Constitution Revision II

Task Group:
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Approved by the ESVONC EC on 13th May 2022
Presentation at the 2022 AGM
Deed by a civil law notary 2022-23
Final approval by the 2023 AGM
AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Legal frame : Art 16-17

Amendments to the Constitution may only take place following a decision of the General Meeting.

Full members may submit amendments to the Constitution, which must be signed by at least three full members. If and when the Motion of amendment receives the certification of the Executive committee, it shall be voted upon at the General Meeting and adopted by a simple majority vote of the members present.

The amendments to the Constitution shall not come into force until a deed by a civil law notary has been drawn up

Any constitutional changes may come into effect following approval by the AGM in 2023.
Purpose, aims and objectives of the Society

Art 2.1

- Current: the Society shall be an organisation for recognised specialists in veterinary oncology and other individuals who take interest in research, teaching or the practice of veterinary and comparative oncology.

- Proposed: the Society shall be an organisation for individuals who take interest in research, teaching or the practice of veterinary and comparative oncology.
Purpose, aims and objectives of the Society

Art 2.3

Current: « several key objectives »:

(a) to encourage research and other contributions to the knowledge related to pathogenesis, diagnosis, therapy and prevention of animal tumours.

(b) to further education in veterinary oncology by:
- encouraging adequate training in oncology in veterinary institutions.
- providing educational opportunities for graduate veterinarians to carry on advanced studies in oncology.
- establishing requirements for post-graduate education in veterinary oncology.

(c) to provide a means of exchange of information in veterinary and comparative oncology for the members and other interested parties.
Purpose, aims and objectives of the Society

Art 2.3

- Proposed:

(a) to encourage research and other contributions to the knowledge related to pathogenesis, diagnosis, therapy and prevention of animal tumours. The society may serve as a platform to facilitate or initiate collaborations and/or multicentre research.

(b) to further education in veterinary oncology by:
- encouraging adequate training in oncology in veterinary institutions
- support continuing education programs for practicing veterinarians to improve the knowledge about diagnosis and therapy of animal tumours in primary care facilities.
- providing educational opportunities for graduate veterinarians to carry on advanced studies in oncology.
- establishing requirements for post-graduate education in veterinary oncology. This especially relates to discussing and helping establishing guidelines for oncology internships and oncology residency programs in close cooperation with the relevant educational boards of veterinary specialisation.

(c) to provide a means of exchange of information in veterinary and comparative oncology for the members and other interested parties
Membership: criteria and application
Art 2 (see above) and Art 4 (and bylaws 1.)

- Current:

1.1 Full Membership shall be conferred on those applicants with an interest in veterinary oncology who possess an academic degree or equivalent and have worked actively in cancer research or clinical practice for at least one year.
1.3 Completed applications, accompanied by a short curriculum vitae, shall be considered by the Executive Committee, and be submitted for ratification by the next General Meeting.
1.4 The General Meeting shall rule on the admittance of Full Members by voting. The list with proposed new members to be ratified by the General Meeting, shall be sent out to the membership by e-mail, no longer than thirty (30) days before the next General Meeting.
1.5 Any objection to the admittance of a new member shall be made by any Members in writing to the office of the Secretary until two weeks before the General Meeting in which ratification of this new member shall take place, giving reasons for the objection.
1.6 Such objections shall be sent to the applicant who may submit a statement of appeal.
1.7 The General Meeting shall rule on these objections, and also on any appeal regarding no admittance
1. Full Membership is open to everyone holding a veterinary degree and who is interested in veterinary oncology. Applications should be accompanied by a CV.

2. Full membership is also open to veterinary students (reduced membership fee) who is interested in veterinary oncology. Applications should be accompanied by a CV.

3. Any other academic professional can apply to the EC for full membership. Applications by non-veterinary professionals should be accompanied by a CV, professional record, formal application letter of intent and the application should be supported by one or two full members.

4. The EC will decide on a case by case basis on each application and if agreed on, admit the member as a full member. The list of new members will be presented by the EC at the AGM.

5. The EC has the right to reject an application, but this refusal has to be documented and justified.

6. A rejected applicant can apply to the EC for appeal. In this case the appeal will be brought forward at the next AGM for discussion and decided on by the general membership with simple majority.
According to the constitution and applicable bylaws veterinary nurses (VN) are not permitted to the society.

Proposal:

1. **associate member** status
2. VN **application** to be supported by a full member and be accompanied by a CV (incl. qualification level in the country of origin)
3. A (reduced) membership fee should be defined for VN
4. VN associate membership entitles to only participate in the VN stream of the conferences and may participate exceptionally to the veterinary stream of the conferences, upon strict invitation by the EC
5. VN may form their own group and elect a VN liaison officer (**associate member**) who seats in the EC and can not take any other EC positions
6. The VN liaison officer has the right to attend all EC meetings, has an advisory voice and no right to vote in other items than the VN issues
7. Only the VN liaison officer has the right to attend the AGM, as part of the EC, without voting rights.
Duties of EC Officers

Art 5

Current:

5.2 The Executive Committee shall be composed of at least five Full Members including the following officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, and at least one Member without portfolio.

Proposed:

5.2 The Executive Committee shall be composed of at least six Full Members including the following officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, and two Member-at-Large.
Duties of EC Officers

Art 7

Current:

7.1 The President shall
(a) preside at meetings of the Executive Committee and at General Meetings; and
(b) appoint all committees except the Editorial Committee and the Budget Committee.

7.2 The Vice-President shall:
(a) become acting President in the event of absence or non-appearance of the president.

7.3 The Secretary shall be responsible for:
(a) regular and complete minuting of meetings of the Executive Committee and of the General Meeting.
(b) maintaining the records of the Society.
(c) performing all duties incidental to the office of Secretary and such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Executive Committee.
(d) act as Editor of the Newsletter of the European Society of Veterinary Oncology, issued separately or incorporated in the ECVIM-CA Newsletter

7.4 The Treasurer and Membership Secretary shall:
(a) be responsible for managing the funds and financial administration of the Society.
(b) be responsible for the publication of a detailed Annual Account of the financial status of the Society, and for such additional financial statements as the Executive Committee may require.
(c) perform all duties incidental to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Committee.
(d) be responsible for the registration of all members
(e) maintain the full list of the membership.

7.5 Additional duties for the Officers and other Members of the Executive Committee can be defined by specific byelaws.
Duties of EC Officers

Art 7

Proposed:

1) President
   - Is representing ESVONC inside and outside
   - Develops strategies and objectives for ESVONC
   - Organises and presides EC meetings
   - Is the liaison officer to the other World Veterinary Cancer Societies, and other international organizations (VSSO, WSAVA)
   - Is the liaison officer to the ESVONC Congress local organizers

2) Vice-President
   - Becomes the acting President if the President drops out according to Constitution § 5.7
   - Presides the scientific committee
   - Is the liaison person to ECVIM and organises the ESVONC day for the ECVIM Congress

3) Secretary / Membership secretary
   - Is responsible for incoming emails
   - Is the Membership secretary
   - Write and communicates the AGM agenda, advise the EC about protocols
   - Organises the Elections of the EC (full members)
   - Is responsible for the Newsletters
   - Is the liaison to the VCO journal

4) Treasurer
   - Is Responsible for all financials

5) 1st Member at large - liaison officer
   - Is the primary contact for the VN liaison officer
   - Is the liaison officer for FECAVA,
   - Is the liaison officer for other national oncology groups (non listed in 1.)
   - May be assigned other duties

6) 2nd member at large
   - Is the responsible officer for the Website and social media content. Will liaise with the webmaster
   - May be assigned other duties
EC - nominations of candidate and elections

Art 5, bylaw 3

- Current:

3.1. Election of individuals to the Executive Committee shall be by a written vote (Article 13.12); this shall include electronic and postal means in accordance with Articles 13.15 and 13.16.

3.2. Following the resignation of a member of the Executive Committee, the Secretary of the Society will circulate the general membership with a call for prospective candidates. Any such nomination should be supported by (at least) three full members.

3.3. The list of nominees, with their proposers, and date of closure of elections shall be made known to the general membership at least sixty days before the election.

3.4. Additional candidates may be proposed by full members until thirty days prior to the election. These nominations must be submitted in writing to the Secretary and be supported by at least three full members.

3.5. The final list of candidates and proposers shall be made known and a voting period of 28 days shall be declared.

3.6. All Full Members shall be eligible to vote.

3.7. Votes must be received by midnight of the date of closure of the election period.

3.8. The result of the election shall be announced at the Annual General Meeting following the election.

3.9. Newly elected Executive Committee Members shall take office from the end of said AGM and shall sit for three years as defined by Article 5.4
EC - nominations of candidate and elections

Art 5, bylaw 3

- Proposed:

3.1. Election of individuals to the Executive Committee shall be done by electronic means only.

3.2. Any time a position becomes available, at the end of a 3-year term or following the resignation of a member of the Executive Committee, the Secretary of the Society will circulate the general membership with a call for prospective candidates. A date is given for deadline of applications. Any such nomination should be supported by (at least) three full members.

3.3. The list of nominees, with their proposers, and date of closure of elections shall be made known to the general membership at least sixty days before the election.

3.4. Additional candidates may be proposed by full members until thirty days prior to the election. These nominations must be submitted in writing to the Secretary and be supported by at least three full members.

3.5. The final list of candidates and proposers shall be made known and a voting period of 28 days shall be declared until midnight (local time) before the AGM.

3.7. Votes must be received by midnight of the date of closure of the election period.

3.8. The result of the election shall be announced at the Annual General Meeting following the election.

3.9. Newly elected Executive Committee Members shall take office from the end of said AGM and shall sit for three years as defined by Article 5.4
EC - mandate and elections

Art 5

- Current:

5.4 Each Member of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a term of 3 years. They shall be eligible for re-election but the President and Vice-President shall serve no more than two terms in their respective offices. However, the Vice-President can be elected to become President and serve another term.

5.5 Where possible, one third of the members of the Executive Committee shall resign each year and will be eligible for re-election.

5.6 A member of the Executive Committee shall be competent to resign at any time, with due observance of a term of at least three months prior notice, in writing.

5.7 If for any reason the President is unable to fulfil the duties of office then the Vice-President shall become acting President until the next Annual General Meeting when they shall be acclaimed President for a full term.

5.8 Other interim vacancies which may occur shall be filled by the Executive Committee from members of the Executive Committee until a new officer has been elected.
EC - mandate and elections

Art 5

- Proposed:

5.4 Each Member of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a term of 3 years. They shall be eligible for re-election but the President and Vice-President shall serve no more than two terms in their respective offices. However, the Vice-President can be elected to become President and serve another term.

5.5 Where possible, one third of the members of the Executive Committee shall resign each year and will be eligible for re-election.

5.6 A member of the Executive Committee shall be competent to resign at any time, with due observance of a term of at least three months prior notice, in writing.

5.7 If for any reason the President is unable to fulfil the duties of office then the Vice-President shall become acting President until the next Annual General Meeting when they shall be acclaimed President for a full term, when there shall be an election for any vacant positions.

5.8 Other interim vacancies which may occur shall be filled by the Executive Committee from members of the Executive Committee until a new officer has been elected.

5.x The cumulative time of any person on the EC should not exceed 12 years
AGM format

Art 12

- Proposed:

In presence, virtual and hybrid formats of the AGM should be considered.

The AGM shall take place at the time of the Annual Meeting. In case the Annual Meeting is canceled, a virtual AGM may be considered.
Proposed:

Remove all mention of postal ballots.

Depending on the items, votes may take place electronically prior to the AGM (elections), or in person at the AGM and/or by live electronic voting, if available (for any other matters)
Power of the EC
Art 6.5 and Art 15.1

- Current:

6.5 The Executive Committee shall **require the certification of the General Meeting** for the contraction of loans, as well as for the purchase, alienation, encumbrance, renting or letting of property, and for contracts under the terms of which the Society shall be bound as guarantor or several co-debtor, render financial protection to a third party or bind itself as security for the debts of a third party.

15.1 The **annual European Society of Veterinary Oncology Congress** shall be organized by one or more Full Members of one country nominated by the Executive Committee. A Congress Committee, with representatives from the local organisers and the Executive Committee, shall oversee the organisation of the congress. The Society will be **financially responsible** for the congress and will benefit as sole corporate body of the net profit and loss of the congress.
Power of the EC
Art 6.5 and Art 15.1

- Proposed:

In the context of the organisation of the ESVONC annual meeting, or any other event discussed and approved by the AGM, the EC has the right to directly engage the Society’s responsibility and sign all contracts associated with the organisation of the event.
Proposed:

1) Applications may be received at least two (2) years before the planned event
2) Applications may be sent to the Secretary at least 48 hours before an AGM, and include a letter of intent, a Chair (full member) and a committee, and the location.
3) Applications will be presented at the AGM, and approved by a simple majority of voters
4) In case of multiple proposals, the proposal with the most votes will be selected for evaluation and validation by the EC.
   The other proposals will be considered for the following years.
5) The approved proposal will be given a date by the EC
6) The EC reserves the right to reject an application or postpone the proposal to a later year if it raises immediate concerns which could impact the quality, the safety or the success of the event. In that case, the situation will be documented and justified during the following AGM.
7) The EC is responsible for any financials and contracts to be signed in the context of the Congress
8) The EC decides on scientific content and speakers, jointly with the local congress committee
Membership fees

Art 10.2

- Current:

Annual dues for Full Members shall be fixed once a year by the Executive Committee of the Society. The Executive Committee is granted the power to increase the annual membership dues in line with the inflation rate in the Netherlands recorded in the preceding year. A higher increase shall require the approval of the General Meeting. Payment of the annual dues entitles the member to receive the Newsletter and all notices of the Society, and to be listed in the membership directory on the website.

- Proposed: replace the Netherlands by European (Euro area) annual inflation rate

The end.