

Constitution of Earlinet

Matera, July 12, 2004

Articles

§1 Name and Financial Year

§1.1 The association shall be called „Earlinet“ (European Aerosol Research Lidar Network).

§1.2 The financial year for Earlinet is the calendar year.

§2 Objectives of Earlinet

§2.1 Earlinet shall pursue scientific objectives exclusively. Members of Earlinet do not receive any remuneration from Earlinet, but may be reimbursed expenses incurred on Earlinet business; the Council shall establish guidelines for the scope and level of such reimbursement. Earlinet has no employees.

§2.2 The objectives of Earlinet are to promote cooperation and discussion in Europe among scientists concerned with studies of aerosol remote sensing by means of lidars and to promote and encourage the development of any or all of the relevant sciences. The objectives shall be achieved through any suitable means.

§2.3 Earlinet may participate in other associations where these are relevant to its objectives.

§3 Membership

§3.1 The membership of Earlinet shall consist of individual members and institutional members as follows:

- Individual members are persons who subscribe to the objectives of Earlinet.
- Institutional members are research institutes working on aerosol remote sensing by means of lidars fulfilling certain quality criteria which are detailed in the by-laws. Institutional members are represented by a representative.

§3.2 Only the institutional members and the members of the Council (see § 4.5) have voting rights.

§3.3 Institutional membership must be approved by the Council.

§3.4 No membership fee for Earlinet is charged.

§3.5 Membership of Earlinet does not constitute any right to the funds of Earlinet.

§3.6 The membership year shall be the same as the financial year of Earlinet.

§3.7 Individual membership of Earlinet terminates on resignation or death of a member. Institutional membership terminates on the non-fulfillment of the criteria mentioned in § 3.1.

§4 Organisation

- §4.1 Earlinet has two bodies: the General Assembly and the Council.
- §4.2 The General Assembly is the highest body of Earlinet. All members have the right to attend the General Assembly.
- §4.3 The General Assembly is convened every year. It shall be held in the framework of the annual EGU-meeting if not otherwise determined.
- §4.4 The tasks of the General Assembly are defined in the by-laws.
- §4.5 Overall management and control of Earlinet shall rest in the hands of an elected Council, consisting of five members. Among these members one shall act as a speaker of Earlinet. All members of the Council must be members of Earlinet. Details of the tenures are given in the by-laws.
- §4.6 The scientific and administrative activities of Earlinet the Council may establish sub-groups as necessary for the time to the upcoming General Assembly.

§5 Voting Procedures and Conflicts of Interest

- §5.1 The General Assembly is quorate if at least two thirds of the members with voting rights are present.
- §5.2 All members with voting rights have a single vote.
- §5.3 In meetings of the General Assembly, decisions shall be made by simple majority of voting 'for' and 'against' of those who have voting rights and are present, with the exception of changes to the constitution (see §6.3.).
- §5.4 Voting at meetings shall be by show of hands, unless decided otherwise. Voting in the elections of members of the Council shall be secret (see by-laws).
- §5.5 Individuals invited to attend meetings shall not have any voting rights.
- §5.6 Participants at all meetings must declare any conflicts of interest and may not vote in decisions where they have such conflicts; however, they may take part in discussions subject to the agreement of the other participants.

§6 By-Laws, Amendments, Dissolution

- §6.1 By-Laws, as necessary, shall be established or changed within the framework of this constitution by the Council, and ratified at the General Assembly.
- §6.2 Proposals for amendments to the constitution may be submitted to the Council provided they have the support of at least 50% of the institutional members. Such proposals shall be considered by the Council at least four months prior to a General Assembly. The proposals shall be placed on the agenda of the General Assembly.
- §6.3 Adoption of an amendment to the Constitution requires a two thirds majority of all the votes cast 'for' and 'against' at the General Assembly.
- §6.4 Changes to the constitution and the by-laws become effective after approval by the General Assembly.
- §6.5 Dissolution of Earlinet shall be decided on a two-thirds majority vote in a ballot in the General Assembly. In the event of dissolution, the assets of Earlinet shall be transferred to the EGU.

By-Laws of Earlinet

Matera, July 12, 2004

§1 Achievement of Objectives

In order to achieve its objectives, Earlinet shall

- coordinate a program for monitoring the aerosol distribution using lidar methods,
- encourage and support intercomparisons of lidar-systems to reach high standard quality criteria,
- encourage and support intercomparisons and improvements of algorithms required to evaluate lidar data,
- support the exchange of knowledge in the field of lidar research including hardware development,
- support networking by preparing and conducting joint projects
- organize data exchange with internal and external users
- encourage participation of young scientists in the affairs of Earlinet,
- foster awareness about active optical remote sensing contributions to atmospheric research,
- establish links which would allow influence to be brought to bear on decision-makers,
- establish liaisons with other scientific organizations to mutual benefit,
- organize the General Assemblies.

§2 Membership

§2.1 Applications for individual membership are formally approved by the Council.

§2.2 Institutions which are committed to the objectives of Earlinet are eligible for institutional membership. Applications for institutional membership are handled by the Council. The approval is based on the commitment of the member to support the Earlinet objectives and on the compliance with quality standards as defined by the Council.

§2.3 All members are entitled to

- nominate candidates for service on the Council
- stand for election to the Council
- attend the General Assembly
- propose contributions to the agenda of the General Assembly

§3 General Assembly

§3.1 The General Assembly, consisting of its individual and institutional members meeting together in a formal session, shall be convened once per year. The General Assembly is chaired by the speaker of Earlinet. The General Assembly elects two members to keep the minutes.

§3.2 The draft agenda of the General Assembly is communicated to all members three months prior of the meeting via email or internet.

§3.3 The tasks of the General Assembly include

- the election of the Council according to its tenure.
 - approve changes of the constitution and the by-laws if required
- §3.4 At a General Assembly, reports of the speaker on behalf of the Council shall be considered and, if approved and adopted, the liabilities of the members of Council shall be discharged.
- §3.5 Any matters of general concern to Earlinet may be raised at a General Assembly, and discussed.
- §3.6 The minutes of the General Assembly are published not later than two months after the meeting via email or internet.
- §3.7 An extraordinary General Assembly must be convened if it is claimed by at least four fifths of the Council or two thirds of the institutional members.

§4 The Council

- §4.1 The speaker of the Council is determined by the members of the Council themselves. The name of the speaker shall be communicated to all members of Earlinet.
- §4.2 In case a member of the Council resigns, he/she can be replaced at the upcoming General Assembly.
- §4.3 The Council shall make their own rules of procedure with the exception of voting procedures and conflicts of interest. The Council shall meet at their own preferences.
- §4.4 The Council keeps a master list of all members of Earlinet.
- §4.5 The Council shall be responsible for the overall organization of the General Assembly and any financial issues.
- §4.6 Minutes of all meetings of the Council shall be communicated to all members of Earlinet.

§5 Election of the Council

- §5.1 The election of the Council takes place during the General Assembly.
- §5.2 The General Assembly elects one member who is chairing the election and is responsible for the correct procedure.
- §5.3 Only members with voting rights who are present at the General Assembly may vote.
- §5.4 The five members of the Council are elected in one secret ballot. The five candidates with the most votes are elected, considering, that not more than two Council members may reside in the same country.
- §5.5 Candidates for the Council, which could not attend the General Assembly, must forward a written confirmation of their willingness to stand for election and their acceptance if elected.
- §5.6 Ballot papers, listing of all candidates, and with provision for additional write-in candidates, shall be distributed to all members with voting rights.
- §5.7 The terms of the members of the Council is three years. Re-election is possible.