

Constitution of the European ME Alliance (EMEA)

Adoption of the Constitution

This constitution was adopted at the European ME Alliance

General Meeting that took place on 26 January 2026

and came into effect immediately thereafter upon registration of the new Constitution with the legal authorities.

This version replaces all previous versions of the Constitution.

1. Name, Headquarters and Language

1. The association is named **European ME Alliance**. The abbreviation for the alliance is EMEA.
2. EMEA's Headquarter Address is: Malmgårdsvägen 63 A, 116 38 Stockholm, Sweden.
3. EMEA is registered in Sweden (No. 802534-2752) and may have national branches in member countries.
4. The working language of EMEA is English.

2. Purpose and Objectives

EMEA is a non-profit alliance of European ME organisations advocating for patient rights and advancing biomedical research into Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME).

EMEA aims to:

1. Secure recognition of ME as an organic neurological disease requiring coordinated European biomedical research.
2. Promote accurate and timely diagnosis.
3. Advocate for, and defend, ME patient rights, human rights, and disability rights.
4. Raise awareness at national, European and global policy levels.
5. Support and develop specialised biomedical research, education and treatment centres.
6. Strengthen capacity of patient organisations across Europe.
7. Collaborate with humanitarian, religious, and other organisations that share common aims and goals.

3. Principles and Activities

1. EMEA is non-profit, non-commercial, politically independent and non-denominational.
2. Activities extend across member countries.
3. EMEA raises awareness, gathers and disseminates information, builds networks, and influences European ME policy.

4. Membership

All members are obliged to agree to, and abide by, the EMEA Constitution, the EMEA Membership Charter of Principles, and to respect the decisions of the EMEA Executive Committee, Membership Meetings, and the General Assemblies, and to maintain confidentiality unless otherwise agreed.

4.1 Categories

1. **Full Members:** European ME organisations with full voting rights and eligibility for governance roles.
2. **Associate Members:** Organisations within and outside of Europe supporting EMEA's aims without participating in its decision-making processes. They may be invited to attend meetings, working groups, or events, as agreed on a case-by-case basis.
3. **Honorary Members:** Individuals recognised for exceptional contributions.

4.2 Rights and Obligations

1. Membership is non-transferable.
2. All members must act in the interests of EMEA and not damage its reputation.
3. Voting rights apply only to Full Members, with one vote per member country (shared proportionally if multiple Full Members exist in the same country).

4.3 Admission and Termination

1. Applications are submitted in writing to the Executive Committee who proposes applicants and their membership category to the General Assembly.
2. Admission requires proposal by a two-thirds Executive Committee majority and approval by a two-thirds General Assembly majority.
3. Membership begins with a 3-month probationary period.
4. Membership may end by resignation, dissolution of the member organisation, breach of obligations, or conduct contrary to EMEA's aims.
5. Termination decisions are made by a two-thirds vote in the Executive Committee and may be appealed to the General Assembly whose decision is final.

5. Governance

5.1 Officers

1. **President:** Chairs meetings and represents EMEA.
2. **Vice-President:** Acts in the President's absence.
3. **Treasurer:** Manages finances and presents annual accounts.
4. **Three Executive Committee members.**

5.2 Executive Committee

1. Composed of the President, Vice-President and three additional members.
2. The Treasurer does not have to be a member of the Executive Committee.
3. Composition should reflect geographic balance of the membership and include a majority of people who are afflicted with ME, caregivers or family members.
4. Members are elected for staggered two-year terms by the General Assembly.
5. Responsible for day-to-day management and all matters not reserved for the General Assembly.
6. Has the authority to appoint a representative of the Swedish National Association for ME Patients (Riksförbundet för ME-patienter - RME), who shall be authorized to coordinate and sign all registration and banking documents on behalf of EMEA because it is registered in Sweden.
7. Meets at least three times per year, including electronically.
8. If for some reason the EMEA Executive Committee consists of less than five members, the EMEA Executive Committee is obliged to convene a General Assembly or a Special General Assembly to elect replacements. If no replacement candidates are proposed, the existing EMEA Executive Committee remains fully competent to manage all affairs indefinitely until a General Meeting can address the situation.
9. If a Member Society withdraws their membership or their official representative, then their official representative cannot be a member of the Executive Committee.

6. General Assembly

1. Duties of the General Assembly
 1. Election of EMEA Officers
 2. Approval of EMEA Executive Committee's Activity Report
 3. Election and Discharge of Auditors
 4. Approval of Financial Report
 5. Approval of the budget for the next year including the membership fee
 6. Discharge of EMEA Executive Committee members for the past year's financial report and activities
 7. Approval of new members and termination of members
 8. Approval of changes to the EMEA Constitution
2. A General Assembly is held annually; other meetings are Special General Assemblies.
3. The Executive Committee communicates the date of the meeting with an agenda and relevant documents four weeks in advance.
4. Meetings require a quorum of five voting members.
5. Each Full Member country has one vote.
6. Decisions are made by simple majority unless otherwise specified; constitutional and membership matters require a two-thirds majority.
7. Proxy, postal and digital voting may be used to ensure participation.
8. Alliance members can ask the Executive Committee to hold a Special General Assembly. This must be requested in writing by at least five members or one-third of the membership, whichever is the greater.

7. Finances

1. Income may include membership fees, grants, donations and lawful fundraising.
2. Membership fees are set by the General Assembly and payable within 30 days of invoice.
3. Funds and property must be used solely to further EMEA's objectives.

8. Audit and Reporting

1. An auditor is elected for a two-year term during the General Assembly.
2. Annual accounts, reports and returns must comply with the legal and regulatory requirements of EMEA's country of domicile.

9. Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution require a two-thirds majority vote at a General Assembly and must be circulated at least four weeks in advance.

10. Dissolution

1. Dissolution requires a three-fourths majority at an Extraordinary General Assembly, however if several member societies would like to continue the Alliance they will be allowed to do so.
2. In the case of dissolution, the remaining assets shall be distributed to Full Member national associations for similar objectives.

11. Legal Provisions

1. Notices may be given in writing by registered mail or electronically with electronic signatures.
2. This Constitution is governed by the law of EMEA's country of domicile, which shall have exclusive jurisdiction.