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EUNIC Statutes

TITLE I – NAME – REGISTERED OFFICE – AIM – DURATION

Article 1 – Name – Registered office

1.1. The name of the association is “EUROPEAN UNION NATIONAL INSTITUTES FOR CULTURE”, abbreviated "EUNIC", and hereinafter referred to as the “Association”.

1.2. The Association is governed by the provisions of Title III of the Law of 27 June 1921 on non-profit associations, international non-profit associations and foundations.

1.3. The registered office of the Association is on Rue Ravenstein, 18 – 1000 Brussels - Belgium. It may be transferred at any time to any other location within the Brussels – Capital Region by a decision of the Board of Directors, published within one month of its date in the Annexes of the Belgian Official Gazette (Moniteur Belge).

Article 2 – Purpose of the Association

The purposes of the Association, which is a non-profit organisation, - within the available budget - are:

- to create effective partnerships and networks between European Union National Institutes for Culture in order to improve and promote cultural diversity and understanding between European societies and to strengthen international dialogue and cultural cooperation with countries outside the European Union;
- to act as a partner of the European Commission and other European institutions, in defining and implementing European cultural policy;
- to act as an advocate of the value of cultural relations in promoting better international understanding and, as part of this, argue for a strong and independent voice for the cultural sector;
- to undertake joint research that will be of value to the European Commission and to other organisations (e.g. the Council of Europe) in furthering understanding of European wide cultural issues;
- to share best practices and discuss issues of common interest.

The Association may, directly or indirectly, initiate any action, take any measures and make any representations that may be required in pursuit of its purpose.

Article 3 – Duration

The Association is established for an unlimited duration.

TITLE II – MEMBERS

Article 4 – Member categories

The Association is composed of two categories of Members: Full and Associate Members.

Full Members. Full Members of the Association are national bodies, or legal bodies operating with a certain degree of autonomy at, or on behalf, of a national level, based in a Member State of the European Union engaged in cultural and related activities beyond their national borders. The minimum number of full members is set at three and there is no maximum.

Full Members may accede to the Association by application to the General Assembly through one of these two methods:

- By an application which includes an explicit agreement to be legally bound by these statutes and to initial and sign a copy of these Articles of Association.
- Or in the case of Government Ministries, through a Memorandum of Understanding or appropriate written communication. In all respects such membership shall confer on the ministry the same rights and responsibilities as other Full Members.

Full Members are admitted by the unanimous decision of the General Assembly.

Associate Members. Associate Members are organisations which subscribe to the purposes of the Association but are not eligible for Full Membership.

Associate Members are admitted by the unanimous decision of the General Assembly.

Article 5 – Limited liability of members

Members – whether Full Members or Associate Members - assume no liability for any commitments of the Association above and beyond the subscription they are obliged to pay under these Articles of Association.

Article 6 – Resignation

Every Member - whether a Full Member or an Associate Member - is free to resign from the Association without prior notice at any time, by sending a written letter of resignation to the Board of Directors. The Member remains obliged to pay any subscriptions outstanding.

Article 7 – Exclusion

7.1. Without prejudice to Article 7.2 of these Articles of Association, a Member - whether a Full Member or an Associate Member - may be excluded by unanimous decision of the General Assembly (not counting the vote of the

Member whose exclusion is under consideration) for failure to comply with these Articles of Association. Before such a decision is taken, the Member must be given a hearing by the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall decide by secret ballot.

The quorum for such a vote is two-thirds of the Members (not counting the vote of the Member whose exclusion is under consideration) at the time of the vote whether they are present at the meeting or not.

7.2. Any Member - whether a Full Member or an Associate Member failing to pay the annual subscription within six months of the date on which the subscription is due is delinquent. The Board of Directors shall send the delinquent Member a payment reminder; the Member shall be given a period of four months in which to pay. If the subscription is not paid by the end of this four-month period, the Board of Directors may submit to the General Assembly a proposal to exclude the delinquent Member. A Member whose membership has been terminated for non-payment of the subscription may recover membership after full payment of all subscriptions due within the year in which renewal of membership is requested as well as all subscriptions remaining due at the time the membership was terminated.

7.3. Without prejudice to Article 7.2 of these Articles of Association, a delinquent Member is not entitled to vote, to attend meetings of the Association or to participate in its activities including in any clusters of which it is a member.

Article 8 – Absence of claims

A Member - whether a Full Member or an Associate Member -, who, for whatever reason, ceases to be a Member of the Association, shall have no claim on the assets of the Association; the Member shall remain liable for all subscriptions of the current financial year. In addition, a Member who gives notice of withdrawal less than three months before the end of the current financial year remains liable for all subscriptions for the following financial year.