



# CONSTITUTION

*The following is the English language version of the DRAE Constitution as amended by the Assembly of Delegates, 23 June 1999, Uppsala, Sweden; 7 July 2001, Brisbane, Australia; and October 2003, Beni Suef, Egypt.*

## **Article 1 - Name and Place of Registration**

- 1.1 **DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE** is an association originally founded according to Art. 60ff of the Swiss Civil Law.
- 1.2 DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE is part of the "DIAKONIA Foundation: the World Federation of Diaconal Associations and Diaconal Communities" (DIAKONIA - World Federation) with domicile in Utrecht, Netherlands.
- 1.3 DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE is an international body for all member of the REGION AFRICA - EUROPE and shall be governed by the national law of the country in which it is registered.
- 1.4 DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE should be registered in a country in accordance with a decision of the Executive Committee.

## **Article 2 - Purpose and Aim**

- 2.1 DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE which is called by Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church, to the service of reconciliation in the world with the word of faith and the action of love like the DIAKONIA World Federation fulfils the tasks and aims of the DIAKONIA - World Federation in the region of Africa and Europe as follows:
  - 2.1.1 To advance the Christian religion by promoting unity amongst all Christians and Christian churches.
  - 2.1.2 To further ecumenical relationships among diaconal associations and diaconal communities.
  - 2.1.3 To reflect on the nature and tasks of diaconia in the Biblical sense and to further the understanding of the diaconate.
  - 2.1.4 To strengthen a sense of awareness of community among its members.
  - 2.1.5 To render mutual aid.
  - 2.1.6 To undertake common tasks.

- 2.2 The association solely and directly pursues church and community aims. It is a nonprofit organization.

### **Article 3 - Membership**

- 3.1 All African and European members of the DIAKONIA World Federation are also Full members of DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE.
- 3.2.1 Associate Membership of DRAE may be granted by the Executive Committee for a period of no more than five years.
- 3.2.2 Associate members can participate at all meetings and seminars of DRAE, but are not voting delegates.
- 3.2.3 It is expected that Associate Members will apply for, and become, members of the DIAKONIA World Federation, and therefore become Full Members of DRAE. If after five years membership of DIAKONIA has not been granted, the Association will cease to be an Associate Member of DRAE.
- 3.3 The membership is established by participation at the foundation assembly or subsequently by a written application of membership which is to be addressed to the Executive Committee.
- 3.4 The Executive Committee keeps a register of members organisations.

### **Article 4 - Organization**

#### **4.0 Assembly of Delegates and Executive Committee**

- 4.0.1 Meetings are to be announced by the President at least three months in advance stating the agenda. Notice of any change to the Constitution or dissolution of DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA -EUROPE must be sent at least three months in advance to all members giving details of the proposed amendments.
- 4.0.2 The agenda can be added to by delegates respectively, members of the Executive Committee present, by unanimous agreement.
- 4.0.3 Valid resolutions can be made if at least half of the members of the respective body are present.
- 4.0.4 Written decisions by circular letter are valid if more than half of the members in office express their decision.  
*(Remark: "written" includes all electronic means which can produce a printed copy.)*

#### **4.1 Assembly of Delegates**

- 4.1.1 The DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE Assembly of Delegates takes place at least every four years, usually to coincide with the DIAKONIA World Federation Assembly of Delegates.
- 4.1.2 The number of delegates corresponds to that which the DIAKONIA - World Federation Assembly of Delegates can send. The delegates are chosen by the members.
- 4.1.3 The president is the only member of the Executive Committee who has a vote at the Assembly of Delegates.

4.1.4 In the event of a tie vote, the motion is lost.

4.1.5 The Assembly of Delegates has the following tasks:

- To enact or change the Constitution with a 2/3's majority.
- To elect the President by a written ballot with a 2/3's majority of valid votes for a four year term of office.  
The Regional President belongs to the Executive Committee of DIAKONIA - World Federation as one of the representatives of its region.
- To approve the annual financial reports for the period under view presented by the Executive Committee and to discharge the Executive Committee.
- To determine the membership fees.
- To receive the reports of the president and the secretary on the activities during the period in review.
- To elect the auditor.

## 4.2 Executive Committee

4.2.1 The Executive Committee consists of the DIAKONIA - World Federation Executive Committee members who belong to DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE member associations.

The Executive Committee can co-opt a maximum of two persons as members with voting rights according to a regional and/or professional balance. Duration of office corresponds to that of the DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE Executive Committee.

In case a member of the Executive Committee is unable to attend, the alternate can take part at the meeting with voting rights.

The Executive Committee will hold a meeting at least once a year.

An extraordinary meeting will be held whenever two thirds of the Executive Committee members deem them necessary.

4.2.2 The Executive Committee has the following tasks:

- To elect a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer among its members.
- To carry out all DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE business with the exception of that reserved for the Assembly of Delegates.
- The president, the secretary and the treasurer are responsible for the administration in the time between the Executive Committee meetings. DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA -EUROPE is legally represented by the President and the Secretary, or the President and the Treasurer.
- To pass on information regularly to the DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE members regarding its plans and projects including information regarding financing.
- To appoint advisers and/or committees for special tasks.

### **4.3 Auditing**

The auditor examines the annual accounts, reports to the Executive Committee and proposes the discharge of the Executive Committee to the assembly of delegates.

### **Article 5 - Finance**

- 5.1 DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE is carried financially by annual fees from its members, donations, legacies and other freewill offerings.
- 5.2 The membership fee of Associate Members is the same as Full Members.
- 5.3 The membership fee is set according to the quota upon which the calculation of the fees to the DIAKONIA - World Federation is laid down and is decided by the Assembly of Delegates of DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE.
- 5.4 DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE is held responsible for its liabilities exclusively with its own assets; private responsibility of the members or of the DIAKONIA World Federation foundation is excluded.

### **Article 6 - Dissolution**

- 6.1 The dissolution of DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE requires a 2/3's majority vote by all its members.
- 6.2 In case of dissolution, the remaining assets have to be used solely and directly in accordance with the aims of the Foundation.

### **Article 7 - Conclusion and Enactment**

- 7.1 This constitution has been drawn up in German and English. In case of doubt, the German version is valid.
- 7.2 This constitution has been agreed upon at the founding assembly on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1994 in Stirling, Scotland, United Kingdom.
- 7.3 This constitution becomes valid immediately.

As amended by the Assembly of Delegates, 23 June 1999, Uppsala, Sweden; 7 July 2001, Brisbane, Australia; and October 2003, Beni Suef, Egypt.