

## **Statutes of Balkan Society of Pediatric and Congenital Heart Diseases**

### **Article 1**

General provisions - Name, Aim, and Activities

#### ***Name***

The name of this organization is the **Balkan Society of Pediatric and Congenital Heart Diseases**

#### ***Aim***

The aim of the Society is to promote the practice of pediatric cardiology and cardiovascular surgery, as well as to encourage the development of friendly relations among its members and facilitate the international exchange of knowledge in the field of pediatric and adult congenital cardiology and cardiovascular surgery within the Balkan countries.

The Society is a non-profit, non-political organization that serves the public interest.

#### ***Activities***

The Society is supporting the following activities to achieve its objective:

- a) Organize scientific meetings, workshops, symposiums for the training of its members.
- (b) Publish scientific articles in the field of pediatric and congenital heart diseases in its official journal entitled, "Journal of Pediatric and Congenital Heart Diseases" (JPCHD).
- c) Contribute to the solution of the ongoing problems in pediatric and congenital cardiology and cardiovascular surgery by establishing working groups.
- d) Be involved in some humanitarian activities necessary to achieve better conditions in cardiac healthcare in the Balkan area.

### **Article 2 – Legal Status**

The Society has its headquarters in Geneva. Based on the present statutes, it enjoys civil personality according to article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code within the Swiss Kalangos Foundation, which is registered in the Chamber of Commerce of the Canton of Geneva.

The official language of the Society is English. All documents will be circulated in English.

### **Article 3 – The Board of the Society**

The Board of the Society is established by the members representing each of the 11 Balkan Countries (Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey) and two associated countries, Moldova and Cyprus.

#### **Article 4. Membership**

Members of the Society may be medical and paramedical healthcare professionals' in relationship with acquired and congenital pediatric as well as congenital adult cardiac pathologies.

**Active Members** may only be professionals residing and practicing in the Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey) and two associated countries, Moldova and Cyprus.

**Associate Members** are medical and paramedical healthcare professionals who wish to support the concept of Balkan Society and take part in the scientific meetings of the Society, regardless of where they practice.

**Supporting Members** are organizations that want to encourage and support the Society, such as national and local professional associations or scientific societies.

The Board must initially approve candidates for membership in this Society. Such nomination must have been distributed to all members of the Society before final membership approval in the General Assembly. Members in good standing may resign at any time. The status of a member is realized by means of a certificate of acceptance and can be terminated by the member's retirement, through a declaration of cessation of practice, or following a delay in the payment of membership fees by more than three years. Membership fees for regular members at the Society are 20 euros per year, and those for fellows, trainees, and paramedical staff members (ECC technicians, nursing staff etc.) are 10 euros per year.

Membership can be terminated by the decision by the Board of the Society. Adequate reasons must be presented to the member in question, who can argue against the exclusion. The General Assembly can take the final decision.

Only **Active Members** are eligible to vote and participate in General Assemblies.

#### **Article 5. - The General Assembly**

The General Assembly is the supreme power of the Society, made up of its members. Each member is entitled to one vote. The general meeting is validly constituted on a yearly basis, regardless of the number of members attending. The decision is reached by a majority of the members present.

One of the activities of the General Assembly is that the active members of each country elect their representatives at the Board. In the rare case of one active member from a country, he will represent his country on the Board, without elections.

#### **Article 6 – Voting**

The Society is directed by a board of thirteen members representing each of the thirteen Countries.

The Board itself proposes the candidates for the position of President, Vice-President (who is President elect), Treasurer and General Secretary. The Auditor should be confirmed by the general assembly every two years. Based on the proposal of the board, the general assembly elects them every two years. The President and Vice president (President elect) are not eligible for re-election to these positions until the end of the turnover between 13 countries. The Vice president automatically becomes the President after the termination of the two years' mandate of the past president.

A turnover between the 13 countries is strictly respected for the election of the President and Vice president. Each country's representatives could be eligible for 3 successive mandates of 2 years based on the proposal of each specific country's members. Each country's members committees should communicate their representative to the Board every two years before the general assembly. The general secretary and treasurer could be eligible for 3 successive mandates of 2 years based on the proposal of the board.

In the event of a tie, the President of the Board shall have the casting vote. Unless otherwise unanimously decided by the present members, the elections and all the decisions regarding the society will take place by secret ballot. The minutes are signed by the President of the Board and the Secretary-General.

#### **Article 7 - Board representation**

The Board has the most extensive powers for the management of the affairs of the Society and takes all necessary decisions for this purpose.

The Society is validly represented concerning third parties by the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, or the Secretary, signing collectively by two.

#### **Article 8 – Competencies of the General Assembly**

General Assembly has the following competencies:

- Elect, as well as withdraw the members of the Board.
- Appoint the Congress Chairman responsible for the organization of the annual
- Balkan Congress with a turnover amongst 13 countries or existing members' countries
- Approve the annual report and the accounts of the Society.
- Designate the amount of the membership fee, acting on the proposal by the
- Board.
- Render decisions on the membership,
- Modify the statutes of the Society.
- Establish special committees, as proposed by the Board.

The General Assembly must be informed about the agenda at least one month before the vote is taken. To facilitate local activities, General Assembly can, acting on the proposal by the Board, nominate local chapters, which will be chaired by elected local representatives and can hold regional meetings of the Society under the auspices and direction of the Board.

#### **Article 9 - Contributions, resources, liability, and exercise**

The resources of the Society consist of membership fees, donations, legacies, and subsidies of any kind, with a specific account number, within the Kalangos Foundation.

All members are required to pay each year and in advance a membership fee set each year by the general meeting.

The Kalangos Foundation is liable to the annual economic obligations incurred by its assets, at the exclusion of every individual responsibility of its members.

#### **Article 10 - Resources**

The Society ensures the funding necessary for its activities by means of membership fees, donations, grants, and miscellaneous subsidies.

**Article 11 - Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year starts on the first of January and ends on the thirty-first of December of each year.

**Article 12 - Auditor**

The official external Auditor of accounts is appointed by the Council for one year and can be reelected during each annual general Assembly (It is better to have a professional external auditor recognized and certified by the State because, in case of conflict, he has the entire responsibility). Two internal Auditors are appointed by the Council for one year and can be reelected. They are recruited from the most senior members of the association and past Council members.

The Auditors verify the annual accounts submitted by the Treasurer at least a month prior to the annual General Assembly. They present their report to the Board and General Assembly based on the balances and the annual accounts.

**Article 13 - Revision of the statutes**

Every proposal for a partial or total revision of the statutes must be sent to the Board of Society 3 months before the General Assembly, which takes the vote acting on the recommendation of the Board. The proposal can be approved by 2/3 majority of the members present and voting.

**Article 14 - Dissolution**

The same procedure is valid for the dissolution of Society. Such a decision can be rendered only by an assembly comprising at least half of the members of the Society and amassing a majority of at least three-fourths (3/4) of the present members. In the event of dissolution, the assets of the Society will be attributed to an institution or a public company which pursuing similar goals as the Society and is entitled to tax exemptions. Under no circumstances may the assets be returned to the natural founders or members, nor can they be used for their interests in any way, whether partly or in full.

**Article 12: Regulations**

Any other matter that is not included in the articles can be clarified by regulations of the Society, after the decision of the General Assembly.