

## **PREAMBLE**

The International Organisation for the Study of the Endurance of Ropes - OIPEEC - is a non-profit-making association established following a decision of the participants to the International Colloquium on the Fatigue of Ropes (Turin, 7-10th September, 1961) who unanimously passed the enclosed proposal, and with the valuable encouragement and help of OITAF and RILEM.

### **ARTICLE 1 - Aim of the Organisation**

The Organisation intends to:

- a) investigate and promote all forms of research on the endurance of ropes.
- b) collect and disseminate, in collaboration with the persons concerned the results obtained, either with respect to the said researches or those carried out on the same subject but not initiated by the Organisation.
- c) to that end keep in touch as closely as possible with individuals and bodies interested in the study of the endurance of ropes.
- d) organize and convene all forms of International meetings and Conferences on the same subject.

The term "endurance of ropes" must be here interpreted in its widest meaning, that is to say, to include all the subjects capable of influencing in any way the behaviour of ropes during service.

### **ARTICLE 2 - Registered Office - Legal Code applicable**

The Registered Office of the Organisation is situated in Grenoble.

The Organisation, having its Registered Office in France, is subject to French Law. For the application of this constitution the French text is authentic one in all respects.

The place and date of meetings of the Organisation and of Conferences are decided by the Management Committee.

### **ARTICLE 3 - International Character of the Organisation Official Languages**

The Organisation has an international character: its members may belong to any nationality. Its official languages are: German, English, French and Italian.

### **ARTICLE 4 - Different Categories of Membership**

The members of the Organisation are either individuals or bodies represented by a person of their choice. The members are divided into ordinary members and honorary members.

### **ARTICLE 5 - Ordinary members**

Ordinary members take part, by right, in the sessions of the General Assembly with the right to speak and vote, but subject to being up to date with their subscription. The Organisation will supply to them all communications and publications as agreed by the Management Committee.

### **ARTICLE 6 - Honorary members**

Honorary members are persons who have distinguished themselves by serving the Organisation's interests in their contribution to the work of the Organisation. Honorary members have all the rights of the ordinary members. Honorary members of the Organisation have the right to attend the Management Committee meetings. Their appointment is decided by the General Assembly on the proposition of the Management Committee.

The Organisation will supply to them, free of charge, all communications and publications.

### **ARTICLE 7 - Admission**

Every new admission will form the subject of a request to the Management Committee which will take a decision, provisionally, until ratification by the General Assembly.

Every request for admission implies unreserved adhesion to the present constitution.

#### Resignation

Any member can resign at the end of the Financial year by giving three month's notice. The subscription paid will not be refunded.

#### Expulsion

A member may be expelled by the Management Committee, provisionally, by a majority of the members present. The matter is then submitted for ratification by the General Assembly. The subscription paid will not be refunded.

### **ARTICLE 8 - Operation of the Organisation**

The Organisation acts through the following organs:

- The General Assembly
- The Management Committee
- The Administrative Secretariat
- The Treasury
- The Scientific Committee

### **ARTICLE 9 - The General Assembly**

The General Assembly is composed of all the ordinary members or their proxies. It is sovereign and can decide any question concerning the activity and operation of the Organisation.

The General Assembly is lawfully convened with full rights by the President of the Organisation in office in ordinary session at least once every two years; the delay between two General Assemblies must not exceed thirty months. If circumstances appear to justify it, the General Assembly may be convened at any time in extraordinary session by the President in office. The General Assembly is lawfully convened in extraordinary session if the request is made by at least half of the ordinary members.

The convening notices for either ordinary or extraordinary sessions must be sent out at least sixty days before the date of the opening meeting.

If unable to attend any ordinary member may appoint a proxy of his choice.

Decisions are taken by a simple majority of the ordinary members present or their proxies.

During every ordinary session the General Assembly appoints the President of the Organisation by election.

It appoints two scrutineers.

It decides the numeral composition of the Management Committee, elects the members of the latter and the auditor; during every ordinary session it studies and discusses the scientific work of the Scientific Committee and of the working parties.

Every person thus appointed by election carries out his functions until the following ordinary session of the General Assembly. Every person is eligible for re-election.

However, the President can be re-elected on only one occasion at the end of his mandate. The President and Vice-President must be chosen from among the ordinary members of the Organisation.

## **ARTICLE 10 - The Management Committee**

The Management Committee looks after the general working of the Organisation between the ordinary sessions of the General Assembly. However, the General Assembly can, during an extraordinary session, remove it from office.

The Management Committee is composed of:

- the Chairman, who is the President of the Organisation
- a Vice-Chairman who is the Vice-President of the Organisation
- a Secretary and a Treasurer, who both can be chosen from outside the members to the Organisation and who, in such a case, will not have a vote in the Management Committee
- one to ten ordinary members in addition to the President and the Vice-President

Honorary members have the right to attend the Management Committee meetings. They do not have the right to vote.

The Management Committee may co-opt additional members who have no voting rights in the committee.

The Management Committee is convened by the President. If unable to attend he may delegate his powers to the Vice-President.

Its decisions are taken by a majority of the members present.

Decisions can only be made if more than 50 % of the voting members are present.

If voting results in a stalemate, the President has a casting vote.

## **ARTICLE 11 - Secretary, Treasurer and Auditor**

The Secretary is at the permanent disposal of the President for the execution of decisions taken by the General Assembly and the Management Committee and for sending out convening notices. He is entrusted with the management of the Secretariat. The Management Committee decides upon the number of staff of the Secretariat, the appointment of its members other than the Secretary and on payment - if applicable - of the Secretariat's staff or of persons working for the Secretariat.

The Treasurer is entrusted with, and responsible for, all financial operations resulting from the Organisation's functions and for preparing the budgets. He is entrusted with the management of the Treasury. The Management Committee decides upon the number of staff of the Treasury, the appointment of its members other than Treasurer and on payment - if applicable - of the Treasury staff or of persons working for the Treasury.

It is the function of the Auditor to audit the Treasurer's administration of the funds of the Organisation. The Auditor reports to the General Assembly when required and, in any case, at every ordinary session of the General Assembly.

## **ARTICLE 12 – The Scientific Committee**

For the set up and follow up of the scientific action of the Organisation, the Management Committee is helped by a Scientific Committee.

The Scientific Committee is composed of up to eight members:

- four members from the Management Committee
- up to four other, non members of the Management Committee and who need not be members of the Organisation, chosen by the Management Committee according to their scientific competences in the field of ropes.

The Chairman of the Scientific Committee is appointed by the Management Committee.

The tasks of the Scientific Committee are:

- to identify organisations working in the field of the endurance of ropes
- to identify studies in progress in this field, as far as possible;
- to investigate the feasibility of research initiatives.

For studying individual problems the Scientific Committee may propose the establishment of working parties within the Organisation to the Management Committee.

The Scientific Committee periodically accounts for its activity to the Management Committee and reports to the General Assembly.

## **ARTICLE 13 – The Editor**

The Management Committee appoints an Editor.

The Editor's role is to collect information and papers related to the endurance of ropes to be published in the periodic Journal of the Organisation. The Editor's role includes the supervision of the publication of International Conference proceedings.

In order to ensure the scientific quality of papers, the Editor is helped by a panel of referees, whose membership is determined by the Management Committee upon the Editor's proposal.

## **ARTICLE 14 – Funds of the Organisation**

14.1 The income of the Organisation is composed of:

- (a) Member's subscriptions;
- (b) receipts for services based on recovery of expenses;
- (c) gifts.

The rate of subscription mentioned in paragraph (a) above is determined by the General Assembly. The price to be charged for services, mentioned in (b), is determined by the Management Committee.

14.2 Expenditure

- (a) The Budget will be decided by the General Assembly based on a proposal from the Treasurer.
- (b) In any one year, provided the assets of the Organisation exceed twice the Budget the President has the authority to decide on expenditure of up to 10% of the Budget.
- (c) In any one year, provided the assets of the Organisation exceed twice the Budget, the Management Committee has the authority to decide on expenditure of up to 30% of the Budget.

## **ARTICLE 15 - Modification of the Constitution**

Any modification of the Constitution can be decided only in the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of the ordinary members present or represented.

## **ARTICLE 16 - Dissolution of the Organisation**

The dissolution of the Organisation can be decided only in the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of the ordinary members present or represented.

The assets, if any, will be disposed of in accordance with the law in force. In no case can the assets be distributed amongst the members.