AUSTRIAN VIETNAMESE ASSOCIATION

STATUTES

as of 10 April 2026

Preamble. Since the end of the Second World War, bilateral associations have existed in Austria with the aim of creating the densest possible network of international understanding and cooperation. In this way, Austria's relations with other countries are sustainably supported at an informal but particularly effective level. Intergovernmental relations and multilateral contacts have long ceased to be confined to classical diplomacy: today, economic, cultural and interpersonal contacts in particular shape an increasingly interconnected world. Over the many years since the first such associations were founded, the spirit of cooperation and friendship has contributed substantially to the resolute rejection of nationalism and xenophobia in Austria.

§ I. Name, Registered Office and Area of Activity

Para. 1 The Association bears the name "Gesellschaft Österreich Vietnam" (hereinafter abbreviated as GÖV). In English, this name shall be translated as "Austrian Vietnamese Association" (abbreviated AVA).

Para. 2 Its registered office is in Vienna and its activities extend throughout the territory of Austria. The establishment of branch offices is intended.

Para. 3 GÖV/AVA is a member of the "Dachverband aller österreichisch-ausländischen Gesellschaften - PaN", which coordinates the diverse activities of Austrian bilateral friendship associations, facilitates mutual information and supports them to the best of its ability (see www.dachverband-pan.org).

§ II. Purpose

Para. 1 "Gesellschaft Österreich Vietnam" is a non-profit association dedicated to fostering bilateral relations between Austria and Vietnam. GÖV promotes open-minded and peaceful dialogue between the people, cultures and religious communities of both countries.

Para. 2 The objectives of Gesellschaft Österreich Vietnam are:

a. to promote and develop sustainable economic, cultural and information exchange between Austria and Vietnam;
b. to deepen understanding in Austria of modern Vietnam and its cultural and economic development;
c. to create new opportunities for encounters between Austrians and Vietnamese, including Vietnamese migrants, through artistic and cultural programmes and events;
d. to create new opportunities for encounters between Austrian and Vietnamese companies through business-related programmes and events;
e. to support humanitarian aid projects, particularly in education and training, including in cooperation with other organisations.

Para. 3 For the purposes of the Austrian Federal Fiscal Code, the objectives of GÖV are non-profit and serve directly and exclusively the charitable purposes stated above.

§ III. Means of Achieving the Purpose of the Association and Their Funding

Para. 1 The purpose of the Association shall be pursued through the non-material and material means set out in paragraphs 2 and 3.

Para. 2 Non-material means include lectures, meetings, exhibitions, enquiries, congresses, appeals, resolutions, decisions and other statements of all kinds; the establishment and awarding of prizes; the establishment and operation of libraries; the publication of films, newsletters, journals, books, brochures and posters in various languages; the acquisition of films and organisation of film screenings; and, generally, the organisation of events of every kind using all media for public information, including print, slides, film, radio, e-mail, internet and television.

Para. 3 The necessary material resources shall be raised through membership fees, donations and proceeds from the Association's own events and publications.

§ IV. Types of Membership

Para. 1 The members of the Association are divided into:

a. Ordinary Individual Member
b. Ordinary Individual Member - Students, Family Members
c. Ordinary Corporate Member
d. Supporting Individual Member
e. Sponsoring Corporate Member
f. Sponsoring Corporate Member (Patron)
g. Association Member
h. Honorary Members (members of the Board of Trustees)

Para. 2 Ordinary membership is open to all natural persons aged 16 or over and to legal entities that endorse the purpose of the Association and wish to actively support it.

Para. 3 Supporting members are ordinary members who support the Association by paying an increased membership fee.

Para. 4 Sponsoring members are persons, including legal entities, who support and promote the aims and activities of the Association through substantial financial donations or other contributions.

Para. 5 Persons may, upon proposal by the Executive Board, be appointed Honorary Members by the General Assembly in recognition of special services to the Association or to Vietnamese-Austrian relations.

§ V. Acquisition of Membership

Para. 1 Members are admitted by the Executive Board.

Para. 2 An appeal against refusal of admission may be submitted to the General Assembly. Upon application by an ordinary member, the General Assembly may also revoke admissions made by the Executive Board.

Para. 3 Appointment as an Honorary Member (member of the Board of Trustees) is made by resolution of the General Assembly upon application by the Executive Board.

Para. 4 Membership applications accepted by the proponents shall become definitive only upon constitution of the Association.

§ VI. Rights and Duties of Members

Para. 1 All ordinary members are entitled to participate in the General Assembly, submit motions and exercise voting rights; they have the right to vote and to stand for election. All members are furthermore entitled to attend the Association's events and use its facilities.

Para. 2 All members shall safeguard the interests and reputation of the Association, comply with the Statutes and respect the decisions of its governing bodies. With the exception of members of the Board of Trustees, all members are also obliged to pay the membership fee in the amount determined by the General Assembly.

Para. 3 The membership fee schedule is set out in Annex A and forms an integral part of these Statutes.

§ VII. Termination of Membership

Para. 1 Membership ends upon death (or, in the case of legal entities, loss of legal personality), voluntary resignation, removal from the membership register or expulsion.

Para. 2 The Executive Board may remove a member from the membership register if, despite a reminder, the member is more than one year in arrears with payment of the membership fee.

Para. 3 The Executive Board may expel a member for breach of membership duties, in particular for conduct that may impair or damage the purpose and objectives of the Association, or for dishonourable conduct. On the same grounds, the General Assembly may, upon application by the Executive Board, resolve to exclude a person from the Board of Trustees.

Para. 3 An appeal against such measures or decisions of the Executive Board may be lodged with the General Assembly.

§ VIII. Governing Bodies

Para. 1 The governing bodies of the Association are:

a. the General Assembly
b. the Executive Board
c. the Executive Committee
d. the Board of Trustees
e. the Auditors
f. the Arbitration Panel

Para. 2 The above bodies perform their functions on an honorary, unpaid basis.

§ IX. The General Assembly

Para. 1 The ordinary General Assembly shall meet at least once every five years.

Para. 2 An extraordinary General Assembly shall be held within three months upon resolution of the Executive Board or the ordinary General Assembly, upon a written and reasoned request by at least one tenth of all members, or at the request of the supervisory body.

Para. 3 The General Assembly shall be convened by the Executive Board by written invitation to the individual members. Invitations must be sent no later than two weeks before the meeting, in writing or by e-mail to the address provided by the member, and must specify the exact time and place and state the agenda.

Para. 4 The President shall chair the General Assembly; if prevented, one of the Vice-Presidents shall chair it. If they are also prevented, the oldest Executive Board member present shall chair the meeting.

Para. 5 The General Assembly has a quorum if at least one third of all members entitled to vote are present. If no quorum exists at the scheduled starting time, the meeting shall be adjourned for fifteen minutes and shall thereafter have a quorum irrespective of the number of voting members present.

Para. 6 Resolutions are adopted by a simple majority; in the event of a tie, the chair shall have the casting vote. Resolutions to dissolve the Association require a two-thirds majority.

§ X. Responsibilities of the General Assembly

Para. 1 The following matters are reserved to the General Assembly:

a. receipt and approval of the activity report and annual financial statements after hearing the supervisory body;
b. appointment and, where applicable, removal of members of the Executive Board, the Board of Trustees and the Auditors;
c. election of office-holders, namely the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer;
d. determination of membership fees;
e. consideration of special matters included on the agenda;
f. amendment of the Statutes and voluntary dissolution of the Association;

§ XI. Electronic Communication and Decision-Making

Para. 1 Meetings of the governing bodies and participation in such meetings may also take place using electronic means of communication, provided simultaneous communication between participants is possible. Participants shall in that case be deemed present.

Para. 2 Resolutions may also be adopted by electronic communication, in particular by written circulation, provided all members entitled to vote are given an opportunity to participate and each vote can be clearly attributed. Resolutions adopted in this manner shall be documented in writing.

Para. 3 Invitations to meetings, transmission of documents and other communications may also be made electronically, in particular by e-mail, provided the member has supplied the Association with an appropriate contact address.

Para. 4 Detailed provisions concerning electronic meetings and decision-making may be laid down in rules of procedure.

§ XII. The Executive Board

Para. 1 The Executive Board is responsible for managing the Association in accordance with applicable law, these Statutes and the resolutions of the General Assembly.

Para. 2 The Executive Board decides on all current matters and develops and administers the Association's programme and budget.

Para. 3 The Executive Board works closely with the Executive Committee and takes its strategic recommendations into account. It consists at least of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General, the Treasurer and their deputies, where such deputies have been appointed.

Para. 4 The Executive Board is bound by the resolutions of the General Assembly.

Para. 5 The term of office of the Executive Board and all office-holders extends from one ordinary General Assembly to the next.

Para. 6 The Executive Board may provisionally remove from office members who, despite being invited, have failed without excuse to attend three consecutive meetings.

Para. 7 The Executive Board is entitled to co-opt additional Board members from among the membership and to propose new members of the Board of Trustees to the General Assembly.

Para. 8 The Executive Board shall meet as required, but at least once a year. Meetings shall be convened by the President or, if prevented, by one of the Vice-Presidents, in due time and in an appropriate manner.

Para. 9 The President shall chair Executive Board meetings; if prevented, one of the Vice-Presidents shall chair them. If they are also prevented, the oldest Executive Board member present shall chair the meeting.

Para. 10 The Executive Board has a quorum if all Board members have been duly invited and at least three Board members are present.

Para. 11 The Executive Board adopts resolutions by simple majority; in the event of a tie, the chair has the casting vote. Resolutions may also be adopted in writing or electronically by circulation with a simple majority.

§ XIII. Responsibilities of the Executive Board

Para. 1 The Executive Board is responsible for:

a. preparing the annual budget estimate and drafting the activity report and annual financial statements;
b. preparing the annual programme;
c. preparing the agenda and carrying out other preparatory work for the General Assembly;
d. convening ordinary and extraordinary General Assemblies;
e. implementing resolutions of the General Assembly;
f. administering the Association's assets;
g. admitting, expelling and removing members from the membership register;
h. conducting all business not reserved under these Statutes to the General Assembly or assigned to another governing body;

§ XIV. Special Duties of Individual Members of the Executive Board

Para. 1 The President represents the Association, in particular externally, before authorities and third parties.

Para. 2 The President chairs the General Assembly and meetings of the Executive Board, ensures together with the Secretary General that resolutions adopted by these bodies are implemented, and handles the Association's ongoing business.

Para. 3 In cases of imminent danger, the President may, in agreement with a Vice-President or the Secretary General, issue independent instructions under his or her own responsibility even in matters requiring a resolution of the General Assembly or Executive Board; such instructions require subsequent approval by the competent governing body.

Para. 4 The Vice-Presidents act as deputies of the President when required.

Para. 5 In addition to the matters referred to in paragraph 2 that are handled jointly with the President, the Secretary General is responsible for keeping the minutes of the General Assembly and carrying out all written and technical work.

Para. 6 The Deputy Secretary General performs the functions of the Secretary General when required and upon instruction by the Secretary General.

Para. 7 The Treasurer is responsible for the proper financial management of the Association. The Deputy Treasurer performs these functions when required.

Para. 8 Written instruments and official notices of the Association shall be signed jointly by the President and the Secretary General.

Para. 9 In financial matters, the President, a Vice-President or the Secretary General may sign individually. The Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer signs jointly with the President or Secretary General.

Para. 10 Routine documents of minor importance may be signed by the President, Secretary General or Deputy Secretary General without countersignature.

§ XV. Executive Committee

Para. 1 The Executive Committee is the strategic leadership and coordination body of the Association. It consists of the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Secretary General.

Para. 2 The members of the Executive Committee are elected by the General Assembly, and their term of office corresponds to that of the Executive Board.

Para. 3 The Executive Committee is responsible in particular for developing the strategic direction of the Association and coordinating the activities of the Executive Board. It prepares major decisions, initiates projects, programmes and cooperation activities, and supports the Executive Board in implementing resolutions. It therefore performs a leadership role but not an executive management function.

Para. 4 The Executive Committee acts in an advisory and coordinating capacity and shall take the resolutions of the Executive Board into account.

Para. 5 The Executive Committee is convened by the President or the Secretary General. It shall also be convened if requested by at least one third of its members.

Para. 6 Resolutions are adopted by simple majority; in the event of a tie, the President has the casting vote.

§ XVI. Secretary General

Para. 1 The Secretary General is a member of the Executive Committee and performs a central operational coordination function within the Association. In particular, the Secretary General is responsible for ongoing coordination of the Association's activities and for implementing the resolutions of the General Assembly, the Executive Board and the Executive Committee.

Para. 2 In this context, the Secretary General is responsible for the organisational preparation and follow-up of meetings of the governing bodies, for promoting internal communication and for ensuring smooth cooperation among the governing bodies. In addition, the Secretary General supports the President in implementing strategic initiatives and participates in the development and implementation of projects and programmes.

Para. 3 The Secretary General acts within the framework of resolutions of the Executive Committee and the Executive Board and is accountable to them. The Executive Board may delegate certain management and representation powers to the Secretary General. Detailed duties and powers may be regulated by rules of procedure.

§ XVII. The Board of Trustees

Para. 1 The Board of Trustees consists of members who have supported Gesellschaft Österreich Vietnam in a special way through many years of service on the Executive Board, as well as well-known and distinguished public figures whose actions have contributed to achieving the objectives of the Association pursuant to § II of these Statutes.

§ XVIII. Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees

Para. 1 The members of the Board of Trustees support the interests of the Association and are available to advise the Executive Board.

§ XIX. The Auditors

Para. 1 The auditing body consists of two members elected by the General Assembly from among the ordinary members of the Association. The Auditors may not simultaneously be members of the Executive Board.

§ XX. Responsibilities of the Auditors

Para. 1 The Auditors meet as required; they are responsible for the ongoing review of the Association's financial management and for auditing the annual financial statements.

§ XXI. The Arbitration Panel

Para. 1 The Arbitration Panel decides all disputes arising from the Association relationship. It consists of five members of the Association. Each party to the dispute shall nominate two members within a period set by the Executive Board. These four members shall elect a fifth member of the Association as chair of the Arbitration Panel by majority vote; in the event of a tie among the proposed candidates, the decision shall be made by lot.

Para. 2 The Arbitration Panel shall determine its own rules of procedure in each case. It shall decide, without being bound by procedural rules, to the best of its knowledge and conscience, in accordance with these Statutes and the purpose of the Association, in non-public sessions and by majority vote.

Para. 3 An appeal against the decision of the Arbitration Panel may be lodged with the General Assembly.

§ XXII. Dissolution of the Association

Para. 1 The voluntary dissolution of the Association may only be resolved by a two-thirds majority at a General Assembly convened specifically for this purpose, with at least 50 percent of the members present.

Para. 2 The same General Assembly shall decide on the disposal of GÖV's assets in accordance with the applicable statutory provisions in favour of charitable organisations pursuing the same or similar objectives as GÖV.

ANNEX A

Membership Fee Schedule (as of December 2023)

Type of Membership	Annual Membership Fee
Sponsoring Corporate Member (Patron)	€ 1,460.-
Sponsoring Corporate Member	€ 730.-
Ordinary Corporate Member	€ 365.-
Association Member	€ 120.-
Supporting Individual Member	€ 70.-
Ordinary Individual Member	€ 35.-
Extraordinary Individual Member (Students, Family Members)	€ 15.-

The Membership Fee Schedule forms an integral part of the Statutes.

Any amendment to the Membership Fee Schedule requires approval by the General Assembly.

This does not apply to adjustments of membership fees of up to 10% per annum.

Such adjustments may be determined by the Executive Board.

ANNEX B

Election Rules of Gesellschaft Österreich-Vietnam

§ 1 Scope
These Election Rules govern the conduct of elections to the governing bodies of the Association in accordance with the Statutes.

§ 2 Election Proposal of the Executive Board
For each term of office, the Executive Board shall prepare an election proposal covering the positions to be filled and submit it to the General Assembly for resolution.

§ 3 Election Chair
The General Assembly shall appoint a person to conduct the election. This function may in particular be performed by the person chairing the General Assembly. The election chair shall ensure the proper conduct of the election and determine the election result.

§ 4 Voting Procedure
Voting shall generally be open and conducted by show of hands. The election proposal shall be voted on as a complete list. The proposal is adopted if it receives a simple majority of the valid votes cast; abstentions shall not be counted.

§ 5 Alternative Election Proposals
Additional or alternative election proposals may be submitted from the floor of the General Assembly. Such proposals shall only be put to a vote if the General Assembly so resolves. In that case, the General Assembly shall also decide on the method of conducting the election, in particular whether individual votes are to be held.

§ 6 Voting Rights
Members entitled to vote at the General Assembly are those who have duly paid their membership fees. The relevant status is the payment status at the time the General Assembly is convened. Members in arrears with their membership fees are not entitled to vote until the outstanding amount has been paid in full.