

EuréseauU

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

GENERAL

Euréseau is a worldwide Association of independent professional firms and none of the member firms is in partnership with any other firm.

Member firms will generally be composed of lawyers or (where multi-disciplinary firms are permitted) include lawyers within their partnership. There is a preference for medium-sized firms with a general practice and against sole practitioners.

Initially the member firms were in countries who are members of the European Union but that is not a pre-requisite and firms in Ukraine, Russia and South America and in other non EU-countries, have now joined. There is no reason why firms outside Europe should not eventually join.

ORGANISATION

The network holds regular meetings, at least two times a year. These are usually held at the office of a member firm or at least in the same city. One meeting a year must be held in London (or in other cities easily reachable, appointed by the meeting, Madrid, Paris or Vienna).

The fee or subscription for membership of the network is (fixed by the meeting) £300,00 per annum per firm payable on 1st June in each year.

Administration and documentation are dealt with by the Secretariat of the network in Ambrose Appelbe's office.

The officers of the network are the President, the Vice President and the Secretary. The President – in his absence the Vice President - of the network performs the function of Chairman at network meetings.

Official business of the network is conducted in English.

MEMBERSHIP

Election of new members to the network has up to date been quite informal, but it is suggested that in future a unanimous vote of those present at a general meeting will be required (proxy votes can be considered) and notice of any intention to propose a firm should appear in the Agenda circulated to members.

Equally, a unanimous vote of those present would be needed for an expulsion of a member firm.

Associate membership will be reserved for firms who are either in the process of being considered for election, e.g. before other members have met them, or associated firms where there is already a member firm in a particular country (this category would not normally attend meetings).

RULES

The only rules of operation laid down for the network so far are those principles agreed at meetings. The two principal decisions have been:-

1. There is to be no exclusivity rule, only one of priority. In other words, members referring clients' work to another country should offer it to the network member in that country but are not bound to do so if for example the client has an existing legal connection in that country or expresses some other preference, such as wishing to use a lawyer specializing in a field in which the member firm does not practice.

The payment of fees is more specifically laid down in Article 3 of the Code of Conduct.

OPERATION

It is the members' intention to encourage contact and familiarity between firms by using opportunities to:

1. compare management and financial structures and
2. arrange meetings between parties and staff of other member firms.

There is also a desire to promote the "group practice" of the network so as to attract business from outside the individual members' clientele.