



EURING

The European Union for Bird Ringing

Constitution of EURING (European Union for Bird Ringing)

This revised constitution was approved by the EURING General Assembly in Strasbourg, France on 24-25 August 2005.

Changes to Art. 2, 4 and 6 have been adopted by the General Assembly in San Sebastian, Spain 23-24 September 2015.

It is not proposed that it should be formally registered in any country.

Name

Article 1

The name of the society shall be the European Union for Bird Ringing (EURING). It was founded in 1963.

Objectives

Article 2

The society's objectives are to promote and encourage:

- i. co-operation between national ringing schemes in Europe on both administrative and scientific matters
- ii. the development and maintenance of high standards in bird ringing
- iii. scientific studies of birds, in particular those based on marked individuals
- iv. the use of data from bird ringing for the management and conservation of birds.

These objectives are to be achieved through co-operative projects, the organisation of meetings, the collection of data in the EURING Data Bank (EDB) and any other legal means.

EURING's activities are focused on the Palaearctic – African flyway of birds.

Duration

Article 3

The society shall exist indefinitely.

Membership

Article 4

- i. Membership is open to all ringing schemes which operate within the laws of their country and supply, on a long-term basis, uniquely-numbered and addressed rings or other marks for the scientific study of wild birds and process and supply information on recoveries.
- ii. Application for membership from a new scheme should be made to the Board for recommendation. Any such application would then be voted on at a General Assembly. There will normally be only one scheme per country. Additional schemes should only be set up after careful consideration, when special conditions indicate that it is necessary,
- iii. Each member scheme shall have one voting representative at each general Assembly. The representative will be nominated (in writing) by the person in charge of the institute or department where the scheme is located. Proxy votes, in the form of a signed letter, are allowed. Notification of proxy votes must be lodged with the General Secretary. Any one member scheme may hold no more than two proxy votes.

Article 5

Membership shall end by:

- a. dissolution of a member scheme
- b. cancellation by the member scheme
- c. cancellation by the society
- d. expulsion

Member schemes may only cancel their membership effective at the end of the financial year. This cancellation must be in writing and at least four weeks notice must be given. Nevertheless, membership may be immediately terminated by cancellation:

- a. where it would be unreasonable to require continuation of membership
- b. where rights of members have been limited or their obligations have been increased. This cancellation must be within one month of the time when the decision limiting such rights or increasing such obligations has been communicated to the member scheme, or the time when the member scheme learned of the decision. If, however, the decision concerns a change in financial rights or obligations, membership may be cancelled effective at the end of the year following the year in which the cancellation is made.

- c. where the Society has been converted into another legal form or has merged with another body. This cancellation must be within one month after this decision of conversion or merger was communicated to the member scheme concerned.

If cancellation is not within the applicable term, the membership will continue until the end of the Society's year following the year in which the cancellation was made.

The Society may only cancel a membership effective at the end of a financial year. The Board may suspend membership by contacting the scheme in writing and giving at least four weeks notice. Cancellation of membership must be confirmed by a General Assembly with a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes cast. The Society may only cancel a membership where it would be unreasonable to require the Society to continue the membership concerned.

Member schemes may be expelled from EURING if they have violated the constitution, rules or decisions of the society. The Board may suspend membership of the Society. The Board shall inform the member scheme promptly of such a decision and state reasons for the decision. Expulsion of a member scheme must be confirmed by a General Assembly with a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes cast.

Funds

Article 6

The funds of the society shall consist of the annual dues, donations, gifts and other income.

Each member scheme shall pay an annual subscription to EURING. The level of subscription will be suggested by the Board and must be approved by a General Assembly. Subscriptions for schemes who have difficulty in paying may be reduced or waived at the discretion of the Board.

Annual subscriptions will be due on 1 January each year. Any scheme that does not pay its subscription by 30 June (subject to any waiver or reduction as noted above) will automatically be suspended from membership of EURING until such time as the subscription has been paid. Schemes that are suspended may not vote at a General Assembly and may have other EURING services withdrawn as shall be determined by the Board. Schemes that have not paid their subscriptions for more than 1 year may be expelled from EURING following the procedures set out in Article 5.

The Board

Article 7

The business of EURING shall be conducted by a Board consisting of a Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer and not less than three and not more than five ordinary Board members. In addition any President, Vice Presidents or Honorary Board Members holding office at the time may attend meetings but not vote as specified in clauses 7 vi and 7 vii below.

- i. The Board may include up to two independent members who are not employed by member schemes. All other members of the Board must be staff members or voluntary representatives of institutions that house member schemes. Each Officer (Chairman, General Secretary and Treasurer) shall be elected by a General Assembly, shall hold office for a maximum term of six years and is then ineligible for re-election to the Board within 12 months, except that the Treasurer or General Secretary may immediately become Chairman. Any of the above officers may be elected for two additional years by a General Assembly if it shall appear that there is no other suitable person available to fill that position. On completion of such an additional term the Officer is ineligible for re-election to the Board within 12 months, except in the specific cases previously stated.
- ii. Each ordinary Board member shall hold office for a maximum term of six years. Retiring ordinary members of the Board are ineligible for re-election as ordinary Board members within 12 months, but are eligible for election as an Officer (Chairman, General Secretary or Treasurer).
- iii. If a vacancy occurs, the Board may co-opt an individual in an acting capacity until the next General Assembly.
- iv. The Board will elect a Vice-Chairman from amongst the ordinary Board members. The Vice-Chairman will normally serve until the end of their period of office as an ordinary Board member.
- v. The Board will normally meet once a year. The General Secretary will send an announcement of each Board Meeting to all member schemes to allow them to submit items for the agenda. The quorum for a Board Meeting shall be at least half of the voting members. Decisions shall be by simple majority. Each meeting will be minuted and a report will be circulated to all members of EURING within three months of the meeting. The Board may, if necessary, take decisions between meetings following correspondence about a subject.
- vi. Honorary Board members may be elected by the General Assembly for any specified term following a recommendation from the Board. Such members will provide advice to the Board and may attend Board meetings at the invitation of the Chairman. They will not be entitled to vote and will not be included when determining whether the Board is quorate.
- vii. A President and any number of Vice-Presidents may be elected by the General Assembly following a recommendation from the Board. Presidents and Vice-Presidents will be elected for six-year terms. After two successive terms they will not be eligible for immediate re-election. The role of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents will be to promote the aims of EURING and to provide advice to the Officers and Board members. They may attend Board meetings at the invitation of the Chairman. They will not be entitled to vote and will not be included when determining whether the Board is quorate.

Article 8

- i. The Chairman is responsible for the internal organisation of the Board, chairs the General Assembly and represents EURING externally.
- ii. The Vice Chairman shall replace the Chairman in his or her absence and shall assist the Chairman on request.
- iii. The General Secretary is responsible for the official correspondence of EURING, for communication to and from member schemes and keeps records of EURING.
- iv. The Treasurer is responsible for keeping EURING accounts, the collection of membership dues and the production of an annual financial report. The Treasurer will provide the financial committee (see 9 iii) with all information requested.
- v. Official agreements made on behalf of EURING must be signed by the Chairman and by either the Vice-Chairman, General Secretary or Treasurer.

Committees

Article 9

- i. The Board may appoint individuals or committees for particular purposes.
- ii. The period of office of members of committees or individuals shall be determined by the Board. Committees may function by meetings or by correspondence, as directed by the Board. They must have written terms of reference and keep proper records of their meetings.
- iii. There shall be a financial committee of not less than two and no more than three members appointed by the General Assembly. Board members may not be members of the financial committee. This committee will check the accounts of the society and will report to the General Assembly on their findings.

The General Assembly

Article 10

- i. A General Assembly will normally be held every two years. A General Assembly will be quorate if half of the full member schemes attend or arrange proxy votes.
- ii. At the General Assembly the Board will report on the activities of EURING.
- iii. At least two month's notice shall be given of all elections. Nominations shall be invited by a date not less than four weeks after the date of despatch of the notice. If an election is required, details of candidates will be circulated at least two weeks before the General Assembly.

- iv. The Board shall decide on procedure and the order of business at a General Assembly. It shall be within the Board's discretion to admit communications or other business, other than alterations to the constitution, not included in the agenda.
- v. The General Assembly, after hearing the Financial Committee, shall vote on the acceptance of the financial report and set the annual subscription and priorities for expenditure .
- vi. The General Assembly will be announced to all schemes at least two months in advance. All schemes will be asked for items for the agenda. Such agenda items must be received by the General Secretary at least one month before the meeting. Any proposal for changes to the constitution arising from outside the Board must be notified to the General Secretary at least 10 weeks before the General Assembly so that he can inform all member schemes at least two months in advance as specified in Article 13.
- vii. Standing items for the agenda of each General Assembly are:
 - Minutes of the last General Assembly
 - Minutes of Board Meetings
 - Report of the Chairman
 - Report of the Treasurer
 - Report of the Financial Committee
 - Report of other committees (if applicable)
 - Report on the EURING databank
 - National reports
 - Subscription for the next financial period
 - Elections to the Board and the Financial Committee
 - Next meeting
 - Any other business
- viii. All schemes are requested to submit a written report on their activities two weeks before each General Assembly. Reports should be in submitted to the EURING website administrator in an appropriate electronic format and will be made available to all schemes via the website.

Article 11

Extraordinary General Assemblies may be called by the Board and must be called by the Board if a quarter of the schemes request such a meeting. In this case the extraordinary meeting shall be announced within one month and held within six months of receipt of the request.

Rules

Article 12

The EURING databank (EDB) will operate under a set of rules approved by the General Assembly.

Any alteration of the EDB rules shall be adopted if a majority of two-thirds of the member schemes voting at a General Assembly are in favour, provided that due notice (at least two months) of the proposed change has been given in the announcement convening the meeting.

Alterations or additions to the constitution

Article 13

Any alteration or addition to the Constitution shall be adopted if a majority of two-thirds of the member schemes voting at a General Assembly are in favour, provided that due notice (at least two months) of the proposed change has been given in the announcement convening the meeting.

Dissolution and Liquidation

Article 14

EURING shall be dissolved if a majority of two-thirds of all full members of EURING are in favour, provided that due written notice (at least two months) of the proposal to dissolve the Society has been given to all member schemes. In these circumstances any funds held by EURING would be donated to an organisation with similar aims.