

22 March 2023

English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Sixty-second session
Vienna, 20-31 March 2023

**Request for observer status with the United Nations
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: application
of the European Astronomical Society (EAS)**

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its thirty-third session, in 1990, the Committee considered guidelines for granting observer status with the Committee to international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The possible criteria suggested by the Outer Space Affairs Division to the Committee at that time were the following:

(a) As part of its programme, the organization should be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

(b) The aims and purposes of the organization should be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) The organization should be a recognized international organization and should have an established headquarters, an executive officer, and a constitution, a copy of which is deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In the case of a non-governmental organization, it should be a non-profit organization.

2. Having considered the matter, the Committee at its thirty-third session, agreed, that in the future non-governmental organizations which request observer status with the Committee should have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and should, as part of their programmes, be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Committee

3. At its fifty-third session, in 2010, the Committee agreed that observer status would be granted to non-governmental organizations on a provisional basis, for a period of three years, pending information on the status of their application for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The Committee also agreed



that the provisional observer status could be extended for an additional year, if necessary. The Committee further agreed that it would grant permanent observer status to such non-governmental organizations upon confirmation of their consultative status with the Council.

4. While the Committee's decision did not specifically include the elements referred to in 1 (c) above, it has been the practice of the committee, since its decision in 1990, to have before it the constitution or statutes of the organization or entity requesting observer status.

5. On 22 March 2023, the Office for Outer Space Affairs received an application for observer status with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space from EAS. The following related correspondence received from EAS is attached to this document:

(a) Letter from EAS conveying the intention to become a permanent observer of the Committee;

(b) European Astronomical Society (EAS) Constitution;

(c) European Astronomical Society (EAS) Bylaws; and

(d) Tax Exempt Status of European Astronomical Society in organizational seat of Geneva, Switzerland



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For Attention:
Mr. Niklas Headman,
acting Director, UNOOSA

United Nations Office for
Outer Space Affairs,
United Nations Office at Vienna,
Vienna International Centre,
Wagramerstrasse 5,
A-1220 Vienna
AUSTRIA

March 20, 2023

Subject: Application for permanent observer status with the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Dear Mr Hedman,

I am writing to you today, in my capacity as President of the European Astronomical Society (EAS), to formally apply for the status of permanent observer organization to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

Founded in 1990, the EAS is a society of close to 5,000 individual members located in Europe and beyond. It also counts 30 organizational members: foundations, research institutions and entities that support the activities of the society.

The EAS promotes and advances astronomy in Europe, supporting its members in the undertaking of their professional activities. As an independent body, the EAS is able to act on matters that need to be handled at a European level on behalf of the European astronomical community. In its endeavors the EAS collaborates with 32 affiliated national astronomical societies, pan-european research organizations and networks. Furthermore, it regularly engages with European policy makers and funding agencies (see annex below for list of organizational members and affiliated societies).

The Society is also the organizer of the EAS annual meetings, the largest yearly astronomy-focused meeting in Europe, which has been bringing together scientists working in all fields of astrophysics and space science, policy makers and public engagement specialists for over two decades.

The EAS strives to make a positive impact in society, with activities that are relevant to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We organize, thanks also to our long-standing collaboration with the African Astronomical Society, meetings and specialized educational events, supporting the participation of scientists from developing countries (relevant to SDGs 4, 10 and 17). We promote and support the participation of women and minorities in EAS activities, and overall are committed to increase their participation in Astronomy (relevant to SDG 5).

In 2018, the society joined Leiden University as a founding partner of the European Regional Office of Astronomy for Development. This is part of a global initiative by the International Astronomical Union aimed at harnessing the skills, infrastructure and knowledge of astronomers to benefit society at large by pursuing the United Nations SDGs.

Thus, the EAS objectives are well aligned with the mission of COPUOS.

The EAS is committed to sustainable development of space activities, and in particular to preserving the Dark and Quiet Skies, for both science and society. We would be very interested in contributing to the COPUOS working group on Long Term Sustainability of Space Activities (LTS), which deals with many aspects relevant to Astronomy: a number of high-value astronomical observing assets are located in outer space, and it is to be expected that in the long run observing facilities will be placed on the surface of the Moon.

We also stand ready to contribute to the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN) and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG).

We look forward to working with COPUOS in the pursuit of a sustainable, peaceful, cooperative future for outer space, towards a shared stewardship of the skies.

The EAS is currently in the process of securing consulting status with ECOSOC.

I am herewith attaching our supporting documents to the application as follows:

1. European Astronomical Society Constitution
2. European Astronomical Society By-Laws
3. Certification of Tax Exempt Status by Swiss Authorities

Thank you for your consideration of this application. I remain at your disposal to provide any further information you may require.

Sincerely,



Roger L. Davies
President of the European Astronomical Society

ANNEX I

Affiliated Societies	Country
Armenian Astronomical Society (ArAS)	Armenia
Astronomische Gesellschaft (AG) (Legal seat in Germany)	Germany
Astronomical Society of Ireland (ASI)	Ireland
Austrian Society for Astronomy and Astrophysics (OeGAA)	Austria
Bulgarian Astronomical Society (BGAS)	Bulgaria
Croatian Astronomical Society (HAD)	Croatia
Czech Astronomical Society (CzAS)	Czech Republic
Instrument Center for Danish Astrophysics (IDA)	Denmark
Royal Netherlands Astronomical Society (KNA, formerly NAC)	Netherlands
Estonian Astronomical Society (EAS)	Estonia
Eurasian Astronomical Society (EAAS)	Russia
Finnish Astronomical Society (FAS)	Finland
French Astronomical Society (SF2A)	France
Hellenic Astronomical Society (Hel.A.S.)	Greece
Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA)	Hungary
Icelandic National Committee for Astronomy	Iceland
Italian Astronomical Society (SAIt)	Italy
Latvian Astronomical Society (LAB)	Latvia
Lithuanian Astronomical Society (LAS)	Lithuania
Norwegian National Committee for Astronomy (NNCA)	Norway
Polish Astronomical Society (PTA)	Poland
Portuguese Astronomical Society (SPA)	Portugal
Romanian National Committee for Astronomy (CNRA)	Romania
Royal Astronomical Society (RAS)	United Kingdom
Society of Astronomers of Serbia (DAS)	Serbia
Slovak Astronomical Society (SAS)	Slovakia
Society of Mathematicians, Physicists and Astronomers of Slovenia (DMFA)	Slovenia
Spanish Astronomical Society (SEA)	Spain
Swedish National Committee for Astronomy (SNCA)	Sweden
Swiss Society for Astrophysics and Astronomy (SSAA)	Switzerland
Turkish Astronomical Society (TAD)	Turkey
Ukrainian Astronomical Association (UAA)	Ukraine

Organizational Member	Country
The University of Geneva	Switzerland
The European Southern Observatory (ESO)	Germany
Observatoire de Paris	France
Springer	Germany
Foundation MERAC	Switzerland
Square Kilometer Array Observatory	UK
The Royal Astronomical Society (RAS)	UK
The Italian National Institute for Astrophysics, INAF	Italy
ETH Zurich	Switzerland
CEA	France
Societa' Astronomica Italiana (SAIt)	Italy
The Cherenkov Telescope Array	Italy
The Fritz Zwicky Foundation (FZS)	Switzerland
Astronomy & Astrophysics	Germany
Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale Lausanne (EPFL)	Switzerland
The Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC)	Spain
EDP Science	France
The Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics	Germany
The Spanish Society of Astronomy (SEA)	Spain
The Hellenic Astronomical Society (Hel.A.S.)	Greece
The Finnish Astronomical Society (FAS)	Finland
Liverpool John Moores University	UK
The Swiss Society for Astrophysics and Astronomy (SSAA)	Switzerland
The Institute of Astrophysics of the Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (IA-FORTH)	Greece
The Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing (IAASARS)	Greece
The Institute of Space Studies of Catalonia (IEEC - Institut d'Estudis Espacials de Catalunya)	Spain
The Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía (IAA-CSIC; Granada)	Spain
The Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics Tübingen (IAAT)	Germany
	Czech Republic
The Czech Astronomical Society (CzAS)	
The Slovak Astronomical Society (SAS)	Slovakia



CONSTITUTION

I. NAME - DURATION - SEAT - PURPOSE

- Article 1**
- (a) Under the name of European Astronomical Society (EAS), an association has been organised and incorporated; it is governed by Article 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code and by the present Constitution.
 - (b) Its duration shall be perpetual.
 - (c) Its seat is in Geneva, Switzerland.

Article 2 The purpose of the Society is and shall be to contribute to and promote the advancement of astronomy, in its broadest sense, in Europe by all suitable means and in particular:

- (a) by providing an independent forum for the discussion of subjects of common interest;
- (b) by providing means whereby action can be taken on those matters which appear desirable to handle on a European level.

II. MEMBERSHIP

Article 3 The membership of the society shall consist of Ordinary Members, Junior Members, Honorary Members, and Organisational Members.

- Article 4**
- (a) Persons who have shown by their contribution to science, by their professional activity or otherwise, to Council's satisfaction, that they can further the cause and objectives of the Society, may become ordinary Members of the Society.
 - (b) Students for an advanced degree in astronomy or related science may become Junior Members and remain so at most until the beginning of the year following the award of a Ph.D. (or equivalent) degree.
 - (c) The Society may admit Honorary Members who shall have the rights and privileges determined by the By-laws.
 - (d) Council may establish classes of membership for corporations, publishers and non-profit organisations, referred to further as Organisational Members, whose rights and privileges are determined by the By-laws.

Article 5 The procedure for the election of members is regulated by the By-laws.

Article 6 Members as defined in Article 3 are not personally liable for debts and liabilities of the Society, which is only liable to the extent of its assets.

Article 7 Membership terminates:

- (a) on withdrawal by the member;
- (b) on death;
- (c) on failure to pay membership fees as specified in the By-laws;
- (d) on notification by Affiliated Societies.

III. AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Article 8 Societies or Organisations in Europe with aims closely related to the aims of the European Astronomical Society may become "Affiliated Societies", upon approval by Council.

Article 9 Affiliated Societies may have the following privileges under conditions specified in the By-laws:

- (a) A special membership fee may apply to the members of an Affiliated Society.
- (b) Certain publication privileges may apply to papers presented at meetings of Affiliated Societies.
- (c) Affiliated Societies have the right to attend the Business Meeting of the Society.
- (d) Such other privileges as Council may from time to time decide.

IV. THE COUNCIL

Article 10 The Council shall be the governing body of the Society and shall manage, direct and control the affairs and property of the Society within the limits of the By-laws. Council may delegate some of its powers to an Executive Committee or to some of its officers.

Article 11 The Council shall consist of the five officers of the Society: the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and of seven other members. Members of Council will serve for a period of four years, according to the schedule of the By-laws. If one of the Council members cannot serve out the normal term, Council may temporarily appoint someone to fill the vacancy until the next election.

Article 12 All members of Council shall be elected by the members of the Society. Normally the Council will propose a slate of candidates for the vacant posts. This slate may contain the names of members of Council as long as they have not already served two 4-year terms, or in case a Council member has been temporarily appointed to fill a vacancy. In selecting the candidates Council shall pay due attention to attaining a reasonable balance, geographically and in scientific expertise. Under the conditions specified in the By-laws, Ordinary Members may nominate candidates. The election will be conducted by e-mail as specified in the By-laws.

V. MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

Article 13 The Society shall hold a General Assembly and Business Meeting no less than once every two years.

Article 14 A group of members may propose resolutions for the agenda of the General Assembly in accordance with the By-laws. When such a resolution is approved by Council and by the relevant majority of members present and voting, as specified in the By-laws, it will take effect immediately. However, if Council does not approve such a resolution, but the relevant majority of members present and voting supports it, a mail ballot of all members of the Society will be held in accordance with the By-laws.

Article 15 The Society may create specialized Divisions, which may hold meetings in conjunction with or separate from the general meeting.

VI. FINANCES OF THE SOCIETY

Article 16 Council shall establish a budget for an appropriate period as specified in the By-laws.

Article 17 The resources of the Society consist of:

- (a) dues paid by members;
- (b) gifts, bequests and legacies;

- (c) subsidies or grants awarded to it by public or private bodies and other sponsoring organisations;
- (d) any other resources which may derive from its own activities.

In order to fulfill its purpose and to secure its functioning, the Society may at all times constitute or organise separate or independent funds or bodies and give them an appropriate legal structure.

Article 18 Council shall establish a schedule of contributions to be paid by the members.

VII. AMENDMENTS

Article 19 Proposals to amend this Constitution may be made by Council or in the form of a resolution according to Article 14. In all cases, however, such an amendment will take effect only after a mail ballot of all members of the Society has been held, in accordance with the By-laws, in which the amendment has been approved by a two thirds majority of the members who are voting.

Article 20 Proposals to amend the By-laws may be made by Council at the General Assembly or in the form of a resolution according to Article 14. Unless specified otherwise in the Constitution or in the By-laws, if such an amendment is accepted by Council and by the majority of members present and voting, it will take effect immediately. If Council does not accept the amendment but the majority of members present and voting does, a mail ballot of all members of the Society will be held, in accordance with the By-laws, in which the issue will be decided by the majority of members voting.

Geneva, December 2008

[Updated Article 12 adopted at the EAS General Assembly 2015]

[Updated Article 12 adopted at the EAS General Assembly 2017]

[Adopted at the EAS General Assembly 2022, and after e-mail ballot closing on 15 Sep 2022]



BY-LAWS

I. Introduction

1. These By-laws are intended to supplement the Constitution of the EAS by specifying various detailed procedures. In case of conflict between the Constitution and the By-laws, the former shall be paramount.

II. Membership

1. Persons applying for ordinary membership normally shall do so on the standard application form. The application should be supported by two Ordinary Members. The latter requirement is waived for Members of Affiliated Societies and IAU members.
2. Students for an advanced degree applying for Junior membership normally shall do so on the standard application form. The application should be supported by the supervisor and one (other) Ordinary Member. At the beginning of the year following the award of the Ph.D. (or equivalent) degree, the Junior membership shall cease and the Junior Member may request to become an Ordinary Member. No person may be Junior Member for more than seven years unless Council decides otherwise because of exceptional circumstances. Junior Members are entitled to a reduced annual contribution (to be set by Council). They have the same rights and privileges as Ordinary Members.
3. Affiliated Societies may provide lists of their members satisfying the conditions for membership to become Ordinary or Junior members.
4. Council may award the status of Honorary member to a non-member who has rendered meritorious service to the goals of the Society. Honorary members pay no dues and have the same rights and privileges as Ordinary Members, with the provision that they cannot vote nor become Council Officers.
5. Council may approve requests by an Organisation desiring to support the goals of the Society to be awarded an Organisational membership. Organisational Members are not entitled to vote.
6. A member who has not paid after due warning, for two years, the dues established by Council according to chapter VI, Article 2, of these By-Laws, ceases to be a member of EAS.

III. Affiliated Societies

1. Council may decide on a special membership fee for the members of an Affiliated Society if
 - a) that Society collects and transmits the dues for the EAS members belonging to that Society,
 - b) other circumstances are considered by Council to justify such a special membership fee.

2. Council may decide to allow the publication of papers presented at meetings of Affiliated Societies in a publication of the Society under conditions to be set by Council.

IV. The Council

1. Members of Council will serve for a period of four years with half of the Council rotating off every two years. The President, one Vice-President, the Treasurer and three Councilors will rotate off together; the other Vice-President, the Secretary and the other four Councilors will rotate off two years later.
2. Council will notify, by e-mail, the Ordinary Members and the Affiliated Societies, of the posts on the Council that will become vacant, no later than eight months before the vacancies normally arise. Ordinary Members may nominate candidates, provided such candidates have indicated in writing that they are willing to serve if elected. Nominations need to arrive, by email, to Council no later than one month after receiving the notification of the vacant posts. Council will then appoint a Nominating Committee, composed of one Council member not in the slate of candidates and at least four members, tasked to prepare a balanced slate of candidates, which will include more candidates than the number of vacant posts. The Nominating Committee may propose to reconfirm Council members eligible for a second term in the same position. The proposed slate will then be sent to all Ordinary Members by email. Ordinary Members may vote for the number of candidates needed to fill all the vacant posts or fewer, but not more. The candidates having received the largest number of votes, by a count of the ballots received within one month from the date on which the ballots were e-mailed, will be considered to have been elected.
3. If in accordance with Article 14 of the constitution, a resolution has been passed which states that the membership has no confidence in the Council, a Committee, composed of at least five members who served in past Councils and are no longer Council members, shall be appointed by the General Assembly to propose a slate of candidates for elections to Council. The elections will take place according to Art IV.2 of the by-laws. The Council shall resign as soon the result of the election is known. The new President, one Vice-President, the Treasurer and three Councilors will serve for two years and the other Council members for four years. Members of the preceding Council are not excluded from being appointed to the new Council.
4. If for any reason the positions of six or more members of the Council are vacant, an extraordinary General Assembly will be called to initiate a Council election under the procedure described in Art IV.3 of the by-laws. Members of the preceding Council are not excluded from being appointed to the new Council.
5. At the meetings of the Council seven members, including at least two Officers, present shall constitute a quorum.

V. Meetings of the Society

1. The meeting of the Society with the Affiliated Societies is called Business Meeting.
2. The agenda of a General Assembly of the Society, including the resolutions proposed by Council, shall be mailed to the members at least two months before the date of the meeting.
3. At the General Assembly, 50 Ordinary Members present shall constitute a quorum.

4. A group of at least ten Ordinary Members may propose resolutions for consideration at the General Assembly by notifying, in writing, the President or the Council member acting on his behalf no later than 24 hours before the beginning of the General Assembly.
5. If the majority of the Ordinary Members voting approves a resolution and if Council agrees to the resolution, it shall be deemed to have been adopted. If Council does not agree to the resolution, a mail ballot will be sent to all ordinary members within one month after the General Assembly, and the matter will be decided by the two-thirds majority of the members voting, whose ballots will have been received less than one month after they were mailed.
6. A resolution which includes a provision for the expenditure of funds may only be considered if the source of these funds is explicitly stated.
7. Amendments which do not fundamentally change a resolution may be proposed by Ordinary Members present at the General Assembly and adopted by a majority of those present and voting.
8. An Ordinary Member present at the General Assembly may propose that additional items be placed on the agenda. Resolutions adopted by the majority of the Ordinary Members voting concerning these additional items will be only in the nature of an advice to Council.

VI. Finances of the Society

1. The Council shall establish a budget for a two-year period. The budget will be communicated to the members of the Society.
2. The Council shall establish a schedule of annual contributions for the different classes of membership. The contributions shall be expressed in Euro and may be converted to other currencies as appropriate on the basis of the exchange rates in force at the time the schedule is established. The contributions cannot be increased by more than the cumulative inflation correction – determined for Geneva, Switzerland – since the last preceding change, without approval by the membership. A proposal for such a larger change has to be made to the membership by mail no less than four months before the beginning of the calendar year for which the increase is sought; for approval, a majority of the votes received two months after the ballots have been mailed shall be required.
3. Council may also set membership fees for particular categories of members (retired, unemployed, etc.) and for Organisational Memberships.

VII. Communication

1. Mail from Council to the members of the Society can be sent out by normal mail or by electronic communication, including in those cases in the Constitution or in the By-Laws, which mention the use of mail (e.g., elections, invitation to the General Assembly, mail ballots and amendments of Constitution and/or By-Laws).

VIII. Amendments

1. Proposals to amend the Constitution or the By-Laws shall be mailed to the members at least two months before the General Assembly at which they are to be considered.

2. A group of at least 50 Ordinary Members may also propose such amendments which should be received by the President no later than three months before the General Assembly.
3. In cases where a mail ballot is to take place, the ballots will be mailed within one month after the General Assembly, and the matter will be decided by the appropriate majority of the ordinary members voting whose ballots will have been received less than one month after they were mailed.

Geneva, December 2008

[Updated Article IV.2 adopted at the EAS General Assembly 2017]

[Adopted at the EAS General Assembly 2022, and after e-mail ballot closing on 15 Sep 2022]



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EUROPEAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
C/O ISDC Dpt Astronomie UNI Genève
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CT/jgi-DAR 016090137

Genève, le 31 octobre 2016

**Concerne : EUROPEAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY – N° 080.012.190
Exonération des impôts cantonaux et communaux (ICC)**

Madame, Monsieur,

Par l'information aux associations professionnelles n° 1/2016 du 4 mai 2016 disponible sur notre site internet (<http://ge.ch/impots/informations>), notre administration a communiqué sa volonté que l'exonération fiscale de certaines personnes morales soit désormais et en principe de durée indéterminée.

Constatant dans le cadre de l'examen de sa déclaration fiscale que l'institution mentionnée en titre bénéficie d'une exonération des impôts cantonaux et communaux genevois sur le bénéfice et le capital uniquement pour une durée limitée, nous avons par la présente l'avantage de vous informer que **cette exonération est prolongée pour une durée indéterminée.**

Par souci de transparence, nous attirons votre attention sur le fait que cette exonération ne libère par l'institution de remplir, conformément au droit, ses obligations de procédure. Elle reste ainsi notamment soumise à l'obligation de déposer auprès de notre administration sa déclaration fiscale annuelle dûment remplie et accompagnée de ses annexes dont ses états financiers.

De même, nous nous réservons expressément la faculté de revoir en tout temps cette exonération notamment dès que les conditions pour en bénéficier ne sont plus réalisées. A cet égard, toute modification substantielle portant sur le but statutaire ou les activités effectives de l'institution doit être portée sans délai à notre connaissance.

Convaincus que vous réserverez un bon accueil à la présente, nous vous adressons, Madame, Monsieur, nos meilleures salutations.

Direction des affaires fiscales
(formule sans signature)