

# **Statutes of the “Youth Parliament Swiss Abroad”**

*Youth Parliament Swiss Abroad (YPSA)*  
*Auslandschweizer Jugendparlament (ASJP)*  
*Parliament des Jeunes Suisses de l’Etranger (PJSE)*  
*Parlamento dei Giovani Svizzeri all’Estero (PGSE)*

## **I. Bases**

### **Art. 1: Name and offices**

An association under Art. 60 et seq. Swiss Civil Code (ZGB) with the name “Youth Parliament Swiss Abroad (YPSA)” has been founded, with offices in Bern.

### **Art. 2: Objective and purpose**

The association is dedicated to the concerns of young Swiss Abroad and seeks to encourage their political education and their participation in and contribution to the political process as well as the societal issues facing young Swiss Abroad.

For this purpose, the association takes the following actions:

- a. It operates an active youth politics movement and encourages young Swiss people living abroad to contribute and participate in politics.
- b. It supports and carries out projects within the limits of its own budget.
- c. It takes a position on political issues relevant to young people and is available as a contact for various Swiss Abroad organisations and the public on matters of youth politics.
- d. It is committed to active cooperation between generations.

The association is independent of any political party.

## **II. Membership**

### **Art. 3: Members**

Eligible for membership are all young adults holding Swiss citizenship and who live abroad or have spent at least 10 years of their lives abroad. They must also be at least in the calendar year of their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday, and shall remain eligible for membership until the end of the calendar year of their 35<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Board may decide on founded exceptions to the conditions of Art. 3.

### **Art. 4: Honorary members**

The General Assembly may make former members honorary members of the association. Honorary members do not have any special obligations or rights.

### **Art. 5: Admission**

Applications for admission must be submitted to the Board in written or verbal form.

The Board accepts applications for admission without reservation unless serious grounds against admission are presented.

The Board shall decide by a simple majority whether the submitted reasons justify refusing the admission of a new member and notify the latter of its decision.

### **Art. 6: Termination**

Membership may be terminated:

- a. Automatically at the end of the calendar year of the member's 35<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- b. Via notification of the Board by the member.
- c. By founded exclusion, on serious grounds or for a longer period of inactivity, by a plenary session.

### **III. Bodies**

#### **Art. 7: Bodies**

The association has the following bodies:

- a. Plenary session
- b. Board
- c. Audit office

#### **Art. 8: Plenary session**

The association's uppermost body is the plenary session.

The plenary session includes all members of the Youth Parliament.

The plenary session's responsibilities and competencies include the following:

- a. Amendments to the statutes
- b. Processing of applications
- c. Creation of working groups
- d. Establishing positions on political topics subject to the restrictions of Art. 2
- e. Granting of financial support in excess of 3,000 CHF to working groups
- f. Further tasks to be defined by the plenary session
- g. Approval of the accounts
- h. Approval of the biannual report
- i. Election of the Board
- j. Selection of the auditing office
- k. Setting of the budget for the subsequent period

The regular plenary session is convoked by the Board a minimum of once per biannual period. The plenary session is open to the public.

1/5 of members may require the convocation of an extraordinary plenary session.

Invitations to the plenary session must be issued by the Board in writing along with the agenda a minimum of 30 days prior to the date of the plenary session.

Proposals and candidacies from members must be received by the Board a minimum of 15 days before the plenary session.

The plenary session may also address proposals and candidacies not received in due time. These require the support of a 2/3 majority of members in attendance to be added to the agenda.

Simple resolutions and elections require a simple majority.

Amendments to the statutes require a majority of 2/3 of members in attendance.

## **Art. 9: Board**

The Board consists of a minimum of four and a maximum of thirteen members.

The term of office of a member of the Board is two years. There is no limit to the number of terms a member may serve.

The Board consists of one guaranteed seat each for members of the Board resident in Europe, North America, South America, Asia, Africa and Oceania. One further seat is guaranteed for a member of the Board resident in Switzerland. If no candidate from a given region or from Switzerland stands for election, the relevant seat is no longer guaranteed to the region/circumscription and it shall be made available to all other candidates.

The Board shall form itself. The posts of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary must be filled in any case, while the Board may decide on any further portfolios.

The Board shall be responsible for all matters which are not included in the competencies of another body.

The tasks of the individual members are defined by the Board.

The Board meets a minimum of once every two months for a board meeting (BM).

Board meetings are called by the President. They may also be requested by a majority of the members of the Board.

The Board shall be considered to have a quorum when at least three members are present. Board resolutions require a simple majority. In the event of a tied vote the President shall have the deciding vote.

## **Art. 10: Audit**

The regular plenary session selects an auditor to examine the Treasurer's accounts. He then reports to the next regular plenary session and asks for the accounts to be approved.

## **IV. Finances and miscellaneous**

### **Art. 11: Assets**

The association primarily finances itself via public subsidies, donations and other contributions.

The assets of the association shall be solely liable for the association's obligations. Any liability on the part of the members is excluded.

In the event of the dissolution of the association, any remaining assets shall be transfer back to Organisation of the Swiss Abroad OSA for the support of future activities for young Swiss abroad.

## **V. Working Groups**

### **Art. 12: Working group**

Working groups are created to carry out projects or individual matters.

Members of the Youth Parliament Swiss Abroad may participate in all working groups, given the approval of the Committee.

The working groups may decide themselves whether they wish to involve young people who are not members of the Youth Parliament.

The working group shall organise itself, but is obliged to report to the Board and the plenary session.

## **VI. Miscellaneous**

### **Art. 13: Miscellaneous**

While the masculine form has been used throughout these statutes for purposes of legibility, both genders are naturally always meant.

This statute was discussed and approved at the general assembly of the Youth Parliament on August 15<sup>th</sup> 2015 in Geneva, and ratified by the Board on November 29<sup>th</sup> 2015.

President

Davide Wüthrich



Vice-President

Lis Zandberg



Secretary

Ryan Cooper



Treasurer

Guido D'Auria



Member of the Board

Najib Bourkhis




Member of the Board

Samuel Melville Cremieux



Member of the Board

Laura Derrer



Member of the Board

Francisca Espinoza



Member of the Board

Timothy Forman



Member of the Board

Wanja Kaufmann



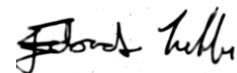
Member of the Board

Marie Lingl



Member of the Board

Edoardo Trebbi



Member of the Board

Michael Valente

