

Bylaws

These bylaws were adopted on February 5, 2015, at the Haus der Wirtschaft in Berlin. They were entered into the register of associations at the Charlottenburg Local Court on March 9, 2015, under registration number 95/VR/33920. The bylaws were last amended by a resolution of the general meeting on September 7, 2026..

§ 1 Name and Location of the Association, Fiscal Year

1. The association bears the name “Wirtschaftsforum der SPD.”
2. The association is to be entered in the register of associations and will then bear the suffix “e.V.”
3. The association’s registered office is in Berlin.
4. The association’s fiscal year is the calendar year.

§ 2 Purpose of the Association

1. The association represents the general ideological and economic interests—arising from professional or business activities—of all self-employed and freelance entrepreneurs, as well as of the businesses defined in Section 3(1)(a) through (d) of these Bylaws. To this end, the Association promotes, on the basis of the values of freedom, justice, and solidarity, the shaping and further development of the social market economy as the prevailing economic and social order. In doing so, the Association is guided by the understanding that the success of a sustainable and innovative economy—particularly in light of the challenges posed by increasingly complex globalization—depends on the combination of economic and social progress. Its members therefore recognize the vital role of the economy in ensuring general prosperity and, in fulfilling this social responsibility, contribute to the promotion of the common good and social cohesion.
2. To coordinate professional and occupational interests, the association provides its members with a wide range of lectures, discussions, and events on all matters of economic policy. The association’s purpose is further realized through dialogue and cooperation with parliaments, government agencies, and other institutions, as well as through effective public relations efforts—in particular, through the publication and dissemination of position papers and other research and work findings.
3. The purpose of the association is neither to generate profit nor to represent the specific economic interests of individual members or economic sectors. The association’s funds are used exclusively for purposes specified in the bylaws.
4. The association is authorized to acquire an interest in, establish, or acquire companies or organizations, including other associations or foundations, to the extent that this serves the association’s purpose.

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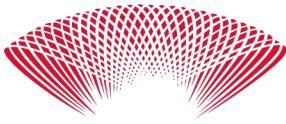
PRESIDIUM:
PROF. DR. INES ZENKE, PRESIDENT
PROF. DR. SUSANNE KNORRE, TREASURER
DR. PETER GÜLLMANN, VICE PRESIDENT
NORA HEER, VICE PRESIDENT
CHRISTIAN HEINE, VICE PRESIDENT
PHILIPP SCHLÜTER, VICE PRESIDENT
DR. TANJA WIELGOß, VICE PRESIDENT

MANAGING DIRECTOR:
DR. FRANK WILHELMY

REGISTER COURT:
LOCAL COURT CHARLOTTENBURG / VR 33920

VAT ID NUMBER: DE 298512965
TAX-NUMBER: 27/620/62175
TAX OFFICE FOR CORPORATIONS BERLIN

WEBERBANK AG BERLIN
IBAN: DE81 1012 0100 1004 0066 66
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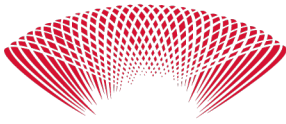


§ 3 Membership

1. The following may become regular members of the association:
 - a) any business owner,
 - b) any self-employed member of the liberal professions as well as other self-employed individuals, provided that the admission of the latter does not alter the association's statutory character as a professional association,
 - c) any company or business association, regardless of its legal form,
 - d) any member of a management board, supervisory board, advisory board, or similar body within a company,
 - e) any executive or other person who, by virtue of their activities, has a demonstrable special interest in the association's activities. However, this applies only to a limited extent and only to the extent that it does not impair the character or purpose of the association.Ordinary membership may continue even after the characteristics or functions described in the aforementioned provisions cease to exist.
- 1 a. Natural persons who have not yet reached the age of 35 and who are eligible for membership pursuant to § 3 (1) may instead become junior members. Junior members are excluded from the right to vote and from the right to stand for election and to be elected pursuant to § 4 (2); otherwise, they are entitled to the same rights as full members. Junior membership is limited in duration pursuant to § 5 (2), sentence 3. The Executive Board may, upon a junior member's request, admit them as a full member pursuant to § 3 (1) at any time, thereby converting their junior membership into full membership—with all associated rights and obligations—even during the course of the year.
2. Public figures and members of the academic community who, through their work, support the association's goals in a special way may be appointed as supporting members.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Executive Board, the General Assembly may elect individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the association's goals as honorary members.
4. Those specified in § 3 (1, c) have the option of becoming project members instead of full members. Project members are excluded from the right to stand for election pursuant to § 4 (2). Otherwise, they are entitled to the same rights as full members; however, their membership is for a limited term (§ 5 (2), second sentence).

§ 4 Rights and Responsibilities of Membership

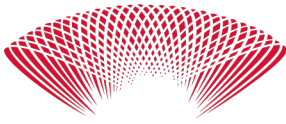
1. Every member is entitled to participate in all public and association-sponsored events, unless such events are primarily intended for specific groups of members or participation by all members is not possible for organizational reasons; the right to participate may also be appropriately restricted for junior members. Furthermore, every member has the right to submit motions, vote, and speak at general meetings in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws and applicable laws; however, junior members are excluded from voting.
2. Natural persons who are members as defined in § 3(1) and have been members of the association for at least six full months are eligible to stand for election to the positions on the Executive and Extended Executive Boards; in addition, their membership dues must have been paid in full.
3. All members shall support the association and its purpose—including in public—in an appropriate manner. They are also required to notify the association of any changes to their mailing address and email address.



4. Membership dues are collected from members. The amount of the annual dues and the due date are determined by the General Assembly based on a proposal from the Executive Board. Upon a corresponding proposal from the Executive Board, an admission fee may also be introduced by resolution of the General Assembly.

§ 5 Start and End of Membership

1. The application for membership must be submitted in writing. The Executive Board decides on the application for membership. In doing so, it ensures that the purpose of the association, as defined in § 2 of the bylaws, is upheld. A written appeal against a decision to deny membership may be filed within one month of receipt of the decision. The next regular general meeting will decide on the appeal. There is no entitlement to membership.
2. Membership ends upon resignation, removal from the membership roster, expulsion, death, or, in the case of a company, its dissolution (including the commencement of insolvency proceedings and termination without liquidation). The membership of a project member ends automatically after 12 months, calculated from the date of admission, without the need for notice of termination. Junior membership automatically ends at the end of the calendar year in which the junior member turns 35, without the need for notice of termination; unless the member or the association objects by November 30 of the relevant calendar year at the latest, the member automatically becomes a regular member within the meaning of § 3 (1) upon the expiration of their junior membership, with all associated rights and obligations.
3. Resignation must be submitted in writing to the association. Resignation is only permitted at the end of a fiscal year, subject to one month's notice.
4. A member may be removed from the membership roster by resolution of the Executive Board if the member is in arrears on membership dues despite having received two reminders. The decision to remove the member may not be made until three months have elapsed since the second reminder was sent and the outstanding dues have not been paid. The member must be notified of the removal.
5. A member may be expelled from the association if he or she has seriously violated the interests of the association. The Executive Board shall decide on expulsion. Before a decision is made, the member must be given a reasonable period of time to present their case in person before the Executive Board or in writing; the member may be assisted by a representative who need not be a member of the association. A written statement from the member concerned must be read aloud at the meeting of the Executive Board. The decision on expulsion must be accompanied by a statement of reasons and communicated to the member by registered mail. The member has the right to appeal the expulsion to the General Assembly; this appeal must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board within one month of receiving the expulsion decision. The appeal has suspensive effect. If the appeal is filed in a timely manner, the Executive Board must submit the decision on the appeal to the next regular general meeting of members at the latest. If this does not occur, the expulsion resolution is deemed not to have been adopted. If the member does not exercise the right to appeal the expulsion resolution or misses the deadline for filing an appeal, the member thereby accepts the expulsion resolution, with the result that membership is deemed terminated upon receipt of the expulsion resolution.
6. Upon termination of membership, for any reason whatsoever, all rights arising from membership shall cease. Refunds of dues, donations, and other forms of support are generally not permitted. There is no entitlement to a share of the association's assets.



§ 6 Governing Bodies of the Association

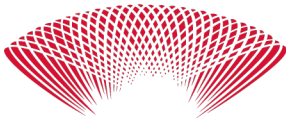
1. The governing bodies of the association are:
 - the General Assembly
 - the Executive Board
 - the Extended Executive Board.
2. The General Assembly may, upon a proposal by the Executive Board, resolve to establish additional association bodies or boards.
3. The officers serve in an honorary capacity.

§ 7 General Meeting

1. The highest governing body of the association is the general meeting of members.
2. The General Assembly is responsible exclusively for the following matters:
 - Election of the Executive Board and election of three auditors;
 - Removal of members of the Executive Board and auditors upon a special motion, which must be submitted by at least 35 percent of the members or by a three-quarters majority of the members of the Executive Board;
 - Approval of the annual financial statements;
 - Approval of the budget for the current fiscal year prepared by the Executive Board;
 - Receipt and discussion of the reports of the Executive Board;
 - Discharge of the Executive Board;
 - Amendments to the bylaws and the dissolution of the association;
 - Setting the amount and due date of the annual membership fee;
 - Discussing and deciding on submitted motions;
 - Deciding on appeals against the rejection of an application for membership, as well as on appeals against a decision by the Executive Board to expel a member.
3. In matters falling within the purview of the Executive Board, the General Assembly may adopt resolutions containing recommendations to the Executive Board.

§ 8 Resolutions of the General Meeting

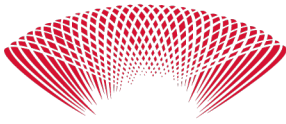
1. The Executive Board shall convene a general meeting whenever the interests of the association so require, but at least once a year. The invitation must be sent in writing or by email at least two weeks in advance, stating the agenda and any motions already submitted. Objections to the agenda, nominations for election, and motions submitted by members must be received by the Executive Board no later than three days before the General Meeting. Any additions to the agenda must be announced at the beginning of the meeting.
2. The General Assembly is presided over by the President or, upon resolution of the Executive Board, by one of the Vice Presidents; if the Vice President is unable to attend, by a member of the Board. The chair of the General Assembly may delegate the conduct of the election rounds for the Executive or Extended Executive Board to the Chief Executive Officer or to a member of the Executive Board who is not a candidate in the election.
3. The chairperson of the meeting appoints the secretary. A non-member may also be appointed.
4. The chairperson of the meeting shall determine the method of voting. A vote must be conducted in writing if one-third of the members present so request. Subject to the provisions below, votes shall be taken by a show of hands, by raising a voting card, or by means of an electronic voting system, unless at least one-quarter of the members present who are eligible to vote request a secret ballot.



5. All elections to fill offices or positions within the association shall be conducted by secret ballot. In elections, the candidate who receives the most votes cast shall be elected. In the event of a tie, a runoff election shall be held between the candidates who received the same number of votes.
6. The election of the president, the treasurer, and the members of the executive board shall take place in separate ballots.
7. The remaining members of the Executive Board shall be elected in a single round of voting, if necessary. Votes are cast by placing a check mark next to a candidate's name. The nomination must include the names of all proposed candidates. Ballots on which at least one candidate has not been marked with a check mark are invalid. The same applies if more candidates are marked on a ballot than there are positions to be filled. The chair of the meeting shall determine the details of the election procedure.
8. The general meeting is not open to the public. The chairperson of the meeting may admit guests. The Executive Board decides on the admission of the press, radio, television, and broadcasts via data networks.
9. At the general meeting, each member has one vote. For companies or business associations, a representative authorized to act on behalf of the company or business association is entitled to vote. Another member may be authorized in writing to exercise the right to vote. Companies or business associations may also be represented by an employee who has been authorized in writing. The authorization must be granted separately for each General Meeting. However, a proxy may not represent more than three votes belonging to other members.
10. Unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws, the General Assembly shall adopt its resolutions by a simple majority of the votes cast; abstentions shall be considered votes not cast. A two-thirds majority is required to amend the Bylaws; a three-quarters majority of the votes cast is required to amend the association's purpose or to dissolve the association.
11. Minutes must be taken of the resolutions of the general meeting, which must be signed by the chairperson of the meeting and the secretary. The minutes shall include the following information: the place and time of the meeting, the names of the chairperson and the secretary, the number of members present or represented, the agenda, the results of each vote, and the method of voting. In the case of amendments to the bylaws, the text of the amended provisions shall be included in the minutes. The minutes shall be made available to the members no later than two weeks after the general meeting. They become valid if, within four weeks after the general meeting, no objection has been raised by a member of the executive board, the chairperson of the meeting, or at least ten percent of the members present.
12. In exceptional cases, resolutions may be adopted by written ballot without holding a general meeting, provided that the Executive Board decides to conduct a written ballot. They are valid only if a majority—two-thirds in the case of an amendment to the bylaws, and three-quarters in the case of a change in the association's purpose or the dissolution of the association—of the votes cast approve them. This also applies to elections, in which case the secrecy of the vote must be ensured through appropriate measures.

§ 8a Virtual General Meeting

1. Pursuant to a resolution of the Executive Board, the General Assembly may be held as a virtual General Assembly—without physical attendance at a meeting location—for all matters specified in § 7. The invitation must be sent at least two weeks in advance, in writing or by email, stating that the meeting

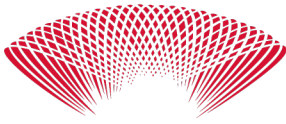


will be held as a virtual general meeting and specifying the time, agenda, and any motions already submitted. The invitation should also state the reasons for not holding an in-person meeting.

2. In the invitation, the Executive Board may make participation in the virtual general meeting contingent upon the member registering by a specific time, which may not be more than 72 hours before the start of the virtual general meeting; registration must be possible via electronic communication.
3. The virtual general meeting shall take place by participants joining a video conference or another form of access-restricted electronic communication that enables real-time two-way communication. The access and authentication information required to participate in the virtual general meeting shall be provided to members in writing or by email no later than the day before the general meeting, unless it has already been specified in the invitation. It is sufficient for the letter to be mailed in a timely manner or for the email to be properly sent to the last known mailing address or email address provided to the association.
4. Members are required to treat their login and authentication credentials as confidential and not to disclose them to any third party. For this purpose, another member or an employee of a member company who has been authorized to exercise voting rights is not considered a third party. However, the member must ensure, through appropriate measures, that the authorized representative(s) treat the login and authentication credentials confidentially.
5. Authorizing another member to act as a proxy is permitted, subject to the maximum number of votes a proxy may cast pursuant to § 8(9), sentence 6, provided that the Executive Board expressly permits such authorization in the invitation; in particular, the Executive Board may establish requirements regarding the form or deadline for the proof of authorization.
6. The virtual general meeting also has a quorum regardless of the number of members participating.
7. Voting shall be conducted electronically, unless the chairperson of the meeting specifies another method of voting. All elections to fill offices or positions within the association shall be conducted by secret ballot. Other votes shall be conducted openly, unless at least one-quarter of the participating members entitled to vote request a secret ballot, whereby anyone who is logged into the electronic communication system at the time of the vote—i.e., anyone who could participate in the general meeting without having to re-enter their login and authentication credentials—is considered a participant.
8. Instead of the location of the general meeting as specified in § 8(11), the minutes must state the communication platform used, including its Internet address. Instead of the number of members present, the number of participating members as defined in paragraph 6 above must be stated separately at the beginning and end of the general meeting and at the time each resolution is adopted.
9. Unless otherwise provided above, § 8 applies mutatis mutandis to the virtual general meeting of members.
10. A general meeting requested by the members in accordance with § 9 may be held as a virtual general meeting only in exceptional cases.

§ 8b Hybrid General Meeting

1. If the Executive Board decides to hold a combination of an in-person and virtual members' meeting, in which some members gather at a meeting location and others participate solely via electronic communication ("hybrid meeting"), § 8a shall apply mutatis mutandis, unless the following paragraphs provide otherwise.



2. In-person attendance at the meeting venue may be limited based on appropriate criteria, in particular the order in which registrations are received and/or official requirements. The registration deadline for in-person attendance at the venue may not exceed the period of 72 hours prior to the start of the meeting (Section 8a, paragraph 2).
3. The Executive Board must also expressly authorize the option of granting proxy to members who are physically present at the meeting venue (Section 8a(5)). Different rules may be established for in-person and virtual participation.
4. The chair of the meeting may specify different methods of voting for in-person and virtual participants; in particular, written voting may be permitted for members attending in person.
5. The number of participants is determined by the sum of the members present at the meeting location and the number of members logged into the electronic communication system at the time of the vote (Section 8a, paragraph 7).

§ 9 Special General Meetings

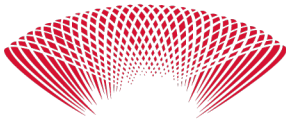
The Executive Board must convene an extraordinary general meeting without delay and with a detailed statement of reasons if the interests of the association so require, or if at least 20 percent of the members request this in writing from the Executive Board, stating the purpose and reasons, and the petitioners—provided they are regular members as defined in § 3, para. 1, represent at least 10 percent of the members. Sections 7 through 8b apply mutatis mutandis to extraordinary general meetings of members.

§ 10 The Executive Board

1. The association's executive board consists of a president, a treasurer, and up to six vice presidents. Women and men should each be represented on the executive board by at least 40 percent.
2. The Executive Board manages the day-to-day affairs of the association in accordance with the rules of procedure.
3. The association is represented in and out of court by two members of the Executive Board, including the president or the treasurer.
4. The Executive Board may establish boards for specific tasks and determine their composition. The Executive Board shall ensure that the work of the boards is consistent with the general objectives of the association.

§ 11 The Responsibilities of the Executive Board

1. The Executive Board manages the association's affairs and performs administrative tasks, unless these are assigned to another body of the association by the bylaws or by law. Its primary responsibilities include the following:
 - Preparing general meetings and drawing up the agendas;
 - Convening general meetings;
 - Implementing the resolutions of the general meetings;
 - Preparing a budget for each fiscal year and maintaining the books;
 - Preparing the annual financial statements for the past fiscal year;
 - Preparing an annual report;
 - Entering into and terminating service and employment contracts;
 - Making decisions regarding the admission, removal, and expulsion of members;



- Planning and carrying out activities to support public relations, further develop the association's positions, and recruit new members through public and/or private events organized by the association.
- 2. The Executive Board may adopt rules of procedure.
- 3. The Executive Board is authorized to independently make any amendments to the bylaws required by the registry court or the tax authorities for reasons related to association law or tax law. Members must be informed of such amendments no later than at the next general meeting.

§ 12 Term of Office of the Executive Board

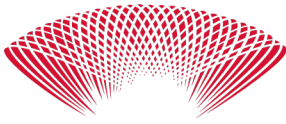
- 1. The Executive Board is elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years, beginning on the date of the election; however, it remains in office until a new Executive Board is elected. If a member of the Executive Board resigns during the term of office, the Executive Board shall elect a replacement member for the remainder of the resigning member's term.
- 2. If, as a result of an amendment to the bylaws that increases the number of vice presidents, the General Assembly elects additional members to the Executive Board at an ordinary General Assembly following the amendment, their term of office shall end with the regularly scheduled election of the Executive Board.

§ 13 Resolution of the Executive Board

- 1. The Executive Board generally makes its decisions at meetings convened by the President—or, if the President is unable to do so, by one of the Vice Presidents—in writing or by email. In all cases, a one-week notice period must be observed. In exceptional cases, the Executive Board may convene an extraordinary meeting without delay and with a detailed statement of reasons if the interests of the association so require. Notice of the agenda is not required. In exceptional cases, the Executive Board may also pass resolutions via conference calls, email, or in writing or electronically, provided that a majority of the members of the Executive Board agree to this procedure. The provisions of the bylaws regarding the majority required for a resolution remain unaffected by this. Members must be informed of the outcome of the resolution without delay.
- 2. The Executive Board has a quorum if at least two members of the Executive Board, including the President or the Treasurer, are present or have cast their votes. Decisions are made by a majority of the votes cast. In the event of a tie, the chairperson of the meeting has the deciding vote. The meeting of the Executive Board is chaired by the President; if the President is unable to attend, the Treasurer presides. The resolutions of the Executive Board must be recorded in writing and signed by the chairperson. The minutes shall include the place and time of the meeting, the names of the participants, the resolutions adopted, and the results of the vote.

§ 14 The Expanded Executive Board

- 1. The expanded executive board consists of the executive board and other association members who represent the regional and professional diversity of the association's membership to the greatest extent possible. Women and men should each be represented on the expanded executive board by at least 40 percent.
- 2. The role of the expanded Executive Board is to advise the Executive Board on matters of fundamental importance.
- 3. The members of the expanded executive board are elected by the general membership meeting, upon the recommendation of the executive board, for a term of two years, beginning on the date of the election; however, they remain in office until a new expanded executive board is elected. Only



association members are eligible for election. If a member of the expanded executive board resigns during their term of office, the expanded executive board shall elect a replacement member for the remainder of the resigning member's term.

4. The expanded Executive Board shall meet at least twice during the fiscal year. The expanded Executive Board shall have a quorum if at least one-third of its members, including the President or the Treasurer, are present. In all other respects, the provisions of § 13 of these Bylaws shall apply accordingly.

§ 15 Management

1. The executive board handles the association's day-to-day and urgent tasks. It consists of a chief executive officer and, if applicable, one or more managing directors.
2. The members of the Executive Board are appointed by the Executive Board. The Executive Board may, in particular, delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the management of the office as well as all personnel and tax matters of the association. He or she is granted the power of representation within the meaning of § 30 of the German Civil Code (BGB), is entered in the register of associations, and has sole power of representation.
3. In the event that, in addition to the chief executive officer, other individuals are appointed to the executive board, the executive board may grant them the authority to act on behalf of the association within the scope of business activities as defined in § 30 of the German Civil Code (BGB).
4. The Executive Board may define the individual areas of responsibility of the members of the Executive Board in a set of rules of procedure.

§ 16 Scientific and Policy Advisory Board

1. The expanded executive board may establish, on a temporary or permanent basis, a scientific advisory board to provide the association with scientific and other forms of support in accordance with the purposes set forth in its bylaws. The expanded executive board may also establish a political advisory board.
2. The members of these advisory boards are appointed by the Executive Board for a term of two years. They may be reappointed.

§ 17 Annual Financial Statements, Budget, and Use of Funds

1. The annual financial statements for the past fiscal year and the budget for the following fiscal year are prepared by the treasurer and approved by the Executive Board.
2. The association's funds may be used only for purposes specified in the bylaws. The association's funds may not be used to directly or indirectly support or promote political parties.

§ 18 Solution

In the event of dissolution, the Executive Board shall wind up the association's affairs. The remaining assets shall be used in accordance with the resolution of the last general meeting