

# **STATUTES OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REMOTE SENSING LABORATORIES (EARSeL)**

*Present version ratified at General Assembly 4 July 1991*

## **Article 1 Title and Seat**

The European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories, hereinafter referred to as "the Association", is a non-governmental, non-profit-making body, composed of laboratories and other bodies concerned with research on peaceful applications of remote sensing.

The European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories has its seat in Strasbourg, 9 Quai Kléber. It is registered as an association with the Strasbourg Court in Volume XXXVII No. 31 and is governed by Articles 21 to 79 of the local Civil Code, kept in force by the Act of 1 June 1924 introducing French civil law and by the present Statute.

## **Article 2 Aims of the Association**

The aims of the Association are to encourage European research and to promote concerted efforts therein in all disciplines of remote sensing, to facilitate scientific exchange between the participating laboratories, to identify priority areas for research and to foster cooperation.

The Association undertakes to abstain from all political activity.

## **Article 3 Members and Observers**

Membership of the Association shall be open to all organisations of member countries of the Council of Europe, the European Community and of associated members of the European Space Agency, and all countries within the region of Europe, engaged in scientific research and peaceful applications of remote sensing.

Observer status is available to organisations from countries outside Europe and the member countries of the Council of Europe, the European Community and associate members of the European Space Agency, and also to individuals.

New members and observers are admitted by a vote of the General Assembly, provided they obtain a vote of at least two-thirds of the members present.

## **Article 4 Withdrawal and expulsion**

Members and observers may leave the Association at the end of the year provided they have notified the Bureau at least six months in advance.

The General Assembly may expel a member or observer by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members present if the conditions of its membership or observership are no longer satisfied.

## **Article 5**

### **Organs**

The organs of the Association shall be the General Assembly, the Council and the Bureau.

## **Article 6**

### **The General Assembly**

The General Assembly shall be composed of representatives of member laboratories. Only member laboratories of the Association shall be entitled to vote in the General Assembly. Each member laboratory shall have one vote in the General Assembly.

The General Assembly shall have power to decide on all matters affecting the Association. Decisions shall be taken by simple majority, except in certain cases provided for by the Statutes. The General Assembly shall be convened at least once every two years. The list of subjects for discussion must be submitted to members at least one month beforehand.

The Chairman of the Association shall be Chairman of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly may be convened by the Chairman, by a simple majority of the members of the Council, or by one-fifth of the members of the Association. The convocation is done by letter at least two months before the General Assembly.

The European Space Agency, the Commission of the European Communities and the Council of Europe may send representatives to the General Assembly in an advisory capacity.

The Council may invite observers to the General Assembly.

The decisions made during the General Assembly are reported in the General Assembly Proceedings distributed to all members and observers of the Association.

## **Article 7**

### **The Council**

The Association shall be administered by a Council consisting of one representative from each of the countries in which member laboratories are situated; however, the laboratories of several countries may arrange to be represented by one representative. Member laboratories shall elect their own representative to the Council by country or by group of countries. A representative's term of office shall be two years, renewable for further terms of two years.

The Council shall elect the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary General of the Association who shall constitute the Bureau.

The European Space Agency, the Commission of the European Communities and the Council of Europe may each appoint a representative to sit on the Council in an advisory capacity.

## **Article 8**

### **The Bureau**

The terms of office shall be two years. The offices of Chairman and Treasurer are for election in one year and those of Vice-Chairman and Secretary General are for election the following year. Re-election is possible, but no member of the Bureau may serve for more than two consecutive terms in one post.

The Bureau is the executive body of the Association.

The tasks of the Council and Bureau shall be, in particular:

- to initiate, organise and oversee working groups on a non- permanent basis for joint scientific programmes and projects;
- to initiate research projects and make recommendations on coordination;
- to provide information on equipment and methods, e.g. proceedings, news and symposia reports;
- to encourage programmes of exchange between laboratories;
- to organise working sessions on specific subjects connected with remote sensing; -to prepare reports for submission to the General Assembly.

The European Space Agency, the Commission of the European Communities and the Council of Europe may each appoint a representative to sit on the Bureau in an advisory capacity.

## **Article 9**

### **The Budget**

The General Assembly shall determine and monitor the arrangements for the payment of members' contributions to the expenses of the Association. It is empowered to accept gifts.

## **Article 10**

### **Amendment to the Statutes**

Proposals for amendments to the Statutes may be tabled by the Council or by one-fifth of the members of the Association. . Such proposals must be submitted at least one month before the next General Assembly.

They shall take effect if they receive the support of two-thirds of the members present.

## **Article 11**

### **Dissolution**

If the dissolution of the Association is moved, the procedure shall be the same as that laid down in Article 10 for amendments to the Statutes.

The General Assembly which has voted the dissolution shall decide, after the settlement of all the Association's debts and the fulfilment of all its commitments, the sharing of its remaining assets among its members.