

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR GESTALT THERAPY

- On 5 May nineteen eighty-five in Hückeswagen, Germany, founded the association under German law: "European Association for Gestalt Therapy", abbreviated: EAGT, which association has been dissolved;

- On 1 October nineteen ninety nine EAGT is registered as an association under Belgian law in Geel, Belgium, with the same objective as the registered association was known under German law;

- The members of the association EAGT registered under Belgian law wish to dissolve this association and to establish a new association under Dutch law, with the same objective as the registered association known under Belgian law.

For the new registered association EAGT in The Netherlands the following statutes are applicable:

SECTION 1

Name, registered office of the Association

1. The Association bears the name "European Association for Gestalt Therapy" (EAGT).
2. The registered office of the Association is in Dieren.

SECTION 2

Aims and Objectives

1. The association is a non-profit organization that aims to unite into a common association Gestalt therapists, Gestalt practitioners in organisations (GPO), Gestalt therapy training institutes, GPO training institutes and National organizations for Gestalt therapy (NOGT's) in Europe.
2. The Association and its applicants shall have the following objects:
 - a. The union of Gestalt therapy societies, Gestalt therapy associations and Gestalt therapy federations from different European nations and abroad;
 - b. The union of persons, organizations and institutions active in Europe and abroad in the field of Gestalt therapy and its applications;
 - c. The dissemination of Gestalt therapy and its forms of application in research and doctrine in the European area and abroad;
 - d. Promotion of academic and cooperative exchange between Gestalt therapists and Gestalt practitioners in organisations in European nations and abroad, and between the national professional associations;
 - e. Promotion of the legitimacy of Gestalt therapy in Europe and abroad;
 - f. Promotion of exchange between educational institutions and clinical establishment for Gestalt therapy;
 - g. The development of comparable standards and curricula for Gestalt therapists and Gestalt practitioners in organisations in the European area and abroad and the devising of joint training standards;
 - h. Public relations, and health and professional initiatives on a supranational level, in particular on (European and abroad) committees;
 - i. Cooperation with other psychotherapeutic approaches, associations and institutions.

SECTION 3

Means for achieving the objectives of the association

The association attempts to achieve the objectives as follows:

1. The holding and organization of information and further education events at national and supranational level.
2. The promotion of training possibilities orientated towards the standards of European framework guidelines and the respective national legal provisions.
3. The formation of standing committees and task groups for Gestalt therapy and Gestalt practitioners in organisations.
4. Publications and the dissemination of scientific works.
5. Promotion of research.
6. Exchange of advanced research in relation to the theory and practice of Gestalt therapy.
7. Representation of interests of the association with persons or organizations, official bodies, associations, et cetera.
8. The execution of cooperative projects with institutions, official bodies, associations, et cetera.
9. The establishment of a regular conference.

SECTION 4

Membership

1. **Full Members** may be:
 - European National and Professional associations, which meet the EAGT training standards for Gestalt therapists or the training standards for Gestalt practitioners in organisations, as well as the code of ethics.
 - Institutes, which meet the EAGT training standards for Gestalt therapists or the trainings standards for Gestalt practitioners in organisations, as well as adhere to the code of ethics, and are active in the field of training or clinical applications of Gestalt therapy.
 - Individuals who meet the EAGT training standards for Gestalt therapists or Gestalt practitioners in organisations.
 - Individuals who meet the EAGT training standards for supervisors.
2. **Associate Members** may be:
 - Individuals who have started a training in Gestalt therapy or Gestalt practitioners in organisations in institutes, which are members of the EAGT.
 - Every training institute, which commits itself to reaching EAGT training standards and is in the process of fulfilling the requirements of the EAGT in its training curriculum.
 - Every National associations and Professional associations for Gestalt therapy and Gestalt practitioners in organisations, which commits itself to reaching EAGT training standards and code of ethics and is in process of fulfilling the requirements of the EAGT.
 - Retired Gestalt therapists and Gestalt practitioners in organisations.
3. **Subscriber Members** may be those who support the association regularly in financial terms without being a member of EAGT.
4. **Cooperative Membership** may be held by institutions and associations who consider themselves to be connected to the professional, health policy and pedagogical aims of the EAGT.
5. **Honorary Membership** may be awarded upon the proposal of the Executive Committee at the meeting of members to such persons or institutes who have served the objects of the association in a particular manner or who have made an

outstanding contribution in the field of Gestalt therapy and shall have voting rights.

6. **Joint membership** may be awarded to NOGTs, accredited by EAGT.
 - Joint membership is for individual members of a NOGT as described under section 4.1 and 4.2
 - Joint membership is valid for 3 years and shall be validated by a signed contract. After three years the contract can be renewed.
 - The minimum of members for joint membership shall be 15.
7. The **application for membership** pursuant to paragraph 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4 shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee enclosing the requisite documents. On the basis of the documents submitted (regarding completion of training, training standards and other requirements of the EAGT), the Executive Committee shall verify the preconditions of membership and shall decide with regard to exceptions. In the event of a refusal, written reasons shall be given.
8. Members referred to under section 4.1 and 4.6 will receive a **membership certificate**, valid for a period of 5 years. All these certificates will have a different lay-out.

SECTION 5

Rights and Duties of Members

1. Membership shall give entitlement to participate in all events of the Association.
2. Members attending the meeting of members have the right to vote on the basis of proportional representation thus:
 - Individual members = 1 vote
 - Organisations with less than 150 members = 2 votes
 - Organisations with more than 150 members = 4 votes
 - Organisations with more than 500 members = 6 votes.
3. Associate members, subscriber members and cooperative members do not have the right to vote in the meeting of members.
4. Members shall be under a duty to safeguard the reputation of the association, to promote its aims, to recognize its constitution and to pay the membership fee.
5. Members must pay the fee determined by the meeting of members. They keep the above said rights only if they have regularly paid the membership fee. In order to secure the right to vote, the fee for the current year must be paid before the annual meeting of members, and at the latest before the 1st April of the year in question. All fees paid after the 1st April shall be subject to a surcharge of 30% of the total membership fee.
6. Fully paid up members who are unable to attend the annual meeting of members may exercise their right to vote by notifying the EAGT secretary in writing at least 21 days before the date of the meeting of members and by granting a proxy to another member of the association. Every member can exercise the voting rights on behalf of a maximum of 3 other members, besides his own voting rights.

SECTION 6

Termination of Membership

1. Membership shall end through withdrawal from the association, exclusion or death.
 - a. Voluntary withdrawal shall be declared to the Executive Committee in writing. Withdrawal may take place observing a three-month period of notice with effect from the end of a calendar year. Until the time of withdrawal, the member shall remain under a duty to pay the membership fee.

- b. A member can be excluded by a resolution of the Executive Committee if, despite having received two written reminders, such member is in arrears with the payment of membership fees. Exclusion may only be resolved upon if, following despatch of a second reminder, two months have elapsed, and the exclusion was stated in such reminder. The resolution as to exclusion shall be notified by the Executive Committee to the member. Until the time of exclusion, the member shall remain under a duty to pay the membership fee.
 - c. If a member shall damage the interests of the association in a manner, which is grossly negligent, that member may be excluded from the association by a resolution of the Executive Committee. Before adoption of the resolution, the Executive Committee must give the member an opportunity to give his/her comments either orally or in writing.
 - d. If a member fails the code of ethics of the EAGT, the issue will be referred to the ethical committee of the EAGT.
2. The Executive Committee's resolution shall be substantiated in writing and shall be despatched to the member by way of recorded delivery letter.
 3. The member may appeal against the resolution to the meeting of members. That appeal must be lodged with the Executive Committee within one month following receipt of the resolution. The Executive Committee must convene a meeting of members within 6 months, which will decide with regard to exclusion.

SECTION 7

Organs of the association

Organs of the association are:

- the general meeting of members,
- the Executive Committee,

SECTION 8

The Meeting of Members

1. The general meetings of members shall take place at least once a year. They shall be convened by the Executive Committee through the digital EAGT newsletter, indicating the agenda, and observing a minimum period of notice of three months. That period shall begin upon the day following the date of despatching the digital EAGT newsletter, which letter shall be deemed to have been sent to the member if it is addressed to the most recent e-mail address notified in writing by the member to the association.
2. The agenda shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Every member shall be entitled to apply to the Executive Committee for an addition to the agenda up to one week at the latest before a meeting of members. The chairperson of the meeting shall indicate the addition at the commencement of the meeting of members. The meeting shall decide by a simple majority of those present whether to accept any addition to the agenda proposed at the meeting.
3. Any changes to the constitution may only be adopted by a 2/3 majority of the votes cast of those present.
4. The meeting of members shall have the following duties:
 - to accept the annual report and the annual accounts of the Executive Committee;
 - to give the members of the Executive Committee formal approval in respect of their actions;
 - to establish new standing committees and task groups;
 - to establish the annual membership fees;

- to resolve upon any changes to the constitution and dissolution of the association.
 - to vote on (to change) the accreditation regulations of individual members (Gestalt therapists and Gestalt practitioners in organisations), training institutes, professional organisations and NOGTs.
5. An extraordinary meeting of members shall be convened by the Executive Committee if the interests of the association shall so require or if one tenth of the members shall request the same in writing to the Executive Committee, indicating the purpose thereof and reasons therefore.
 6. The meeting of members shall elect members and president of the Executive Committee for a period of three years. They can be re-elected for two subsequent periods at most (with a maximum of 9 years).
 7. The meeting of members shall elect members and chair:
 - of the Training Standard Committee;
 - of the Ethical Committee;
 - of the Complaints Committee;
 - of the Gestalt Practitioners in Organisations Committee;
 In case other committees are voted for and/or installed their members and chairs should be elected as well every three years.
 They can be re-elected for two subsequent periods at most (with a maximum of 9 years).
 8. The meeting of members shall in general adopt their resolutions by a simple majority of votes of those present. For the purpose of dissolving the association, a majority of four fifths of those present shall be required.

SECTION 9

The Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee executes and follows the policy and the objectives of the association.
 The Executive Committee shall consist of a maximum of 8 persons, including the Chairperson (President), the Secretary, the Treasurer, the External Relations / NOGTs Officer, the Chair of the Training Standard Committee and the GPO Chair. One member is nominated as President Deputy (Vice-President).
2. The association shall be represented by two members of the Executive Committee jointly, of which one shall be the chairperson or the deputy chairperson.
3. In order to do justice to the European nature of the association, if possible, at least four nationalities will be represented in the Executive Committee.
4. The chairperson shall convene ordinary and, where appropriate, extraordinary meetings of the Executive Committee, and shall arrange the general meetings of members to be held at least once per year. The chairperson shall convene and chair the meeting of members. The chairperson shall decide with regard to applications for acceptance and exclusion in respect of persons and institutions.
5. The Executive Committee meetings shall be convened if the interest of the association shall so demand (at least once per year), or if one third of the Executive Committee members shall demand convening in writing to the secretary, indicating the purpose thereof and reasons therefore.
6. The Executive Committee shall adopt its resolutions by way of a simple majority and shall devise its own rules of procedure.

SECTION 10

Resolutions

The resolutions adopted in the Executive Committee meetings and in the meetings of

members shall be signed in writing by the minutes secretary who takes the minutes of the meeting.

SECTION 11

Dissolution

1. Dissolution of the association may only be resolved upon in a meeting of members by the majority of votes as laid down in section 8. In the event that the meeting of members does not appoint separate liquidators, the chairperson and the treasurer shall be appointed jointly as liquidators having the right to represent the association.
2. The liquidators shall effect ongoing business, and the remaining available assets shall be transferred to charitable institution, to be determined by the meeting of members in the resolution to dissolve the association.