Constitution for the Grand Lodge of Europe

CHAPTER 1 AUTHORITY

Article 1 Authority

1.The Grand Lodge of Europe is authorized and empowered to direct, ~~suervise~~ promote and control all matters pertaining to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows within Europe as prescribed in the Charter signed on 24th of August 2006 by The Sovereign Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

2. No additional obligations or duties may be imposed from outside on the Grand Lodge of Europe, other than those specified in the Charter.

The Sovereign Grand Lodge

of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Friendship, Love and Truth

To all whom it may concern:

Know Ye that The Sovereign Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, by virtue of the authority vested in it, doth hereby create into distinct independence in Odd Fellowship the

Grand Lodge of Europe

With power in all matters relating to Odd Fellowship within the territory and jurisdiction known as the continent of Europe as hereby described: Europe is bounded to the north by the Artic Ocean, to the west by the Atlantic Ocean, to the south by the Mediterranean Sea, and – according to the traditional geographic definition – to the south-east by the waterways adjoining the Mediterranean to and including the Black Sea and the Caucasus Mountains (in Caucasia). Europe's eastern frontier is vague, but has traditionally been given as the divide of the Ural Mountains and the Caspian Sea to the south-east. The Urals are considered by most to be a geographical and tectonic landmark separating Asia from Europe; except the lands known as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

And said Grand Lodge is authorized and empowered to direct, supervise and control all matters pertaining to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows within the jurisdiction of said Grand Lodge.

Provided always, the said Grand Lodge shall render strict obedience to the customs and usages of the Order, in that it shall forever continue to be bound to charitable and beneficent works in visiting the sick, relieving the distressed, burying the dead and educating the orphan; in the performance of all those reciprocal duties and benevolence which spring from our recognition of a Supreme Being and the Brotherhood of Man and from the inculcation and practices of Friendship, Love and Truth.

Given under the seal of The Sovereign Grand Lodge and the signatures of its Officers, at Winston-Salem, State of North Carolina, in the United States of America, this 24th day of August, 2006, and of our beloved Order the 188th year.

Article 2 Name, domicile and address

The name is The Grand Lodge of Europe.

The official domicile of The Grand Lodge of Europe due to legislation and tax-registration is Copenhagen, Denmark.

The registered office of The Grand Lodge of Europe is the official address of the European Grand Sire.

Any document on behalf of The Grand Lodge of Europe has to be signed by the European Grand Sire and at least one of the other European Grand Officers.

The language of The Grand Lodge of Europe is English.

CHAPTER 2 JURISDICTIONS AND GRAND LODGE OF EUROPE MEMBERS

Article 3 Member-jurisdictions (legal entities) and GLE members (natural persons)

1. The independent jurisdictions of Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, the Netherlands and Belgium, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland are the member-jurisdictions of The Grand Lodge of Europe.
2. Every independent jurisdiction within The Independent Order of Odd Fellows in the continent of Europe, as described in the Charter, has to be instituted by and be a member-jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Europe.
3. The Military Council of Europe I.O.O.F. has received the Charter and has been instituted by The Grand Lodge of Europe. The institution of the Departments under the Military Council of Europe I.O.O.F. can take place with the approval of the respective jurisdiction.
4. The application for GLE membership shall be in the form decided by The Grand Lodge of Europe. The Grand Lodge of the respective jurisdiction has the right to nominate. In the beginning of the regular meeting of The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting the Honorary Degree of the Grand Lodge of Europe, the Degree of Wisdom, will be awarded to those who are accepted to become members of the Grand Lodge of Europe.
5. As a member of The Grand Lodge of Europe can Grand Officers, Rebekah Assembly Officers, Past Grand Officers or Past Rebekah Assembly Officers be accepted provided that he or she is a member of a Grand Lodge or a Rebekah Assembly in a jurisdiction within the sphere of The Grand Lodge of Europe and has been awarded the Honorary Degree of The Grand Lodge of Europe, the Degree of Wisdom.
   In this situation the District Grand Sires and District Presidents are considered as Grand Officers and Assembly Officers, even if they were not regarded as such according to the legislation of their respective jurisdiction.

5. Officers with the rank of colonel and above in Departments under the Military Council of Europe I.O.O.F. can be awarded the Degree of Wisdom. A prerequisite is that the individual must be in possession of the Grand Lodge Degree in the respective jurisdiction's Grand Lodge. The Military Council of Europe I.O.O.F has the right to nominate.

6. The European Grand Secretary shall inform the member jurisdictions about the proceedings in the Executive Committee and exchange information about the members status of The Grand Lodge of Europe.

CHAPTER 3 MISSION AND TRADITIONS

Article 4 Mission

1. The mission of The Grand Lodge of Europe is to promote and protect the principles and practices of Odd Fellowship in Europe and to introduce Odd Fellowship throughout the continent of Europe. The Grand Lodge of Europe shall forever render strict obedience to the customs and usages of the Order.

2. In accordance with the Object Clause The Grand Lodge of Europe shall forever be bound to charitable and beneficent works in visiting the sick, relieving the distressed, burying the dead and educating the orphan; in the performance of all those reciprocal duties and benevolence which spring from our recognition of a Supreme Being and the Brotherhood of Man and from the inculcation and practices of Friendship, Love and Truth.

3. The Grand Lodge of Europe is bound to work for establishing a bigger worldwide organization of Odd Fellows consisting of all unities being part of the Odd Fellow Order and working on the same serious, ritualistic and ethical, basis.

Article 5 Expansion

The Grand Lodge of Europe is to organize the expansion of Odd Fellowship in other European countries in preparation for establishing lodges in such countries. The Grand Lodge of Europe entrusts one or several jurisdictions to execute these tasks. When the number of members and lodges so indicates, the Grand Lodge of Europe institutes Grand Lodges in the respective countries.

Article 6 Worldwide cooperation

The Grand Lodge of Europe actively participates in cooperation with Odd Fellow organizations worldwide. The form of participation will be decided on the actual need.

Article 7 Traditions

1. The Grand Lodge of Europe shall protect the usage, customs and ancient teachings of the Order and ensure that the Charter, traditional rituals, the Unwritten Work including passwords and signs as well as the Object Clause remain the basis of supreme law of Odd Fellowship in the member jurisdictions.

2. The Grand Lodge of Europe has the power regarding the content and use of the Unwritten Work. However, each independent jurisdiction is entitled to make use of rituals, signs and passwords as long as they do not depart from the original intent of teachings of the Order. Signs and passwords must not be replaced by others.

3. The Unwritten Work provides in particular two types of rituals, signs and passwords used in Odd Fellows and Rebekkah lodges.

4. Independent jurisdictions shall not put into force changes of fundamental grade and importance until the matter has been presented to The Grand Lodge of Europe and until all member jurisdictions have been given the opportunity to comment their views at a Board of Grand Sires' meeting. However, the individual independent jurisdiction has always the final decision, as long the basic spirit of the Charter is not violated.

5. The Grand Lodge of Europe shall define the minimum basic standards for uniformity of all regalia, jewels, ceremonies and certificates etc. used in jurisdictions within the territory of The Grand Lodge of Europe.

6. All matters concerning fundamental changes shall be presented in English to the European Grand Sire. The coordination of the comments is organized by the European Grand Sire and the European Grand Secretary.

7. Each Grand Sire of the jurisdictions within the sphere of The Grand Lodge of Europe has to issue Annual Passwords for the own jurisdiction in accordance with the Unwritten Work. Each jurisdiction within the sphere of The Grand Lodge of Europe accepts the Annual Travelling Password and Inter Fraternal Password issued by The Sovereign Grand Lodge.

8. The Grand Lodge of Europe will have to approve rituals and regalia for use in a new jurisdiction within the sphere of The Grand Lodge of Europe. Before approval, these basic items will have to be presented to the European Grand Sire in English translation. The European Grand Officers will review them and make a recommendation to accept or reject them at the next Board of Grand Sires' meeting. The joining jurisdiction will have to abide by the decision of The Board of Grand Sires' meeting.

CHAPTER 4 OBLIGATIONS OF JURISDICTIONS

Article 8 Obligations of jurisdictions

1. The principles of The Grand Lodge of Europe are to ensure European unity, cooperation and respect for international development of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows and maintenance of all rights, benefits and obligations of membership of Odd Fellows.

2. The jurisdictions shall take active part in the work within The Grand Lodge of Europe in order to enable it to live up to its principles.

3. Under leadership of The Grand Lodge of Europe the jurisdictions shall within their possibilities participate in evaluating, proposing, planning and carrying out common projects in humanitarian or social areas regarding our common societies.

4. A member of the Order of Odd Fellows may be a member in one Lodge and in a single Jurisdiction only. Visitors to other Lodges, in accordance with the Rituals, are welcome.

Article 9. Humanitarian and social work

1. Each Grand Sire or European Grand Officer may submit proposals for projects of common interest to the jurisdictions within the sphere of The Grand Lodge of Europe. Such projects shall be of humanitarian or social

nature and may be established inside the jurisdictions in Europe or on a world-wide level.

2. A proposal for one of the above stated projects is to be submitted in writing to the European Grand Sire, who will promptly forward a copy to the other European Grand Officers. The European Grand Officers will review the proposal, attach their comments, and forward it to the jurisdictions that will discuss the project and be ready to vote upon the proposal at the next meeting of the Board of Grand Sires.

3. The Grand Lodge of Europe authorizes the respective Jurisdiction to start and coordinate the project.

4. If a project requires immediate action, for instance in case of environmental catastrophes, earthquakes, etc., the European Grand Sire will implement immediate telecommunication with the jurisdictions for approval.

Article 10 Exchange of information

The Grand Lodge of Europe shall exchange information regarding matters of interest with The Sovereign Grand Lodge, The International Advisory Board and other bodies.

The jurisdictions within the sphere of The Grand Lodge of Europe shall inform the European Grand Sire about matters of general interest. Copies of such information, as well as information from The Sovereign Grand Lodge and other Grand Bodies, shall also be distributed to the jurisdictions.

CHAPTER 5 ORGANIZATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF EUROPE

CHAPTER 5.1 THE GRAND LODGE OF EUROPE MEETING

Article 11 The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting

1. The supreme authority of The Grand Lodge of Europe is the Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting. Within its geographical boundaries it disposes

of the absolute power to issue charters to jurisdictions as well as to withdraw them.

2. The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting shall be held every second year on a weekend in May or June. The session may be started either on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning by a ritualistic opening, continue on Saturday and, if necessary, be finished on Sunday and end by a ritualistic closing ceremony.

3. The Grand Lodge of Europe meeting shall convene in different jurisdictions every time. At the meetings of The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting each jurisdiction has two voting representatives, a brother and a sister. Jurisdictions decide autonomously who these are to be. The representatives must have been awarded the Honorary Degree of The Grand Lodge of Europe, the Degree of Wisdom. They carry together the number of votes as prescribed in Article 11 point 13 of the Constitution. The jurisdictions are entitled to decide by themselves how many of those votes each of their representatives will have. The European Grand Officers are not entitled to vote at The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting.

4. A Grand Sire who is elected as an European Grand Officer cannot be a representative of his/her jurisdiction.

5. All members of The Grand Lodge of Europe are entitled to participate in the Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting. The Grand Lodge of Europe pays only for the representatives.

6. The jurisdictions shall register their representatives in due time prior to The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting. Information regarding the registration of representatives and other participants is to be sent to the European Grand Secretary as soon as possible and at the latest on the specific mentioned date.

7. The European Grand Sire together with the European Grand Secretary has the right to invite special guests to the Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting.

8. The Order of Business shall include the following items:
   1. Ritualistic opening of the session
   2. Conferral of the Honorary Degree of The Grand Lodge of Europe, the Degree of Wisdom
   3. Necrology for deceased and prayer for sick members of The Grand Lodge of Europe
   4. Roll call and notification of votes
   5. Consideration of agenda
   6. Appointment of committees on special matters
   7. Consideration of the report of the Board of Grand Sires
   8. Consideration of the report of the Executive Committee
   9. Consideration of reports from the jurisdictions regarding changes of fundamental grade
   10. Consideration of reports from the jurisdictions and discussion on the reports
   11. Consideration of reports from the committees
   12. Presentation of audit report an approval of year end financial statements
   13. Consideration of proposals presented
   14. Election of the European Grand Sire, the European Grand Officers, the auditors and the members of the Committee for Legal Matters
   15. New business and miscellanea
   16. Decision on location for next session
   17. Ritualistic installation of the European Grand Sire and the European Grand Officers
   18. Ritualistic closing of the session.

9.The right to put forward items for the agenda of The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting has:
- the jurisdictions,
- the representatives,
- the European Grand Officers and
- the chairmen of the committees, on behalf of their committees, the items related to the specific committee work.

The proposals are to be sent to the European Grand Secretary at least on the 28th of February prior to The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting.

10. Each jurisdiction shall furnish reports on membership and special activities to the European Grand Secretary at least on the 28th of

February prior to The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting. Copies will be distributed to the jurisdictions by the European Grand Secretary.

11. A detailed agenda shall be established by the European Grand Sire and European Grand Secretary and sent to the jurisdictions at least on the 31st of March prior to the meeting.

12. Any deviation from the agenda, as confirmed at the beginning of the meeting, requires at least two-third majority.
13. At the Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting each jurisdiction has votes in accordance with the classification by the number of registered members at the end of the calendar year before the meeting as follows:

Number of members	Votes
<20 000	- 2
20 001-30 000	- 3
>30 001	- 4

14. Voting may be carried out by voting sign, unless a written voting is demanded by at least six representatives. All matters, except elections, must be decided by not less than two-third majority.

15. The minutes of the meeting at The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting will be distributed to the jurisdictions not later than on the 31st of August after the meeting.

16. Unsolved matters will be referred to the European Grand Sire for proper follow-up.

Article 12

Extraordinary Grand Lodge of Europe meeting on a written basis

If the European Grand Sire, with the support of the other elected European Grand Officers, finds it necessary to consider and decide on amendments to the law or promote other matters that are subject to

the authority of a Grand Lodge meeting, this can take place at an extraordinary Grand Lodge meeting on a written basis, by digital technology or by telephone.
A call for a GLE session in writing or virtual can also be made on request of at least half of the jurisdictions within the GLE.
Only questions of great importance or questions that cannot wait until the next GLE session can be put forward on a GLE session in writing or virtual.

When a decision is made of issuing a GLE session in writing or virtual, the European Grand Sire puts the questions and relevant background material forward to all of the jurisdictions who then have to vote on the suggestion.

CHAPTER 5.2 THE BOARD OF GRAND SIRES

Article 13 The Board of Grand Sires

1. Between The Grand Lodge of Europe Meetings the leadership of The Grand Lodge of Europe is the Board of Grand Sires.

2. The Grand Sires of the jurisdictions under the Grand Lodge of Europe are members of the Board of Grand Sires.

3. A jurisdiction may send whoever they want as representative to a board meeting provided that the representative has the authority and the mandate to make binding decisions for the jurisdiction she or he is representing.

The representative must be a member of The Grand Lodge of Europe.

Information regarding the appointment of a representative is to be sent to the European Grand Secretary as soon as possible.

4. The Chairmen of the committees have the right, on behalf of their committees to bring forward motions, bills, proposals and suggestions related to the specific committee work to the meetings of the Board of Grand Sires.

Article 14 Meetings of the Board of Grand Sires

1. The Board of Grand Sires should meet not less than twice a year.

2. A meeting of the Board of Grand Sires can be held either at the call of European Grand Sire or at least of half of the Grand Sires.

3. The European Grand Sire is chairman of the Board of the Grand Sires' meeting.

The Deputy European Grand Sire, the European Grand Secretary and the European Grand Treasurer are expected to participate in the meeting of the Board of the Grand Sires.

4. The European Grand Sire has to send invitations by letter or by digital means to all Grand Sires with no less than 30 days notice.

5. The following items are the exclusive authority of The Meeting of the Board of Grand Sires:

1. changing the allocation of the annual budget within the framework set by the Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting;
2. nomination of the European Grand Sire, the European Grand Officers and Members of the Committee for Legal Matters.

6. At the meetings of the Board of Grand Sires each jurisdiction has votes in accordance with the classification by the number of registered members at the end of the calendar year before the meeting as follows:

Number of members	Votes
<20 000	2
20 001-30 000	3
>30 001	4

7. The European Grand Officers are not entitled to vote at the meeting of the Board of Grand Sires.

8. Voting may be carried out by voting sign. All matters, except nominations, must be decided by not less than two-third majority.

CHAPTER 5.3 THE EUROPEAN GRAND OFFICERS

Article 15 The European Grand Officers

1. The Grand Lodge of Europe has the offices of European Grand Sire, Deputy European Grand Sire, European Grand Secretary and European Grand Treasurer.

The Deputy European Grand Sire shall be of the opposite gender than the European Grand Sire.

2. The Deputy European Grand Sire will assist the European Grand Sire in all matters and will assume his/her duties during his or her absence.

3. The European Grand Sire appoints other European Grand Officers pro tempore when needed.

Article 16 Eligibility of the European Grand Officers

1. In order to be elected as European Grand Officer, one must meet following qualification in their respective jurisdictions:

- The European Grand Sire must be Past Grand Sire.
- The Deputy European Grand Sire must be Past Grand Sire, Past Deputy Grand Sire or Past Rebekah Assembly President.
- The European Grand Secretary must be Past Grand Officer or Past Rebekah Assembly Officer.
- The European Grand Treasurer, must be Past Grand Officer or Past Rebekah Assembly Officer.

2. All elected Officers of The Grand Lodge of Europe have to have good knowledge of the English language.

Article 17 Election of the European Grand Officers

The European Grand Officers are elected for a period of two years and can be re-elected for the same office for one term only.

~~.and can be re-elected for the same office for one term only.~~

Article 18 Meeting of the Executive Committee

1. The elected European Grand Officers constitute the Executive Committee. Each European Grand Officer has one vote. In the Executive Committee voting takes place by majority. If votes are equal, the vote of the chairman is of overriding importance.

2. The meeting of the Executive Committee will convene when requested.

3. Under the leadership of the European Grand Sire the Meeting of the European Grand Officers administers current affairs of The Grand Lodge of Europe and plans, prepares and conducts The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting and other meetings.

4. Three European Grand Officers constitute a quorum.

5. The European Grand Sire and the European Grand Secretary will handle all matters arising between meetings of The Board of Grand Sires.

6. No decisions affecting a jurisdiction will be issued by the European Grand Sire or other European Grand Officer, but they will properly prepare proposals dealing with the matter and submit them to the jurisdictions for study prior to a meeting of The Board of Grand Sires.

7. The minutes of the Executive Committee will be distributed to the jurisdictions not later than five weeks after the meeting.

CHAPTER 5.4 COMMITTEES AND AUDITORS

Article 19 Committees

1. The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting shall elect the Chairman and the three members of the Committee for Legal Matters every second year at the regular meeting of The Grand Lodge of Europe.

2. The Board of Grand Sires can nominate other committees and ad-hoc committees when it is deemed necessary.

3. Eligible for these committees are the members of the Grand Lodge of Europe. Members of the Board of Grand Sires and the European Grand Officers are not eligible for these committees.

4. Election of members and Chairmen of committees takes place by voting sign, unless otherwise is requested by a Grand Sire.

5. The committees work for and report to the Meeting of the European Grand Officers.

Article 20 Auditors

1. The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting shall nominate and elect two auditors every second year at the regular meeting of The Grand Lodge of Europe.

2. Eligible as auditors are the members of the Grand Lodge of Europe. Members of the Board of Grand Sires and the European Grand Officers are not eligible as auditors

3. Election of the auditors takes place by voting sign.

4. The European Grand Treasurer's accounts shall be interim audited by the auditors and the audit report shall be handed over to the Grand Sires on behalf of the The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting not later than on the 28th of February prior to The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting.

CHAPTER 6 FINANCES

Article 21 Currency

The currency of The Grand Lodge of Europe is euro.

Article 22 Contributions

1. Each jurisdiction will have to pay an annual contribution to The Grand Lodge of Europe as determined by The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting every other year for a period of two years.

2. The annual contribution consists of two parts:

a. the basic contribution of not less than 1.500 euros, which is paid by each jurisdiction in equal parts

b. the supplementary contribution, which is paid by each jurisdiction in accordance with the formula

C = J/T x (A-B)

where:

C = the contribution of the national jurisdiction;

J = the amount of sisters and brothers in a national jurisdiction;

T = the amount of sisters and brothers of all European jurisdictions together;

A = the budget that is decided by the Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting;

B = the total basic contribution as referred to in this paragraph.

Article 23 Expenses

Expenses referring to the attendance of The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting are to be covered by The Grand Lodge of Europe for the two representatives of each jurisdiction. Expenses referring to the meetings

of the Board of Grand Sires, the Executive Committee, the committees and the auditors are to be covered by The Grand Lodge of Europe.

Article 24 Budget

1. The European Grand Treasurer will propose a draft for the new budget, which will be presented to the European Grand Officers not later than on the 28th of February prior to the meeting of The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting. Not later than on the 31st of March prior to the meeting of The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting the proposed budget along with the comments of the European Grand Officers shall be sent to the jurisdictions to be studied.

2. The budget shall include a detailed estimate of expenditure as well as the proposed contribution per jurisdiction.

3. After acceptance of the budget, payment of the contributions shall be made, prior to the 1st of September, to the office of the European Grand Treasurer.

4. The European Grand Treasurer shall close his books at the end of the calendar year and hand them over to the auditors not later than on the 31st of January prior to The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting.

CHAPTER 8 AMENDMENT

Article 25 Amendment

1. This Constitution may be amended by The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting.

2. Additions or amendments to this Constitution shall be presented to the European Grand Sire in writing.

3. In order to amend the Constitution there must be a vote in favour by majority of not less than two-third of the votes cast.

This Constitution was adopted by The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting in Reykjavik 2015 and amended by The Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting in Oslo 2017, in Copenhagen 2022, in Berlin 2024, in Stockholm 2026.

APPENDIX I INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Article 1 Name

The name of this body is the International Advisory Board of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Article 2 Membership

1. The International Advisory Board shall be composed of representatives of member bodies all with equal rank. Terms to run consecutive with elected term of office.

2. The member bodies are:

a. The Sovereign Grand Lodge I.O.O.F., represented by four (4) members: Sovereign Grand Master, Deputy Sovereign Grand Master, Sovereign Grand Warden and Sovereign Grand Secretary to be the Secretary of the Board.

b. International Association of Rebekah Assemblies I.O.O.F. represented by three (3) members: President, Vice President and Warden.

c. The Grand Lodge of Europe I.O.O.F. represented by three (3) members: European Grand Sire and two members of the Board of Grand Sires.

d. The Grand Lodge of Australasia I.O.O.F. represented by three (3) members: Grand Sire and Deputy Grand Sires.

e. Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity represented by two (2) members: Grand Master and Grand Secretary.

If any designated member is unable to attend, an alternate from the same body may be designated to attend.

Article 3 Cost of Representatives

The expenses of the Representatives to the Board shall be borne by their respective member body.

Article 4 Meetings

The Board shall meet on Saturday prior to, and at the site of, the Annual

Communications of The Sovereign Grand Lodge. Minutes of the meetings shall be entered into the final Journal of Proceedings of the SGL session and Grand Lodge of Europe Meeting, following such meeting.

Article 5 Purpose

The purpose of the International Advisory Board is to exchange ideas, discuss concerns and make recommendations to all worldwide bodies of Odd Fellowship. This body shall have no legislative authority