

# **RURAL YOUTH EUROPE**

## **C H A R T E R** **Adopted on 04<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

### **1. Name and Seat**

- a) The Name of the Association shall be „Rural Youth Europe”
  
- b) The seat of Rural Youth Europe is in Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany until the General Assembly decides otherwise. Rural Youth Europe shall be registered as an Association in the „Vereinsregister“ (Register of Associations). The seat of the Association and of the Secretariat should remain connected to the Secretariat of a Member Organisation.

### **2. Aims and status of public utility**

2.1 The aims of Rural Youth Europe shall be

- a) To further and promote the activities of rural youth
- b) To educate and train young people and to create an awareness of the issues of the countryside
- c) To promote international understanding through international meetings
- d) To focus the attention of international and national agencies and organisations, both governmental and private, as well as the general public on the problems and needs of rural youth

2.2 The aims of Rural Youth Europe are exclusively and directly that of a public utility as recognised by the German Law („Abgabenordnung“). Rural Youth Europe is charitable and is in general a non-profit making organisation. The finances of Rural Youth Europe shall only be expended for the aims set down in this Charter. Member organisations shall not receive any financial reimbursement from the funds of Rural Youth Europe. No person shall receive financial reimbursement for activities which do not correspond to Rural Youth Europe objects or disproportionate payments.

2.3 The main activities of Rural Youth Europe shall be:

- a) To organise annual meetings and activities where young people from all over Europe can come together
- b) To organise international youth exchanges
- c) To organise educational courses and seminars on social policy and personal development
- d) To organise training courses for youth leaders
- e) To organise any other activity which may be considered useful in attaining the objects of Rural Youth Europe.

### **3. Membership**

3.1 Membership shall be open to those youth organisations which are prepared as a condition of membership to adhere to the provisions of this Charter on a non-party-political and non-sectarian basis.

3.2 There are five categories of members:

- a) Full members: full members have the right to vote
- b) Candidate members: this status may be granted for a maximum of 2 years. Candidate members will have no vote.
- c) Development members: organisations which are in development. Development members pay a reduced membership fee and have limited rights. They will have no vote.
- d) Observer members: this status may be granted to international youth organisations. Observer members will have no vote.
- e) Sponsoring members: this status may be granted to other organisations, commercial firms or individuals. Sponsoring members will have no vote.

3.3 A request for membership has to be forwarded in writing to the Board of Rural Youth Europe. The Board of Rural Youth Europe shall consider applications for membership and shall make recommendations to the General Assembly. If an application for membership is rejected by the Board, the requesting organisation shall have the right to demand a vote at the next General Assembly.

The General Assembly shall decide on the admission of a member.

3.4 Members will pay an annual fee.

3.5 Member organisations can only resign at the end of a financial year. Such notice of resignation must be given in writing and must be received by 30<sup>th</sup> of June in that year. A member organisation which resigns does not have any right to receive any part of the funds of Rural Youth Europe.

3.6 If a member organisation does not respect the Charter of Rural Youth Europe, the General Assembly may decide to expel that member organisation or to suspend the membership of that organisation.

### **4. The organs of Rural Youth Europe**

4.1 The organs of Rural Youth Europe are the Board and the General Assembly of members. The General Assembly may establish sub-committees, but such sub-committees shall not have any executive powers.

### **5. General Assembly**

5.1 The General Assembly is competent to consider all questions of policy concerning Rural Youth Europe. Its competence includes:

- a) admission of members

- b) expulsion and suspension of members
- c) approval of programme of activities for the forthcoming year
- d) determination of contributions from member organisations
- e) approval of the audited financial report
- f) approval of estimates of income and expenditure for the forthcoming year
- g) election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Board Members and the appointment of an auditor
- h) adoption of the agenda for the General Assembly
- i) adoption of the minutes of the previous General Assembly
- j) confirmation of the minutes of Board Meetings
- k) business arising from these minutes
- l) approval of annual report of the Secretary General

5.2 The General Assembly shall be held in the country of one of the member organisations. The General Assembly meets at least once a year and is called by the Board in writing at least three months before the date of the Assembly. At the request of the Board or at the request of at least one third of the full member organisations the Board shall call an extraordinary General Assembly.

5.3 The agenda with supporting papers shall be circulated in writing to member organisations at least two months before the date of a General Assembly. All resolutions for a General Assembly shall be in the hands of the Secretary General at least ten weeks before the date of the Assembly. All amendments to these resolutions shall be issued to all member organisations immediately upon receipt.

## **6. Board**

6.1 The policy of Rural Youth Europe (as outlined in 5 above) shall be formulated by the General Assembly which shall be held at least once a year. The Board shall implement the policy formulated by the General Assembly and will be responsible for the conduct of all business not undertaken by the General Assembly.

6.2 The Board consists of a maximum of seven members as follows:

A Chairman

A Vice-Chairman

A maximum of five other members

Amongst the five other members one member will be elected out of each of the four groups in which the full member organisations are divided. The groups are composed in such way that a Board is elected in which the different regions of Europe are represented. In the event of a region being unable to select a representative, the General Assembly will decide.

One further member can be a representative of special interests. The General Assembly decides about the necessity of filling this position, and about the nature of the special interests.

6.3 A delegate of the organising team of the Rally of the following year can be invited to Board Meetings if the Board considers this necessary.

6.4 The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman shall be elected by secret ballot and majority vote.

6.5 According to § 26 BGB (German Civil Code), the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman shall represent Rural Youth Europe in all matters both legal and otherwise. Both have the right to represent Rural Youth Europe individually. As far as internal matters are concerned, a Board Member will only represent the Chairman if the Chairman is unable to act.

6.6 Members of the Board are elected for a term of office of two years in one term. The Chairman shall be elected for a term of office of two years, but in the absence of a candidate may serve for one more term. Other members of the Board are eligible for re-election. If the home organisation of a Board Member is allocated to a different group, the Board Member shall still serve for the full term. A Board Member elected during the term of a Board to fill a vacancy shall serve for the term of the member replaced only in the first instance.

6.7 Any candidates nominated for the board shall belong to a full member organisation of Rural Youth Europe. If the home organisation of an elected Board Member loses or ceases its status as a full member, the Board Member shall still serve for the remaining period of his/her term.

6.8 One member of the Board shall have a special responsibility for overseeing all financial matters and shall report thereon at the General Assembly.

6.9 The Board shall meet whenever it may seem necessary. The Secretary General will call the meeting on behalf of the Chairman at least one month before. The Board has a quorum if at least half of its members are present, amongst them being the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman. It shall be open to each member organisation to send an observer to each Board Meeting.

## **7. Voting and minutes**

7.1 The General Assembly shall make decisions by simple majority vote (more than 50% of the votes present). All full member organisations shall have one vote. Full member organisations with more than 15.000 members shall have two votes. Both votes may be used by one representative.

7.2 Minutes will be prepared covering every meeting of the General Assembly and the Board. These minutes will be circulated to all member organisations and to members of the Board as soon as possible following the meeting. The minutes of the Board meetings shall be adopted by the Board whereas the minutes of the General Assembly shall be adopted by the next General Assembly. After adoption, the minutes of the General Assembly will be signed by the Chairman and the Secretary General and filed securely.

## **8. Secretary General**

8.1 The Board will nominate a Secretary General and decide upon a location for the office, considering the proximity to its member organisations.

8.2 The Secretary General shall attend all meetings of the Board and the General Assembly as adviser. On behalf of the Board the Secretary General is responsible for the daily business of Rural Youth Europe. The Secretary General shall be responsible for the preparation each year of an audited account of income and expenditure and preparation of a balance sheet together

with a report of the work of Rural Youth Europe for the preceding year, all to be presented at the General Assembly.

8.3 The Secretary General shall be responsible to the Chairman and through the Chairman to the Board for the effective and efficient conduct of Rural Youth Europe's affairs.

## **9. Finance**

Members have a duty to pay the subscription fixed by the General Assembly. Subscriptions shall be due by 31<sup>st</sup> of March for the forthcoming year. Those full member organisations which have not paid their subscription in full for the current year shall lose all voting rights at the General Assembly.

## **10. Alterations to the Charter and dissolution of Rural Youth Europe**

10.1 Any resolutions to vary or amend this Charter must receive the assent of at least two thirds of those member organisations present and voting at the General Assembly.

10.2 Any decision to dissolve Rural Youth Europe must receive the assent of at least three quarters of those member organisations present and voting at the General Assembly.

10.3 Any resolution to vary or amend this Charter or to dissolve Rural Youth Europe can only be voted on, if such a resolution has been included on the agenda for the General Assembly and if member organisations have been informed at least two months before the date of the General Assembly.

10.4 In the event of the liquidation of the association "Rural Youth Europe e.V." or in the event of the abolition of tax-advantaged purposes according to the legislation on public utility in the Federal Republic of Germany, the club funds are, after the General Assembly will have decided upon it, turned over to a tax-advantaged public corporation or a corporation under private law for the purpose of exclusive usage in terms of § 61 AO for youth welfare and youth education in Europe.