

# European Society for Quantum Solar Energy Conversion

## Statutes

### Preamble

**The Objective of the European Society for Quantum Solar Energy Conversion (QUANTSOL) is to advance environmentally acceptable forms of energy conversion and utilization and in particular to promote research, development and applications in the field of quantum solar energy converters.**

#### **Article 1:** Name and office location

The European Society for Quantum Solar Energy Conversion (QUANTSOL) is a non profit organization for the advancement of environmentally acceptable forms of energy conversion. The business office of the QUANTSOL is in Switzerland. The duration of the QUANTSOL is unlimited.

#### **Article 2:** Objectives

In order to promote sustainable development and efforts to establish a sustainable economy, the aims of the QUANTSOL are as follows:

- \* promote research and development for the replacement of traditional forms of energy provision by renewable energy sources, in particular solar radiation.
- \* All forms of quantum energy conversion are of relevance to the Society which utilize physical, chemical and biological processes.
- \* QUANTSOL promotes long-term basic research as well as application-oriented research.
- \* QUANTSOL promotes synergies by encouraging interdisciplinary and international cooperation.
- \* QUANTSOL has to play a role in supporting work in the areas of information, education and scientific investigation at the school / university level and also in the public domain.
- \* QUANTSOL promotes the flow of information to decision makers on the status and progress in this field by providing scientific expertise.
- \* QUANTSOL encourages fast transfer of results of basic research to industrial development and application.

#### **Article 3:** Advancement of objectives

The aims and objectives of the QUANTSOL shall be advanced through:

- \* Organization of conferences, workshops, seminars.
- \* Setting-up of specialist groups.
- \* Publication of documents and information.

The society aims at advancing these goals at an international level, preferential within Europe. It also supports professional bodies involved in the research and development of quantum solar energy conversion and encourages communication and cooperation between them.

#### **Article 4:** Membership

The membership is open to:

- \* individuals over the age of 18
- \* companies
- \* scientific institutions and research centers
- \* public bodies
- \* societies and other corporate entities

Membership is open to all those, of whatever nationality, who support the aims and objectives of the Society. Legal entities shall appoint one delegate to represent them. All members enjoy voting rights. Applications for membership shall be submitted to the Executive Board for consideration. If a majority of the Board is opposed to an application, the applicant may appeal to the General Meeting according to article 6 of these statutes. The final decision on the membership of the applicant shall be taken at a General Meeting.

**Article 5:** The organs of the QUANTSOL

The organs of the QUANTSOL are:

- \* the General Meeting (GM)
- \* the Executive Board (EB)
- \* the Scientific Board (SAB)

**Article 6:** The General Meeting

The General Meeting (GM) is the supreme organ of the QUANTSOL and makes definitive decisions on all matters which are laid before it. It is also the legislative organ of the QUANTSOL.

The General Meeting is preferential held in connection with a scientific meeting. Invitations must be sent by the Executive Board at least three months in advance.

The GM has the following powers:

1. Laying down and modifying the statutes of the QUANTSOL.
2. Electing the Executive Board and the Auditors.
3. Adoption of the annual budgets and the annual reports.
4. Monitoring and approval of the administrative organs.
5. Reaching decisions on appeals and other matters which are reserved to the GM by law or by the statutes or laid before it by the Executive Board.

**Article 7:** Postal Vote and Extraordinary General Meeting

Alternatively to the General Meeting (GM), the Executive Board may decide to a postal vote of the members or may at any time convene an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).

However, if 25% of the members inform the president or the vice president by letter that they wish to treat the questions of the postal voting or EGM at the next GM, it will be done at the next General Meeting (GM) and the postal voting or the EGM will not take place.

At least 30 days before the date fixed for the beginning of the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), the Executive Board must inform all members about the place, date, and agenda of the EGM.

The members of the Executive Board should sign the minutes of any resolution passed by the General Meeting.

**Article 8:** Motions, Date and Place

Motions to be put before the forthcoming GM must be presented to the EB during the course of the previous business year, if decisions are to be made on them at the GM. A GM may reach decisions on motions, relevant annual reports and accounts. They shall be distributed to the members at least two months before the opening of a GM.

**Article 9: The Executive Board**

The Executive Board shall be elected by the GM for a period of four years and may consist of 5 to 11 members. The president, the vice president and the general secretary are members of the EB and are elected by the members of the EB. In order to guarantee continuity, 50% of the members will be elected every 2 years for a period of 4 years. Elections of the EB shall be held no later than one year after the foundation of the QUANTSOL.

The EB is the executive organ of the QUANTSOL and is responsible for the administration of the QUANTSOL. It may draw up its own regulations, and when necessary, it may constitute subcommittees and call specialists.

The EB shall have a Scientific Advisory Board to provide scientific advice. The members of the Scientific Advisory Board are nominated by the EB.

**Article 10: The task of the Executive Board**

The EB shall define its tasks for the coming two years in the sense of the objectives listed in article 2 and within the framework of the existing financial resources, staff and infrastructure. In particular the EB shall fulfill the following tasks:

- a) Execution of the GM decisions, presentation of the budget, making preparations for a GM and drawing up its agenda, election of commissions for the organization of various events and scientific meetings, appointment of those who have the power to sign, and appointment of any delegates who may be required for any particular events in the sense of the aims listed in article 2.
- b) Presentation of the annual report and annual accounts to each of the member meetings.
- c) Sanctioning of the various events mentioned in article 2.
- d) Drawing up technical directives and regulations, as well as security and disciplinary rules. These must be approved by the next following GM, and in the event of their refusal they cease their effect immediately.
- e) Within the framework of these statutes, the EB legally represents the QUANTSOL with respect to third parties and reaches decisions on all matters in which power of decision is not expressly delegated to another organ.

**Article 11: Emergency Decisions and Exclusion**

In the event of emergency the EB may reach decisions by fax or by the president - or, in the event of hindrance - the vice president, assisted in each case by two other members of the EB. All such emergency decisions must be approved at the meeting of the EB.

The EB may caution members which do not respect the statutes, regulations, directives, and decisions of the QUANTSOL or which bring the QUANTSOL into disrepute, and if necessary exclude such members from the QUANTSOL. A member so cautioned or excluded may within one month of receiving such communications from the EB appeal to the next following GM and may state his case before the GM.

**Article 12: The general secretary's office**

The general secretary of the QUANTSOL shall run the accounts, establish the minutes of the EB meetings, as well as those of ad hoc commissions, and answer correspondence. The general secretary is responsible to the EB, and above all to the president, for administrative matters, as well as for the employment and work of staff in the secretary office.

**Article 13: Function of the auditors**

The auditors are elected by the GM for a four year period of office. The tasks of the

auditors are defined in the relevant articles of the Swiss Code of Obligations.

**Article 14:** Finances, business year and contributions

The QUANTSOL business year starts on January 1 of each year and ends on December 31 of the same year. QUANTSOL is financed by membership fees and donations.

Each QUANTSOL member pays a basic contribution for each year. The EB is empowered to decide on the member's annual dues.

The annual expenditure must conform the budget estimate and the revenues of the QUANTSOL. It must be in accord with the objectives article 2 of the QUANTSOL.

**Article 15:** Formal, transitional and final provisions

At the GM voting normally takes place openly. A vote may be taken in secret, if this is demanded by one tenth of the members present.

The EB and ad hoc commissions may take decisions when at least half of their members are present. Decisions may also be made by circular letters (email) or by fax.

In case of equality of votes, the chairperson has a casting vote in decisions on material questions; in case of elections after an equality of votes in two successive rounds, a decision is made by lot.

Only currently paid-up members have the right of vote. The QUANTSOL members are not liable personally; the QUANTSOL is only liable up to the society's funds. Expenses shall not exceed the income.

**Article 16:** Languages

Official language of the GM, correspondence and of minutes is English.

**Article 17:** Appeals and notice

Appeals against decisions of the EB may be made to the EB within 30 days of the communication of the decisions in question. Such appeals do not have delaying effect, unless the EB decides otherwise.

Decisions on appeals made by the GM are final. Appeals against decisions of the EB must be made to the secretary within 30 days of the communication of the decision in order to be presented to the next following GM.

**Article 18:** Final provisions

The agreement of three quarters of the votes of the members present at a GM shall be required for any modification of these statutes. The proposed changes of the statutes have to be submitted to the EB at least 6 months ahead of a GM. Dissolution and liquidation of the QUANTSOL shall require the agreement of three quarters of all members. General conditions may be approved by a simple majority at any GM.

In the event of dissolution of the QUANTSOL, all debts must first be discharged. In so far as no corresponding association with similar aims exists, to which available funds might be handed over, the GM shall decide on the disposition of such available funds.

**Article 19:** Entry into force

The present statutes may be supplemented and expressed in greater detail by general conditions, in so far as they do not in any way contradict these statutes. Such general conditions will enter into force as decided by the EB and shall become definitive after their approval by the next GM.

The first statutes have been approved by the Constituent Assembly, held in Rauris, March 13, 1995.