BECH-BRUUN

Law Firm
Langelinie Allé 35
2100 Copenhagen
Tel. +45 72 27 00 00
Fax +45 72 27 00 27

Our ref. 025026-0006 et/bmm

STATUTES
of
THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN FOUNDATION
OF SUPPORT TO HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

March 2026

I. Name, domicile and purposes

1.

The name of the Foundation is the

Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders.

The Foundation also carries out its activities under the sub-names mentioned below:

Menneskerettighedsfonden for Middelhavslandene (Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders) (The Human Rights Foundation for the Mediterranean Countries)

2.

The home base and domicile of the Foundation is in the City of Copenhagen. The venue of the Foundation is Copenhagen. The Foundation is based on Danish law.

3.

The purposes of the Foundation are

- to support human rights in the Euro-Mediterranean region with strategic financial assistance,

- to provide financial support to regional, national and local human rights NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations) and institutes as well as individuals who promote, support, protect and monitor the observance of human rights in the Euro-Mediterranean region, in particular

  -Urgent relief of human rights organisations or members of human rights organisations under pressure or attack
  -Funds to support initiatives the timing of which is crucial for their success
  -Funds to cover basic costs and activities of organisations and groups that work in countries where explicit support by foreign donors may endanger these vis-à-vis their own authorities
  -Funds to support innovative projects
  -Funds to build capacity of ongoing (often innovative) activities or the setting up of structures by individuals or organisations who

    - Have not yet gained mainstream donor recognition,
    - Do not have the capacity to maintain relations with these,
    - Work with issues that may be perceived too sensitive to receive main donors' support,
    - Fall outside mainstream donor categories, such as South human rights organisations in Diaspora working in support of human rights promotion and protection in their home country.

4.

The Foundation is founded by the Board of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN).

The Foundation will upon its creation carry out its activities independently of its founder, cf. Article 24.

II. Foundation capital

5.

The basic capital of the Foundation is DKK 300,000 (EUR 40,000), which is initially paid in cash by the following founders:

1. DANIDA (Danish International Development Agency), Copenhagen, Denmark

2. SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), Stockholm, Sweden

3. Utenriksdepartementet (the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs), Stockholm, Sweden

4. Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)
   c/o Dansk Center for Internationale Studier og Menneskerettighder, Strandgade 56
   1401 Copenhagen K, Denmark

5. Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies
   University of Malta, MSD 06 Msida, Malta

6. Swedish Refugee Aid (Swera)
   Kungstensgatan 5, 114 25 Stockholm, Sweden

The Foundation's funds shall be invested in accordance with the statutory rules for the investment of foundation assets.

III. Foundation profit

6.

The annual income with addition of any amounts carried forward from the preceding financial year and deduction of administrative costs shall be distributed in accordance with Article 3.

The Board shall aim to ensure that the annual income with deductions as provided above is distributed not later than in the year following the financial year in which the income is received. The Board may, however, in consideration of the purpose stipulated in Article 3 allocate funds for distribution in a later year.

IV. The Board and the Management

7.

The highest authority of the Foundation is the Board.

The Board consists of twelve members.
In case of retirement, the Board shall have power to elect new member(s) of the Board.

8.

Out of these 12 board members at least 5 members shall at all times be citizens of non-EU member countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region, and other 5 shall at all times be EU citizens residents in the EU.

At least one member of the board shall at all times be resident in Denmark

The President and a Vice-President shall be elected by the Board from among its own number. The President may be elected among the non-EU citizens or among the EU citizens.

The members of the Board are elected for a term of six years. Retiring members are eligible for re-election.

No more than two members of the Board may at any time be members of the Executive Committee of the Founder.

9.

If a member of the Board retires within his or her term in office, the other remaining Board members shall elect a new member for the remaining term. In the event that the President or the Vice-President retires before the end of his or her office, the Board shall elect a new President or Vice-President from among its own number.

10.

Board meetings shall be convened by the President. Any member of the Board and the President of the Foundation may request a Board meeting. Board meetings shall, as far as possible, be convened by not less than thirty [30] days' written notice accompanied by the agenda for the meeting. The Board shall meet regularly whenever necessary.

11.

The Board holds an annual meeting before the end of May every year with the following agenda:

1. Adoption of a report for the previous year

2. Adoption of the audited annual report for the previous year

3. Election of new members or re-election of previous members of the Board (in the years that election is on the agenda)

4. Election of an auditor for the next year

5. Other business

12.

The Board forms a quorum when at least half of all members are present.

Resolutions made at Board meetings shall be passed by simple majority of the Board members present at the meeting. In case of equality of votes, the President – or in his or her absence the Vice-President - shall have a casting vote.

The Board shall lay down its own rules of procedure.

13.

The business transacted at Board meetings shall be recorded in minutes to be signed by all members present at the meeting.

14.

The Board is entitled to appoint advisory committees for the performance of special tasks.

15.

The Board may appoint an Executive Director.

16.

The headquarters of the Foundation shall at all times be located in Denmark.

The Foundation may set up foreign branches, including special contractual institutions under Islamic law called *Wa'qf*, in the Euro-Mediterranean region to assist the Foundation in the realisation of its purposes.

Resolutions concerning the setting up or closing down of such branches shall be made by the Board, who shall also lay down guidelines for the organisation and operations of such branches. The foreign branches - or the Wa'qfs - may have venue in their home countries for matters relating to them.

17.

The Foundation shall be bound by the joint signatures of four Board members, or by the joint signatures of the Executive Director and a member of the Board.

The Board may grant power of procuration.

V. Annual report and audit

18.

The financial year of the Foundation shall be the calendar year.

The initial financial year shall run from the establishment of the Foundation until 31 December 2005.

19.

The annual report shall be prepared for every financial year, consisting of balance sheet, profit and loss account and notes as well as management's report.

The Board shall set up a website for the Foundation on which the annual report may be published.

20.

The annual report of the Foundation shall be audited by a Danish state-authorised public accountant appointed by the Board.

VI. Amendments to Statutes

21.

The Statutes may be amended if so decided by the Board of the Foundation by simple majority.

Amendments to the Foundation's purposes require adoption by at least 3/4 of all members of the Board.

The Board is by the majority of 3/4 of its members authorised to dissolve the Foundation, if such dissolution is deemed expedient and in accordance with the purpose of the Foundation.

22.

Amendments to the Statutes or dissolution of the Foundation shall be subject to approval by the Civilstyrelsen.

23.

In case of dissolution of the Foundation, the assets of the Foundation shall be distributed in accordance with the purposes of the Foundation.

Any remaining amount may be distributed to foundations or associations whose purposes are comparable to those of the Foundation and who are domiciled in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The funds of the Foundation shall at no time - not even in case of dissolution of the Foundation - be repayable to the founder, and the funds may not be lent to the founder, either. The founder or others shall have no special advantages whatsoever. The founder cannot be granted benefits from the Foundation.

24.

As adopted and signed at the founding meeting on 26 November 2004, amended at the Board meeting in Madrid on 14 May 2006, further amended at the Board meeting in Marrakech 28-29 March 2009 and further amended at the Board meeting on 19 March 2026.

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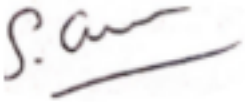
Above changes were decided during the Board meeting on 19 March 2026 on the condition of approval from the Danish civil authorities (Civilstyrelsen).

The Board of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders:

Malek Kefif	Ziad Abdeltawab	Kamel Jendoubi
		
Hanny Megally	Sara Guillet	Marc Schade Poulsen
		
Habib S. Nassar	Lynn Welchman	Leila Rhiwi
		
Maria Al Abdeh	Brigitte M. Herremans	Said Benarbia
		