

Statute

Deutsches Klima-Konsortium e. V. (DKK)

§ 1 Name, Seat, Fiscal Year

1. The Association bears the name “Deutsches Klima-Konsortium” (DKK). This shall be entered in the register of associations; following registration, the name shall be

“Deutsches Klima-Konsortium e. V.”
2. The Association has its seat in Berlin.
3. The fiscal year is the calendar year.

§ 2 Purpose

1. The Association is a consortium of non-university research organisations and universities engaging in research on climate change, climate impacts and climate protection. Its objective is to fuse the scientific expertise of the various research disciplines in order to function as a platform for integrated research projects, which should produce practical results in the aforementioned areas of climate research. How humans cause climate change, how they react to the consequent climate impacts and how, in this context, they develop options and instruments for climate policy to be included in economic and environmental policy, are key questions.
2. The purpose of the Association is to promote science and research, particularly in supporting initiatives for research on climate change, climate impacts and climate protection. The further purpose is to promote education.
3. In order to achieve the aforementioned purpose, the Association commits to the following duties in particular:
 - a. Organising the discussion on interdisciplinary climate research with the aim of finding practical approaches to resolving the challenges of climate change.
 - b. Formulating research initiatives for climate change, climate impacts and climate protection.
 - c. Supporting the formation of research collaborations to apply for and implement tax-privileged, climate-related projects.
 - d. Organising working groups to identify new research topics on climate change.
 - e. Supporting and advising on the design of the multidisciplinary promotion of young scientists in the field of climate research.
 - f. Active dialogue with decision-makers in policy, administration and the economy at state, federal and EU levels in matters of strategic planning of climate research with a focus on developing and formulating programmes to promote research.
 - g. Helping provide companies with independent, scientifically reliable and also, where necessary, competing explanations for climate change, climate impacts and climate protection.

Statute of the DKK

- h. Jointly providing information to the media as well as federal, national and EU decision-makers, e.g., through joint press releases, joint annual presentations, parliamentary evenings, brochures or the creation of a joint website with information about climate change, climate impacts and climate protection. Scientific information and events are accessible to the general public.

The purpose of the Statute shall also be achieved in particular by the fact that the exchange of knowledge between the public and political spheres shall consolidate the integration of independent basic research with political and economic activity in order to formulate, analyse and substantiate scientific and reliable courses of action for climate protection and climate impacts.

The secondary purpose is to feasibly support other non-profit bodies, insofar that it is permissible both fiscally and in accordance with § 58 No. 2 of the fiscal code.

§ 3 Non-Profit Status

1. The Association exclusively and directly pursues non-profit purposes in terms of the section “Tax-privileged purposes” of the fiscal code.
2. The Association is non-profit; it does not primarily pursue commercial purposes.
3. Association funds shall be used only for statutory purposes.
4. Members receive no allowances from Association funds. No person may benefit from expenses alien to the purpose of the Association or from disproportionately high remuneration.

§ 4 Membership

1. Membership is open to non-university research organisations and universities engaging in demonstrable and high-quality research on climate change, climate impacts and climate protection.
2. Applications for membership are to be substantiated and submitted to the Executive Committee in writing. A criterion for membership is the high scientific quality of work carried out by the applicant institution, among others.
3. The General Assembly shall decide on admission.

§ 5 Termination of Membership

1. Membership ends by expulsion or resignation from the Association.
2. Resignation shall be in the form of written notice to the Executive Committee. This shall only be possible subject to 12 months’ notice prior to the end of the fiscal year.
3. A Member may be expelled from the Association by resolution of the General Assembly if membership fees or allocations are in arrears despite two written reminders. The resolution to expel a Member may only be passed after two months have elapsed since dispatching the second reminder and when that reminder had given warning of expulsion. The resolution of the General Assembly on the expulsion must be communicated to the Member.

Statute of the DKK

4. A Member may be expelled from the Association by resolution of the General Assembly if the Member culpably grossly violates the interests of the Association. The General Assembly must give the Member the opportunity for verbal or written response before passing the resolution. The resolution of the General Assembly shall be substantiated in writing and sent to the Member.

§ 6 Membership Fees

The membership fee serves to finance the Association's activities and the necessary infrastructure, including the Secretariat and the Management Board. The annual fee shall be established in one of the General Assembly sittings to determine the fee structure. A resolution to increase fees may only come into effect at the beginning of the next fiscal year.

§ 7 Organs

The organs of the Association are the General Assembly and the Executive Committee.

§ 8 General Assembly

1. The General Assembly is responsible for all organisational matters and duties of the Association described in § 4 and § 6, provided that they are not incumbent upon the Executive Committee, particularly:
 - Defining the long-term objectives of the Association
 - Electing and dismissing the Executive Committee
 - Approving the budget established by the Executive Committee for the next fiscal year
 - Accepting the annual report of the Executive Committee
 - Exonerating the Executive Committee
 - Determining the membership fees and allocations
 - Admitting new Members and passing resolutions on the termination of membership
 - Passing resolutions to amend the Statute and to dissolve the Association.
2. The ordinary General Assembly shall be convened at least once a year. The invitation shall be in writing by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, subject to two weeks' notice and specification of the agenda. The notice period begins on the day following dispatch of the invitation letter. The Executive Committee shall specify the agenda.
3. Any Member may request an amendment to the agenda, addressed to the Chairman of the Executive Committee, by not later than seven days before a General Assembly. The Chairman of the Assembly shall announce the amendment at the beginning of the General Assembly. The Assembly shall resolve requests for amendments to the agenda to be put forward to the General Assembly.
4. The Chairman of the Executive Committee shall convene an extraordinary General Assembly within four weeks if it is in the interest of the Consortium or when at least three Members request this in writing, specifying the purpose and the reasons.

§ 9 General Assembly Resolutions

1. The General Assembly is chaired by the Chairman of the Executive Committee or by one of the Deputy Chairmen in the Chairman's absence. Should no Member of the Executive Committee be present, the Assembly shall determine the Chairman of the Assembly.
2. Each Member has one vote. Should several organisationally independent but legally dependent research organisations exercise their membership rights, the number of votes shall increase in accordance with the number of research facilities. The membership fee shall then increase in the same proportion. Voting rights may be conferred to another Member by written authorisation. Authorisation shall be conferred separately for each General Assembly. However, a single Member may not represent more than two other votes.
3. Voting shall be by show of hands. Voting shall be held by written and secret ballot if requested by at least three Members in attendance.
4. The General Assembly shall be quorate when at least half of all the Members of the Association are present. Should it not be quorate due to insufficient attendance, the Chairman of the Executive Committee shall immediately convene a new Assembly that shall then have a quorum regardless of the number of Members. This shall be indicated in the first invitation.
5. The General Assembly passes resolutions by a simple majority of the valid votes cast. Abstentions shall be considered invalid votes. A majority of two thirds of the valid votes cast is required to amend the Statute, to admit new Members, to amend the fee structure and to dissolve the Association. Allocations additional to the membership fee can only be established by unanimous agreement.
6. Minutes shall be recorded for every General Assembly and signed by the Chairman of the Assembly. The minutes shall include the place and time of the Assembly, the number of members present, the name of the Chairman of the Assembly, the agenda, the resolutions, the voting results and the voting procedure. The minutes shall be forwarded to the Members within four weeks after the General Assembly and approved during the next General Assembly.
7. Voting by written ballot outside of an ordinary General Assembly may be held if all members are in agreement on this method. Paragraphs 4 and 5 shall apply accordingly to the voting itself. Members shall be immediately informed of the result, which shall be minuted and approved in the next General Assembly.

§ 10 Executive Committee

1. The Association has an Executive Committee consisting of five Members.
2. The Executive Committee of the Association in terms of § 26 of the German civil code (BGB) comprises the Chairman and four Deputies, elected by the General Assembly.
3. The Association shall be represented, both judicially and extrajudicially, either by the Chairman of the Executive Committee together with a Deputy, or by two Deputies.

§ 11 Executive Committee Responsibility

1. The Executive Committee is responsible for all matters of the Association, insofar that they are not statutorily transferred to another organ of the Association. It has the following duties in particular:
 - Preparing for and convening the General Assembly, as well as setting the agenda
 - Executing resolutions of the General Assembly
 - Managing the Association's assets, preparing the budget, accounting and preparing the annual report
 - Appointing the Management Board
 - Programme planning for national and international agencies
 - Infrastructure
 - Public relations
 - Organising annual meetings and other events.
2. The Executive Committee shall manage the assets of the Association with the due diligence of customary business practice. The Executive Committee shall solicit a General Assembly resolution in all matters of special importance.
3. The Executive Committee may only use the assets and the incomes of the Association exclusively and directly for the purposes of the Association.
4. The Executive Committee serves in an honorary capacity and shall be elected by the General Assembly for a term of three years. Re-election is possible; the Chairman of the Executive Committee may be re-elected as Chairman only once. However, the Chairman of the Executive Committee and the Deputies remain in office until the election of a new Chairman of the Executive Committee and new Deputies. Each Member of the Executive Committee shall be elected individually. Only individuals from among the Members of the Association may be elected as Members of the Executive Committee. The duties of a Member of the Executive Committee end with termination of membership. Should a Member of the Executive Committee resign during their term, the Executive Committee may choose a substitute Member for the remaining term of office.

§ 12 Executive Committee Sitzings and Resolutions

1. The Executive Committee shall pass resolutions in sittings convened by the Chairman or by one of the Deputies in the Chairman's absence. The sittings shall be convened subject to one week's notice, whenever possible, and specification of the agenda.
2. The Executive Committee is quorate when at least three of its Members are present. A resolution is passed by a majority of the valid votes cast.
3. The Executive Committee can pass a resolution by written procedure if all Members of the Executive Committee agree with the subject of the resolution.

Statute of the DKK

4. The Executive Committee shall sit at least twice a year. Minutes shall be recorded for every Executive Committee sitting and immediately forwarded to the Executive Committee and the Members of the Association.

§ 13 Committees

1. The General Assembly may establish Thematic Committees with specific duties in the pursuit of specific objectives of the Association.
2. Committee Members may be employees of Members and/or external experts.
3. Each Committee elects a Chairman from among its Members.
4. The Chairman of the Committee reports regularly to the Executive Committee.
5. If required, a Conciliation Committee shall be appointed by the General Assembly to consider objections of a Member of the Association, the Executive Committee or the Committees. The Conciliation Committee shall comprise three Members; paragraphs 2 and 3 shall apply accordingly.

§ 14 Secretariat and Management Board

1. The Association has a Secretariat in Berlin.
2. The Secretariat shall be headed by the Managing Director and is subordinate to the Chairman of the Executive Committee. The Secretariat shall support the Executive Committee in pursuing the objectives and in discharging the duties of the Association. Details shall be specified by procedural rules resolved by the General Assembly for the Secretariat.
3. The Executive Committee shall appoint the Managing Director.
4. The Managing Director and any other employees of the Secretariat shall be employees of the Association.
5. The competences of the Managing Director shall be defined in the procedural rules.

§ 15 Dissolution and Appropriation of Assets

1. Dissolution of the Association may only be resolved at a General Assembly convened for this purpose.
2. In the case of dissolution or cancellation of the Association, or preclusion of the tax-privileged purposes, the assets shall be transferred to another tax-privileged public corporation or another tax-privileged corporation to be used directly and exclusively for non-profit, scientific purposes. Resolutions on the future appropriation of the assets may be executed only with the consent of the funding bodies, the respective Members and the fiscal authority.