

## **STATUTES**

### ***of the European Association for Depth Filtration e. V.***

**Status: 29.11.2023**

*Note: This is an English Translation of the German Original. In case of inconsistencies, the German Original is considered relevant.*

#### **§1**

1.1 The trade association bears the name

***European Association of Depth Filtration e. V.  
(European Association of Depth Filtration)***

- or EFT -

1.2 The trade association is based in Bad Kreuznach.

1.3 The professional association is entered in the register of associations.

#### **§2**

2.1. The purpose of the trade association is

a) to promote the common interests of its members and to contribute to the sustainable benefit of users of depth filters through overarching activities;

b) the establishment of application-oriented rules, purity definitions and other specifications for depth filters with the aim of integrating them into the relevant national and international recommendations, regulations and laws;

c) to cooperate in matters related to a) and b), where joint action is more effective and economical, for example the representation of common interests of the members vis-à-vis authorities, legislative bodies in the national and international area, in particular also in hearing procedures;

d) Representing the common interests of the members in public, with authorities and associations.

2.2 The professional association is free to make its own decisions and is not bound by any instructions.

- 2.3 The trade association may not engage in commercial activities and may not assume the functions of a cartel.
- 2.4 The trade association does not pursue any political objectives.

### **§3**

#### ***Start and duration***

- 3.1 The professional association begins with the entry in the register of associations and lasts indefinitely.
- 3.2 The association year is the calendar year.

### **§4**

#### ***Membership***

- 4.1 The professional association has ordinary, associate and extraordinary members.
- 4.2 Any company whose commercial activities include the production of and trade in depth filters and which has the competence and willingness to actively participate, in particular in the working groups of the Association, may initially become an associate member for a period of two years by unanimous resolution of the General Assembly, provided that at least a simple majority of the ordinary members have approved the admission.
- 4.3 The associate member participates in public events and general meetings of the professional association; he/she has the right to speak at the general meetings. The obligations set out in § 6:1 and 2 apply to the associate member accordingly.
- 4.4 After a period of two years, the General Assembly shall decide by unanimous resolution on the admission of the associate member as a full member. If such a decision is not reached, the associate member shall leave the professional association. Otherwise, the provisions of § 4.6 shall apply accordingly.
- 4.5 Companies or institutions, research facilities, etc. whose services are related to depth filtration can be appointed as extraordinary members by unanimous resolution of the ordinary members. Associate members only have an advisory function and only take part in events by special invitation. They have neither the obligations nor the rights of ordinary members. The details shall be determined by the General Meeting by unanimous resolution.
- 4.6 Membership ends upon resignation. Resignation is effected by giving notice. The notice period is 6 months and is only possible at the end of an association year.
- 4.7 The membership (ordinary, associate or extraordinary membership) of a member shall also end if all other ordinary members unanimously decide to withdraw the membership of the member concerned. Membership shall end upon notification of the decision to

withdraw membership. The member concerned has the right to be present during the debate on the withdrawal of his/her membership; however, the resolution is passed in the absence of the member.

- 4.8 Each member shall appoint a maximum of two representatives to attend the meetings and consultations of the Association. The representatives must be employed by the member in a position of responsibility, have specialist knowledge in the field of depth filtration and be authorized to represent the member within the professional association.

## **§5**

### ***Rights of the members***

- 5.1 All ordinary members have the same rights.
- 5.2 The results of the activities of the specialist association are available to all ordinary members, insofar as they have participated in the working groups.
- 5.3 Any full member may request that certain items be placed on the agenda of the General Meeting. The items must be communicated to the Executive Board at least six weeks before the General Meeting - The Executive Board must inform the members of the members' motions in good time before the General Meeting.

## **§6**

### ***Duties of the members***

are

- 6.1 to comply with the provisions of these Articles of Association,
- 6.2 to support the professional association in fulfilling its legal and statutory duties,
- 6.3 to pay the contributions determined by the General Meeting.

## **§7**

### ***Bodies of the professional association***

- 7.1 The bodies of the professional association are
- a) the General Meeting (§ 8)
  - b) the Management Board (§ 9)
  - c) a special representative as coordinator (§ 10), if appointed by unanimous resolution of the General Meeting.

## **§8**

### ***General meeting***

- 8.1 Only ordinary members are entitled to vote at the General Meeting and on other

resolutions.

- 8.2 The General Assembly decides unanimously on the admission of new members, election of the coordinator, amendments to the Articles of Association and dissolution of the specialist association, unless other majorities are prescribed by law.
- 8.3 The membership decides by a two-thirds majority on resolutions, applications and submissions to national and international professional associations, authorities and institutions.
- 8.4 Unless otherwise stipulated by law or in these Articles of Association, the General Meeting decides by simple majority on all other matters, in particular
- the election of the Executive Board;
  - the determination of the budget;
  - the membership fees;
  - the annual report;
  - the discharge of the Management Board;
  - the choice of auditor or tax advisor.
- All votes are held by secret ballot upon request.
- 8.5 The ordinary general meeting takes place within 6 months of the end of the association year at the latest.
- 8.6 Extraordinary general meetings are held at the request of at least one third of the ordinary members.
- 8.7 The General Meeting has a quorum if it is duly convened and if the majority of ordinary members are represented.
- 8.8 Invitations to the General Meeting must be issued in writing, giving four weeks' notice and stating the agenda.
- 8.9 Resolutions on matters not on the agenda can only be passed if all full members are present or represented and decide to do so.
- 8.10 Each ordinary member has one vote at the General Meeting.
- 8.11 A member may be represented by another member on the basis of a written power of attorney. A represented member is deemed to be present.
- 8.12 The majority for all resolutions (e.g. 8.2 to 8.4) refers to the members present and represented, unless other majorities are prescribed by law.
- 8.13 If a General Meeting is not quorate in accordance with para. 8.7, another General Meeting shall be convened no earlier than

take place three weeks after the General Meeting without a quorum  
- may. *R e g a r d l e s s* of the number of members represented, this second general meeting is quorate in all matters that were on the agenda of the inquorate general meeting. This must be expressly stated in the invitation to the second general meeting. At least two weeks' notice must be given for the second general meeting.

- 8.14 A written vote is permitted and may be conducted at the request of a member entitled to vote.
- 8.15 Minutes must be taken of every general meeting. Objections to the content of the minutes must be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors within 14 days of receipt. The minutes must be signed by the Chairman of the General Meeting. The General Meeting may determine by unanimous resolution of all members that subsequent objections to duly passed resolutions are excluded.

## § 9

### **Management Board**

- 9.1 The Executive Board consists of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson as well as a Treasurer. The Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson are each individually legal representatives of the professional association; the Deputy Chairperson only acts internally with the consent of the Chairperson or if the Chairperson is prevented from doing so.
- 9.2 The Board of Directors is elected for a term of two years at an ordinary General Meeting. The members of the Board of Directors remain in office until new elections are held. The office of Board member is personal and honorary.
- 9.3 The Executive Board manages the professional association and conducts its business; it may delegate individual tasks to third parties.
- 9.4 The Executive Board is responsible in particular for
- a) the annual report of the professional association;
  - b) drawing up the agenda for the General Meeting
  - c) the preparation of the annual financial statements and their presentation to the General Meeting with the auditor's or tax advisor's report.
  - d) The preparation of a proposal for the budget.
- 9.5 The Board of Directors must implement the resolutions of the General Meeting. It must submit all proposals to it that are suitable for promoting the purpose of the professional association.

## § 10

### **Coordinator**

- 10.1 The ordinary members may elect a coordinator by unanimous resolution. This coordinator is

elected for a term of two years, one year overlapping with the two-year term of office of the incumbent and subsequent Chair of the Executive Board.

- 10.2 The tasks of the Coordinator, who acts on behalf of the Board of the Fachvereinigung Tiefenfiltration e.V., are to coordinate the measures adopted by the General Meeting and to ensure their implementation, to prepare the resolutions to be passed by the General Meeting, to chair the General Meeting at the request of the General Meeting and to advise the Board on all matters relating to its tasks.
- 10.3 The professional association shall pay the coordinator a flat fee to be determined by the general meeting and shall reimburse him for all costs arising from his work for the professional association.

## § 11

### **Working groups**

- 11.1 Working groups are formed to safeguard and promote the special interests of the individual specialist areas. The ordinary members each delegate one or more competent employees to the working groups, who act on behalf of the member companies.
- 11.2 Each working group elects a chairman who represents the special interests of his working group vis-à-vis the Board of Directors and the General Meeting.
- 11.3 The working groups may hold separate meetings, to which the provisions of § 9 shall apply mutatis mutandis.
- 11.4 Each working group may elect a working committee to advise the Board of Directors on specific matters relating to its area of expertise.
- 11.5 Each working group can form specialist committees for individual specialist areas. Each specialist committee elects a chairperson.
- 11.6 The results of the working groups are made available to those ordinary members who have actively participated in the respective working group.
- 11.7 In the case of important decisions within the working groups, every member of the professional association has the right to appeal to the chairperson within 14 days, on which the ordinary members must then decide.

## § 12

### **Contributions and finances**

- 12.1 Ordinary members pay the same amounts, unless otherwise determined by a unanimous resolution of all ordinary members. The details shall be decided by the General Meeting.
- 12.2 All costs of the professional association, including the fees of the coordinator and the

auditor, travel expenses, etc. are to be paid from the membership fees. The Board of Directors periodically requests the contributions from the members.

- 12.3 The Executive Board may only approve or reimburse travel expenses for itself and the members or their representatives if the travel exclusively and clearly serves the special interests of the professional association.

### § 13

#### **Examination**

- 13.1 The General Meeting elects an independent auditor or tax consultant for a period of two years. This auditor is commissioned by the Board of Directors to audit all accounts and receipts and to prepare a written report for the General Meeting.
- 13.2 If the professional association decides to liquidate, the last general meeting shall decide on the use of the professional association's assets.

### § 14

#### **Applicable law**

- 14.1 These Articles of Association are subject to the law of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- 14.2 In addition, the statutory provisions of the law of the Federal Republic of Germany shall apply.

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*These Articles of Association were adopted by the Extraordinary General Meeting in Nuremberg on November 29, 2023.*

Signed



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*The Chairman  
Dr. Cristian Rusch*



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*The Deputy Chairman  
Dr. Roland Pahl-Dobrick*