

**Association Statutes
Die Gemeinschaft e.V.**

MANIFESTO

1

We are unwilling to accept the mediocrity of a system of food and agriculture that inherently engenders middling culinary arts and an indifferent food culture, and which floods our markets, kitchens and restaurants with characterless foodstuffs.

2

We believe in an agricultural model dedicated to the best-possible foodstuffs. In producers who, like us, are pursuing the finest possible taste in what they produce. Who challenge us to understand the essential nature of their product. And who push us to work with products that grow on the land, and in that process to become better and more creative chefs.

3

We value local communities. It is not about geographic proximity, but rather emotional closeness, direct dialogue and respectful collaboration between people, producers and sellers all working toward that same goal of better food.

4

We remember that, as Wendell Berry once said, “eating is an agricultural act.” What we eat has a direct influence on how our world is used. Assuming responsibility and changing things is often uncomfortable and difficult to do alone.

5

We hold that reestablishing the connections that have been lost between land, food, producers, restaurants and each other is an act of essential collective goodness.

with

**HONESTY
RESPECT
ARTISANSHIP
EMPATHY
HUMILITY**

BERLIN, JULY 20 2022

DIE GEMEINSCHAFT, PLANUFER 77, 10967 BERLIN

§1 Preface

1. The association holds the name “Die Gemeinschaft e.V.” and was recorded in the register of associations in Berlin Charlottenburg on 17/10/2017.
2. The association is based in Berlin, Germany.
3. The association’s fiscal year is the calendar year.

§2 Purpose

1. The purpose of the association is the advancement of adult education and vocational training, nature conservation and environmental protection including climate protection as well as consumer counseling and protection.
2. The association fulfills its purpose in particular by its educational programme, including events and other offers. This includes regular symposia, workshops, seminars, tours and excursions. Additionally content will be created such as reports, articles or leaflets and distributed, e.g., via the website www.die-gemeinschaft.net.

These measures aim to in particular:

- create and process foodstuffs artisanally and not industrially: in ways that are regenerative and conserve resources
- increasingly produce, process, demand and consume foodstuffs regionally and seasonally
- educate consumers to demand produce more consciously and waste less
- demonstrate the relationship between behaviour, food consumption and the environmental effects of production, purchasing, processing and disposal to food system actor and consumers
- protect soils, advance biodiversity and reduce CO₂ emissions by informing about the potential of short supply chains, regional production, seasonal processing, natural fermentation, alternative diets and shifts away from industrial animal farming and overfishing
- support gentle and regenerative agricultural practices
- secure and increase the quality of food and its processing

- by that improve food culture and increase appreciation of foodstuffs in society
- openly discuss and address social grievances in gastronomy and agriculture, such as gender-related discrimination, precarious working conditions and other issues
- provide a shared platform to the makers of foodstuffs and agricultural products such as vegetable farmers, farmers, winemakers, beekeepers, gastronomes, cooks, bakers and anyone involved along the food value chain. That fosters the interdisciplinary exchange of ideas, further education, communication and mutual understanding
- support the cooperation and collaboration of the above professions to increase the exchange of experiences for education and awareness on sustainability issues
- strengthen the above professions as artisanal disciplines and improve the quality of training and education, in order to recruit trainees and counter the lack of professionals in the industry
- enable continuous exchange, mutual learning and improved understanding between the above professions and consumers, and to better educate and inform consumers about foodstuffs

The association achieves these goals for example by organizing the key event “Das Symposium”, which has taken place annually since 2018 with hundreds of participants. All actors along the food value chain are invited to this conference - the above mentioned professionals, as well as scientists and students. During the event they strengthen and maintain relationships, share knowledge and build a national and international dialogue through lectures, seminars and workshops.

To provide access to the knowledge exchange to a wider audience, seminars, interviews and talks are organized online and offline on above mentioned topics, such as the seminar “Zukunft Szenarien für Berlin Brandenburg” or the interview series “Comfort Food”. All content is made available on various communication channels such as the association’s website and social media accounts. With these activities consumers are reached. To attain the aforementioned aims, the association also organizes excursions and tours of workshops and food production sites such as farms on a regular basis.

The overall goal of the association is that foodstuffs are created, processed and consumed in more economical, conscious and regenerative ways, in

accordance with the motto: “We’re changing things. In the fields, in the kitchens & in our minds.”

§3 Common Public Interest

1. The association works in principle on an honorary basis with volunteers. It pursues exclusively common public interest in accordance with the “tax-privileged purposes” of the fiscal code. The association is selflessly active and does not pursue its own financial interest. It is politically, ethnically and denominationally neutral.
2. The association’s resources are to be used only for statutory purposes. Members do not receive payments based on their role as members. No one may be paid for expenses that do not align with the association’s purposes or for receive disproportionate compensation. Volunteers can only be refunded for expenses that are evidenced.
3. Reasonable administrative expenses may only be reimbursed to the extent that they are in line with the association’s statutory purpose (§2). Remuneration may only be granted to the extent that it is compatible with the charitable purpose.
4. The association may charge third parties an appropriate fee for services rendered in the context of its statutory purpose (§ 2). Such income may in turn be used exclusively in accordance with the statutory purpose.

§4 Membership

1. The association has full and sustaining members. Only full members have voting rights and can be elected into association offices.
2. Every natural person from the age of 18 and every legal person can become a member of the association. The board decides about applications for admission.
3. The membership application needs to be addressed to the board in writing. By applying for admission, the person agrees to statutes at hand. The board

decides on the content of the application and any related declarations.

4. Members's rights are conditional on membership fees being paid. In case of doubts whether a fee has been paid, the member has to provide proof of payment.
5. Membership ends with the death of the member respectively dissolution in the case of legal entities, or with voluntary resignation, removal from the list of members or exclusion from the association.
 - 5.1. A voluntary resignation is to be addressed in written form to the board; it must be received at least one month before the end of the fiscal year. The resignation takes effect at the end of the fiscal year.
 - 5.2. A member can be removed from the register of members if their fees have not been paid despite two reminders. The member must be informed about the removal in writing. Upon request, membership can be continued when outstanding dues are paid out. The cancellation takes effect at the end of the fiscal year.
 - 5.3. A member may be expelled on the basis of a board resolution if there are imperative reasons; imperative reasons apply if the member has grossly violated the interests of the association or the provisions of the statutes. Prior to the decision, the member shall be given the opportunity to justify their actions in person. Any written statement of the concerned person must be read at the board meeting and recorded in the minutes.
6. Members who are natural persons can be appointed honorary members by the board, if they have rendered outstanding services to the association or have promoted the purpose of the association with distinction. An honorary membership can be revoked by two-thirds majority of the board only if the requirements of §4.5.3 are met.

§5 Membership Fees

1. Members are asked to pay annual fees. The amount and due date are specified in the contribution rules.

2. The board can decide on changes to or propose new contribution rules.
3. Honorary members are exempted from annual fees. Upon resolution of the board, membership fees can be deferred in justified situations, or members can be exempted from the annual fees altogether.

§6 Bodies of the Association

1. The bodies of the association consist of the general assembly (clause 7) and the board (clause 8).

§7 General Assembly

1. Each member, including honorary members, has one vote in the general assembly. The assembly's responsibilities include but are not limited to:
 - 1.1. Receiving reports of the board
 - 1.2. Discharging the board
 - 1.3. Electing and dismissing board members
 - 1.4. Appointing honorary members
 - 1.5. Deciding about changes to the statutes
 - 1.6. Dissolving the association
2. The general assembly is convened by the board in writing at least two weeks in advance, or at the written request of at least ten percent of those members entitled to vote. The general assembly can take place in person or digitally. It shall be convened when the interests of the association require it, but at least once every two years. The period begins on the working day following the day on which the invitation is sent. The invitation shall count as received if it is sent to the last address or email-address provided by the member, as long as no error message is received. The board decides about the agenda.
3. The general assembly is conducted by the 1st chairperson, and in their absence by the 2nd or 3rd chairperson or the treasurer. If no member of the board is present, the assembly can appoint someone to conduct the assembly. The role of assembly lead can also be delegated.

4. The assembly lead appoints a keeper of the minutes. The minutes need to include date and time of the assembly, the names of assembly lead and minute-taker, the number of members present, the agenda, decisions, the individual voting results and methods of voting. In case the statutes are amended, the changes need to be included in the minutes.
5. The assembly lead decides about the methods of voting. A decision must be taken by secret voting if a third of the present members with voting rights request that. The general assembly is not open to the public. The assembly lead can admit guests. The board decides about the admission of the press, radio or television.
6. Every properly convened general assembly constitutes a quorum, irrespective of the number of members present. In principle, the general assembly adopts resolutions by a simple majority of the valid votes; abstentions are not taken into account. However, a majority of three quarters of the valid votes cast is required to amend or dissolve the association.
7. The following applies to the elections: if no candidate receives a majority of the valid votes cast in the first ballot, a run-off election shall be held between the candidates with the two highest numbers of votes. Minutes of the resolutions of the assembly shall be recorded and signed by the respective chairperson of the meeting and the minute-keeper.
8. Any member may submit a written request to the board up to one week prior to the date of the general assembly for additional matters to be added to the agenda. The chair of the meeting shall add the items to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting. The general assembly decides about requests to add agenda points that are made during the assembly. Amendments to the statutes, the dissolution of the association, and the election and dismissal of board members can only be made if the motions have been announced to the members in the agenda.
9. A member can be represented by another member of the association at the general assembly and authorize them to cast his or her vote by notifying the proxy and the board in writing before the assembly. The authorization to vote cannot be linked to specific instructions. A proxy may represent several members at the same time. The authorization may be revoked at any time. An

absent member cannot be represented on decisions about the dissolution of the association or changes to the association's purpose.

§8 Board

1. The board, according to § 26 BGB, consists of:
 - 1.1. the 1st chairperson
 - 1.2. the 2nd chairperson
 - 1.3. the 3rd chairperson
 - 1.4. the treasurer
2. The general assembly can appoint additional assessors to the board. These board members are not authorized to represent the association in terms of § 26 BGB.
3. The association is judicially and extrajudicially represented by the 1st chairperson, the 2nd chairperson, the 3rd chairperson and the treasurer individually (board members in terms of § 26 BGB). It is internally determined that the 2nd and 3rd chairperson and the treasurer shall only make use of their right to represent if the 1st chairperson is prevented from attending.
4. The members of the board are elected by the general assembly. The term of office of the board members ends when the result of the respective new election are determined. Holding several board positions as one person is not permitted. If a board member retires during the term of office, the board shall elect a member of the association for the remaining term of office of the retiring member; this person shall become a provisional board member until the new election.
5. The board leads and administers the association. In particular, it executes the resolutions of the general assembly. The board members carry out their positions on the basis of self-determined guidelines.
6. As a rule, the board passes resolutions during board meetings which are convened informally by the 1st, 2nd or 3rd chairperson. The agenda does not need to be communicated in advance. The board constitutes a quorum if at least two members of the board, including the 1st, 2nd or 3rd chairperson, are present. Resolutions are passed by a majority of the valid votes cast. In case of

a tie, the general assembly decides. The board meeting is chaired by the 1st chairperson, or in their absence, by the 2nd or 3rd chairperson.

7. A board resolution can also be adopted in writing, by telephone or electronically - including by tacit acceptance procedure - if all board members agree to the arrangement in question. The board determines the details. A resolution passed by tacit acceptance procedure requires that every board member has or could have obtained knowledge of the draft resolution and has had a reasonable opportunity to comment on it. Any member may request that a draft resolution be discussed at a regular board meeting.
8. The board decides on matters concerning the appointment and dismissal of a managing director and the transfer of legal power of representation; management must be limited to the subject matter; general power of mandate is excluded.
9. Minutes of each board meeting and of each resolution adopted must be taken, signed by the chairperson of the meeting and the minute-keeper, and forwarded to the members of the board together with the invitation to the next meeting of the board at the latest. This does not apply if the resolution was adopted in text form by tacit acceptance procedure and the text of the resolution is available to each member of the board.
10. A member of the board may, subject to the conditions set forth in clause §4.5.3, be suspended from office on the basis of a board resolution adopted by a two-thirds majority; membership rights may also be suspended. The general assembly shall finally decide on their office and membership by simple vote.

§10 Dissolution of the association and accrual entitlement

1. The dissolution of the association can only be decided in a general assembly with a majority of votes as determined in §7.6.
2. In the event of the dissolution of the association or the discontinuation of tax-privileged purposes, the assets of the association shall pass to the non-profit association Slow Food Deutschland e.V., Luisenstraße 45, 10117

Berlin, which shall use them directly and exclusively for non-profit, charitable or church purposes.

§11 Amendments to the statutes

1. Amendments to the statutes can only be adopted by the general assembly. A majority of three quarters of the members present who are entitled to vote is required for a resolution.
2. Proposed changes to the statutes including exact wording and corresponding reasons must be disclosed in the invitation for the general assembly.
3. The board is authorized to adopt amendments to the statutes that are deemed necessary by the responsible registration court or tax office for registration or recognition as a non-profit organization by unanimous majority, and to register them with the registration court.