

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Udo Rolle
President Elect
Gomca Tekant
Past President
Paolo de Coppi
Honorary Secretary
Augusto Zani
Treasurer

**STATUTES
OF THE
EUROPEAN PEDIATRIC SURGEONS' ASSOCIATION**

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**To be proposed to the General Assembly 22nd May 2026
27th EUROPEAN PEDIATRIC SURGEONS' ASSOCIATION CONGRESS
Vienna 2026**



I. Name and Seat

Article 1: Name of the Association

The Association, with the name “**EUROPEAN PEDIATRIC SURGEONS’ ASSOCIATION**” (herein after referred to as EUPSA or the Association) is constituted in perpetuity as an academic and non-profit organization.

Article 2: Seat of the Association

The registered offices of EUPSA are in Switzerland.

GOETHESTRASSE 61, CH-9008 ST. GALLEN, SWITZERLAND

Article 3: Data Protection regulation

EUPSA acts in accordance with the guidelines of the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>.

The current data protection declaration can be found on the EUPSA homepage <https://www.eupsa.info/>

II. Aims and Objectives

Article 4: Aims and Objectives of the Association

The Association has the following aims:

- to act as an international forum for all paediatric surgeons.
- to promote the highest clinical standards in all fields of Pediatric Surgery and in all Pediatric surgical centres in Europe.
- to support the discovery of new clinical and research insights, that support prevention, treatment and cure of congenital malformations, injuries and all other Pediatric surgical diseases or impaired functions.
- to support friendship and collegiality among all members of the Association.
- to develop an advocacy role for all fields of Pediatric Surgery in Europe.
- EUPSA will not seek any legislative or executive power within European countries.
- to develop standards for Pediatric Surgical training in Europe

These aims and objectives are achieved by:

- the organisation of the annual EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF PEDIATRIC SURGERY.
- the formulation and publication of good practice standards, recommendations, and guidelines on the EUPSA-website.
- promoting and organizing postgraduate courses, workshops, webinars, teaching lectures, and special congresses, utilizing social media
- promoting scholarships and international exchange for study purposes of members.
- promoting European research projects among members.
- supporting members in activities related to public health: prevention, diagnosis and therapeutic measures in Pediatric surgery.
- intensifying the relations of EUPSA with European and non-European Pediatric surgical associations.



Article 5: Not-for-Profit

The Association shall not engage in any profit-driven transactions or activities and no provision within the Statutes or the Bylaws shall authorise such conduct. The Association shall refrain from undertaking any actions for pecuniary gain. All revenues, assets, and resources of the Association shall be applied solely toward the advancement of its educational and charitable purposes

Under no circumstances shall any portion of the Association's income or assets be distributed to, or otherwise used for the private benefit of, any member or third party, except where such use is directly in furtherance of the Association's stated.

Article 6: Bylaws

The Executive Board ("EB") may propose Bylaws to govern the management and facilitate the fulfilment of the purposes of the Association

Such Bylaws shall require adoption by the members and must be in full compliance with applicable Swiss law.

The Executive Board (EB) shall have the authority to adopt and amend the Bylaws. Any such Bylaws and amendments thereto must be consistent with, and shall not conflict with, the Statutes as approved by the General Assembly. In the event of any inconsistency, the Statutes shall prevail.

III Membership

Article 7: Membership

The EUPSA has the following membership categories:

- **Full membership**

- Full membership is open to all Pediatric surgeons registered in their National Medical Association / Council.
- Full members can vote and have the right to vote at the GA.
- Full members can be elected as office bearers and can be appointed as delegates or Chairperson of offices or committees.

- **Trainee membership**

- Trainee membership is open to Pediatric surgeons-in-training from any country.
- All trainee members are obliged to provide a certification of training issued by the Head of Department / Program Director.
- Trainee members have the right to vote at the GA
- Trainee members can be appointed as members but not as Chairpersons of offices.
- Trainee members cannot be candidates for EB positions and committee chairs.
- Two trainees are appointed additionally as members of the offices.
- Upon becoming trained Pediatric Surgeon trainee members are obliged to report this to the Honorary Secretary.
- Access to the member's section of the EUPSA website.

- **Corresponding membership**



- Corresponding membership is open to all scientists or non-Pediatric Surgery specialists who have major interests in the specialty of Pediatric Surgery.
- Corresponding members have the right to vote at the GA.
- Corresponding members can be appointed as members but not as Chairpersons of offices.

- **Honorary membership**
 - Honorary membership may be awarded to Pediatric surgeons, to scientists and others who have made outstanding contributions and have had a significant influence on Pediatric Surgery.
 - Honorary members have no voting rights.
 - Honorary members can be appointed as members but not as Chairpersons of offices.

- **Senior membership**
 - Senior membership is open, on request, to active members after their retirement.
 - Senior members have the right to vote at the GA.
 - Senior members can be appointed as members but not as Chairpersons of offices.

Article 8: Admission, Withdrawal, Exclusion

The admission, withdrawal and exclusion of members is regulated in the Bylaws.

Article 9: Membership Fee

All members except senior and honorary members are charged membership fees in an amount proposed by the EB and approved by the GA.

The Bylaws regulate the conditions for membership fee payments.

IV Organization

Article 10: Institutions

The organs of the Association are:

- a) The General Assembly (GA)
- b) The Executive Board (EB)
- c) The Auditors, unless this is waived (see Article 21)
- d) The EUPSA foundation

a) The General Assembly

Article 11: Annual General Assembly

The GA is held annually during the EUPSA Annual Congress. All members are entitled to attend. The Honorary Secretary shall notify all members of the Association of the date and venue of the GA no later than four (4) months in advance

Members may submit comments, suggestions or recommendations to the President or Honorary Secretary with a deadline up until two (2) months before the GA.

All full active members, except for Trainee Members, may submit nominations for elections (see Article 20), to the President and Honorary Secretary with a deadline up until two (2) months before the GA



Items received within the deadlines up until two (2) months before the GA shall be included on the agenda

Not less than one (1) month before the GA, the Honorary Secretary shall send a formal invitation, including the agenda, to all members of the Association to attend the GA

Members may raise questions on matters not on the agenda; such matters shall be discussed under "Other Business" and decisions will be deferred to the following.

Article 12: Presidency of the GA

The GA will be convened and presided over by the President and in his/her absence by the past President and in his/her absence by the President elect and in his/her absence by the oldest (in age) member of the EB.

Article 13: Agenda / Minutes

The President signs the agenda and is responsible for the items.

All comments of members received in time, as well as all items suggested by EB-members are included in the agenda.

The Minutes will be signed by the President and by the Honorary Secretary and will be sent to members present at the GA for approval within two (2) months. Members have the opportunity of comments within a month from reception. If no comments are provided before this deadline, the minutes are automatically approved. Items that are commented on will be discussed at the next GA.

A log is created, which is to be signed by the President and by the Honorary Secretary.

Article 14: Warranties

The GA has the following non-transferable warranties:

- a) Approval of Minutes of previous GA.
- b) Approval of the annual reports of the President, the Treasurer, the Honorary Secretary and the Congress Chairperson, the annual accounts and balance and the report of the assigned auditors.
- c) Discharge of the EB.
- d) Determination of the annual activities.
- e) Elect and dismiss the President-elect, the remaining EB members.
- f) Appointment and dismissal of special Offices and approval of the Chairpersons elected by the office.
- g) Appointment and dismissal of committees for subspecialties of Pediatric Surgery.
- h) Amendment of the Statutes of Association.
- i) Adoption, amendment and repeal of the Bylaws.
- j) Attendance of requests of the EB and members.
- k) Dissolution and liquidation of the Association and of the Association's assets.

Article 15: Resolutions

Voting shall take place only with the physical presence of the voting members; proxies are not permitted

Except as otherwise provided herein, resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority of the votes cast by the voting members present. In the event of a tie, the President shall have the casting vote



Amendments to the Statutes shall require the approval of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by the voting members present at a duly convened meeting of the GA
In elections of the EB, the candidate receiving more than fifty percent (50% + one vote) of votes cast of the eligible voting members present at the GA shall be deemed elected
Items listed under "Other Business" shall not be subject to a vote

Article 16: Extraordinary GA

An extraordinary GA is convened at the request of three members of the EB or at the request of not less than 10% of the full members, stating the reasons, therefore.

Article 17: Discharge of Officers

Before assuming office, the President-elect shall receive from the former President a comprehensive report on the activities of the Association during the outgoing President's term. This report shall, where applicable, be submitted for approval by a simple majority of the eligible voting members present at the GA

Prior to the election of a new Treasurer, the former Treasurer shall present a financial report for the entire term of office, supported by the auditors or accountants, for approval by a simple majority of votes of the eligible voting members present at the GA

Prior to the election of a new Honorary Secretary, the former Honorary Secretary shall present a report on the activities for the entire term of office supported by the auditors or accountants by a simple majority of votes of the eligible voting members present at the GA

b) The Executive Board (EB)

Article 18: Constitution of the EB, Signatory power, Duties and Responsibilities

1. Composition and Eligibility

The EB shall consist of at least five (5) members, each of whom must hold the status of Full Member of the Association and be actively engaged in the practice of paediatric surgery at the time of election

2. Structure of the Executive Board

a. Core EB Members

- **President-** Following a two-year term as President-Elect, shall automatically assume the office of President for a term of two (2) years, thereafter services as Immediate Past President for a further term of two (2) years.
- **President-Elect**
- **Immediate Past President**
- **Honorary Secretary**
- **Treasurer**

b. The President, the Honorary Secretary, and the Treasurer shall be authorised to sign on behalf of the Association and shall each possess individual signatory power.

3. Extended Executive Board

In addition to the Core EB Members, the Extended EB shall comprise:

- President (Chairperson)



- President-elect (Co-Vice President)
- Immediate Past President (Co-Vice President)
- Honorary Secretary
- Treasurer
- Webmaster
- Chairperson of Offices
- Elected Representative of the Senator Committee

4. Participants Without Voting Rights

The following persons may participate in the EB meetings but shall not hold voting rights:

- Senator Members
- Congress Chairperson
- Trainee Member
- Financial/ Legal Advisor
- UEMS Representative

5. Advisory Invites

The EB may, at its discretion, invite other persons to attend its meetings for specific purposes

6. Powers and Responsibilities

The EB shall decide on all matters not expressly assigned to another body of the Association. It shall be responsible for:

- a) Management of the Association, subject to the exclusive powers of the GA
- b) Preparation and execution of the GA
- c) Implementation of GA resolutions
- d) Representation of the Association in dealings with third parties
- e) Development and proposal of Statutes, Bylaws and applications
- f) Election of the Congress Chairperson and designation of the Congress venue
- g) Granting of Honorary Membership and the Rehbein Medal award
- h) Establishment and dissolution of committees in various fields of paediatric surgery, and appointment of members thereto

Article 19: Resolution

EB decisions should be made by consensus where possible

If not possible, decisions are made by simple majority of the votes cast by the EB members; in a tie of votes, the President has the casting vote.

A quorum exists when six members of the Extended EB are present.

Article 20: Election

Only Full Members are eligible to be candidates for President-elect, Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, and Webmaster

A Full Member may hold only one position at a time.

Candidate proposals are invited two months before the GA (conditions are regulated by the Bylaws). Any full member could propose candidates for President, Honorary Secretary,



Treasurer and Webmaster. The support for any proposal by another 10 full members is needed.

Nominations are announced with the GA agenda

Only candidates present at the GA are eligible for election

Elections are by anonymous ballot sheets, opened during the GA by the Honorary Secretary and two members attending the GA

Article 21: Term of Office

The President serves two years, preceded by two years as President-elect and followed by two years as Immediate Past President. No re-election is possible.

The Honorary Secretary, Treasurer and Webmaster serve two-year terms and may be re-elected once. The Congress Chairperson serves for two years

Article 22: Auditors

If legal presuppositions for an ordinary or limited audit are not applicable, the Association may request a voluntary audit. The GA may elect a statutory auditor for a one-year term, who must be duly accredited in accordance with Swiss law and the provisions of the Swiss Auditor Supervision Law (Revisionsaufsichtsgesetz). Re-election of the statutory auditor is permitted

Article 23: Accounting, Legal and VAT Compliance

The Association's operational activities related to accounting, legal affairs, contract management, and VAT compliance shall be assigned to an independent professional firm to ensure full compliance with all statutory obligations under applicable Swiss laws and regulations. The appointment and oversight of such firms shall fall under the responsibility of the Executive Board, in accordance with the Association's internal governance procedures.

Article 24: Membership management

The operational activities relating to membership management shall be assigned to an independent professional firm. The appointment and oversight of such firm shall fall under the responsibility of the Executive Board, in accordance with the Association's internal governance procedures.

Article 25: EUPSA Foundation

Upon proposal of the EB and the GA may establish a EUPSA Foundation Committee

The objectives of the EUPSA Foundation shall be the dissemination of education and medical knowledge; the protection and strengthening of high clinical standards of surgical care; the promotion of continued professional development and the application of new knowledge; the advancement of educational excellence; and the upholding of the highest ethical standards in the field of paediatric surgery.

The internal governance of the EUPSA Foundation shall be regulated by the Association's Bylaws.

Article 26: Offices and their Members



Upon proposal of the EB, the GA may establish special Offices in accordance with the Association's aims and objectives

Members of Offices shall be approved by the GA

Unless otherwise provided in the Bylaws, the Chairperson of an Office shall be elected by the members of that Office. The EB retains the right to propose candidates for the position of Chairperson

Only Full Members of the Association shall be eligible to serve as Chairpersons of Offices

Office Chairpersons shall have voting rights in EB meetings

Each Chairperson shall present, at the EB meeting held in January, a written report on the activities of the preceding year and the planned activities for the forthcoming year. This report shall also be presented to the GA during the EUPSA Annual Congress

The term of office for members of Offices shall be two (2) years, unless otherwise determined by the GA, with eligibility for one (1) re-election

V. Association Assets

Article 27: General

The assets of the Association shall derive from membership fees, surpluses from the operating account, and contributions from events, sponsors, or donations

All financial activities of the Association shall adhere to the recognised principals of accounting and bookkeeping in accordance with applicable Swiss standards

Debts and liabilities shall be fully covered by the Association's assets, and the Treasurer shall ensure that the Association maintains a positive financial balance

Article 28: Liability

Only the assets of the Association are liable for its accrued liabilities. Any personal liability of the members for the debts of the Association is excluded.

Members whose membership expires prior to any possible resolution of the Association are not entitled to its assets.

VI. Amendments / Dissolution / Supplementary Provisions

Article 29: Amendments

The statutes, the mission and goals of the Association as well as the Association's Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by the present voting members in the GA. The proposed amendment(s) shall be printed on the notice of the GA and shall be submitted to the eligible members at least thirty days in advance of the GA.

Article 30: Dissolution of EUPSA

The EUPSA may at any time be dissolved by a resolution passed at a GA by not less than two-thirds of the full members of the Association participating in this GA. The EB shall ensure that all temporary debts and liabilities of the Association have been paid and the EB is discharged in full. All remaining assets of the Association shall be transferred to UNICEF and may only be used by this institution for public health activities. Should UNICEF not exist anymore at the



time of EUPSA dissolution profit and capital will necessarily be transferred to an equivalent non-profit or tax-exempted institution involved in public health activities with headquarters in Switzerland.

Article 31: Supplementary Provisions

Where these statutes or the regulations do not contain specific provisions, the provisions of the Swiss Civil Code are applicable. In any case, the German version of these statutes shall be decisive.

These statutes were adopted by the General Assembly on 22 May 2026.

Udo Rolle
EUPSA President

Gonca Tekant
EUPSA President-elect

Paolo De Coppi
EUPSA Past President

Augusto Zani
Secretary