

# Articles of association

## Association OSINT Switzerland

### 1. Name and headquarters

Under the name OSINT Switzerland there exists an association pursuant to Article 60 et seqq. CC headquartered in Zürich. It is politically independent and denominationally neutral.

### 2. Objective and purpose

The purpose of the association is to develop and expand the knowledge of open-source intelligence techniques among experts, practitioners, and learners.

### 3. Resources

The association has the following resources at its disposal for the pursuit of its objectives:

- member subscriptions;
- contributions from patrons;
- income generated from the association's own events;
- donations and grants of all kinds.

Fees for member subscriptions are set annually by the general meeting.

The financial year is identical to the calendar year.

### 4. Membership

Membership is open to natural persons and legal entities who are concerned about the purpose of the association.

Admission to the association may be made at any time. Applications for admission will be addressed to the executive committee, and the final decision on admission will be taken by the executive committee.

### 5. Termination of membership

Membership terminates or expires in the case of:

- natural persons by resignation, exclusion or death;
- legal entities, by resignation, exclusion or dissolution of the legal entity.

## 6. Resignation and exclusion

Resignation from the association is possible at any time by providing written notice to the executive committee ([info@osintswitzerland.ch](mailto:info@osintswitzerland.ch)).

The full membership subscription must be paid for the year in question.

A member may be excluded by the executive committee at any time without giving reasons.

The decision to exclude a member is taken by the executive committee; the member may appeal against the decision to exclude to the next general meeting within 30 days. Membership rights will be suspended until the final decision.

If members fail to pay the member subscription despite a reminder, they may be excluded by the executive committee immediately.

## 7. Bodies of the association

The bodies that make up the association are:

- a) the general meeting;
- b) the executive committee;
- c) the auditors.

## 8. The general meeting

The supreme body of the association is the general meeting. The general meeting convenes annually in the first half of the year. The annual general meeting may be held physically, virtually or in a hybrid format.

The executive committee may, in justified exceptional cases, allow resolutions to be passed by means of an electronic voting platform or in writing.

The members are invited to the general meeting three weeks in advance in writing, and the invitation must include the items of the agenda. Invitations sent by e-mail are valid.

Motions from members for additional business brought before the general meeting must be submitted in writing ([info@osintswitzerland.ch](mailto:info@osintswitzerland.ch)) to the executive committee no later than fourteen days before the annual general meeting stating the reasons for the motion.

The executive committee or one-fifth of the members may at any time request that an extraordinary general meeting be convened, stating the purpose of the meeting. Such a meeting must be held no later than five weeks after receipt of the request.

The general meeting has the following inalienable duties and powers:

- a) Approval of the minutes of the last general meeting;
- b) Approval of the annual report of the executive committee;
- c) Acceptance of the auditors' report and approval of the annual accounts;
- d) Discharge of the executive committee;
- e) Election of the chairperson, the other members of the executive committee and the auditors;
- f) Determination of member subscription;
- g) Acknowledgement of annual budget;
- h) Acknowledgement of the programme of activities;

- i) Resolutions on motions of the executive committee and members;
- j) Amendment of the articles of association;
- k) Decision on exclusion appeals;
- l) Resolutions on the dissolution of the association and the use of the liquidation proceeds.

Any duly convened general meeting constitutes a quorum irrespective of the number of members present.

The members pass resolutions by a simple majority of the votes cast. In the event of a tie, the chairperson has the deciding vote.

Amendments to the articles of association require the approval of two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote.

At least minutes of resolutions must be kept of the resolutions passed.

## **9. The executive committee**

The executive committee consists of at least three persons.

The term of office is three years. Reelection is allowed.

The executive committee is responsible for managing the day-to-day business and representing the association externally.

It issues regulations.

It may set up work groups (groups of specialists).

It may employ or commission persons against appropriate remuneration (in accordance with labour law) to achieve the objectives of the association.

The executive committee has all powers not delegated to another body by law or under these articles of association.

The following units are represented on the executive committee:

- a) Chairperson or Co-Chairperson
- b) Vice chairperson (if no Co-Chairperson)
- c) Treasurer
- d) Actuary

Several offices may be held at the same time.

The executive committee constitutes itself with the exception of the chairperson or co-chairpersons.

The executive committee meets as often as business requires. Any member of the executive committee may request a meeting, stating the reasons.

Unless a member of the executive committee requests oral deliberation, resolutions may be passed by circular letter (including e-mail).

In general, the members of the executive committee work in a voluntary capacity and are not paid. They are, however, entitled to reimbursement of effective expenses. For special

services, individual executive committee members can be given an appropriate remuneration.

## **10. The auditors**

The general meeting elects two auditors or a legal entity to audit the accounts and conduct random checks at least once a year.

The auditors report to the executive committee for the attention of the general meeting.

Their term of office is three years. Reelection is allowed.

## **11. Signing authority**

The association is bound by the collective signature of the chairperson or one co-chairperson together with another member of the executive committee.

## **12. Liability**

Only the assets of the association are liable for the debts of the association. Personal liability of the members is excluded.

## **13. Data protection**

The association exclusively gathers the personal data of the members required to fulfil the purpose of the association. The executive committee ensures data security appropriate to that of the risk.

The member data will not be disclosed to other members, unless a legal provision applies.

Data will only be disclosed to third parties within the scope of legally permissible order processing, and if this should be required by law or ordered by the authorities.

Otherwise, member data is processed in accordance with the provisions of Swiss data protection legislation and the privacy policy on the association's website.

## **14. Dissolution of the association**

The association may be dissolved by resolution of the general meeting or an extraordinary general meeting by a simple majority of votes of the members present.

In the event that the association is dissolved, the assets of the association will be transferred to a tax-exempt organisation in Switzerland that pursues the same or a similar purpose. The distribution of the association's assets among the members is excluded.

## **15. Entry into force**

These articles of association were adopted by the constitutive meeting on 5th of September 2024 and entered into force with effect from such date.  
They replace all previous versions (for existing associations).