



Statutes

Approved by the UFME Assembly held in Dubrovnik on the 23rd October 2015

1. Members and purpose

- 1.1 THE UNION OF FRIARS MINOR OF EUROPE is formed by the members of the Conferences and the European Entities of the Order of Friars Minor and is represented by the provincial Ministers, by the Custodes, by the general Definitors and by the representatives of the other Entities of the European continent.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Union is to promote within the European context:
- Reciprocal knowledge of the Entities and Conferences;
 - The development of a common Franciscan awareness;
 - The deepening of identity and mission of the Friars Minor in Europe for today;
 - Witnessing the gospel values in building up Europe;
 - Collaboration between Entities and Conferences and with other elements of the Franciscan movement;
 - The realization of common objectives in the spheres of formation, of studies, of evangelization, of justice, of peace and the care of creation;
 - The animation and ongoing formation of the young Friars at a European level.

2. The Union's Organisms

- 2.1 The Union is developed by means of relationships, meetings and exchanges, in the various ambits of Franciscan life, between Entities and Conferences and within certain networks having precise objectives.
- 2.2 The Union operates by means of two organisms: *the Assembly* and *the Permanent Council*.

The Assembly

- 2.2.1 The Assembly normally gathers every two years.
- 2.2.2 The Assembly is composed of the provincial Ministers, by the Custodes, by the representatives of the other Entities of the European continent (or by their delegates) and by the general Definitors for the animation of the European Entities, having the right to vote, and by the General Secretary.
- 2.2.3 The Assembly elect the President and the Vice President from among the Presidents of the five Conferences COMPI, CONFRES, COTAF, SLAN, SLAS and the ESC European Delegate.
- 2.2.4 The Assembly favors encounters and exchanges between provincial Ministers and the Conferences.
- 2.2.5 The Assembly establishes the financial contribution to be paid by Provinces;
- 2.2.6 The priority of the assembly is the elaboration of an important theme for the current growth of European awareness particularly taking account of the social, cultural and ecclesial context of the country which hosts the members.
- 2.2.7 The Assembly inspires the work of the permanent Council and evaluates it; it has the responsibility of drawing up a report of activities and an economic report, which are the objects of reflection and evaluation; moreover the Assembly gives orientations and establishes the programme of activity for the years to come.
- 2.2.8 The secretaries of the Conferences are invited to the Assembly but they do not have the right to vote.

The Permanent Council

- 2.3.1** The Permanent Council is formed by the President, the Vice President, and by the other Presidents of the other Conferences, by the European ESC Delegate and by the general Secretary.
- 2.3.2** The President and the Vice President must be always considered members of the Permanent Council, and consequently of the Assembly, even if their mandates as provincial Ministers and as Presidents of the Conference should end before the next Assembly.
- 2.3.3** At the end of its mandate as President of one's Conference the new elected President joins as of right the Permanent Council
- 2.3.4** The outgoing members of the Permanent Council have the right to vote and vote in the Assembly;
- 2.3.5** The Permanent Council has the following tasks:
- a) To enact the decisions of the Assembly;
 - b) To discuss proposals presented by the Conferences and to deliberate in their regard;
 - c) To study various initiatives to favour collaboration between the Conferences, in conformity with the objectives of the Union, and sensitize all Friars with a European consciousness;
 - d) To favour contacts and relationships with the different ecclesiastical and religious authorities in Europe, in conformity with the objectives set by the Assembly;
 - e) To sustain collaboration with other members of the Franciscan family;
 - f) To prepare the assemblies taking into account what is established from articles 2.2.3 to 2.2.7;
 - g) To elect a general Secretary who is part of the Permanent Council without the right to vote;
 - h) To choose a treasurer from among the members of the Permanent Council;
 - i) The Permanent Council acts as Governing Council of UFME ASBL association.
- 2.3.6** The Permanent Council gives an account of its activities to the Assembly, and during the biennium, to the Conferences.

Regarding the realisation of decisions taken by the assembly and indications given by it, the Permanent Council may act on the basis of the mandate received. The elaboration and realisation of new initiatives, which the Assembly has not discussed, must be submitted to the Conferences for prior approval.

2.3.7. The President:

- a) Convoques the Assembly and represents it, when it's not gathered, for both internal and external matters;
- b) Can convoke and extraordinary assembly if the Permanent Council unanimously votes for such a convocation.

2.3.8. The Secretary has the following duties:

- a) To draw up the minutes of the meetings of the Permanent Council and of the plenary assemblies and to transmit them to the secretaries of the European Conferences. The secretaries have the responsibility of translating and sending them on to their respective provincials and to the Order's media.
- b) To ensure a regular information service promoting the significant experiences of the various Provinces by means of the Order's channels of communication (Fraternitas, Internet, bulletins, letters, etc.)
- c) To oversee the translation service.
- d) To ensure the conservation of archives.
- e) To act like the legal and administrative representative of UFME ASBL association

2.3.9 The Treasurer is responsible for:

- a) Receiving from the secretary of each Conference the contribution, established by the Assembly on the proposal of the Permanent Council, that each province pays to sustain financially the activities of the union.
- b) Managing the funds of the Union and reporting to the Permanent Council and the Assembly. The Assembly, in its turn, designate three of its members who have the task of supervising the economic management and approving the accounts and the budget by voting.