



Green Legal Impact Germany e.V. – Articles of Association

Adopted at the founding meeting on 19th December 2019; last amended by decision on 8th February 2021

Preamble

Green Legal Impact Germany e.V. (GLI) wants to promote environmental, climate and nature protection as well as sustainable development and international understanding worldwide. GLI works primarily in the legal field and will educate and inform the public about environmental, climate and nature protection issues and human rights.

GLI understands it as its task to enforce an effective protection of life and the natural bases of life and the environment with legal means and to clarify the close connection in environmental, climate and nature protection between the actions in the North and their effects in the South. GLI is actively involved in international environmental law networks such as the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW).

Article 1 Name and seat

- (1) The association takes the name "Green Legal Impact Germany", is to be formally registered and then carries the suffix "e.V." (incorporated association).
- (2) The association has its seat in Berlin, Germany.
- (3) The business year is the calendar year.

Article 2 Purpose

- (1) The purpose of the association is the promotion of environmental, nature and climate protection and the promotion of popular and professional education.
- (2) The purpose of the statutes is realized in particular through:
 - planning, implementation and coordination of environmental legal education, environmental legal training and environmental legal campaigns,
 - carrying out general press and public relations work with the aim of informing the public about environmental and climate protection issues and environmental law violations worldwide,
 - the organization of conferences and seminars on environmental law topics as well as environmental-legal educational work in worldwide contexts and in a broad sense,
 - legal disputes for the observance, enforcement and further development of international, European and German environmental, climate and nature protection law as well as by supporting environmental legal processes,
 - the idealistic and material support of other tax-privileged corporations pursuing measures in the field of environmental, nature and climate protection, in particular within the framework of the cooperation of international environmental law associations, such as Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW),
 - preparation of expert opinions, statements and legal opinions in the field of environmental, nature conservation and climate protection law.

(3) The Association operates altruistically; it does not primarily pursue its own economic purposes. The funds of the association may only be used for the statutory purposes. The members shall not receive any benefits from the funds of the Association.

(4) The Association shall exclusively and directly pursue charitable purposes within the meaning of the section "Tax-privileged purposes" of the German Tax Code.

(5) No person may be favored by expenditures which are foreign to the purpose of the association or by disproportionately high remunerations.

Article 3 Membership

(1) Any natural or legal person can become a full member. By joining the association, the member undertakes to support the aims of the association and to pay the membership fee. Only full members have the right to vote.

(2) Admission to membership is granted upon written application by the executive board (Vorstand). If the board rejects the admission, the person concerned can appeal to the general meeting in writing. Admission is possible at any time, withdrawal only at the end of the calendar year. Membership begins on the date stated in the written confirmation of admission. A legal claim to membership does not exist.

(3) The Association shall adopt a membership fee schedule.

(4) Natural and legal persons who merely wish to support the association without becoming full members may join the association as supporting members. Any natural person or legal entity can become a supporting member according to article 2 p. 1 and 2. The supporting member supports the association by spreading its concerns and by making regular financial contributions. Further details are regulated by the contribution regulations.

Article 4 End of membership

Membership ends with the written declaration of resignation with effect from the end of the calendar year, exclusion from the association, death or liquidation. Upon withdrawal, the obligation to pay the membership fee for the current financial year remains in force. The exclusion of a member can be executed by the executive board on the basis of, in particular, due to gross violation of the interests or goals of the association or in the case of an arrears of fees for two calendar years. Article 3 paragraph 1 sentence 4 applies accordingly.

Article 5 Organs

(1) The organs of the association are the general meeting (Mitgliederversammlung) and the executive board (Vorstand).

(2) All organs of the association should preferably hold an equal number of women and men.

Article 6 General Meeting of Members

(1) General meetings are held at least once a year. Furthermore, they are to be convened should this be necessary in the interest of the association or if one fifth of all members request the convening in writing and stating the reason to the executive board.

(2) General meetings need not be held at the location of the Association. Resolutions may also be passed without a meeting of the full members if the majority of the full members agree to the resolution in writing. The stipulation in paragraph 4 remains unaffected.

(3) General Meetings are initiated and convened by the executive board by invitation of the members. This invitation can be sent by post (simple letter, e.g. in the form of a circular letter) or email. The notice period is three weeks. The invitation must include a proposal for the agenda determined by the executive board, on which the General Meeting shall decide by simple majority.

(4) The General Meeting of Members shall decide in principle by simple majority. In case of a tie, a motion is rejected. The right to vote can be transferred in writing to another voting member for each general meeting. A full member may only accept one additional vote. A majority of three quarters of the votes cast is required to amend the statutes, a majority of four fifths of the votes cast is required to amend the purpose of the association and to dissolve the association.

(5) Minutes are to be taken of the general meeting, which must be signed by the chairman of the meeting and the keeper of the minutes. Resolutions are to be recorded with details of the place and time of the meeting and the results of the voting.

(6) The executive board is authorized by the general meeting to immediately make changes to the statutes that are required by the official court and/or that are necessary to achieve or maintain non-profit status without calling an additional general meeting.

Article 7 Executive board

(1) The executive board consists of at least three and at most five natural persons, who must be full members. The executive board shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

(2) The members of the board are elected individually by the general meeting for a period of three years. Re-election is permissible. A board member is elected if he/she receives the absolute majority of the votes present at the general meeting.

(3) The executive board determines the goals for the practical work of the association. In particular, it also implements the resolutions of the General Meeting of Members.

(4) The executive board takes decisions in board meetings. These are to be recorded in minutes. Participation in the board meeting is also possible via telephone or video conference. Participation via telephone or video conference is equivalent to personal presence. In individual cases, resolutions may be passed by circular letter by email or post.

(5) The association is represented judicially and extra judicially by two members of the executive board jointly.

(6) The executive board decides on the admission and exclusion of members. Activities within the scope of the work of the board can be remunerated. Proportionality must be maintained.

(7) The executive board is only liable to the association for damage caused in the performance of its executive committee duties in cases of intent or gross negligence. Sentence 1 also applies to liability towards the members of the executive board.

(8) If a member of the executive board is obliged to compensate another member for damage caused in the performance of his or her duties as an executive board member, he or she may demand that the association release him or her from the obligation. Sentence 1 does not apply if the damage was caused intentionally or by gross negligence.

Article 8 Management

- (1) The executive board may appoint a management for the implementation of the activities of the association. This management is advised and supervised by the board.
- (2) The management is responsible to the board for the proper conduct of business, in particular for:
 - a) The preparation and implementation of financial, work and time schedules, the development and implementation of concepts for the realisation of the purposes of the statutes as well as for public relations and information technology,
 - b) The management of full-time staff,
 - c) The reporting, control and accounting system,
 - d) The provision of all necessary basic information for the board and members of the association.
- (3) Within the guidelines of the board the management decides at its own discretion.
- (4) The management to be appointed by the executive committee as special representative in the sense of § 30 BGB (German Civil Code) is authorised to manage the economic, administrative and personnel affairs of the association. The authorisation expressly includes the areas of responsibility of the Association which the executive board transfers, in particular the procedural representation of the Association in legal proceedings. If several managing directors are appointed, each of them is vested with sole power of representation.

Article 9 Amendment of the articles of association and dissolution

- (1) The statutes can be amended with a majority of three quarters of the votes present at a general meeting.
- (2) A four-fifths majority of the votes present at a Members' Meeting is required to dissolve the Association. The dissolution can only be carried out by a majority of one member.
- (3) If no special liquidators are appointed in the case of a resolution to dissolve the association, the chairman of the board and the management are the liquidators with individual powers of representation.
- (4) In case of dissolution of the association or in case of loss of tax-privileged purposes, its assets will fall to the Verein für Umweltrecht e.V. which shall use them directly and exclusively for non-profit purposes.
- (5) If, in order to obtain recognition as a non-profit organisation and particularly worthy of support, changes to the statutes are required, the executive board is entitled to amend the statutes accordingly.

Article 10 Privacy policy

Within the framework of the general meeting and in order to fulfil the purposes and tasks of the association, at least the following data is collected from members and processed and stored within the framework of membership: Surname, first name, address, date of birth, email address, bank details. The association commits itself to fulfil the requirements of data protection. Appropriate precautions for the processing of personal data in particular are guaranteed.

Article 11 Final provisions

The statutes as well as changes to the statutes come into force as soon as they are decided by the general meeting and the entry into the register of associations has been made.