

**Statute  
of the Austrian Academy  
of Sciences**

Vienna, June 2016

The new version of the statute decided on at the General Assembly of the Academy on 11 March 2016 was confirmed by virtue of a decision by the Federal President Dr. Heinz Fischer on 25 May 2016 No. S400020/1-BEV/2016. The Austrian Academy of Sciences was informed of this confirmation via the Federal Ministry of Science Research and Economy on 24 June 2016.

This translation is for information purposes only and shall not be legally binding. In all cases, the German version shall be legally binding.

## STATUTE of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

§ 1 The “Imperial Academy of Sciences”, founded by Emperor Ferdinand I by virtue of the statute dated 14 May 1847, has borne the name of the “Austrian Academy of Sciences” since 1 July 1947. It promotes all aspects of science, particularly through the independent research of its members and units.

§ 2 (1) The Austrian Academy of Sciences, hereinafter known as the Academy, is a public law entity enjoying special protection from the federal government. It remains independent of federal and state authorities in its area of activities as defined by this statute, unless this statute stipulates exceptions.

(2) In order to fulfil its tasks, the Academy is entitled to conclude all types of legal transactions and use its assets appropriately.

(3) The Academy establishes and runs research units and a publishing house. The respective organisational structures are governed by the by-laws.

(4) The Academy comments on scientifically relevant issues. It can provide the federal authorities, state authorities or other legal persons with scientific reports.

(5) In the interest of fulfilling its statutory tasks, the Academy can establish and manage foundations, and accept any dedications or gratuities. It maintains relations with institutions serving scientific or other cultural purposes, and can assign representatives to these. It can particularly contact other academies, sponsoring organisations and scientific companies in order to perform its own or external undertakings.

(6) The Academy awards scholarships and prizes for scientific accomplishments.

(7) The Academy regularly compiles reports on its activities.

§ 3 The Academy’s sphere of activity covers all sciences. The Academy ensures the international rules of proper scientific practices are upheld, has signed the European charter for researchers, and ensures equal treatment of men and women within its sphere of activity.

§ 4 (1) The Academy comprises two divisions – the Division of Mathematics and the Natural Sciences and the Division of Humanities and the Social Sciences – as well as the Young Academy. Each division and the Young Academy have their own sphere of activity in scientific matters; administrative tasks are attended to by the Academy as a whole.

(2) The General Assembly is the Academy’s supreme consultancy, supervisory and decision-making body, in which both divisions and the Young Academy work together to fulfil the tasks of the Academy as a whole.

(3) The General Assembly establishes by-laws based on this statute.

§ 5 (1) Division meetings, General Assemblies and Young Academy meetings are held regularly. Extraordinary meetings can be called on important occasions.

(2) A ceremonial session, in which the public is given an overview of the Academy’s activities and the changes in the Academy, is held annually. All members are to be invited to this session.

§ 6 (1) The Academy includes (no more than):

- a) 90 full members in Austria; 45 in each division;
- b) 250 corresponding members, 125 in each division, of which 55 are in Austria and 70 abroad;

- c) 24 honorary members, of which 6 are members of the Academy as a whole, and 9 are members of each division;
- d) 70 members of the Young Academy elected for a set period.

(2) Full and corresponding members over 70 years of age are not included in the maximum figures while their rights are fully preserved.

(3) An even balance of disciplines must be taken into account when electing members.

(4) The Academy's full members elect the full and corresponding members, as well as the honorary members.

(5) Young Academy members are elected by the Young Academy; the election must be confirmed as per § 7 para. 5.

(6) By accepting their election, all members commit themselves to furthering the goals of the Academy and to participating in carrying out its tasks.

(7) The Academy can confer honorary titles and awards on persons in recognition of their services to the Academy.

§ 7 (1) The members are elected according to the election rules established on the basis of the by-laws. Electronic voting systems are permitted. By accepting their election, the elected candidates acquire the rights and duties of membership.

(2) Full members, as well as those corresponding members who have been elected according to the by-laws, can attend and vote at all meetings held by their division and the Academy as a whole.

(3) Representatives of the Young Academy who have been elected according to the by-laws are similarly entitled to attend and vote at all meetings held by the Academy as a whole, as well as division meetings as per the by-laws.

(4) All members eligible to vote must be invited to General Assemblies in which decisions are to be made regarding modifications to the statute or by-laws. Invitations must be made in writing and must state the agenda items.

(5) Only full members are invited to election meetings in which the full and corresponding members are elected and the election of Young Academy members is confirmed.

(6) Young Academy members are invited to Young Academy election meetings.

§ 8 (1) Unless stated otherwise in this statute, decisions are made with an absolute majority of the valid votes cast. Electronic and circular resolutions are permitted. Decisions relating to the Academy's statute or by-laws are excluded from this.

(2) The number of members required to attend the meeting in order for elections/decisions to be made is established in the by-laws, unless stated otherwise in this statute.

§ 9 (1) Changes to the statute require a two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast in the presence of two thirds of the total number of full members stated in § 6 para. 1 a of the statute. These changes must be confirmed by the Federal President.

(2) Decisions regarding the by-laws can only be made if two thirds of the total number of full members stated in § 6 para. 1 a of the statute are present.

§ 10 (1) The Presiding Committee is the Academy's governing board and supreme executive body. It is particularly responsible for conducting business and organising the administration. The Presiding

Committee comprises a President, a Vice President and a secretary from each division. Further details, particularly regarding external representation, are stated in the by-laws.

(2) The secretary of a division acts as the president of his/her division.

(3) The Presiding Committee members are elected for five years and receive appropriate remuneration for their work.

(4) The Presiding Committee members are elected by the General Assembly from among the full members, in accordance with the election rules established in the by-laws. The President and Vice President, as well as both division presidents, must belong to different divisions. The election of the Presiding Committee members is subject to their acceptance. Presiding Committee members can be re-elected to their position once.

(5) Elected Presiding Committee members must be confirmed by the Federal President.

§ 11 (1) The General Assembly establishes an Academy Council comprising sixteen members elected by the General Assembly, four of whom are not members of the Academy.

(2) The Academy Council must supervise the Academy's management. Management tasks cannot be assigned to the Academy Council. However, certain important business transcribed in the by-laws may only be performed with the Academy Council's consent.

(3) An audit committee must be established within the Academy Council, and is particularly responsible for monitoring the accounting process, the internal audit system, the annual account audit and the effectiveness of the internal control system.

(4) The by-laws regulate further details on the rights and duties of the Academy Council, its internal structure and other relevant agendas.

§ 12 (1) A Senate assists the Academy with fundamental issues.

(2) The Senate comprises nine members. Members of the Senate may be persons from the sciences, society, the economy or politics who have links to the sciences. These persons are independent and do not represent the institutions in which they are employed. The Senate must always include:

- a) the president of the National Council as chairperson;
- b) a representative from the Austrian State Governors' Conference;
- c) the president of the Constitutional Court of Austria;
- d) the president of the Austrian National Library;
- e) a representative from the Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development;
- f) a representative from the Austrian Science Board;

(3) The remaining members are elected by the General Assembly in a secret ballot. Re-election is permitted. The Presiding Committee is entitled to propose candidates.

(4) The members of the Senate elected by the General Assembly remain in office for a period of five years.

(5) The Academy's Senate has the following tasks:

- a) Promoting the Academy's public work;
- b) Submitting questions of public interest to the Academy;
- c) Advising the Academy on other matters essential to the fulfilment of its legal tasks;
- d) Accepting the Academy President's report on the previous working year;
- e) Establishing the Presiding Committee members' remuneration.

(6) Senate decisions are made with an absolute majority of the valid votes cast in the presence of more than half of all Senators. If votes are tied, the chairperson has the casting vote. The Senate's decisions must be reported on at the General Assembly.

(7) Neither honorary members, full or corresponding members, members of the Young Academy nor persons employed by the Academy can be Senate members. If the mandate is rejected or if there are reasons for exclusion or conflicts of interest, the General Assembly must, at the Senate's request, find a replacement to fill the position.

(8) The Senate members take up their position in person. The Senate meets at least once a year, and can also make its decisions in circulation.

(9) The Senate sets its own procedural regulations, which must be advised to the Presiding Committee and the General Assembly.

(10) The work undertaken by the members of the Senate is on a voluntary basis. Reimbursement of any costs for travel or accommodation incurred whilst undertaking these tasks occurs as per the applicable statutory regulations. The Senate's by-laws contain further details on this.

§ 13 (1) A Research Board assists the Academy in ensuring the continuing development and the quality of the research carried out at the Academy.

(2) It is composed of internationally renowned scientists working abroad, who are elected for five years by the General Assembly. Neither honorary members, full or corresponding members in Austria, members of the Young Academy nor persons employed at the Academy can be members of the Research Board. If the mandate is rejected or if reasons for exclusion or conflicts of interest arise, the General Assembly must find a replacement to fill the position. Members can be re-elected once.

(3) The Research Board's tasks particularly include:

- a) Making recommendations to the Presiding Committee and General Assembly regarding the Academy's mid-term research programme, taking into account developments in science;
- b) Establishing the general principles of quality control in consultation with the Presiding Committee, particularly for founding, developing, re-focusing, restructuring or closing any of the Academy's research units;
- c) Establishing assessment and evaluation groups to scientifically assess new and evaluate existing research units;
- d) Making recommendations to the Presiding Committee and General Assembly regarding the implementation of assessment and evaluation results.

(4) The by-laws regulate further details.

§ 14 (1) During every budget period, the Academy receives an overall budget to complete its tasks or the activities agreed on with the federal government. This overall budget is set by the federal government on request or as part of performance agreements. If these funds have not been fully used by the end of a budget period, the excess remains at the Academy's disposal and is carried over to the next period. This does not justify a reduction in the federal government's monetary allowances.

(2) Other income earned is kept by the Academy and does not reduce the overall budget mentioned in para. 1.

(3) The Academy annually compiles a statement of account on the usage of the funds allocated to it by the federal government. This statement must be presented to the Austrian Court of Audit for reviewing.

(4) The by-laws regulate further details.

§ 15 The Academy is allocated the federally owned building situated at Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna, handed over to it by virtue of an imperial decision in 1857, for its full usage. The federal government pays any property maintenance costs.

§ 16 Temporary provisions:

(1) § 10 para. 3 of this statute only takes effect at the start of the new term of office of the Presiding Committee after this statute takes effect. Until such time, § 10 para. 3 of the statute in the version dated 17 December 2010 shall apply.

(2) § 11 para. 1 of this statute shall only take effect with the next election of the Academy Council, which should be within six months of this statute taking effect. Until such time § 11 para. 1 of the statute in the version dated 17 December 2010 shall apply.