



# CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY EUROPEAN SOCIETY

## Cambridge University European Society Constitution

*As approved by the General Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015*

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### 1. Nature:

- 1.1 The group called “The Cambridge University European Society” (CUEUS) is an unincorporated association consisting of such persons as may declare support for the organisation’s objectives, and have been admitted to membership according to the procedures set out in this Constitution;
- 1.2 CUEUS acts as a local branch of the Young European Movement in the UK thereby accepting the principles, the constitution and the positions of the Young European Movement and of JEF-Europe;
- 1.3 CUEUS shall be non-profit making and remain open to everyone who complies with the Constitution.

#### 2. Objectives:

- 2.1 To promote cultural exchange and political debate amongst all those with an interest in European issues;
- 2.2 To enhance knowledge of European cultures, languages and politics;
- 2.3 To improve the debate over the European Union in Cambridge;
- 2.4 To provide a platform for a constructive European debate in Cambridge with a constructive debate being one where every voice can be heard, whether for or against the European Union, and discussed;
- 2.5 To facilitate the development of personal and well-thought out opinions of the EU among participants.

#### 3. Activities:

- 3.1 As part of The Young European Movement UK, CUEUS may do all such things as may reasonably advance its objectives including, but not limited to:
  - 3.1.1 Informing public opinion about Europe and the European Union and developing, publicising and carrying out policies and proposals for the promotion, advancement and maintenance of understanding, cohesion, co-operation and unity amongst the countries and peoples of Europe and between them and the rest of the world;
  - 3.1.2 Publication of newsletters and other forms of periodicals or magazines;

- 3.1.3 Discussing European integration and related issues with key political players from universities, governmental and non-governmental organisations and thus encourage a widening and deepening of European integration;
- 3.1.4 Promoting European integration to young people from across Europe and in the Cambridge area;
- 3.1.5 Working for a common European identity which respects national and regional diversity;
- 3.1.6 Campaigning with the young people of the Cambridge area for the European Union in the UK and the rest of Europe;
- 3.1.7 Organising meetings and demonstrations aimed at spreading the ideals of the Young European Movement;
- 3.1.8 Maintaining links with appropriate organisations, notably the Young European Federalists;
- 3.1.9 Undertaking such educational and social activities as may advance its objectives;
- 3.1.10 Ensuring the long-term sustainability of a pro-European organisation for young people in the Cambridge area which works as a platform for young people and young professionals for discussions and dialogue.

#### **4. Membership:**

- 4.1 CUEUS has no party political line, and welcomes members of all points of view;
- 4.2 Membership of the society is open to all members of the University and anyone resident in the Cambridge area;
- 4.3 The committee shall not refuse an application for membership on the grounds of race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, nationality or political views;
- 4.4 The committee reserves the right to expel any member for behaviour likely to bring the Society into disrepute;
- 4.5 The membership options shall be one-year and three-year membership and it is to the discretion of the committee to lay out the respectively valid conditions, e.g. membership fees;
  - 4.5.1 Those members who have purchased a 'life' membership will remain part of the Society for life, though their being part of YEM and its affiliates will expire;
- 4.6 All members who join at least seven days before the date of the Society's Annual General Meeting shall have the right to vote in it;
- 4.7 The remaining membership conditions are the same as those of the Young European Movement.

#### **5. Structure:**

- 5.1 CUEUS follows the general structure of the Young European Movement UK as a Local Section as defined in its constitution;
- 5.2 The Committee shall consist of at least a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Junior Treasurer, and Communications Officer;
- 5.3 The outgoing committee can open nominations for further posts in order to continue existing practices and respond to organisational needs;
- 5.4 The Committee shall at its discretion co-opt additional Committee members to itself where it perceives the need or to fill vacancies that may arise;
- 5.5 Any member of CUEUS can run for any committee post;
- 5.6 There may be hustings at the Annual General Meeting (AGM);
- 5.7 Votes shall be counted by counted by two persons at the AGM who are not candidates for any Committee positions.

5.8 A Senior Treasurer shall be appointed or reappointed by the Committee each year to audit CUEUS' accounts;

5.8.1 The Senior Treasurer shall not be liable for any financial debt or for other obligations of CUEUS, except where the Senior Treasurer has personally authorised such a debt in writing.

## **6. General meetings of members:**

6.1 The AGM shall be held each year in Lent term;

6.2 The time and venue of this meeting shall be determined and publicised by the Committee at least ten days of Full Term beforehand;

6.3 The agenda of the AGM shall include but not be limited to the following:

- i. Approval of the audited annual financial report for the session
- ii. Election of the new Committee
- iii. Constitutional amendments

6.4 Voting shall be by a simple majority of attending members;

6.5 The President shall cast an extra vote in case a simple majority cannot be obtained;

6.6 Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by 10% of the society's membership, or by agreement of the majority of the Committee and they must be submitted to the Secretary in writing;

6.6.1 The Constitution may only be amended at an AGM or a meeting specifically called for the purpose;

6.6.2 No vote on a constitutional amendment shall be valid without a two-thirds majority vote in favour of said amendment by those present at the meeting;

6.6.3 Any amended Constitution must then be approved by the National Board of the Young European Movement UK before it can enter into force.

## **7. Affiliation to the Young European Movement UK:**

7.1 CUEUS, through its being affiliated to the Young European Movement UK (YEM UK), serves as its local branch in the Cambridge area and in doing so, is also a part of the organisation Young European Federalists (JEF Europe), to which YEM UK belongs;

7.2 CUEUS is thus bound by the constitutional obligations of JEF Europe and of YEM UK;

7.3 CUEUS however remains an independent organisation and reserves the right to distance itself from any activity, policy or statement of the organisation;

7.4 CUEUS is not bound to conduct solely pro-European activities and is encouraged to interface with people of all opinions on the subject of Europe;

7.5 CUEUS can terminate its affiliation with YEM UK at an Annual General Meeting with the approval of a two-thirds majority of the society's membership on the condition any and all obligations to YEM UK have been fulfilled.

## **8. Dissolution:**

8.1 CUEUS may be dissolved by means of a motion to that effect carried by a three-fourths majority of the Members present and voting at a General Meeting, provided however that a minimum of 56 days' notice of such motion shall have been given to Members in writing advising them of the proposal of dissolution;

- 8.2 The affiliation with the Young European Movement may also be dissolved by a decision of the YEM UK National Board for non-compliance with the criteria enacted in the Constitution of the Young European Movement;
- 8.3 In the event that such a resolution for the winding-up of CUEUS is passed, the Treasurer or such other person or persons as the General Meeting may appoint shall proceed to bring to a close its affairs and, for that purpose shall be deemed to be granted all powers as may be necessary and shall pay over any remaining balance to such other bodies as may be specified in the Resolution; provided, however, that in no circumstances shall any of the surplus assets be returned to the Members as individuals;
- 8.4 The Treasurer and Secretary shall report to the membership within one year of the decision being taken to inform them that the closing of the organisation is complete or if any outstanding matters remain;
- 8.5 Any remaining assets of CUEUS, after payment of debts, shall be split 50:50 between the Societies' Syndicate and YEM UK with the express aim of establishing another Society with similar objectives.