



The Statutes of the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section

Preamble

The members of the EUROPARC Federation in the Nordic-Baltic countries (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden) have decided, by mutual agreement and of their own free will, to establish the Nordic-Baltic Section of the EUROPARC Federation (hereinafter referred to as the Section).

The Section is an open, voluntary and non-political association of EUROPARC Federation members in the above mentioned countries.

Article 1

Aims

- To promote the aims and strategy of the EUROPARC Federation
- To maintain and strengthen the links between the EUROPARC Federation and members of the Section
- To initiate and coordinate EUROPARC activities in the Nordic and Baltic countries
- To promote the cooperation among members of the Section
- To promote and coordinate the joint activities of members of the Section
- To enhance communication, information, experiences and expertise among protected areas in the Nordic and Baltic countries
- To promote raising of funds for joint activities
- To recognise, observe and implement the EUROPARC Federation guidelines for EUROPARC Sections.

Article 2

Membership

- a) The Section was established at an inaugural meeting by a vote and the signing of the statutes by all founding members and, subsequently, by approval of the EUROPARC Federation Council.
- b) The Section shall be dissolved if, a Members' Assembly convened specifically for this purpose is attended by at least half of all members, and more than three quarters of the members present vote for the dissolution of the Section.
- c) Any organisation in the Nordic and Baltic countries may become a member of the Section, on condition that it is also a member of the EUROPARC Federation.
- d) Membership must be applied for in writing. This application must include a declaration of agreement with the statutes of the Section, and demonstrate that the applicant is a member of the EUROPARC Federation.
- e) Membership shall come to an end on resignation, expulsion, or termination of the EUROPARC Federation membership. Resignation, from the section is to be effected in writing to the President of the Section. Violation of the statutes of the Section can constitute a reason for expulsion. The Members' Assembly takes the decision concerning expulsion following a request from a member. Over half of all member votes are necessary to expel a member.

Article 3

Organisation and Management

- a) Every member shall be represented in the Section by a personal representative. If this is to be someone other than the statutory representative, the statutory representative shall nominate this person in writing. The personal representatives of the members constitute the Members' Assembly of the Section.
- b) Each member of the Section shall have one vote.
- c) In the event of a tied vote, the President's vote shall be the deciding vote.
- d) The Section will inform the EUROPARC Federation of its meetings and a representative of

the EUROPARC Federation Council has the right to participate and represent the views of the Federation at the EUROPARC Section Meetings as an observer.

e) The business of the Section is managed by the Section's President. In the case of his or her absence, the President shall be replaced by another member appointed by the Members' Assembly.

f) The President is elected by the member representatives at the Members' Assembly. The election shall be decided by simple majority. In the event of a tied vote, the result shall be determined by drawing lots.

g) The President's term of office is three calendar years.

h) The Headquarters of the Section during the term of office of the President is always the Headquarters of the member organisation which the President represents.

i) After each term the presidency should preferably be rotated to another member.

j) The President may be recalled from office by a simple majority of all the votes of the members present, following the prior submission of a well-founded proposal from a member of the Section. The proposal and explanation of the grounds are to be sent to the members of the Section in writing, at least three weeks prior to the next Members' Assembly.

k) Should the President not be able to fulfil his or her duties for good reason (resignation, end of working contract with the member organisation, on-going illness, death, or other), the statutory representative of the member organisation which the President represented shall call an extraordinary meeting to elect a new President.

Article 4

The President

The President

a) convenes the Members' Assembly as necessary, and at least once a year

b) prepares the agenda and chairs the Members' Assembly

c) manages the business during the period between Assemblies

d) represents the Section in negotiations, maintains contacts with the EUROPARC Federation (President, Council, Headquarters)

e) or a person nominated by the President represents the Section at the General Assemblies of the EUROPARC Federation

f) carries responsibility for communication and circulation of information within the Section

g) is entitled to appoint individual Section members to carry out specific tasks agreed on by the Members' Assembly.

Article 5

Finances

a) The members of the Section may raise funding for joint projects and activities from their own funds as well as other sources of finance.

b) The costs incurred by the President in the performance of his duties shall be covered by the member of the Section which is at the same time the President's employer. This member of the Section also makes a voluntary commitment to guarantee working conditions for the President which will enable him or her to carry out his or her duties during the entire term of office.

Article 6

Final Clauses

a) The statutes shall enter into force following approval by the members of the Section and approval by the EUROPARC Federation Council.

b) Amendments and additions to the statutes are possible following the submission of a written proposal by a member of the Section, discussion in the Members' Assembly, a vote with a majority of over half all member votes, and with the subsequent approval of the EUROPARC Federation Council.