



Cultural route  
of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraire culturel  
du Conseil de l'Europe



# STATUTE

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CULTURAL FOUNDATION  
ROUTES OF THE OLIVE TREE

**KALAMATA 2019**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Considering:

That the olive tree has been advocating nobler ideals and has been symbolizing peace, fertility, serenity and prosperity, for centuries.

That its history and culture, that is part of Mediterranean culture, are common to all the peoples round Mediterranean and furthermore the nutritional value, of its products, is uniquely beneficial to all peoples of the world.

That in recent years there has been a significant upward trend in demand for olive oil products, and all Mediterranean products in general, in major international markets and in Mediterranean lifestyle preference. Olive cultivation determines the standard of living of thousands of families, who are completely dependent on the measures, taken to promote the product, and that olive cultivation and production, is extremely important, to the economy of many Mediterranean countries.

That the Mediterranean, once the Center of the world, returns to the spotlight, and becomes a pole of attraction through "Mediterranean civilization".

That the Mediterranean area, which is characterized by cultural diversity, is in dire need of basic connective material, such as the "olive tree civilization", which will alleviate inequalities in our "neighbourhood" and open up «new possibilities" to the "Mediterranean civilization, reinforcing multiculturalism.

That "commerce once promoted culture, today culture promotes commerce"

It is unanimously decided to establish a non-profit-making company within the meaning of Articles 741 et seq. of the Civil Code, the Statute of which shall govern the organization and operation of the Cultural Foundation under the name "THE ROUTES OF THE OLIVE TREE". Conditions for the implementation of all relevant activities, to be carried out in accordance with the objectives of the company.

### **Article 1 ESTABLISHMENT, CORPORATE NAME**

A non-profit civil partnership is established under Articles 741 et al. of the Greek Civil Code, under the name of "Cultural Foundation "The Routes of the Olive Tree". The partnership will also be able to use its name in Latin or in the translation of "The Routes of the Olive Tree" or " Routes of the Olive Tree" (in English), "Les Routes de l'Olivier" (in French). The Company's distinctive title is OTRoutes Network.

### **Article 2 SEATS**

1. The organisation is seated in Kalamata, Greece
2. The Board of Directors of the Foundation, may approve the establishment and

operation of more branches or offices of the Foundation, with a view, to enhancing or disseminating its work, to other cities of Greece or abroad, and appointing its representatives therein without amending the present Statute.

### **Article 3 Role - Purpose**

**A) The role of the Cultural Foundation** "The Roots of the Olive Tree" is to develop and manage a network, in various countries, and to contribute to the sustainable development of areas. In particular, to the broader Mediterranean, through the promotion of Olive Tree civilization, in all its expressions (history, traditions, products, gastronomy, symbolism), as well as, other relevant aspects of Mediterranean civilization. In this context the foundation:

1. Seeks to foster intercultural dialogue, through an international network, including Chambers of Commerce, Universities, Research Centres, Civil Partnership Foundations and solidary economy actors.
2. Generates documentation and plans international cultural itineraries and awareness-raising actions, in cooperation with an international Scientific committee and other actors, depending on the specific needs and conditions.

**B) Concretely, the objectives of the Cultural Foundation are:**

1. to promote the Olive Tree symbolism and its tangible and intangible cultural heritage, a connective element in Europe and the Mediterranean since prehistoric times and integral part of Southern Europe's cultural heritage
2. to contribute towards sustainable and integrated development in olive growing regions, by means of innovative proposals on thematic-cultural tourism
3. to promote, on an international level, the historically proven benefits of olive products and the role of the Olive Tree in arts, customs, traditions and the evolution of local communities and economies since antiquity.
4. to internationally valorise and raise awareness on the Mediterranean and Greek nutrition, by means of innovative sustainable ideas and to promote the Mediterranean as a gastronomic destination
5. to participate in the formulation and implementation of innovative proposals of cultural tourism for all target groups, in cooperation with tourism actors and stakeholders, to the benefit of local sustainable development.
6. to contribute to the diffusion of related know-how connected by the means of educational programmes and information activities
7. to enhance intercultural dialogue, to the benefit of local sustainable development in the broader Euro-Mediterranean

8. to defend cultural diversity and bring forward the concept that cultural heritage does not belong to us, but it has been entrusted to us, in order to protect its uniqueness and dynamics for next generations

9. to contribute to the economic, social and territorial cohesion and solidarity among the Eurozone member states, with respect to Europe's values and cultural heritage, as well as people's identity and history

10. to support and/or participate in activist initiatives in favour of sustainable development, peace and well-being around the Mediterranean.

**C)** Within its scope and for the achievement of its objectives, especially with reference to international cooperation, the Foundation may also:

- organise and participate in educational and artistic events and activities around the Olive Tree, such as conferences, information days, seminars, competitions, exhibitions etc., with the aim of connecting olive products and other traditional Mediterranean products with their history, civilisation and sustainable development.

- to study and produce material which can be printable and non-printable about the Olive Tree and its civilisation, and also organise activities on the Olive Tree world, environment, innovation etc.

- to organise national and international itineraries in order to contact with the Olive Tree civilisation and landscapes, getting starting from Greece and the Mediterranean.

- to pursue international collaborations with reliable actors (local authorities, civil Partnerships, societies, local development agencies, university networks, Agricultural cooperatives, private actors etc.) in developing countries, with the Objective to improve life quality of their inhabitants and combat poverty, cover urgent humanitarian aid and promote development in all sectors.

- to pursue and assume implementation of EU-funded and other projects related to its objectives, namely human rights, social care and welfare, education, environment, gender equality, culture, improvement of living and education

- to participate Standards and advancement of the partnership in general.

- join partnerships, whenever considered necessary for the achievement of its objectives.

- participate in initiatives with similar objectives led by other actors, legal persons of private right, civil societies or companies of any form and social cooperatives regulated by Greek and European laws.

**D)** Special focus shall be given to the implementation of sustainable actions and projects led by civil partnership actors - especially NGOs – which aim at generating income for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged population groups, promoting access of women to local development initiatives and attribution of project benefits and management by local societies

## **Article 4 SYMBOLS**

The symbols represent, the Olive Tree civilisation and the Mediterranean of peace, development, and social well-being.

Description:

A. SIGN The « Routes of the Olive Tree» sign is the olive tree ideogram, concretely the olive tree depiction on the Linear B' plates discovered in Nestor's palace in Pylos, Messinia, Greece.

B. EMBLEM The «Routes of the Olive Tree» emblem, is taken from an olive harvesting scene on a 520 b.C amphora, which was discovered in Pylos, Messinia, and now is at the British Museum: a boy perched on the tallest of three olive trees, and two men, on the ground, are whipping the branches with a stick, while, another boy, is picking the olives, and piles them in his basket. Copyrights: the use of the abovementioned symbols is an exclusive right of the Cultural Foundation « The Routes of the Olive Tree».

## **Article 5 STRUCTURE - OPERATION - DURATION**

### **Legal status**

1. The Cultural foundation «The Routes of the Olive Tree» is a nongovernmental non-profit Foundation and it has the legal form of non-profit civil partnership.
2. The resolutions taken pursuant to the provisions of the present Statute are definite. Exclusively the Board of Directors shall resolve any disagreement, regarding their interpretation or application.
3. In the light of the above and pursuant to the Art. 784 of the Greek Civil code, the partnership is a non-profit legal person and the liability of its members for its debts is limited to the amount of their contribution.

## **Article 6 MEMBERS**

### **1. Election, appointment and position of members**

The members of the Partnership may be natural or legal persons (foundations, associations, civil non-profit societies, etc.) active or interested in sustainable development, cooperation for development, cultural management, intercultural dialogue, environmental protection.

### **2. Member categories**

The members are categorized at FOUNDING MEMBERS, HONORARY & EX OFFICIO MEMBERS, REGULAR MEMBERS, CO-TRAVELERS, SUPPORTING MEMBERS, and ASSOCIATED MEMBERS.

**(a) Founding members**

As founding members are considered those, who sign the Statute establishing the Cultural Foundation and their participation gave impetus to the launch of this pioneering initiative. The founding members enjoy all the privileges, and the annual subscription, they are required to pay, is set out, in the Rules of Procedure. They may represent the Agency in Greece and abroad, they are kept informed and prioritized of the Agency's actions, they are invited to participate in the General Meeting, having the right to vote. Founding members also considered those, subsequently registered, by unanimous decision of the already established founding members, in accordance with the terms of this Statute.

**(b) Honorary Members:**

The category of Honorary Members includes representatives of entities - regardless of size or legal form - and natural persons, who have been distinguished, for their contribution or action, at local, regional, national or international level, and they contribute, to the achievement and promotion of the objectives of the Network, and also for promoting or succeeding goals of the foundation's activities. Honorary members are active in areas such as intercultural dialogue, olive-growing, cultural tourism, cultural heritage (tangible and intangible), environmental protection and traditional know-how, of the rural world, sustainable development, etc. Honorary members and Honorary President are appointed by decision of the Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Executive Director, they participate in the Sessions, express an opinion, and are not entitled to vote.

**(c) Ex officio members**

Ex officio members are public non-profit institutions of national or international scope, with an object of activity, related to the activities of the Foundation. Ex officio members can also be the representatives of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, the ambassadors of the Mediterranean countries in Greece, and others, as analysed in the By-laws. The Honorary and ex officio members are not obliged to pay an annual contribution. They are invited to attend the members' General Assembly without a voting right, and can express their opinion, which is recorded in the minutes.

**(d) Regular members**

The Supporting Members or Co-travellers may submit a written request to the Executive Office to become regular members 2 years after the date of their registration approval. The registration of a supporting member or a Co-traveller, as a regular member is decided by the Board of Directors, at the suggestion Executive Director, without modification of the present Statute. Regular members

enjoy all member privileges. Their annual contribution is fixed by the By-laws. They receive regular and priority information regarding the Foundation's activities and attend the General Assembly with voting right.

**(e) Fellow-travellers**

Fellow-travellers can be legal or natural persons that agree with the Foundation's objectives, and they wish to contribute to their achievement. Fellow-traveller status is acquired upon recommendation of the Executive Director, to the Board of Directors, which decides, on the request of the person concerned, without the need to amend this Statute. The Fellow-traveller pays an annual subscription, enjoys certain privileges, is informed of the Foundation's actions, participates in the General Conventions, but does not have the right to vote.

**(f) Supporting members**

Supporting members can become businesses and entities speculative in accordance with the objectives of the Foundation and wish to either support its actions or participate in them. In order to be a supporting member is acquired following a positive recommendation from the Executive Director, to the Board of Directors, which decides, on the request of the person concerned, without an amendment to this Statute. The supporting members, enjoy the privileges and pay annual subscriptions, participate in General Conventions without the right to vote.

**(g) Associated Members**

The category of affiliated members includes structures of any size or legal form (natural persons without legal form, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, cooperatives, non-profit cultural organizations, etc.) whose main activity or object of interest is history, traditions and culture of the Olive and the Mediterranean region, traditional products and terroir products. The connected members are the points of reference and interest of the "Routes of the Olive Tree". For membership as an associated member of the Network of "Routes of the Olive Tree", the sustainability criteria set out in the "By-laws" must be met. Associated members do not pay an annual subscription and their membership in the Network is reviewed every three years.

**2. Rights & Obligations:**

Membership premises acceptance of these Articles of Association. Each member of the "Routes of the Olive Tree" Network, enjoys privileges, depending on the category, to which they belong and that are specified in the By-laws, and has the following duties: To contribute to the dissemination of ideas and the achievement of the goals of the "Routes of the Olive Tree" Network ». Attend activities, participate in them and contribute to their success. Cooperate with the Scientific Committee to

implement actions, if necessary and proposed to the member. Submit to the Executive Office's written proposals for new actions or improvement of existing actions. Inform the Executive Office of events that may interfere with the proper functioning or adversely affect the image of the Network.

### **3. Termination of Membership:**

Any member of the Routes of the Olive Tree Network may terminate his participation at any time by submitting a written resignation to the Executive Director without being entitled to a refund of the annual subscription he has paid.

Any member of the Network may be expelled by decision of the Board of Directors of the Network in the event that he neglects or knowingly endangers the interests of the Foundation or Network or his acts or fails to do so in any way prejudicial to the purposes and aims of the Network.

Decisions to expel members are made by the absolute majority of the Board members.

## **Article 7 GOVERNING BODIES**

### **A) GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **B) BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **C) EXECUTIVE BUREAU**

### **A) GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**1.** The General Assembly is composed of the Foundation's founding and regular members. It meets in ordinary session at least once per year. An extraordinary session may be held by reasoned decision of the Executive Director or the Board of Directors, or at the written request of at least one-third of the members addressed to the Board of Directors and mentioning the topics for discussion.

**2.** The venue and time of the General Assembly – ordinary or extraordinary – is determined by the Executive Director, who notifies the members at least ten (10) days in advance by the most effective means (fax, email, social networks, website). The meeting notice-invitation to members may set a date, time, and place for a repeat of a G.A. if the required quorum is not met.

**3.** The General Assembly is validly constituted with the presence of half plus one members with voting rights who have fulfilled their financial obligations. The second General Assembly meets validly regardless of the number of members present. The members who have fulfilled their financial obligations may participate in the Assembly in person or by a proxy carrying a written authorisation. All the resolutions of the General Assembly are taken by open vote (by roll call or show of hands), unless a secret vote is requested by at least one third of the present members.



4. The General Assembly is the Foundation's supreme body and its resolutions are definite.

5. The General Assembly has the following responsibilities:

(a) To adopt, amend and interpret the statute.

(b) To select the members of the new Board of Directors.

(c) To approve the annual accounts and release the Board members from any liability

(d) To approve, reject or amend the proposals submitted by the Executive Director regarding the Foundation's principles, structure and operation.

(e) To decide on the dissolution and liquidation of the Foundation

6. The General Assembly decides upon issues that do not lie within the competence of another body.

7. The General Assembly's agenda includes validation of the Foundation's annual work report, planning of the following year's activities and establishment of budget.

#### **(B) THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of eleven (11) members, namely (a) the President, who shall be a person of international standing and shall have no executive powers; (b) four (4) Vice-Presidents. (A) The Vice-President shall be appointed is the ex officio of the Central Union of Chambers of Greece in due time, while the other Vice-Presidents shall come from different Member States of the Network and shall replace the President in the event of his or her being unable to attend; (c) the Secretary-General; (d) the Special Secretary, (e) the Treasurer-Financial Supervisor, (f) the Deputy Treasurer and (g) two members.

2. The President and the members of the Board of Directors shall be nominated by decision of the outgoing (last) Board of Directors following a recommendation by the Executive Director from nominations submitted to him. The General Session makes their final election.

3. The term of office of the Board of Directors shall be four years. Members of the Board of Directors shall begin their term of office after the end of the term of office of the previous Board of Directors.

4. In the event of a vacancy in the institutions of the Network, a new member shall be elected to replace the departed Board of Directors at its first meeting. The elected member shall remain in office until the end of the term of office in which he was elected.

5. Members of the Board of Directors may participate in committees and shall be reimbursed for any work they undertake in the context of European / national or other activities carried out by the Network.

6. The Board of Directors shall have the following duties:

- (a) Supervises compliance with «by-laws»
- (b) Approves any proposal for an amendment to the Statute or other regulation and submit its opinion to the General Meeting.
- (c) Decides and approves the names of all those proposed by the Executive Director to be elected to the Board of Directors and for any other position on the Network's bodies and the Scientific Committee.
- (d) Appoints and replaces the “Ambassadors” of the Network upon recommendation of the Executive Director.
- (e) Elects the Honorary President and Honorary Members of the Network.
- (f) Approves the establishment of branches / offices of the Network in Greece and abroad based on a reasoned recommendation by the Executive Director.
- (g) Decides on the establishment of a company of any legal form and on the participation of the Foundation in partnerships and joint ventures, when it serves its purposes.
- (h) Approves the program of activities.
- (i) Decides on the registration of new members or the removal, as well as the deletion of a member.
- (j) May replace a member of the Board of Directors who is absent without justification for five consecutive Board meetings.

### **C) THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU:**

The Executive Bureau consists of the Executive Director and special partners with the following responsibilities: International Relations, European & National Programs, computer science, New Technologies, Multimedia, Communication, Information, Secretariat, Member Network, Human Resources and Volunteer Management, Volunteer and Volunteerism, Legal presence and information, in order to achieve the objectives of the Network, more effectively, in accordance with the Regulations and procedures, established by the Board of Directors.

### **Article 8 ETHICAL COMMITTEE – PENALTIES**

The penalties that the Board may decide to impose on the Members of the Network, as they endanger the interests of the Foundation/Network, are:

- a. simple reproach
- b. expulsion announced for a specified period by the Board of Directors.

## **Article 9 NETWORK. MEDITERRANEAN ATTACHES / COORDINATORS**

1. The «Routes of the Olive Tree» network has a major role in pursuing the Foundation's objectives. It allows synergies with and among institutions, CSOs etc., encourages share of know-how, ideas and proposals, promotes multisectoral cooperation in the involved regions or countries, contributing to the valorisation of their comparative advantages and promoting the perspective of sustainable development through intercultural dialogue, on equal terms.
  2. The Network has an international status and focuses on the active representation and participation of all the Mediterranean countries.
  3. The Network is composed of the members of the Foundation (public and private legal persons, CSOs etc.), who are active in the broader Euro-Mediterranean region and have signed an Agreement of Cooperation or have expressed in writing or in actions their support to and engagement in the achievement of the common target: the valorisation of the Olive Tree Mediterranean civilisation, to the benefit of all involved parts and regions.
  4. The Network's composition is not rigid and may be modified depending on the given conditions, the Foundation's objectives and action plan, as well as the Availability of its members.
  5. Due to the international nature of the "Routes of the olive tree" its operation, implementation and extension, are facilitated by the institution of "Ambassadors" (local coordinators). The Ambassadors disseminate and promote the aims and principles of the Network in their area of responsibility, actively participate in the organization of cultural routes and other actions, and ensure the wide representation of their countries / regions in the activities of the Network. The Ambassadors submit proposals to the Executive Bureau regarding the Network, Cultural Routes and other actions, including their organization and inform, the Executive Bureau, of matters relating to their area of responsibility.
- The Executive Director of the Board of Directors, who makes the relevant decision on his appointment, nominates the «Ambassador». The term of office of the Ambassador is four (4) years and may be renewed.

## **Article 10 MEETING PROCEDURE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. The Board of Directors shall be convened at the invitation of the Executive Director or at the written request of 1/3 of its members. The President chairs the meetings of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors meeting has a quorum, when six (6) members are present. If the above quorum is not present, the meeting shall be repeated within three (3) days, and then we have a quorum regardless of the number of members present.
2. Decisions shall be taken by a majority of the members entitled to vote. Each

member is entitled to one vote. Each member has the right to one representation and therefore one more vote. In the event of a tie, the President shall decide.

3. The meeting may take the form of a regular meeting or a telephone meeting or conference call.

4. In the event of an extraordinary meeting of the Board of Directors, the Executive Director shall invite the members by letter or fax or E-mail.

5. Residents outside Greece and ambassadors who are unable to attend can send their views on the Agenda items electronically.

### **Article 11 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

The official languages of the Cultural Foundation "The Routes of the Olive Tree" are the French, English and Greek languages.

### **Article 12 RESOURCES - REVENUE - TRANSPARENCY**

1. The Foundation shall be constituted without initial capital.

2. At the first meeting by unanimity, the contribution of each member shall be determined, and by simple majority the criteria for the distribution of shares to the members. In addition to monetary contributions, members have the right to contribute in kind / intangible assets (e.g. free building concessions, secretarial support and any kind of offer that serves to implement the Network's actions and initiatives without consideration).

3. Other resources of the Foundation are from membership contributions, participation in cultural events, sponsorships, grants, grants, donations, all kinds of benefits and funding, gifts and bequests, and other legitimate sources that give to the Foundation the opportunity, to accomplish its purposes. .

4. The financial management of the Agency shall be subject to annual independent review and regular review by the Council of Europe. The relevant annual financial statement must be completed in time, before the Ordinary General Assembly and be publicly available, as the current Articles of Association must be publicly available, a summary of the General Assembly's records and lists of Network intergovernmental bodies.

### **Article 13 CULTURAL ITINERARIES**

The Board of Directors shall decide upon any request to register a point of interest (Associated Member) on the route, or to the create a new (local) route, or to integrate an existing (local) route on the Cultural Route of the Olive Tree, who in turn, reports to the Board of Directors at their next meeting. Requests must be addressed in writing or electronically, to the Executive Office of the Agency, with all accompanying information as set out in the by-laws.

## **Article 14 LIABILITY OF CIVIL PARTNERSHIP – MEMBERS**

The Company is not responsible for any business related or similar activity of its members, outside of its business activity, professional or prior to its establishment or at the same time as its operation. The members of the company are not liable for any debts or other liabilities of the company to third parties beyond the amount of their contribution, which is deposited and is an asset of the company.

## **Article 15 ASSETS – CAPITAL**

The Cultural foundation «The Routes of the Olive Tree» is non-profit. Subsequently, the Foundation's capitals and any profit during its operation or Dissolution are not distributed to its members, but are used for the achievement of its objectives throughout its operation.

## **Article 16 TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

### **A. Dissolution of the Foundation:**

1. It shall be made on the recommendation of the Executive Director to the Board of Directors, which shall inform the economically fit members, convening a meeting of the members, which shall decide unanimously.
2. Following the dissolution of the Foundation, it shall be automatically liquidated in accordance with the relevant Greek laws. The duties of the liquidator are set by the Board of Directors. In this case, all the burden-free assets are transferred to a body decided by the Board of Directors.

### **B. Outgoing or Deleted Members:**

1. An outgoing or deleted member may not claim any amount of property of the Network arising out of its activity, third party benefits, grants or any other cause.
2. In the event of death, legal prohibition or bankruptcy, the Foundation and the Network shall continue among the others.

### **C. Termination of the Agency (Network):**

1. In case of complaint by one member, the company shall continue among the others. If the complaint is made without significant cause, the member making the complaint shall be obliged to compensate the Agency and the Network for any damage caused by its complaint.
2. The Board of Directors, following a decision taken by a two-thirds majority of the total number of members present, may remove its member if this interferes with or disrupts the work and purposes of the Network.

**Article 17**  
**ADMINISTRATION – EXECUTIVE OFFICE – DUTIES OF**  
**PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR– SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

**A. ADMINISTRATION:**

The Board of Directors, appointed by the General Assembly of September 21, 2019, has a term of four (4) years and is responsible for the implementation of the objectives of the Network, the implementation of cultural routes and other activities and the activation of this Statute becomes as follows:

1. President: Eduard DE LAUBRIE, Member of the Museum of European and Mediterranean Culture / MUCEM, Honorary Member of the Network (France)
2. First Vice-President: Mr. Panagiotis AGNIADIS, Secretary General of the Central Union of Chambers of Greece (Greece)
3. Second Vice-President: Branco AZESKI, President of the Economic Chamber of Northern Macedonia (Northern Macedonia)
4. Third Vice-President: Dr Nouredine OUAZZANI, Director Agropole Olivier (Morocco)
5. Vice President: Liliane MOKBEL, Communications Advisor, Marketinh (Lebanon)
6. Secretary-General: Marinella Katsilieri, Dr of the History of Cultures, Ethnologist
7. Special Secretary: Olga MEZERIDOU, OSD General Counsel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece (Greece)
8. Treasurer-Financial Supervisor: Marghetita BOVICELLI, Honorary Consul of Italy in Southern Greece, olive grower, entrepreneur
9. Deputy Treasurer - Financial Supervisor: George KAPERONIS, olive grower, businessman, member of the BoD Chamber of Messina
10. Member: Dimitris SKIAS, agronomist technologist
11. Member: Vassilis BARBARESOS, Thematic Tourism Advisor

For the position of the Executive Director of “The Routes of the Olive Tree” initiative, Mr. George Karabatos, is appointed, whose term of office ends with the unanimous decision of the General Meeting.

**B) THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE:**

The Executive Bureau consists of the Executive Director and special partners with the following responsibilities: International Relations, European & National Programs, Information Technology, New Technologies, Multimedia, Communication Information, Secretariat, Member Network, Human Resources and Volunteer Management, Volunteer and Volunteerism Legal presence and information, in order to achieve the objectives of the Network more effectively, in accordance with the Regulations and procedures established by the Board of Directors.

## **C) THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:**

### Composition & duration

1. The Scientific Committee of the Foundation shall consist of accredited scientists with specialty, professional background or experience in matters relating to the cultural paths and other activities of the Network, who accept its Statute and wish to support its work. The role of the members of the Commission is advisory.
2. The Executive Director shall be recommended for the composition of the Scientific Committee and its recommendation shall be approved by the Board of Directors.
3. The members of the Scientific Committee shall be free to terminate their term of office at any time. The Board reserves the right to request a member of the Scientific Committee to resign if it is found that it is difficult for any reason to actively participate in it.

### **Responsibilities**

#### **The Scientific Committee:**

1. Promotes the work and purposes of the Network, by all appropriate means, and supports its actions.
2. Participates in the planning of the routes and is responsible to plan the activities for the promotion of the olive culture.
3. Recommends the implementation of actions such as Conferences, Seminars, lectures, research, seminars and assists in their implementation
4. Opinions on requests for inclusion in the cultural routes of sites, cultural monuments etc. related to olive culture.
5. Participates in the preparation of the Foundation's curriculum by proposing scientific seminars on topics related to Cultural Routes, intercultural dialogue, sustainable development, etc.
6. Establishes links with scientists and other potential partners to strengthen the Agency's work and to extend its network to all sectors.
7. Opinions on the decisions and options of the Agency in accordance with the principles and values of the Council of Europe.

#### **The members of the Scientific Committee:**

- may represent the Network at the order of the Executive Director at scientific conferences, seminars, forums, symposia etc. in Greece or abroad
- participate in the Editorial Board and write articles or propose articles on the activities or work of the Agency on national and international press, the Agency's website and prospectus. The activity of the Scientific Committee is supported by the Executive Office.

### **Meetings of the Scientific Committee**

The Scientific Committee shall meet once a year and / or whenever necessary at the invitation of the Executive Director.

The EU Coordinator is appointed by the respective Secretary General of the Board. An Assistant Coordinator is appointed by the Executive Director following a detailed recommendation by the Coordinator General of the Board of Directors. The minutes of the meetings and the action of the Scientific Committee shall be kept in the Executive Office.

### **Travel expenses of the Board of Directors and the Scientific Committee & remuneration.**

The members of the Scientific Committee offer their know-how and advice without any hesitation. There may be a fee for the performance of certain services by members of the Scientific Committee, with the agreement of the Executive Director and provided that they can be financed. The Agency shall pay the costs of travel and travel expenses incurred in connection with the activities of the Network as a member of the Scientific Committee.

## **Article 18 SETTLEMENT OF OTHER ISSUES**

The Cultural Foundation "Routes of the Olive Tree" is governed by the provisions of this Statute, the Greek Civil Code and the Brussels Convention of 29/2/1968 and concerns the mutual recognition of companies and legal entities of EEC Regulation (EC) No. 2137/85 and supplements to international law. Each provision shall be interpreted as required by good faith and good manners and by customary conduct.

## **Article 19 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Financial Year begins on 1 January and ends on 31 December of each year. By way of exception, the first financial year shall commence on the day of the filing of this amended Statute with the competent Public Service of Kalamata and the relevant Court of First Instance.

## **Article 20 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

At the end of each financial year, the annual financial statements are prepared by the Executive Bureau Board and submitted by the Executive Director to the members of the Board of Directors for approval.



## **Article 21 AUDIT - SUPERVISING BOARD**

The audit of the financial statements of the annual accounts and management is entrusted to an external First Class Accountant with the right to sign Balance Sheets in accordance with Greek law.

## **Article 22 REGULATIONS – ETHIC LAWS**

The rights, obligations of the members and any other matters that are not described in this Statute, are specified in the Rules of Procedure drawn up, by the Executive Bureau and approved by the Board of Directors.

## **Article 23 BOOK KEEPING**

1. In addition to what is required by Greek and European Law, the Foundation shall keep in electronic form a record of the minutes of the General Assembly, the Board of Directors, the Executive Board and the Committees. Also holds a Member Book of Assets, Ambassadors.
2. This Statute shall be deposited with the competent tax office and with the Court of First Instance concerned.
3. The following statute was written on credit: Cultural Foundation "The Routes of the Olive Tree" and after being read, confirmed, and signed by the parties, as follows:

By order of the General Meeting of the Members of the Foundation of 21 September 2019 and the decision and authorization of the Board of Directors of 21 September 2019.

THE AUTHORIZED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GEORGE KARABATOS