

# EUROJESS

## STATUTES

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### Preamble

**Article 1:** These Statutes set forth the goals and rules of procedure of *the Group of European Jesuits in Social Sciences*. The rules of procedure are to be interpreted in a flexible and broad manner so as to help in the achievement of the goals.

### Goals

**Article 2:** The goals of the *Group of European Jesuits in Social Sciences* are:

- to ensure contact and periodic exchange of views and to foster co-operation among Jesuits (residing habitually in Europe) and institutions of the Society in Europe specialised in reflecting on social problems within the framework of the social apostolate;
- to foster relationships with other organisations of a similar nature in the Society of Jesus and with Jesuits dealing with the same problems in other parts of the world.

### Structure

**Article 3:** The Group is made up of permanent members who have been admitted by the *Steering Committee* in the manner described in Art. 5. They must be competent in reflecting on social problems.

**Article 4:** New members are admitted by decision of the *Steering Committee* upon their request

**Article 5:** The Group is directed by the *Steering Committee*, made up of a President and four members elected by the General Assembly.

**Article 6:** The members of the Committee are renewed by rotation, one of them ending his term at each Conference. Their election is by an absolute majority of the members of the Group present. If a member of the Committee cannot or does not wish to complete his term, the Group elects a successor.

**Article 7:** The President is elected on the occasion of a conference for a period till the end of the next conference, i.e. for about two years. He may be consecutively re-elected only twice. His election is by an absolute majority of the members present at the General Assembly according to the Statutes.

**Article 8:** The *Steering Committee* is assisted by an Executive Secretariat. This function is carried out by O.C.I.P.E. or by another institution of the Society in Europe. In this last case, it shall be for a period including two conferences, i.e. about four years.

## **Meetings**

**Article 9:** The Group holds plenary meetings or conferences in order to study and discuss topics which fall within the scope of the goals of the Group as defined in Art 2. If no particular reason prevents it, such conferences take place every two years.

The Steering Committee determines the topic, date and place of the conference, taking into account the wishes of the whole group.

Other questions may be put on the agenda upon the request of members or other persons invited (cf. Art. 11), with the approval of the Steering Committee.

After each Conference, a report is sent by the Secretariat to each member of the Group, to the President of the Committee of European Provincials, as well as to Father General and the Director of the Social Secretariat in the General Curia.

**Article 10:** Care will be taken that during the plenary session, in so far as necessary and with the possible help of translators, each member may be able to express himself orally and in writing in a language that is familiar to him.

**Article 11:** Jesuits who are not members of the Group may be invited to a conference either because of the country where the conference takes place, because of a special competence in a topic on the agenda, because of their future work in a field corresponding to the goals of the Group, or because of their sojourn in Europe, in the case of Jesuits of other parts of the world. Only members of the Group however have the right to vote on matters pertaining to the Group itself or its administration, such matters being normally dealt within a statutory assembly on the occasion of the conference.

**Article 12:** To prepare a conference, a special committee made up of especially competent Jesuits may be set up by the President and the Executive Secretariat, according to directives received from the Steering Committee. It assures the preparation of the necessary reports. If a conference takes place in a country other than that in which the Secretariat is located, the Secretariat obtains the help of a local Committee, especially for the material organisation.

**Article 13:** Through its Steering Committee, the Group may set up special sections of a permanent nature.

**Article 14:** A contribution is asked from the members, as the need arises, in order to cover the general expenses necessary for the operation of the Group. Its amount is determined by the Steering Committee. If a member does not pay his contribution, the *Steering Committee* examines whether he should be retained on the list of members.

## **Changes in the statutes**

**Article 15:** Any change in the statutes should be proposed through the Steering Committee on the occasion of a Plenary Meeting or conference. Any change requires an absolute majority of the votes of the members of the Group present.