



Statute of the 13 Stars Newspaper

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Statute of the 13 Stars Newspaper

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Preamble

For the purposes of this document:

The 13 Stars Newspaper, a project by CoSup, is hereafter referred to as “Newspaper”.

The document originally defining the 13 Stars Newspaper describes the project as follows.

"Student journalism is essential for the cultivation of an informed, interconnected, digitally literate and politically active student body, and offers a pathway to becoming conscient citizens of the EU. To combat the fragmentation between the European Schools is to make connections flourish between students of all the European Schools uninhibited on a common platform where ideas are exchanged freely without interference from any other stakeholders of the European Schools. It is for this reason that the ES Newspaper is proposed as a common project of all the European Schools."

Chapter I.

Aims

Article I. - General

The 13 Stars Newspaper is an independent student-run newspaper, which aims to represent the voice of all students from the 13 European schools, located across six of the European Union's member states. To that end the Newspaper aims to:

1. Represent the European Union's fundamental values of respecting human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law.
2. Ensure and promote freedom of speech across campuses of the European Schools.
3. Promote the creation of a European identity.
4. Ensure diversity of thought.
5. Ensure journalistic integrity.

The Newspaper has the form of an online website, the website being 13stars.eu. This Website is not only meant to host the newspaper itself but also student initiatives, such as the EEB1 CDE transparency project, the EEB1 CDE's shop, the EEB4 podcast. As the main purpose of this site is to be a newspaper, the site remains under the control of the editor-in-chief, as well as the editorial board.

Chapter II.

Structure

Article II. - Administrative

- a) The editor-in-chief is the editor at the head of the newspaper and has the final say on all matters concerning the newspaper.
 - i) The editor-in-chief represents the entirety of the newspaper at any outside meeting; they may however appoint any member of the newspaper's editorial board to go in their stead.

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- ii) The editor-in-chief has the final say over the publication of articles. No article may be published without their consent. The editor-in-chief may delegate this power to the managing editor, as they see fit. In this case, they may overturn the managing editor's decisions if they believe the article doesn't correspond to the newspaper's values.
 - iii) The editor-in-chief has the authority to appoint their successor, under the condition that their successor is familiar with the newspaper's workings and has been a member of the newspaper's editorial board for at least a year.
 - iv) If there is no member of the editorial board who has the aforementioned characteristics (*Article I, point a, subsection iii*), the editor-in-chief may choose any secondary cycle student from the European schools with at least 15 years of age. The editorial board and public relations board may choose to quiz this candidate extensively. To become editor-in-chief the candidate will need to receive a majority vote from the editorial board.
 - v) If the editor-in-chief is removed from their post, as outlined in *Article II, point g, subsection ii*, they will be replaced by the Managing editor. In this case the managing editor appoints their own successor.
 - vi) The editor-in-chief has the solemn authority to make changes to "Statute of the 13 Stars Newspaper". Any changes can only be put into force, after they are accepted by the editorial board and public relations board in a vote where a two-thirds majority is reached.
 - vii) The editor-in-chief may decide to let a major decision be voted upon by the editorial board.
 - viii) The editor-in-chief appoints the managing editor from any of the editorial board's members.
 - ix) The editor-in-chief appoints the head of PR from any of the Public relations board members.
 - x) The editor-in-chief shall always take decisions based upon the best interest of the newspaper. They shall not let personal interests influence their decision-making.

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- xi) All liability for the newspapers actions does not fall on the editor-in-chief. The newspaper is a project by the CoSup, and thus CoSup takes all liability.
- b) The managing editor acts as a vice editor-in-chief. This means:
- i) They act as an advisor to the editor-in-chief.
 - ii) They replace the editor in chief in all their duties if the editor-in-chief is not able to. The editor-in-chief decides when it is necessary for the managing editor to do so.
 - iii) They replace the editor-in-chief if the latter is removed from their post.
 - iv) The managing editor must be a student from the secondary cycle of any of the European schools and have at least 13 years of age at the time of their appointment.
 - v) All articles they receive they read and decide if they are to be published or not. Then they shall forward the article, as well as their judgement, to the editor-in-chief, who has the final say.
 - vi) They may appoint a deputy to assist them in their duties. This deputy must be a member of the editorial board and is expected to take over the role as managing editor in the next school year.
- c) The editors
- i) Each school shall have one senior editor and can have multiple junior editors. The function is the same, although the senior editor manages the team and has the school's vote.
 - ii) The editor is responsible for articles from their school. They acquire the articles from the local newspaper for them to be double-published or receives them from local authors directly working with the newspaper.
 - iii) The editor must read all articles that they receive before handing them on to the managing editor. When handing them on they must provide their opinion on the article and a short summary for the Instagram account.
 - iv) The editor may appoint their successor. Their successor must have a comprehensive knowledge of the newspaper and the post of editor. The editor-in-chief or the managing editor will test the suitability of

the successor. The successor must be a student from the secondary cycle of any of the European schools and have at least 11 years of age at the time of their appointment.

- d) The head of Public Relations of the newspaper (henceforth referred to as head of PR)
- i) The head of PR oversees all public relation matters. This entails the comment section on the newspaper's website, the official email of the newspaper, the email (being contact@13stars.eu) and the social media accounts.
 - ii) They oversee all Public Relations personnel.
 - iii) They oversee all Public Relations initiatives.
 - iv) They report back directly to the editor-in-chief.
 - v) The head of PR must be a student from the secondary cycle of any of the European schools and have at least 13 years of age at the time of their appointment.
 - vi) They may appoint a deputy to assist them in their duties. This deputy must be a member of the editorial board and is expected to take over the role as managing editor in the next school year.
- e) The Public Relations spokesperson (henceforth referred to as PRS)
- i) Each school shall have one PRS.
 - ii) The PRS shall take care of all local Public relations. Meaning they are responsible for the local promotion of the newspaper and all communications to the local students.
 - iii) The PRS reports to the head of PR.
 - iv) The PRS must be a student from the secondary cycle of any of the European schools and have at least 11 years of age at the time of their appointment.
- f) The authors and contributors (e.g. Photographers, podcast producers, project organisers, ...)
- i) do not have any direct obligations to the newspapers as they hold no post in the newspaper's organisation.

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- ii) Anyone can be an author and or contributor to the newspaper provided they are in some way affiliated with the European School's secondary cycle. Exceptionally, the editor-in-chief may derogate from this rule provided just reasoning.
 - g) Removal from post
 - i) Any member, except the editor in chief, the managing editor, and the head of PR, may be removed from their post. For this to happen the editor-in-chief, managing editor and a randomly chosen member of the editorial board vote on the removal. This applies if the person being voted upon holds the post of an editor. If the person concerned holds the post of PRS, it is the editor-in-chief, the head of PR and a randomly chosen PRS who vote. The only way a person holding a post in the newspaper can be removed from their post is if they are either inactive or have committed serious malfeasance.
 - ii) The editor-in-chief can be removed from their post for inactivity, serious malfeasance or abuse of power. In those cases, a member of the editorial board can call for a vote. The vote needs a two-thirds majority to pass. The vote is carried out anonymously.
 - iii) The editor-in-chief has the power to appoint the managing editor and head of PR as laid out in *Article II, point a, subsections ix and x*. They thus possess the right to discharge the managing editor and head of PR. They both return to being normal members of their boards.
 - iv) The CoSup Presidency, acting unanimously, may name or remove any of the aforementioned members provided just and fair reasoning. Should there be any disputes, the removed member may appeal to CoSup where the decision is decided by a simple majority vote, provided at least 2/3 of CoSup's members are there.

Article III. - Editorial Board

The editorial board consists of all editors, the managing editor (being one of them) and the editor-in-chief. Any members of the CoSup presidency may attend with full voting rights. Any members of CoSup may attend as

observers. Any member of the Public Relations Board may attend the meeting.

- a) It serves as an advisory committee to the editor-in-chief and has the power of decision making by a majority vote.
- b) The editor-in-chief chairs the meeting.
- c) Any person may be invited, if the editor-in-chief deems their presence to be beneficial to the newspaper.
- d) Voting rights are laid out as follows:
 - i) All editors have the right to cast a vote. Should they fail to cast their vote the vote will be counted as an abstention.
 - ii) The head of PR has the right to cast one vote. Should they fail to cast their vote the vote will be counted as an abstention.
 - iii) The PRS have no right to cast a vote.
 - iv) The CoSup presidency has the right to cast one vote each. Should any of them fail to vote the vote will be counted as an abstention.
 - v) CoSup members (excluding the CoSup presidency as laid out in *Article III, point b, subsection iv*) have no right to cast a vote.
- e) Voting shall be carried out by a show of hands, the only exception being the removal of the editor-in-chief, as laid out in *Article II, point g, subsection ii*.
- f) It has the ability to remove the editor in chief from their post, as outlined in *Article II, point g, subsection ii*.
- g) The editorial board shall convene at least four times in a scholastic cycle. This may be done over Office 365 or any other means of meeting virtually. The aims of these meetings are:
 - i) To discuss the current state of the newspaper.
 - ii) To discuss the future of the newspaper.
 - iii) To make decisions. Decisions which are urgent and cannot wait for the next meeting shall be taken by written procedure. If there is the need for decision being taken by written procedure *Article III, point e* can be discarded.

Article IV. - Public Relations Board

The Public Relations Board consists of all the PRS and the head of PR (being one of them).

- a) The aims of the public relations board are:
 - i) To discuss the means of promotion of the newspaper at a local and cross-campus level.
 - ii) To exchange and discuss feedback given by the reader.
 - iii) To make decisions about any relevant public relations matters.
- b) If there are any decisions related to public relations, that need to be taken, they will be voted upon. The vote will be carried out by a show of hands.
- c) All members of the editorial board may attend the
- d) Voting rights are laid out as follows:
 - i) All PRS's have the right to cast a vote. Should they fail to cast their vote the vote will be counted as an abstention.
 - ii) The head of PR has the right to cast one vote. Should they fail to cast their vote the vote will be counted as an abstention.
 - iii) The CoSup presidency has the right to cast one vote each. Should any of them fail to vote the vote will be counted as an abstention.
 - iv) CoSup members (excluding the CoSup presidency as laid out in Article III, point b, subsection iv) have no right to cast a vote.
- e) Voting will be carried out by
- f) The head of public relations may convene the board as they see fit. The meetings of the public relations board may be situated on Office 365 or any other means of meeting virtually.
- g) Any member of the editorial board may join these meetings if they wish to do so, but they will only be able to attend as observers.
- h) The head of PR may invite any person whose presence they deem to be beneficial to the newspaper.
- i) The head of PR has to give a report of the meeting to the editor-in-chief. The form of the report is decided by the editor-in-chief.

Article V. – Conduct

The Newspaper aims to be a productive work environment. To guarantee the proper functioning of the newspaper, there is a lot of team effort required. To ensure that the newspaper remains a productive work environment, which fosters team spirit and encourages teamwork, all contributors as well as the staff members must conduct themselves in a professional manner. This rule applies to all members with no exceptions.

a) Professional conduct within the newspaper:

All personnel affiliated with the newspaper must be polite and respectful. They shall communicate using proper language. Only work-related topics shall be discussed while in meetings. When at meetings the personnel shall stay focused on work. Not work-related activities during meetings are prohibited.

b) Malfeasance:

Malfeasance is when a member of the newspaper reputedly shows behaviour such as, but not only: complete disregard for the newspaper's best interests, disregarding the orders of the editor-in-chief, racism, assault, actively working against the newspaper, being inactive for a long period of time without justification, hate speech.

Article VI. – Accreditation

Any member of the 13 Stars newspaper may be eligible for accreditation of their work at the newspaper, to that end:

- a) To that end the editor-in-chief shall thoroughly inspect a member's contribution to the newspaper in that scholastic cycle at the end of the scholastic cycle. If deemed appropriate the editor-in-chief may issue a accreditation, for said contribution, that serves as proof.

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- b) The accreditation shall have the form of a certificate.
- i) Layout and design of said certificate, shall be provided by the editor-in-chief, in cooperation with at least one member of the CoSup presidency.
 - ii) The certificate shall only be valid if signed by the editor-in-chief as well as at least one member of the CoSup presidency.
 - iii) The certificate shall clearly state the name of the recipient, the position held by said individual, a qualification of the significance of the persons contribution, which is to be classified in following categories:
 1. Good contribution. The member in question performed all duties affiliated with their post to a sufficient degree and attended a minimum of 1 general meeting.
 2. Excellent contribution. The member in question performed all duties affiliated with their post to an excellent degree. Attended all meetings, except for when excused for medical or personal reasons.
 3. Outstanding contribution. The member in question went above and beyond to perform the duties affiliated with their post as well as others, attended all meetings except for when excused for personal or medical reasons and helped the newspaper in every way possible.
- c) The editor-in-chef will be the sole judge of a member's performance, they may seek the council of the managing editor if they deems this to be necessary.
- d) The accreditation in form of a certificate may also be awarded to authors or contributors, who have delivered outstanding contributions to the newspaper on a regular basis. The editor-in-chief shall decide where this applies. Any member of the newspaper as well as the CoSup presidency may propose a person, they deem worthy of accreditation.

Chapter III.

Content

Article VI. – General

- a) The main purpose of the newspaper's website is to host the newspaper itself.
- b) However, the editor-in-chief may choose to host other projects on the website, such as:
 - i) Projects realised by the individual Pupils Committees (e.g. EEB1 CDE transparency project, EEB1 CDE shop).
 - ii) Any other project realised by students from the European Schools (e.g. EEB4 podcast)
- c) The newspaper is funded by CoSup and EEB1, as such in matters relating to the finance of the newspaper, the CoSup and EEB1 treasurer and vice-treasurer will have the final decision.

Article VII. - Acquisition of Content

The newspaper acquires its content as follows:

- a) Columnists, authors, and other contributors who work directly with the newspaper, contributing content.
 - i) The contributors shall submit their content to their local editor.
 - ii) The content shall be immune to editing by the editorial team, however the editorial team reserves the right to correct spelling mistakes and restructure sentences with the aim to increase

linguistic quality and clearness, with the permission of the author.

- b) The double-publishing of articles from local newspapers, which whom the newspaper has an agreement for the double-publishing of articles.

Article VIII. - Protection of Sources

- a) The newspaper reserves the right to protect its sources, following Article 10. Of the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights ruling on the case “Goodwin v. the United Kingdom”.
- b) The exercise of this right should not, in any case, lead to disciplinary measures against the editorial board of the magazine, or the alleged authors or sources of the claims. In the case of this happening, it is CoSup’s duty to provide support.

Article IX. - Critical Content

- a) In order to apply with the human right of freedom of expression as laid out in Article 10. of the European Convention on Human Rights, any content submitted to the newspaper shall be considered for publishing.
- b) The content will be published if the newspaper regards it as relevant to the pupils of the European Schools, meaning that the content is of interest to the students. This is decided by the editors and the editor-in-chief.
- c) Content may be rejected on the following grounds: hate speech, racism, defamation, discrimination, Negationism, that the Author is part of or cooperates a group or association, which expresses and or is involved in racism, discrimination, or any unlawful activities.
- d) The newspaper shall strive to uphold the highest journalistic standards as well as fairness to all parties concerned. Individuals or institutions

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- who are targeted by content deemed critical are given the right and opportunity to a response.
- e) The responses (as detailed in *Article VIII, point c*) shall entail the following:
- A journalistic article or an open letter addressed to the editorial board.
 - May be published under the same conditions as the critical content.
 - Shall be subject to *Article VI, point a, subsection ii*.
- f) The editor-in-chief can decide against the publishing of content. Their decision may be overturned if the editorial board reaches a two-thirds majority, in favour of publishing the content concerned, when voting.

Article X. - Partnerships

The editor-in-chief can decide with whom the newspaper partners and may add to the list detailed below. Their decision must be approved by the editorial board.

13 stars recognises the following partnerships:

- A partnership with the *Conseil Supérieur des Elèves (CoSup)*. This partnership aims to support each other, for mutual benefit. CoSup is the parent organisation to the newspaper.
- A partnership agreement with *the comité des élèves (CDE)* from the European School of Brussels 1 (EEB1). The agreement entails the duty of the newspaper to host the transparency project. In exchange the CDE of EEB1 agreed to pay the annual costs of the newspaper's maintenance.

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- A partnership with the European School of Brussels III's Student Magazine *BEE3*. The agreement entails the double publishing of BEE3's articles. BEE3 reserves the right to choose which articles are to be double published.
 - A partnership with ESV News. This partnership entails a double publishing agreement, which gives the newspaper the right to double publish some of ESV News's articles.

Chapter IV

Article XI. Entry into force and future modifications

- a) This document enters immediately into force upon approval.
- b) Any future changes to this statute must be approved by CoSup following the voting procedure laid out in the CoSup statute.