

EUROPEAN
FEDERATION
OF HONEY
PACKERS AND
DISTRIBUTORS



FÉDÉRATION
EUROPÉENNE DES
EMBALLEURS ET
DISTRIBUTEURS DE
MIEL

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES EMBALLEURS ET DISTRIBUTEURS DE MIEL (F.E.E.D.M.)

F.E.E.D.M., the European Federation of Honey Packers and Distributors (importers and wholesalers), has been established in 1989. It is composed of national honey associations or individual companies of different European countries. The members of F.E.E.D.M. represent about 90 % of the total European honey imports, but also buy European honeys.

The EU is one of the world's biggest honey markets. Food safety is an integral part of the EU policy on consumer protection and health. Hygienic and veterinarian conditions are closely monitored and countries exporting food to the EU have to recognize that full compliance with EU laws on food safety is essential.

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Article 1 Name, Address and Financial Year

1. The name of the non-incorporated Association shall be “Fédération Européenne des Emballeurs et Distributeurs de Miel” (F.E.E.D.M).¹
2. The place of business is where the administration and General Secretary are situated.
3. The financial year shall be the calendar year.

Article 2 Object

1. F.E.E.D.M. aims to coordinate the interests of the European honey business, and to obtain relevant information with regard to honey, to assist in other apiculture products¹ and to represent its members interests to the European Commission and other authorities.
2. F.E.E.D.M. supports free international trade and aims to prevent any kind of discrimination of imported honey in relation to honey produced in the European Union.
3. FEEDM's work complies with the European competition law and the compliance guidelines (Annex 1).

Article 3 Organisation

The bodies of F.E.E.D.M. are the General Assembly and the Management Committee.

Article 4 General Assembly

1. The General Assembly consists of delegations, one for each country or individual members per member country (where no national association exists).
2. In voting, each delegation can exercise a number of votes, according to point 3.
3. Only full members are entitled to vote; for full membership members have to be registered or located in an EU Country. The number of votes allocated to each member are as mentioned in Annex 2.

¹ As defined in REGULATION (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products, Part XXII apiculture products: royal jelly, pollen, propolis, beeswax.

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4. For decisions concerning policy issues a qualified majority is necessary, whereas for all other matters a simple majority will suffice. A qualified majority consists of two thirds of the votes.

5. Voting in accordance with the above may be made by those present at the meeting or by a proxy vote sent to the General Secretary in writing prior to the meeting.

6. The General Assembly notably has the following powers and functions:

a) to propose subjects for initiation;

b) to decide the admission of members and the cancellation of membership by a qualified majority and allocate the numbers of votes of any new full member;

c) to decide on amendments of the Articles of the Association and to decide on dissolution of the Federation by a qualified majority;

d) to elect the F.E.E.D.M. President and Vice-President as provided in article 5;

e) to appoint the General Secretary and place of administration;

f) to approve the annual accounts at the Annual General Meeting (usually the spring meeting) for the previous financial year and to approve any change of subscription fee and the budget for the new financial year;

g) to decide upon the contributions from full and associated members.

h) to establish special Committees and Working Groups;

i) to approve the policy proposals

7. The General Assembly has to be held at least once a year, for the Annual General Meeting. The notice concerning the meetings must contain the agenda and include all the resolutions to be discussed and shall be issued at least four weeks before the date of the General Assembly; in case of urgency this notice period may be reduced if regarded necessary by the Management Committee;

Article 5 Management Committee

1. The Management Committee shall consist of the President, the Vice-President and the General Secretary, who is responsible for the administration and daily operation of FEEDM

2. The Management Committee has the following powers:

a) to represent the agreed policies of F.E.E.D.M.;

b) to act as a steering committee and to bring some items to the attention of the General Assembly;

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c) to ensure the administration of the organisation, including the preparation and the submission of the annual accounts, the budget and the proposals for subscription changes to the Annual General Meeting;

d) to carry out decisions taken by the General Assembly, General Secretary;

e) to take any urgent measure with the object of defending the general interest of the organisation which must be immediately communicated to all full members in writing and then be ratified at the following General Assembly.

Article 6 Membership

1. A national association or organisation or up to two individual companies per members state shall be eligible for full membership if they are located within an European Union member state and they are principally engaged in the packing or distribution of honey.

2. A national association or organisation / individual company shall be eligible for associate membership if it is wholly, substantially or principally engaged in the packing or distribution of honey and domiciled outside the European Union.

3. The General assembly is free in its decision to vote and approve applications for full membership and associated membership.

4. Only one Association or organisation for each country can be admitted as a member. Only in the case that such an association or organisation does not exist in a country, full or associate membership may also be granted to a single company, if decided in the General Assembly. Not more than two companies for each country can be admitted as members.

5. Each full member or associate member can resign from the Association by means of a formal written declaration tendered to the General Secretary at least six months before the end of the current financial year.

6. The resigning member remains bound by his financial obligations for the whole calendar or financial year in which his resignation is tendered.

7. On the decision of the General Assembly, the Federation may expel a member if the latter has acted against the objects of the Federation as laid down in the Articles or has not paid the fees.

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Article 7 Office of President

1. The office of the F.E.E.D.M. President is to be undertaken by a delegate from one of the EU members, proposed by the respective national association, following the procedure of rotation set out in Annex 3.
2. The President shall look after the interests of the members and oversee the function of the General Secretary.
3. The President will hold the office for two years. His mandate cannot be renewed.
4. The President will be automatically chosen from a full member country, according to the predetermined order of rotation as set out in Annex 3.
5. The sequence of countries in Annex 3 can be amended by decision of the General Assembly following Art. 3 point 6 b) by qualified majority. In case of the admission of a new member or cancellation of membership, the sequence of countries shall be subject to amendment.
6. The President starts his term after the Annual General Assembly, usually in spring meeting.

Article 8 Office of Vice-President

1. The Vice-President shall be provided by the EU member country as foreseen in Annex 3. In order to ensure continuity the Vice-President, in principle, will be prepared to take the office of President immediately after his term as Vice-President has been completed.
2. For the office of Vice-President, the provisions set out for the office of President in Art. 7, paragraph 1 to 6 will apply accordingly.

Article 9 Administration

1. The administrative work of the Federation will be carried out where the General Secretary holds office.
2. The General Secretary shall be appointed by the Annual General Assembly.
3. The General Secretary shall also act as the F.E.E.D.M. Treasurer and will account for income and expenditure undertaken on behalf of the Association and provide a Profit and Loss Account and Annual Balance Sheet. He or she will present the Annual Accounts at least two weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting. The General Assembly has the right to appoint an auditor to take out an audit of the accounts if they deem necessary.

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4. The cost incurred by all members in attending F.E.E.D.M. meetings are the responsibility of those attending.

5. The Management Committee will provide a draft budget to the members prior to the commencement of each financial year.

Article 10 Liability

The organizational bodies, the President, the Vice-President and the General Secretary are liable only in case of intent or gross negligence. Any liability not expressly provided above shall be disclaimed.

Article 11 Revision of the Articles of Association

The Articles of the Association of the Federation and the annexes may be amended by a resolution of the General Assembly, provided there is a qualified majority. Notice to amend the Articles must be given in writing at least twenty working days prior to the General assembly.

Article 12 Dissolution

1. The Federation shall be dissolved if a resolution is passed to that effect by the General Assembly, provided that such a notice has been given at least twenty working days prior to the date of the meeting and has the support of at least two-thirds of the members entitled to vote.

2. A liquidator shall be appointed by the Treasurer of the Federation unless the General Assembly decide to appoint a liquidator directly.

3. Upon winding-up the liquidator shall divide any surplus assets among all the members at the date of commencement of the winding-up in the proportions in which the subscriptions paid by them respectively to the Federation in the last complete year before the commencement of the winding-up bear to the total of all subscriptions paid by all the members to the Federation in that year.

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Article 13 Final Clause

1. Any amendment to the provisions of these Articles of the association must be made in written form.
2. The invalidity of any particular provision of these Articles of the association shall not affect the effectiveness of other provisions thereof.

Adopted by the General Assembly on 14 October 2015 in Cologne.

Attachments:

- Annex 1 Compliance Guideline
- Annex 2 List of Votes and Fees
- Annex 3 Rotation of Presidency