EUMCA (EU Medicinal Cannabis Association)

Membership Policy

(Based on the EUMCA approved Statutes and By-Laws)

Categories of Membership

The association is composed of six categories of members:

1. Institutional members (Full member with voting rights)
2. Personal members (Full member with voting rights)
3. Charity members (No voting rights)
4. Honorary member (No voting rights)
5. Founding members (Full member with voting rights)
6. Affiliate members (No voting rights)

Institutional members

Companies or associations whose Members have a presence in the European Territory as a geographical unit, including the UK and Switzerland, and other countries that are wholly or partly located in Europe. These companies operate in research and/or development and/or production and/or distribution of cannabinoid for medical purposes, e.g. prescription-access only products.

Personal members

are Entrepreneurs who manage as a representative of the company and/or own a company, which has been founded according to the laws of a European state and operates in research and/or development and/or production and/or distribution of cannabinoid products. If a personal member manages or owns an institutional member, the voting right is limited to the institutional member.

Charity members

are recognised charity members (e.g. patient groups, publicly recognised or certified associations) with a proven interest in the medical Cannabinoid treatment can apply for a free membership within the Association for a period of two years. The admission can be prolonged with the majority vote on membership applications of all attending members of the next General Meeting. The charity member may participate at any public meetings of the Association but may not cast a valid vote.

Honorary members

Due to extraordinary efforts and achievement to support the scope of the Association and the cannabinoid industry, individuals can be awarded Honorary membership. This is granted as a lifelong, free membership within the Association, due to a decision of the majority vote of all attending members of the General Meeting except for reasons of exclusion according to Article 8 b, c, e, f. The honorary member may participate at any public meetings according to invitation of the Association but may not cast a valid vote.
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**Founding members**

Founding members of the Association shall remain lifelong members, except for reasons of exclusion according to Article 8 b, d, e.

(b) infringement of the provisions of these Articles of Association or other rules for the conduct of members as may be determined from time to time by the Association;

(d) failure to pay membership fees or any other sum due to the Association within 45 days of written request and after a reminder giving 14 days’ notice of overdue payment;

(e) exclusion from membership due to being found guilty on severe infringement of the interests of the Association and its member companies or due to a behaviour or activity which is jeopardizing or lowering the prestige of the Association and its targets or its member companies significantly.

The Executive Board should decide on a prior warning of expulsion.

**Affiliate members**

Affiliate membership may be available to individuals or companies (constitute as an Affiliate member if they do not conduct R&D or, produce or distribute medical cannabis but do provide services to medical cannabis companies) who work within the medicinal cannabis industry. This type of membership does not provide voting rights, however it does allow affiliate members to network with other members within the Association (at invitation only member events). Affiliate members will be kept engaged and informed around key policy areas and changes in the environment which may have material impact on their clients. Affiliate Members are accepted due to a decision of the majority vote of all attending members of the General Meeting.

**Admission Criteria for Membership**

1. Members must comply with the provisions of the EUMCA ‘Statutes’ and ‘Articles of the Association’

2. Members must adhere to the ‘Guiding Principles’ of the Association where appropriate and applicable

3. Members must adhere to the EUMCA ‘Code of Conduct’ where appropriate and applicable

4. Any application for admission as a member within the Association must be submitted in writing (or via online application form) to the General Secretary

5. All applications for membership will be decided by a simple majority of the members (who have voting rights)
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The General Secretary will inform all applicants about the decision of the voting members. Subject to payments of the membership fees, membership shall commence on the 1st day of the month following the voting member’s decision, unless the application states another date.

a. In case of refusal of the application, no specified reason is necessary.
b. The decision of refusal is assumed as a final decision for the period of two years after which the application can be repeated.

Rules of Membership

Members are required to comply with the provisions of the ‘Articles of Association’ and to comply with the resolutions or established declarations of the General Meetings of members, supporting the aims of the Association and to pay the membership fees.

Where applicable and appropriate, all members must adhere to the EUMCA ‘Code of Conduct’ and EUMCA ‘Guiding Principles’ agreed by the Association membership.

Membership Fees

Each Member shall pay each year the annual membership fees for that year and category of membership according to the By-Laws timely in order to assure the running business of the Association. Affiliate members will pay the annual membership fee specified in the By-Laws.

Membership fees are due on January 1st of each year and payment is required within 30 days of the invoice date. Failure to pay within this time may result in exclusion from membership.

Additional fees can be requested from members to finance special projects (e.g. EUMCA Scientific Events)
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Termination of Membership

Any member may withdraw from the Association at the end of the Association’s financial year during which notice of termination has been given, provided that such notice has been given no later than June 30th by registered letter to the General Secretary; otherwise the termination shall become effective at the end of the following fiscal year.

Membership can also be terminated in any of the following circumstances:

a) When a member no longer fulfils the criteria within a specific membership category.

b) Infringement of the provisions of the ‘Articles of Association’ or other rules for the conduct of members (e.g. EUMCA ‘Code of conduct’, EUMCA ‘Guiding Principles’) as may be determined from time to time by the Association;

c) Bankruptcy, liquidation, dissolution or any similar situation resulting in the cessation of a member’s activity and company;

d) Failure to pay membership fees or any other sum due to the Association within 45 days of written request and after a reminder giving 14 days’ notice of overdue payment;

e) Exclusion from membership due to be found guilty on severe infringement of the interests of the Association and its member companies or due to a behaviour or activity which is jeopardizing or lowering the prestige of the Association and its targets or its member companies significantly. The Executive Board should decide on a prior warning of expulsion.

f) In the event of untrue information in the context of the application, which would have been suitable not to grant membership

g) Untruthful information which leads to wrong calculation of the annual membership fees

If there are sufficient grounds for suspecting that a member has been guilty of conduct likely to cause substantial damage to the Association’s reputation, the Executive Board may decide to suspend membership as a provisional measure.