

# Principles of EUROHORCs

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## Article 1

### 1. Name, status and address

EUROHORCs is a European association of the heads of research funding organisations (RFO) and research performing organisations (RPO). The acronym originates from European Heads of Research Councils.

The address of EUROHORCs is that of the current President.

## Article 2

### 2. Aims and objectives

EUROHORCs is an independent association dedicated to promoting excellence in all branches of research in which major publicly funded national research organisations in Europe are assembled. EUROHORCs' members seek:

- to represent the interests of research nationally and internationally
- to give recognition to excellence and to support frontier research of the highest quality
- to create a platform for discussion, joint activities and the promotion of international research links and collaborations
- to provide independent professional scientific expertise and research policy advice in Europe

## Article 3

### 3. Membership

Membership is by invitation, based on an agreed membership policy (see Annex 1). The basis for membership is institutional; the representation of the Member Organisations is limited to the level of chief executives or equivalent.

## Article 4

### 4. Organs

The organs of EUROHORCs are:

- the General Assembly
- the President
- the two Vice Presidents, one representing Research Councils (RC) and one representing Research Performing Organisations (RPO)
- the Steering Committee
- the Management Committee

The secretarial support of the President is provided by his or her organisation (subsequently called 'the EUROHORCs Secretariat')

EUROHORCs may adopt further regulations in an Annex to the Principles of EUROHORCs in order to determine further details of the structure and the cooperation of its organs.

## Article 5

### 5. General Assembly

The General Assembly normally meets twice a year. Each country is represented by the Heads of up to three Member Organisations.

The General Assembly elects the President, the Vice Presidents and the other members of the Steering Committee from the EUROHORCs members at a meeting which has the election item specified on the agenda. Candidates are proposed by a search committee appointed by the majority of the Member Organisations.

The President or the Chief Executive of the ESF is invited to attend Assembly meetings as observer.

The President or the General Assembly can decide to invite guests or observers to attend the General Assembly.

Members of the Management Committee and Secretariat attend General Assembly meetings by invitation of the President.

The General Assembly takes decisions by the majority of its members present.

## Article 6

### **6. President, Vice Presidents**

The President and the Vice Presidents serve for a single term of up to three calendar years.

The President (or in case of him or her not being available, a Vice President) convenes the meetings of the General Assembly and the Steering Committee.

The President and the Vice Presidents, in their respective roles, may speak on behalf of EUROHORCs in between meetings reflecting the views of the Steering Committee.

## Article 7

### **7. Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee consists of the President, the two Vice Presidents and up to six heads of research organisations, representative as far as possible, of the diverse nature of the Member Organisations. The members of the Steering Committee, other than the ex officio members, will be elected by the General Assembly, based on a proposal by a search committee appointed by the majority of the Member Organisations.

Members of the Steering Committee serve for a term of three years, the term can be extended up to a further three-years.

The Steering Committee prepares the General Assembly meetings and meets immediately before each General Assembly. It can also meet between General Assembly meetings. Following each meeting of the Steering Committee the President reports to all members.

The President or the Chief Executive of the ESF attends the Steering Committee meetings as observer.

The President or the Steering Committee can decide to invite guests or observers to attend the Steering Committee meeting

## Article 8

### **8. Management Committee and Secretariat**

The role of the Management Committee and Secretariat is to assist the organs of EUROHORCs. Further details can be defined in an Annex to the Principles of EUROHORCs.

The Management Committee consists of one officer from each of those organisations constituting the Steering Committee including one observer from the European Science Foundation (ESF) and one observer from the Informal Group of R&D Liaison Offices in Brussels (IGLO).

The Management Committee can decide to invite guests or observers to attend meetings of the Management Committee.

## Annex – Membership Policy

### **Preamble**

EUROHORCs are assembling the major publicly funded national research organisations in Europe<sup>1</sup>. EUROHORCs seek to be a strong voice in favour of European research by creating a platform for discussion, initiating joint activities and strengthening the influence of European research organisations on European research policy. One important message from the EUROHORCs is that science-driven research ought to be operationally independent from political bodies. Science is of critical importance for our societies and cultures, and it ought to have the flexibility required to achieve the best results. A strong and broad science base is a key prerequisite for sustaining innovation. While underscoring the importance of global scientific cooperation for the countries within the European Research Area, the EUROHORCs see it as their duty to share responsibility for a significant upgrading of scientific research in European countries, building on strong research traditions in individual countries and successful funding schemes for frontier research. Cooperation is based on the importance of the sciences (including engineering, the humanities and the social sciences) for the development of a knowledge based society. It relies on the aims of its members with respect to the enhancement of science at a national level through the identification and funding of high quality research, and the accountability of their members to their respective national funders.

### **Article 1 - Membership by Invitation**

Membership is exclusively by invitation.

### **Article 2 - Membership Terms and Conditions**

EUROHORCs' membership is proposed to major publicly funded national research organisations in Europe which are primarily Research Councils and Research Performing Organisations. Academies may be members of EUROHORCs if they have a major function in research funding and/or performing. Universities and University Organisations cannot become members.

EUROHORCs aim is to be an umbrella organisation for Research Councils and Research Performing Organisations in Europe and to speak for all research activities. For this reason, the admission of new members should aim at a well-balanced membership structure.

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<sup>1</sup> EUROHORCs' Declaration on Reinforced Cooperation in Europe, Oegstgeest – The Netherlands, 19 May 2003

Organisations that may potentially be invited for membership in EUROHORCs must demonstrate their independence in scientific decision-making, assessment processes, and scientific peer review through panels/bodies consisting of scientists, generally mandated to make sovereign decisions that cannot or have in practice never been reversed by outside (non-scientific) authorities.

### **Article 3 - Admission Procedure**

The Assembly shall be informed as soon as an organisation is under consideration for membership. The Assembly decides whether an internal admission procedure is to be initiated. If the Assembly is in favour of the application, the Membership Committee shall be asked to take a vote recommending either approval or disapproval by the next meeting, in order to prepare the Assembly's decision.

At the request of the Assembly, the Membership Committee shall contact the organisation which is under consideration for membership. The candidate is then asked to provide the information necessary to review its ability to meet the conditions for invitation.

Among other things, candidates are asked by the Membership Committee to report on the following:

- establishment and structure of the research organisation
- position in the national and European R&D structure
- decision-making procedures
- tasks and goals
- budget and sources of funding
- mode of operation/funding instruments
- review systems

After receipt of the required documents, the Membership Committee shall take a vote, in accordance with this Membership Policy. The Membership Committee may reserve the right to undertake further inquiries if deemed necessary to prepare the Assembly's decision.

The President of EUROHORCs shall inform the organisation concerned of the Assembly's decision.