts, as well as the make-up and activities of its various bodies;*
3. *Attend the regional assembly with voting rights in accordance with what is laid down in Article 18, and delegate their voting right;*
4. *Put forward candidates to sit on the bodies and working groups of Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International and propose the removal from office of their members;*
5. *Challenge decisions or actions of Emmaus Europe that could conflict with the orientations and fundamental documents of Emmaus International, the Statutes of Emmaus*

International and statutes of Emmaus Europe, or the decisions made at General Assemblies and regional assemblies;

6. *Have spoken or written access to Emmaus Europe's bodies, to present proposals, requests and complaints, and to receive a response.*

Article 7 - Obligations

Each Emmaus Europe member organisation has the obligation to:

1. *Act with a view to achieving the aims of Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe;*
2. *Fulfil all the legal requirements applicable to its legal status;*
3. *Accept and meet the requirements of:*
 - 3.1 *The fundamental documents and the Statutes of Emmaus International, and especially of Article 6 sub-paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 9, and the statutes of Emmaus Europe;*
 - 3.2 *The decisions made at General Assemblies and regional assemblies;*
 - 3.3 *The main work areas defined by General Assemblies and regional assemblies;*
 - 3.4 *Take part in any direct participatory body for groups: General Assembly, regional assembly, and national assembly.*
5. *Support the activities of Emmaus Europe, notably by paying the set membership dues;*
6. *Submit its annual social activity report and financial results.*

Article 8 - Resignation

Any member organisation, whatever its status, can resign at any time from Emmaus Europe; it remains liable for its financial obligations, in particular for its membership dues for the current year and any loans that it has been granted until they have been fully repaid.

Resignation from membership of Emmaus Europe entails ipso facto resignation from membership of Emmaus International and the consequences listed in Article 9, paragraph 2 of the Statutes, and Article 30 of the Emmaus International Internal Regulations.

Article 9 - Exclusion

Any member organisation shall be excluded from Emmaus Europe in the case of non-compliance with the conditions set out in the present statutes, as well as for non-payment of membership dues to Emmaus Europe, or for non-attendance at three consecutive regional assemblies, even if it has been represented by another member organisation.

A member organisation may be excluded on serious grounds as a disciplinary measure.

The decision to exclude a member shall be taken in accordance with the right of defence, after the member in question has been able to put forward its arguments. The sanction shall be decided by the regional council with there being no right to appeal.

The exclusion of a member organisation by the National Organisation to which it belongs immediately sets in motion the exclusion procedure from Emmaus Europe.

Article 10 - Disbanding or termination of activity

Membership of Emmaus Europe terminates automatically when a member organisation disbands or terminates its activity.

Article 11 – Use of the name and of the logo

Where a member organisation has lost the status of member, it automatically relinquishes the use of the "member of the Emmaus International Movement founded by Abbé Pierre" wording, as well as the use of all references to Emmaus, Abbé Pierre, and any distinguishing signs (including trademarks and domain names) and logos belonging to Emmaus International or others which could lead to confusion.

Article 12 – Trial membership

In order to ensure that it harmoniously fits into Emmaus Europe, each new member must be guided by another member organisation, so that it can discover Emmaus and bring its statutes, rules and practices into line.

In return for this guidance, this member receives provisional and trial acceptance of its membership with the right to use the name and the logo accompanied by the following obligatory wording "trial member of Emmaus International" on all of its documents.

This dual role of guiding and provisionally accepting a member is held by the National Organisation or, failing that, the Regional organisation.

During the trial period, the member is invited as an observer to the national assemblies, regional assemblies and General Assemblies, and to the activities of Emmaus Europe. The trial member has no right to vote.

Between a minimum of two years and a maximum of five years, a request for full membership of Emmaus International is made in accordance with the conditions set by the Statutes.

If the Board rejects the full membership application at the end of the trial period, membership is immediately and automatically terminated without any justification being required from the Board.

IV - BODIES

Article 13 – Bodies

The bodies of Emmaus Europe are as follows:

- *The general assembly, referred to as the "regional assembly";*
- *The board, referred to as the "regional council";*
- *The regional executive.*

IV – 1. REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 14 - Definition

The regional assembly is the highest body of Emmaus Europe and has full powers and responsibilities so that it can realise its aims and its objectives within the framework of the Statutes and of the fundamental documents of Emmaus International, and of any policies and decisions the General Assembly and regional assembly may adopt.

Article 15 – Frequency

An important gathering for all the member organisations of Emmaus Europe, the regional assembly takes place in principle every four years, the year after the World Assembly .

Beforehand, a regional electoral assembly elects the incumbent Councillors of Emmaus International and the substitute Councillors of Emmaus International at the earliest six months before and at the latest on the eve of the World Assembly.

Another regional assembly may be held at any time if so decided by the regional council.

Article 16 – Place

It can be held in any place in Europe, as decided by the regional council.

If exceptional circumstances justify it, the regional assembly may be held remotely or by post, and all voting will be electronic or postal.

Article 17 - Ordinary regional assembly convened on an extraordinary basis

At the request in writing of more than half of the member organisations or on the initiative of the regional council, the president of Emmaus Europe must call an ordinary regional assembly convened on an extraordinary basis within a maximum of three months.

Article 18 – Postal consultation

If exceptional circumstances justify it, the regional council may consult the regional assembly by post or electronic communications. This consultation may cover all the points provided for in Articles 26 and 27 of these Statutes.

Article 19 – Voting rights

Each member organisation may vote and has one vote at the regional assembly on condition that it is up to date with its obligations under the statutes and in particular the payment of its membership dues to Emmaus Europe, at least since the last regional assembly, unless an exemption is granted by the regional board following a justified request for exemption.

Article 20 – Proxies

A member organisation may give another member organisation a proxy to represent and vote on its behalf.

A member organisation may receive a maximum of two proxies. All proxies must be sent by post to Emmaus Europe's headquarters or by email to the RAEE registration email address at the latest one week before the RAEE. All blank proxies are shared out by the president of Emmaus Europe among the members registered to attend the RAEE.

Article 21 – Notice of meeting

Notices of meetings of the regional assembly are addressed to the member organisations in accordance with the conditions set out in the internal rules, at least three months before the assembly, unless there is an emergency or there are exceptional circumstances.

Article 22 – Minutes

The minutes of the regional assembly are drafted by the secretary.

Article 23 – Quorum

In order to make valid decisions, the regional assembly must consist of at least half the member organisations, either present or duly represented.

If this quorum is not reached at the ordinary regional assembly, another regional assembly is convened within six months and may take decisions in the absence of a quorum.

In the event of a regional assembly held remotely or by post, the quorum is calculated based on the number of Member Organisations that have cast valid votes when each vote closes.

Article 24 – Agenda

The agenda is drawn up by the regional council.

It is sent to the member organisations and Emmaus International at the same time as the notice of meeting.

Any other proposals can only be submitted by a National Organisation or by a minimum of 10 percent of the member organisations and must be sent to the regional executive at least six weeks before the regional assembly. In this case, the regional executive informs the member organisations of such proposals by letter at least three weeks before the ordinary or extraordinary regional assembly.

Article 25 – Voting system

The proposals submitted to the ordinary regional assembly are adopted by simple majority of member organisations present or duly represented. In the event of a tied vote, the proposal in question is deemed to be rejected.

Voting takes place by show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested by at least 10 percent of the member organisations present or duly represented.

The election of incumbent and replacement CEIs and the presidential election take place by secret ballot.

Postal voting is not authorised, apart from in exceptional circumstances justifying a remote consultation of the regional assembly as provided for in Article 18 of these Statutes.

Article 26 – Exclusive powers of the ordinary regional assembly

The ordinary regional assembly has the following powers:

1. To elect the incumbent and replacement Councillors of Emmaus International;
2. To propose one or several candidates to the Emmaus International Wise Persons' Committee;
3. To set up regional working groups by theme or by geographical area to better stimulate the region's action;
4. To examine the accounts of preceding years approved by the regional council;
5. To decide on the proposals submitted to it by the regional council;
6. Set the membership fees for member groups and the contributions for groups on probation
7. To adopt the president's policy report, the activity report of the regional council, the financial report of the treasurer and the reports of the various regional working groups that have been given a specific mandate;
8. To adopt the general work areas and priorities until the next regional assembly.

The regional assembly elects the president of Emmaus Europe with a two-thirds majority of the member organisations in attendance or duly represented in the first round of voting and a simple majority in the second round. The president's mandate lasts for four years and runs from one ordinary general assembly to the next. The president's mandate runs from the date of the assembly at which s/he is elected to the date of the following assembly, even if they are not held in the same month of the year. The mandate can be renewed once. Votes are taken by a secret ballot.

Article 27 – Exclusive powers of the extraordinary regional assembly

If requested in writing by half of the Emmaus Europe member organisations, or on the Regional Council's initiative, the EE president must convene an extraordinary regional assembly within a maximum timeframe of three months.

Only the extraordinary regional assembly has the right:

1. To modify the statutes;
2. To dissolve Emmaus Europe.

Decisions concerning this article may only be taken by a majority of two-thirds of the member organisations present or duly represented.

IV – 2. REGIONAL COUNCIL

Article 28 – Definition

The activity of Emmaus Europe is under the direct responsibility of the regional council.

The regional council is responsible for boosting, monitoring and supervising all other Emmaus Europe bodies, including the regional executive.

Article 29 – Members

The regional council is made up of:

- 1. The president of Emmaus Europe elected by the regional assembly.*
- 2. The incumbent Councillors of Emmaus International, with a maximum of four Councillors per country. The number of these Councillors is set by the Ordinary General Assembly. At the time of approval of the present statutes, this number is set at twelve; including the EE president.*
- 3. National delegates, .*
- 4. Country representatives without voting rights if there are no national delegates.*

Article 30 – Term of office

The term of office of the members of the regional council is:

- Set by the Statutes and Internal Rules for the Councillors of Emmaus International. At the time of approval of these Statutes, as a rule the term of office lasts four years, renewable once. They are elected at electoral regional assemblies and take up their positions at the World Assembly following their election. Their term of office beings at one EI World Assembly and runs to the next EI World Assembly.*
- For national delegates, between two to four years, and they can be re-elected once in line with Article 33 of these statutes.*

Article 31 – End of term of office

The remit of a regional council member ends:

- 1. On his/her death or his/her disablement;*
- 2. When s/he ceases to be a member of a Member Organisation;*
- 3. At the end of the mandate received from the National Organisation, in the case of national delegates;*
- 4. When s/he ceases to be a Councillor of Emmaus International;*
- 5. On his/her resignation in writing.*

6. *If the representative totals consecutive non-excused absences from two regional councils.*
7. *If removed from office by the relevant organisation (group or national organisation).*

Article 32 – Councillors of Emmaus International (CEIs)

In addition to the 12 incumbent elected CEIs, the regional assembly proposes to non-elected candidates with at least an absolute majority of the votes cast that they become replacements. Each of the region's member organisations is only allowed to submit one candidate for election.

Only the incumbent CEIs are full members of the regional council. The replacement CEIs only receive the regional council's working documents.

If the period of office of a CEI ends between two General World Assemblies for the reasons listed in Article 30, the regional council calls as a replacement, for the rest of the period of office, the replacement candidate who received the most votes at the regional assembly.

This replacement CEI will be called to serve in the order of election, provided that there are no more than four CEIs in total from the same country. If this is the case, the next replacement candidate will be called to replace the candidate who is unable to continue.

The EE president will decide which replacement candidate to call if the votes are tied.

If they are no replacement candidates, the regional council may, as a last resort, call on the groups to put forward new candidates who will be elected by the regional council.

Article 33 – National delegates

The national delegates facilitate contact, understanding and coordination of the Emmaus International movement, and their role is described in Article 56 of the Emmaus International Statutes.

National delegates are elected by the member groups of the National Organisations or by a grouping of at least three groups from different countries that don't have National organisations, following a call for candidacies, in line with the procedure laid out in Article 58 of the Emmaus International Statutes. Emmaus Europe may choose a country representative in regional meetings as an observer if a country does not have a national delegate.

The Europe Region NDs must sit on the board of their National Organisation, if applicable.

It is forbidden to combine the roles of national delegate and CEI.

Article 34 – Duties of the members of the regional council

The members of the regional council have the following duties:

1. *To maintain a sustained relationship with the member organisations of Emmaus Europe;*
2. *To manage regional budgets;*
3. *To be in all circumstances practical examples of the values of Emmaus International.*

According to the Statutes, the Councillors of Emmaus International have the following, more specific duties:

- 1. To represent the member organisations of Emmaus Europe before the Board and to convey information to them from the Board;*
- 2. To draft a report on the activity of Emmaus in Europe before each meeting of the Board;*
- 3. To prepare the membership applications of trial members in the Europe region for Emmaus International.*

Article 35 – Election of the regional executive

Within the limits provided for in Article 39, the regional council sets the number of, and elects from among its own members, the members of the regional executive.

Article 36 – Responsibilities

The regional council is the policy-making body of Emmaus Europe.

The regional council has the following duties in particular:

- 1. To implement the policies, suggestions and decisions passed at the General Assembly and regional assembly;*
- 2. To participate in leading reflection to promote the fight for the rights of the poorest people throughout the world;*
- 3. To organise the communication policy of Emmaus Europe aimed at the public and the political authorities;*
- 4. To coordinate solidarity initiatives and initiatives to combat exclusion within Europe and for developing world countries in conjunction with Emmaus International;*
- 5. To form alliances with other European organisations that share the same aim in order to work together to combat extreme poverty and its causes wherever it is found, and especially in Europe;*
- 6. To present to Emmaus International, through the Councillors of Emmaus International, new members' requests for Emmaus International membership and requests for exclusions of Member Organisations;*
- 7. To supervise the work of the regional executive, to which it has delegated responsibilities, and to examine its financial and activity reports;*
- 8. To set up suitable regional working groups to carry out the specific missions that it gives them;*
- 9. To prepare the agenda of the regional assemblies;*
- 10. To promote the development of the Emmaus Movement in Europe.*

Article 37 – Financial powers

As regards finance, the regional council approves the accounts from the previous financial year and adopts the budget for the next financial year within the French legal deadline. The rules governing the execution and payment of expenses are set by the internal rules.

Article 38 – Meetings

The meetings of the regional council may be held at any location the regional executive chooses.

All meetings are convened in writing, at least one month in advance, unless there is an emergency or there are exceptional circumstances.

The notification to attend must contain the agenda.

If exceptional circumstances justify it, the regional council may be consulted by post or by electronic communication on the executive's initiative. A decision is considered to have been taken if approved in writing or electronic communication by the majority of the responses received within the voting deadline.

An e-document is equivalent to a paper document, provided that the person who issued it can be duly identified and that it is signed, sent and kept in conditions that are conducive to ensuring its integrity.

The regional council meets in-person at least twice a year, apart from any postal or online meetings.

Article 39 – Quorum

The quorum of attendance required for regional council meetings to be valid is always one-half of its members.

Article 40 – Voting method and minutes

Each member has the right to only one vote.

Decisions are taken by a simple majority of the members present.

The EE president has the casting vote in the event of a tie.

Minutes of the meeting shall be drafted by the secretary.

IV – 3. REGIONAL EXECUTIVE

Article 41 – Responsibilities

The regional executive has all the powers necessary for the daily management of the affairs of Emmaus Europe, on the basis of a mandate given by the regional council. It accounts for its activity to the regional council.

Article 42 – Members and term of office

The regional executive is made up of a minimum of five members:

- *The president elected from among the members of the regional assembly. The president of Emmaus Europe automatically becomes the president of the regional council.*
- *The vice-president*
- *The secretary and treasurer elected from within the regional council.*
Regional executive members' term of office runs from one electoral GA to the next, and they can be re-elected once.

The Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe includes Councillors of Emmaus International (CEI) and National Delegates in order to coordinate better with the Emmaus Movement.

Article 43 – Meetings, decisions and minutes

The regional executive meets as often as necessary and at least four times a year. It makes its decisions by a simple majority of the members present.

It cannot take a decision unless the majority of its members are present.

The minutes of the regional executive are sent to each member of the regional council in accordance with the procedure laid down in the internal rules.

Article 44 – Co-opted members

In order to more effectively perform its role, the executive can include a maximum of two people who are not regional council members, and who are selected by the RCEE based on their skills and experience in Emmaus Europe. If necessary, the executive can entrust them with duties. They take part in regional executive meetings but do not have voting rights.

The executive decides on a case-by-case basis if the co-opted member should attend all the executive meetings or only be present for items on the agenda that equate to his or her area of expertise and specific duties.

Article 45 – Report

The regional executive presents a report on the management of Emmaus Europe to each meeting of the regional council.

Article 46 – Specific tasks

The regional executive may give a mandate to one of its members or to a third party to carry out a particular task, in particular to visit the member organisations and give them moral or technical support.

Persons who receive such a mandate must deliver a report to the regional executive.

Article 47 – Europe Region Secretariat

The secretariat of the Europe region has the following main tasks, under the authority of the regional executive:

- *Secretariat for intra and extra-European solidarity initiatives*
- *Information and communication*
- *General administration*
- *Run the organisation*
- *Coordinate awareness-raising and advocacy initiatives*
- *Governance support*

IV – 4. PRESIDENT

Article 48 – Responsibilities

Within Europe, the president represents Emmaus Europe in legal matters, to third parties and before the courts.

S/he carries out all the duties entrusted to him/her by the law and the statutes.

S/he is responsible for implementing the decisions of the regional assembly, of the regional council and of the regional executive, and s/he signs letters on behalf of the association.

The president must be a CEI to improve coordination with the movement.

Article 49 – Other responsibilities

S/he calls and chairs the meetings of the regional council and of the regional executive.

S/he can mandate any member of the regional executive to represent him/her outside the Movement.

Article 50 - End of the president's mandate

The president's mandate expires in the following cases:

1. *Death or disablement.*
2. *End of the mandate given by the regional assembly.*
3. *Written resignation.*
4. *Removal from office by the regional assembly convened in accordance with the conditions laid out by article 17 of these statutes.*

In scenarios 1 and 3, the regional executive takes note of the death, disablement, impediment or resignation. The post is temporarily filled by another member of the regional council of Emmaus Europe until the end of the mandate or until the next regional assembly meeting held in accordance with article 15 of the statutes.

In scenario 4, the regional assembly meeting in an extraordinary session elects a new president for the time remaining until the end of the mandate, in accordance with the duration stated in article 39.

IV – 5. VICE-PRESIDENT

Article 51 - Remit

The vice-president's role is to assist the president in carrying out their duties. The vice-president may act through the delegated authority of the president or with the president's oversight. S/he may be given temporary or permanent specific duties to be carried out as decided by the president. The vice-presidents may deputize for the president if the president is unable to take part in the RC.

V - FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Article 52 – Financial resources

The financial resources of Emmaus Europe come from:

- 1. The membership dues paid by the member organisations, as set by the regional assembly on the basis of the regional council's proposal;*
- 2. Authorised donations and legacies;*
- 3. Funding allocated to it for targeted initiatives;*
- 4. Additional contributions requested by the regional council;*
- 5. And all other resources authorised by law.*

The association undertakes to present its accounting ledgers and documents, at the request of the Minister of the Interior or the Prefect, concerning the use of gifts which it is authorised to receive, and to provide the Prefect with an annual report on its financial situation and accounts, and to allow delegates of the ministers concerned to visit its premises and to account for the operation of these premises.

Article 53 – Responsibilities

The member organisations are not personally liable for the obligations contracted by Emmaus Europe; only the assets and resources of the association are liable for such obligations.

Emmaus Europe is in no circumstance liable for the obligations which its member organisations contract in its name, without prior express authorisation.

VI - ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING

Article 54 – Treasurer's responsibility

The treasurer is responsible for keeping the accounts of Emmaus Europe.

Article 55 – Auditing of the accounts

The president of Emmaus Europe or the regional executive can at any time commission audits of the various accounts using one or more chartered accountants.

Article 56 - Financial year

The financial year of Emmaus Europe is the calendar year.

Article 57 – Auditors

The regional board appoints one or several auditors.

Their reports are sent to the member organisations of Emmaus Europe.

Article 58 – Auditing a member organisation

In the case of serious accusations or serious doubts about the operations or actions of a member organisation, the regional executive and/or the regional council have the duty to bring everything to light with the aim of being transparent both with regard to its members and the general public.

For this they have, in agreement with the National Organisation and with the Executive Committee and/or Board, the right to commission an audit of the member organisation concerned, in particular of its accounting and financial management, its internal running and its social action, and to appoint the organisation that will carry out the audit.

The cost of the audit will be covered by the budget of Emmaus International.

The member organisation must comply with and facilitate the work of the auditors.

The findings of the audit will be brought to the attention of the National Organisation and of the Executive Committee and Board, and of the regional council. The latter, in relation with the Board, will then take the decisions that they consider relevant.

VII - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 59 – Official languages

French, English and Spanish are the languages of Emmaus Europe.

They are used on an equal footing in all its bodies, publications and documents.

For the purposes of the present statutes, the French version is deemed to be the official one in the event of litigation.

Article 60 – Communication methods

When applying the statutes and internal regulations, e-documents are regarded as the equivalent of paper documents, provided that the person who issued it can be duly identified and that it is signed, sent and kept in conditions that are conducive to ensuring its integrity.

VIII - MODIFICATION OF THE STATUTES AND DISSOLUTION

Article 61 – Modification of the statutes and dissolution

Except for the provisions of Article 2 Paragraph 2, decisions concerning the modification of the statutes and the dissolution of Emmaus Europe may only be taken by a majority of two-thirds of the member organisations present or duly represented at an extraordinary regional assembly.

Such an assembly must be convened by the president of Emmaus Europe on the request of two-thirds of the members of the regional council or of one-half of the member organisations of Emmaus Europe.

Dissolution can only be decided by an extraordinary regional assembly which has been specially convened for this end and which has no other items on its agenda.

Article 62 – Disposal of assets

In the event of dissolution, the balance of assets shall be allocated, after the payment of debts and according to the law and the directives adopted by the extraordinary regional assembly, to an association that shares the same aims.

IX - INTERNAL RULES

Article 63 – Internal rules

Internal rules are drafted by the regional council and adopted or modified by the regional assembly.