

Statute of the association  
"Green Youth - Green Alternative Youth"

Statute of the association

# **GREEN YOUTH - GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH**

Central Register of Associations: 1136479855

*(adopted at the Federal General Assembly on 17th February 2019 in Vienna)*

Statute of the association  
"Green Youth - Green Alternative Youth"

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## §1 Name and registered office

- (1) The name of the organisation is "GREEN YOUTH - GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH" The names "GREEN YOUTH" or "GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH" followed by the name of the federal state, as well as the abbreviations "GJ", "GAJ" or "GJ-GAJ" are permissible for the individual state organizations. The field of activity of the federal organisation extends over the entire federal territory, as well as to international co-operations.
- (2) The organisation's registered office is in Vienna.

## §2 Aims, objectives and core values of the organisation

- (1) The "GREEN YOUTH - GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH" sees itself as part of the green alternative movement. Its association with the party "The Greens – The Green Alternative" is cordial and critical. The organisation sees itself as a federal organisation of green alternative youth organisations in Austria.
- (2) The fundamental values of the organisation are: ecological, feminist, grassroots democratic, self-determined, anti-fascist, anti-discriminatory, solidary, anti-national, egalitarian and non-violent.
- (3) The objective of the association is to motivate young people to active political commitment in accordance with the fundamental values, to strengthen gender and historical awareness, to promote the integration of people with disabilities in all areas, to create anti-racist understanding, and to encourage an environmentally aware and solidarity-based way of life.
- (4) Fascist, racist, militarist, anti-queer, anti-establishment, and sexist behaviour and expressions have no place in our organisation.

## §3 Achievement of the association's objective

### §3a Activities

- (1) In order to fulfil the objective of the association, the "GREEN YOUTH - GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH" appears in public as an organiser of political actions, events and initiatives, and furthermore endeavours to create political awareness in the sense of the fundamental values mentioned in §2 paragraph 2 through press work, print media and publications. Other activities are cultural events and actions that make a necessary contribution to political education.
- (2) In order to fulfil the goals of the organisation, a high level of critical education, as well as the teaching of skills in political communication and organisation in accordance with the fundamental values, are considered absolutely necessary. None of the activities are profit-oriented. Any windfall profits are to be allocated to other activities of the association either immediately or via a reserve fund.

### §3b Material foundations

- (1) The organisation is financed by donations, subsidies from public and private bodies, membership fees for sponsoring memberships, donations in kind, income from events, publications, own undertakings and other contributions, voluntary work, gifts, and inheritances.
- (2) All funds available to the association may only be used to achieve the objective of the association. Profit sharing and distributions of any kind to members or other persons are prohibited.
- (3) In the event of withdrawal from or dissolution of the association, members may not receive more than the contributed capital share and the value of their contribution in kind. In the event of dissolution, annulment or discontinuation of the hitherto established objective of the association, the assets of the association are to be used by the recipient for non-profit or charitable purposes in accordance with §§34 et seq. BAO (Federal Fiscal Code).

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## §4 Members of the association

Members of the federal association may become natural or legal persons who identify with the goals of the association and wish to participate in the activities of the association. In addition to the federal memberships, memberships exist in the state organisations, which are handled independently of this statute.

### §4a Natural persons

There are two types of memberships for natural persons: Ordinary and sponsoring memberships.

#### (1) Ordinary memberships:

Full members of the association "GREEN YOUTH" must be at least 14 years old and may not have reached the age of 30. Membership of the "GREEN YOUTH" association expires automatically upon reaching the age of 30.

#### (2) Sponsoring memberships:

Persons who have already exceeded the age of 30 years or who only wish to support the association by material means may become sponsoring members of the federal association. Sponsoring members pay a membership fee, the amount and payment intervals of which are determined by the Federal General Assembly. With regard to participation within the association, sponsoring members are treated as external parties.

#### (3) Acquisition, administration and termination of membership:

- (a) The application for membership is made in writing to the Federal Executive Board. The Federal Executive Board shall decide on the final admission.
- (b) Whoever joins a state organisation automatically becomes a member of the association "GREEN YOUTH - GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH".
- (c) A natural person may terminate membership of the federal organisation at any time by resignation with notification to the Federal Executive Board, expulsion, or death.
- (d) Voluntary resignation does not release the member from fulfilling the obligations to the organisation that accrued prior to the date of resignation.
- (e) Exclusion may occur as a result of serious violations of the fundamental values formulated in § 2 or in the case of serious infringements of the association's interests, and is carried out by the Federal Committee. In the event of exclusion, the loss of voting rights comes into effect only after the respective member has been informed. Persons affected may lodge an objection to this decision in writing to the Arbitral Tribunal within two weeks. The decision of the Arbitral Tribunal is final. In urgent cases, the Federal Executive Board may suspend the right to vote until the next meeting of the Federal Committee by a 2/3 majority and with written justification. This decision must be communicated immediately to the presidium of the Federal Committee.

### §4b Legal entities

- (1) As legal entities, the state organisations of the association "GREEN YOUTH - GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH" may become members of the federal association. The state organisations are congruent with the Austrian federal states and can be legal entities (associations) or organisational bodies of their own, which establish political and administrative structures. The national organisations must at least share the fundamental values and age limits of the association "GREEN YOUTH - GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH". It is mandatory that the legal responsibilities within the state organisations be documented. If not further specified, the regulations of the association "GREEN YOUTH - GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH" apply.

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- (2) The state organisations decide autonomously on the allocation, administration and termination of their state memberships.
- (3) Acquisition, administration and termination of membership:
  - (a) Organisations (cf. § 4b para. 1) may join the federal association by submitting a written application to the Federal Executive Board and thus become a state organisation of the association "GREEN YOUTH - GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH". The approval of the application and therefore the admission as a state organisation is subject to a 2/3 majority of the Federal General Assembly. The Federal Executive Board grants application status to the applying organisation. Representatives of the applying organisation will certainly be invited to the Federal Executive Board and the Federal Committee to justify the application. The Federal Executive Board and Federal Committee submit a joint written report to the Federal General Assembly. The Federal Executive Board may arrange further meetings with the applicants to form an opinion on the matter, which must be taken into account in the report. The application status is annulled by the decision of the Federal General Assembly and the organisation becomes a member in terms of a state organisation from the moment of acceptance following the decision, with all rights and obligations towards the association "GREEN YOUTH - GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH".
  - (b) A state organisation shall terminate its membership by written resignation to the Federal Executive Board, dissolution as a legal entity, notification of dissolution as an organisational body within the terms of § 4b (1) in writing to the Federal Executive Board, or by exclusion by the Federal General Assembly with a 2/3 majority. Such exclusion may be based on serious violation of the fundamental values formulated in § 2 or serious violation of the interests of the association. In case of exclusion or resignation of a state organisation, all members of this state organisation known to the Federal Executive Board must be informed in writing.

### §5 Rights and duties of members

- (1) Every member has the right to a say within the organisation. Every natural person who is a member of the association is entitled to vote at the Federal General Assembly.
- (2) Every member has the right to introduce resolutions and motions to all bodies of the federal organisation "GREEN YOUTH - GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH".
- (3) Every member has the right to attend and be invited to all meetings of the association " GREEN YOUTH - GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH". Speaking time and voting rights are governed by this statute or the relevant procedural rules of the institution.

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### §6 Structure and bodies

Bodies of the association "GREEN YOUTH - GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH" are:

- (1) the Federal General Assembly
- (2) the Federal Committee
- (3) the Federal Executive Board
- (4) the Arbitral Tribunal
- (5) the Audit of Accounts
- (6) the state organisations

### §7 Federal General Assembly

- (1) The Federal General Assembly is the supreme decisive body of the organisation. Its decisions are binding for all other bodies of the association "GREEN YOUTH - GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH" (with the exception of the Arbitral Tribunal).
- (2) The Federal General Assembly shall meet at least once a year and shall be convened by the Federal Executive Board.
- (3) The Federal Executive Board shall issue the invitation by e-mail to all natural members four weeks before the Federal General Assembly. The state executive committees are informed six weeks before the Federal General Assembly.
- (4) The Federal General Assembly has a quorum if at least 15% of the members from at least half of the state organisations are represented. The Federal General Assembly is opened by the Federal Executive Board.
- (5) The Federal General Assembly no longer constitutes a quorum if only one third or less of the voting members present at the opening of the meeting are present.
- (6) The Federal General Assembly shall determine its own procedural rules, which include in particular the moderation, the course of the session, the agenda, the speaking time, the list of speakers, and the modalities for dealing with motions. The procedural rules must include the process of elections to functions within the association.
- (7) The Federal General Assembly shall decide on motions and on motions of urgency duly approved by the Federal General Assembly.
- (8) The Federal General Assembly may repeal and amend resolutions of all other bodies of the association "GREEN YOUTH - GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH" (with the exception of the Arbitral Tribunal), and may call and hold new elections of functions. Decisions made by the Federal General Assembly can only be revoked by the Federal General Assembly itself. Unless otherwise stipulated, decisions are made by simple majority.
- (9) Motions to the Federal General Assembly must be submitted to the Federal Executive Board two weeks before the meeting. Motions of urgency, motions tabled directly at the meeting, shall require the approval of two-thirds of the present eligible voters in order to be addressed. Dismissal of functions and amendments to the statute are not possible through motions of urgency.

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### §8 Tasks of the Federal General Assembly

- (1) The Federal General Assembly is the supreme deciding body of the association. All its resolutions are binding for all bodies of the association. The Arbitral Tribunal and the audit of accounts are exempt from this.
- (2) The Federal General Assembly approves the accountability report of the Federal Executive Board and the financial report.
- (3) The Federal General Assembly determines the estimated budget.
- (4) The Federal General Assembly is responsible for passing resolutions on fundamental orientations, principles, basic programmes and priorities, the admission and exclusion of state organisations, the merger and dissolution of the organisation, and amendments to the statute by a two-thirds majority.
- (5) The Federal General Assembly elects the members of the Federal Executive Board, two auditors and the members of the Arbitral Tribunal for one year.
- (6) Resolutions and election results of the Federal General Assembly must be minuted. The minutes must be submitted to the next Federal General Assembly for approval. Written objections must be attached to the minutes.
- (7) If convened in accordance with the statute and within the framework of the agenda adopted at the beginning of the state assembly and up to the time specified therein, the state assembly has a quorum regardless of the number of voters present.
- (8) The Federal General Assembly meets at least once a year and is convened by the Federal Executive Board. Unless otherwise stipulated, the Federal General Assembly passes resolutions by simple majority. A two-thirds majority is required for motions to amend the statute.

### §9 Extraordinary Federal General Assembly

- (1) An extraordinary Federal General Assembly shall be convened by the Federal Executive Board:
  - (a) if so decided by the Federal General Assembly
  - (b) if so motioned by the Federal Executive Board
  - (c) if so motioned by the Federal Committee
  - (d) if so motioned by two state organisations
  - (e) if so motioned by the audit of accounts
  - (f) if so motioned by at least 10% of the members from at least three separate state organisations.
- (2) Following the motion, an extraordinary Federal General Assembly is to be convened within six weeks, adhering to a two-week invitation period. Motions can be submitted five days before the meeting. Amendments to the statute may not be made at an extraordinary Federal General Assembly.
- (3) Unless otherwise regulated here, §§ 7 and 8 shall apply accordingly to the extraordinary Federal General Assembly.

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### §10 Federal Committee

- (1) The Federal Committee is a permanently established body. The Federal Committee consists of 2 delegates per federal state, who have equal voting rights, and the Federal Executive Board with no voting rights.
- (2) The delegates are appointed as representatives for a one-year term of office. At least half of the voting delegates per state organisation must be women. Overall, at least half of the members of the Federal Committee must be women.
  - (a) The nominees from the state organisations form part of the overall proposal to be voted on at the Federal General Assembly. For 2019, the state organisations can announce the respective delegates within four weeks after the Federal General Assembly.
  - (b) If a representative is unable to attend, the state organisation may nominate another representative. If a woman is unable to attend, a woman must be nominated in her stead.
- (3) The Federal Committee meets when convened by the Federal Executive Board and is chaired by the spokespersons.
- (4) The Federal Committee must also be convened:
  - (a) if so motioned by 15% of the members from at least two state organisations,
  - (b) if so motioned by at least four state organisations,
  - (c) if so motioned by one of the auditors, or
  - (d) if so motioned by the Arbitral Tribunal.
- (5) Invitation to the Federal Committee is issued at least four weeks before the meeting. In urgent cases this period may be reduced to two weeks. The urgency must be clearly justified.
- (6) The Federal Committee and its members have the following tasks:
  - (a) The Federal Committee serves as the point of contact for campaigns and projects between the district groups, the state organisations and the Federal Executive Board. The Federal Committee serves to collect ideas, form opinions, exchange information and provide feedback on current and new projects and campaigns.
  - (b) Approval of the amendment of the annual estimate from a revision of EUR 25,000. The proposed amendment must be brought to the members' attention at least one week before the meeting.
  - (c) Co-optation in the event of resignation of members of the Federal Executive Board or an auditor.
  - (d) In the event of serious breaches of duty, violations of the statute and the fundamental values, the Federal Committee may suspend members of the Federal Executive Board with a two-thirds majority. The motion must be submitted two weeks before the meeting. The suspension shall be placed on the agenda of the following Federal General Assembly. The suspension may be lifted or confirmed by the Federal General Assembly. Upon confirmation, the member of the Federal Executive Board is definitively removed from office; upon lifting, all functions may be exercised again.
  - (e) The Federal Committee monitors the on-going work of the Federal Executive Board. The Federal Executive Board is obliged to report to the Federal Committee.
  - (f) Employment and expense allowances must be confirmed by the Federal Committee.

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### §11 Federal Executive Board

- (1) The Federal Executive Board is the managing body of the association in terms of the VerG 2002 (Federal Act on Associations of 2002).
- (2) The Federal Executive Board consists of six members with voting rights.
- (3) The Federal General Assembly shall elect the following members of the Federal Executive Board with voting rights (cf. § 11 para. 3):
  - (a) two speakers, at least one of whom is a woman
  - (b) a political director
  - (c) a financial officer
  - (d) two members without a specific function (additional board members).
- (4) From among its members, the Federal Executive Board elects a secretary, a deputy financial officer, and a deputy political director, each for the duration of the Board term, by simple majority. The secretary may not be a political director, speaker, or financial officer.
- (5) For the designated functions, nominations for the functions themselves are required via the candidature for the Board. Candidacies for designated functions shall be voted on individually. A block vote will be held for the remaining candidacies. The person who receives at least 50% of the votes is elected.
- (6) The Federal Executive Board meets at least every 2 months. A provisional agenda shall be circulated to all members no later than one week before the date of the meeting.
- (7) The Federal Executive Board is authorised to make decisions within the framework of the resolutions issued by the Federal General Assembly, and implements the resolutions of the other bodies.
- (8) Resolutions are to be made visible to the members by means of reports and by recording the minutes.
- (9) The Federal Executive Board has a quorum if at least half of its members are present. If the Federal Executive Board becomes permanently inquorate, its agendas are transferred to the Federal Committee. In the event of a permanent lack of a quorum, the Political Director must convene a Federal General Assembly for the election of a new Federal Executive Board within three weeks.
- (10) The Federal Executive Board decides on applications by simple majority.
- (11) The Federal Executive Board may decide by circular resolution and hold Federal Executive Board meetings by means of telephone conferences.
- (12) The tasks of the Federal Executive Board are:
  - (a) the political coordination of nationwide work (projects, positioning, ...)
  - (b) implementation and safeguarding of decisions made by superordinate bodies.
  - (c) the coordination and development of the state organisations, as well as the support of and communication with local groups and initiatives
  - (d) the preparation of the annual estimate
  - (e) ensuring transparent financial management
  - (f) preparation of the Federal General Assembly

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- (g) the issuing of instructions to the political director
  - (h) involving as many members as possible in decision-making processes and other activities.
  - (i) the election of delegates in organisations and committees to which the organisation may permanently delegate
- (13) The Federal Executive Board submits an annual report to the Federal General Assembly.
- (14) All tasks not regulated elsewhere within the statute automatically fall under the responsibility of the Federal Executive Board.
- (15) If no one or not enough candidates apply for the designated functions as well as for the simple executive board positions by the candidacy deadline, a candidacy may be announced up to 24 hours before the beginning of the Federal General Assembly. An approval vote is required for approval. This must occur with a 2/3 majority. If it is not possible to fill all positions in the Federal Executive Board at the Federal General Assembly, the position must be posted again within 7 days of the meeting. Appropriate application deadlines must be set by the Federal Executive Board. After the end of this deadline, co-optation may take place via the Federal Committee.
- (16) It is possible for candidates to stand as a candidate for the subsequently selected functions if their candidacy is not successful. This must be clarified by the presidium with the candidates concerned after the announcement of each election result.
- §12 Special duties of individual members of the Federal Executive Board, external representation of the Association, signatory powers
- (1) The political director is responsible for the management of political affairs and the federal office. They convene all meetings and are responsible for the coordination of the committees and for organisation in general.
  - (2) Each of the two spokespersons has the right to speak for the association in the sense of the decisions made by the organs and represents the association externally. They are responsible for the association's public relations and are authorised to enter into legal transactions. They chair the meetings of the Federal Executive Board.
  - (3) The financial officer is responsible for financial matters, proper financial management and the administration of the association's assets.
  - (4) The signatures of the political director and the secretary are required for written documents of the association to be externally valid. In financial matters (disposition of assets), the political director and the financial officer represent the association externally. Legal transactions between members of the Federal Executive Board and the association require the written consent of another member of the Federal Executive Board and the Chairperson of the Federal Committee; for monetary values of more than 100 €, the consent of the Federal Committee is additionally required.
  - (5) Legal authorisations to represent the association externally or to sign on its behalf can only be granted by the secretary, political director and financial officer.
  - (6) The Federal Executive Board may appoint speakers for special tasks from among its members.
- §13 The Arbitral Tribunal
- (1) All disputes arising within the association shall be settled by the association's internal Arbitral Tribunal. It is a "mediation board" under the terms of the Associations Act 2002 and not an Arbitral Tribunal as defined by §§ 577 ff ZPO (Code of Civil Procedure).
  - (2) The Arbitral Tribunal is composed of five persons. It is formed in the following way: each disputing party nominates one person to the Arbitral Tribunal in writing. The Federal General Assembly elects a chairperson of the Arbitral Tribunal and two additional arbitrators. No more than one of the arbitrators may be male. The

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arbitrators may not be removed from office. Termination of the function is effected by death, exit, written resignation to the Federal Executive Board, or after expiry of the period of office. After termination of the function, the Federal Committee may appoint provisional arbitrators.

- (3) Upon request by the chairperson of the Arbitral Tribunal, both disputing parties shall nominate one member each as arbitrator within 14 days. The members of the Arbitral Tribunal may not belong to any body - with the exception of the Federal General Assembly - whose activities are the subject of the dispute. The members may not be financially dependent on the association.
- (4) The Arbitral Tribunal shall make its decision in the presence of all its members with a simple majority of votes within two weeks after granting both parties a hearing. It decides to the best of its knowledge and conscience. Its decisions are final within the association.
- (5) The hearing is held publicly. The Arbitral Tribunal is entitled to summon witnesses and take evidence.
- (6) Minutes are to be taken of the Arbitral Tribunal's hearing. The decision of the Arbitral Tribunal is to be made in writing and delivered to the parties.

### §14 Audit of accounts

- (1) The audit consists of two persons and is elected by the Federal General Assembly for one year. Re-election is possible three times. The auditors are exclusively responsible to the Federal General Assembly. The auditors may not exercise any other functions within the federal association.
- (2) The auditors must continuously monitor whether the resolutions of the Federal General Assembly and meetings of other bodies are implemented or complied with.
- (3) They shall be responsible for the continuous monitoring of the financial management, the coffers, and the assets of the Association, as well as for checking the political and financial legality of purchases, subsidies, and the inventory, and, if necessary, reporting on them.

### §15 District groups:

- (1) District groups are the local organisation of the association. Admission is granted by the Federal Executive Board, which must be confirmed by the Federal General Assembly. Prerequisites for admission are:
  - (a) a minimum of three members
  - (b) general Assembly and election of functions once a year
  - (c) verifiable activity in the respective district
- (2) District groups may establish an executive committee consisting of two to five members to manage the business of the district group. The executive committee is the point of contact for the federal organisation and represents the district group externally. The executive committee manages the group according to the Association Act.
- (3) An exclusion of a district group is possible through serious violations of the fundamental values formulated in §2 (1) or serious violation of the interests of the association. Exclusion is carried out by the Federal Executive Board, but must be confirmed by the Federal General Assembly with a two-thirds majority. The exclusion of a district organisation must be stated in the invitation as a separate item on the agenda.

### §16 General procedural provisions

- (1) Gender parity: All elected bodies of the association "GREEN YOUTH - GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH" must be composed with equal gender representation, i.e. at least half of all persons in an elected body must be women, intersexual persons, transsexual persons, or non-binary persons.

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- (2) Motions: Unless otherwise stipulated in the Statute, a motion shall be deemed approved if a simple majority of the valid votes cast is in favour of the motion.
- (3) Procedural rules: The Federal Executive Board, the Federal Committee, the Arbitral Tribunal, and the Audit of Accounts shall adopt their own procedural rules, which shall be approved by the Federal Committee. The procedural rules of the Federal General Assembly shall be decided by the Federal General Assembly alone.
- (4) Protocols: A protocol in the form of minutes must be recorded of each meeting of a body. This must be sent or made publicly accessible to all members of the body concerned and to all ordinary participants in the meeting - to guests only if the body so decides - within 14 days (sooner if necessary). Minutes of meetings of the Federal Executive Board must certainly be made available within this period.
- (5) The decision on the final agenda is the responsibility of the respective bodies meeting and must be made at the beginning of the meeting.
- (6) Functions: The term of office for all elected functions in the Federal Association "GREEN YOUTH - GREEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH" is one year. No person may exercise functions for more than four terms of office, whereby the activity as auditor and in the Arbitral Tribunal shall not be counted against the duration of the other functions. Any given function may be performed continuously for a maximum of three terms of office. After a new election, all bodies carry out their functions at least until the constituent meeting of the newly elected bodies.
- (7) International applications: Applications from members for calls for candidacies on an international level (e.g. for work groups, seminars, project groups, representative functions) must be brought to the attention of the Federal Executive Board.
- (8) Financial dependence: A person is financially dependent on the association if they receive regular cash payments from the association.
- (9) Incompatibilities: For members of the Federal Executive Board, there is an incompatibility with leading positions within the Green Party, political mandates, as well as employment with the Greens and Green clubs that exceeds the minimum wage threshold. Exceptions to this rule are municipal councillors outside Vienna, district functionaries of the Greens outside cities and district councillors in cities, functionaries in interest groups and in educational institutions nominated by the party "The Greens - Green Alternative". If an incompatibility arises, the person in question must choose one function.

### §17 Dissolution

- (1) A Federal General Assembly convened specifically for this purpose shall decide on the dissolution of the organisation with another by a three-quarters majority.
- (2) In the event of dissolution, the Federal General Assembly shall elect a liquidator by simple majority.
- (3) In the event of dissolution, the assets shall be donated to charitable causes. In principle, they should go to an organisation with a similar purpose and objective. The final decision is made by the Federal General Assembly by simple majority.

### §18 Changes to the Statute

Amendments to the statute are valid from the date of their submission to the association authorities after expiry of the deadline according to §13/1 VerG (Federal Act on Associations) or with an earlier issue of a notice according to §13/2 VerG.