

Statute of the Association of Private Family Doctors

Preamble

*Since it is desirable to constitute **the Association of Private Family Doctors**, the Medical Doctors who are associates of and contributing members to the Association assembled in the 11th July 2006 Extraordinary General Meeting, have adopted the following Statute.*

APPELLATION

The official name of the Association shall be "The Association of Private Family Doctors", hereinafter in this document referred to as APFD.

Article 1 - Aims and Objects of the Association

The aims and objects of The APFD shall, without limitation to the generality of the forthcoming, consist of the following:

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1. To bring together, as a group, doctors practising their private profession within the Maltese Islands and whose sole or main area of medical practice is family medicine.
2. To enable such Doctors to share problems, common to the group, and promote cooperation between them.
3. To inspire and safeguard the honour, dignity, and rights of Private Family Doctors
4. To explore areas of common interest between the members and to liaise on behalf of its members with other persons whether corporate or incorporate, organizations, institutions, associations, foundations or other bodies whatsoever, whether Governmental or private or any other kind whatsoever.
5. To serve as a forum where ideas can be shared and members can participate in the ventures proposed.
6. To represent the interest of its members in all pertinent fora and to endeavour to improve the quality of life of its members.
7. To ensure that all members can give optimal quality of care to their patients.
8. In furtherance of its objects, to publish or cause to be published and acquire, buy, sell, exchange or dispose of books, periodicals, papers pamphlets, memoranda and other written, printed or electronic material.
9. To obtain, support, promote or oppose the enactment or repeal of any statute, rule, order, instrument, licence privilege, exemption or authority as may seem to the APFD expedient in its interests or the interests of its members.
10. To subscribe to or otherwise, aid benevolent, charitable, national or other institutions, associations or objects of a public character or which in the opinion of the APFD have any moral or other claim to support by the APFD.
11. To effect any of the foregoing objects by grants of money or by any other means or in any other manner.

12. To do any of the things referred to in the preceding clauses either alone or in conjunction or association or co-operation with any other persons or bodies corporate or incorporate.
13. To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the foregoing objects or any of them.
14. To do all or any of the things hereinbefore authorised in any part of the world.

AND it is hereby declared that in the interpretation of this clause the meaning and effect of any of the objects shall not be restricted by reference to any other object or by the juxtaposition of two or more objects and that this clause shall be construed so as to widen and not restrict the power of the APFD.

Article 2 – Legal Entity

1. The APFD shall have a separate and distinct legal personality and shall subject only to the provisions of this Statute, be capable of entering into any contract, of acquiring, holding and disposing of any kind of property both movable and immovable, of employing personnel for the purposes of its operations; and of suing and being sued in any Court of law or other judicial, administrative or other adjudicative body, or other Tribunal or arbitral body, compromise issues, hold bank or other accounts and in general have all such powers as are by law attributed to legal persons.
2. The purpose of the constitution of the said APFD is to give existence to the Body of Private Family Doctors as a statutory self-regulating legal entity.
3. The legal and judicial representation of the APFD shall vest in the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the APFD in solidum.
4. The Association shall not have political or religious affiliations of whatsoever nature and shall in all cases conduct its business without any form of hindrance or interference from such quarters.
5. The Association may, at its discretion have the assistance of a Legal Counsel.
6. The APFD shall exercise its functions, either directly in general meeting, or through a Council or Councils duly set up in terms of this statute.

Article 3 - Eligibility for Membership

1. All graduate doctors having their main professional activity and whose income is therefore derived mainly from working in private family medicine may apply for membership with the APFD, subject to the terms and conditions of this statute.
2. Members of the APFD whose main professional activity changes from a self-employed status to an employed status shall have their membership position reviewed by the Council and may be asked to renounce their membership until such time as their employment reverts to its previous status.

Article 4 - Ordinary Membership

1. **Ordinary Membership** shall be strictly by nomination after a family doctor is nominated for membership by any two fully paid members of the Association.
2. The application for membership shall be considered and either approved or rejected by the Council at its first available or scheduled formal meeting following such application. In any case such application shall be considered and decided upon by the Council within a period not longer than 30 days from receipt of the application.
3. Membership shall be granted only if approved by a simple majority (50% +1) of the members present at the meeting considering the application approves such membership. If requested, a secret vote shall be held.
4. Paid-up members who formed part of this Association prior to the formal acceptance of this Statute at a General Meeting called upon for this purpose shall be deemed to be ordinary members in all respects.
5. Applications for ordinary membership by doctors retired from full time private practice shall be considered by the Council, in the same manner as outlined in paragraph 2 of this article.
6. A member who ceases to be a registered medical practitioner shall have his/her membership automatically withdrawn and terminated and his/her membership shall be deemed to have ceased as from the date when he/she ceased to be so registered, without any right to claim any refund or other advances paid in connection with his/her membership.
7. An Ordinary Member shall be entitled to receive all general notices sent out by the Association to its members, to attend, speak and vote at meetings and elections and generally to participate in the activities of the Association.

Article 5 – Associate Members

1. Associate Membership refers to medical doctors who are currently undertaking training to become Specialists in Family Medicine and who during their training are involved in private practice and/or are attached to a GP Trainer in private practice. They can involve themselves in all the working structures of APFD but do not have voting rights at an AGM or EGM. They are expected to respect the specialty of family medicine and the code of conduct of family doctors in private practice throughout their membership. Following graduation they will be requested to move on to full membership should they decide to work in full private practice.

Article 6 - Honorary Members

1. The Council may at its discretion from time to time, nominate doctors for Honorary Membership status. Such doctors shall be:
2. Proposed by the Council of the Association as an appreciation for the special services given to the Association. Such a nomination shall be confirmed by the Annual General Meeting.
3. Members who are over 65 years of age, and who shall have paid their membership uninterruptedly for 20 consecutive years shall automatically qualify for Honorary Membership Status.

4. An Honorary Member shall be entitled to receive all notices sent out by the Association to its members, but shall not rank *pari passu* with a member of the Association, or be entitled to attend General Meetings or participate in the activities of the Association unless specifically invited to do so by the Council.
5. Honorary Presidents shall be appointed from among ex-presidents of the Association as an acknowledgement for contributions to the field of Private Family Medicine and/or to the Association of Private Family Doctors. Members shall be proposed by the Council of the Association and confirmed by Annual General Meeting.
6. The Council of the APFD may appoint as honorary members, such other person or persons as it may deem expedient in the interest of the APFD, which person or persons may be proposed by the Council as an appreciation for the special services given to the Association or who is/are deemed to be such that s/he can be expected to contribute expertise to the Association. Such a nomination shall be confirmed by the Annual General Meeting.

Article 7 - Rules of Membership

1. All members of the APFD must pay a membership fee for continued membership.
2. The membership fee shall be sixty Euro (€60) annually or any other amount as the Council may from time to time elect, which fee shall be payable in advance at the end of every January of each calendar year throughout the whole duration of the membership. Members who reach the age of 80 shall not pay a membership fee.
3. Unpaid members shall not be eligible to vote at a General Meeting.
4. Each member shall be given a membership card, which is valid for as long as he/she is a duly paid up member in terms of this statute.
5. The Council has the right to refuse an application for membership. However the applicant may appeal against the Council's decision by filing an appeal application within 20 days from the date of the decision refusing his/her application. The appeal application must, under pain of nullity, (a) be in writing, (b) be addressed to the Secretary of the Council (c) be signed by the appellant or his attorney or representative (d) contain, in numbered paragraphs, a brief description of the original application, the date of the judgement appealed from, the grounds of appeal and a final demand. Upon receipt of any such appeal a panel of adjudicators shall be drawn up consisting of 5 persons who shall act as adjudicators in order to consider and decide upon the said appeal application. The said panel of adjudicators shall be composed as follows: Two of the members shall be appointed at the annual general meeting, whilst of the other 3 members, one will be the lawyer of the Association, one appointed by Council and one appointed by the applicant. Once the panel is composed the Council shall inform the appellant in writing and without delay the names of the persons nominated as adjudicators. The said panel of adjudicators shall then convene a hearing for the consideration of the appeal and shall inform the appellant in writing and without delay the date of the hearing and informing him also that he/she should be present for the hearing and that he may be assisted. The decision of the panel of adjudicators is final and unappealable.
6. A member of the Association cannot be a member of another Private Family Doctor's Association or other association whose objects or aims are in conflict or in competition with those of the APFD.
7. A new member can attend for an Annual General Meeting as an observer but shall only acquire the right to vote after s/he has paid his membership fees.

8. Members who do not pay their membership fee by the end of April of each year shall be reminded to do so by a letter/e-mail; and if the fee remains so unpaid for a period of one month from the date of the said reminder s/he shall forfeit his/her right to attend and vote at General Meetings for that year.
9. A member who is in default of payment of one year's membership fee shall be notified in writing by a registered letter/e-mail to effect payment and if the membership fee remains so unpaid for a period of three months from the date of the said letter/e-mail, s/he shall cease to be a member forthwith and his/her name shall be struck off from the members' list.
10. The fee of associate membership is of 20 Euros per year

Article 8 – Election

The APFD elects its Council by means of an election every three years.

Article 9 - Council

1. There shall be a Council for the APFD.
2. The Council shall be responsible for the management of the Association and shall be made up of seven (7) directors as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Registrar, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer and I.T. Coordinator.
3. No person shall be eligible for appointment as member of the Council unless s/he has been an Ordinary Member of the Association for at least one calendar year prior to the election to Council.
4. The President of the Association shall chair all meetings. S/he shall be the official representative at all meetings with other bodies or organizations.
5. The Vice-President shall chair the meeting whenever the President is not available.
6. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of every meeting. The Secretary shall also draw up an administrative report every year to be presented to the Annual General Meeting.
7. The Registrar shall keep a register with the names, addresses, telephone numbers (fixed and mobile), and e-mail addresses of the members and/or ex-members. The Registrar will also note whether members are up to date with the membership fees.
8. The Treasurer shall keep record of all financial transactions and bank documents. S/he shall represent the Association in financial matters with other bodies/organizations. Every three months s/he shall report to the Council on the financial situation of the Association and shall draw up an annual financial report to be presented at Annual General Meetings. The treasurer shall also prepare all documents and financial reports to the auditors and shall keep an inventory of all the Association's assets and liabilities.
9. The posts here-above designated may not be occupied by the same person for more than two consecutive terms unless agreed to unanimously by Council.
10. The drawing up of cheques/monies is the joint responsibility of two authorized Officials, one of whom should always be the Treasurer. The other authorised signatories should either be the President or the Secretary.
11. The Treasurer is authorised to disburse up to €250 without the authorization of the Council while with the authorization of the President, s/he can disburse up to €500. Any sum over Lm200 must be approved by the Council by a simple majority.

12. Only disbursements which are approved by the Council with a simple majority shall be deemed acceptable.
13. The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer must jointly appear on contract/agreements entered into with third parties.

Article 10 – Responsibilities of Council

The responsibilities of the Council, besides those which result from specific provisions, are:

1. The admission of Doctors as Members of the APFD
2. The execution of the APFD's policies and decisions;
3. The economic administration and the receipt of the yearly contributions made by the members or of any other sum owed to the APFD;
4. The supervision of the proper observance of the statute and of the good internal order in the conference rooms where the APFD assembles;
5. The nomination of representatives of the commissions etc;
6. Any other acts deemed necessary for the advancement of the family medicine profession at large, provided such acts do not fall within the remit of other competent bodies in Malta.
7. The Council shall hold ordinary and extraordinary general assemblies as specified in article 13.
8. The date of such meetings is given by means of notices indicating the object of the meeting/session.

Article 11 – Prerogatives of Council

Without prejudice to the foregoing, the Council shall have the following powers:

1. Whenever at a General Meeting there is an equality of votes, the Chairperson of the meeting shall have a casting vote.
2. To give orders and other provisions so as to attain the aims and objects of the Association.

Article 12 - Proceedings of the Council

1. The Council officials as provided by Article 8 of the Statute should be appointed during the first meeting of the new Council after its election.
2. The Council can nominate commissions, sub-Councils or "boards" etc; Members of such other committees can be Council directors or ordinary members of the Association.
3. The Council shall honour contracts and any other agreements entered into by the previous Council; but any prior agreement/contract can be changed with a majority vote of (²/₃) of the Council directors.
4. Any three (3) directors of the Council with the approval of the President can call a Council meeting.
5. The Council shall meet regularly but not less than once every 2 months.

6. Any member of the Council who fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the Council without valid reason shall be deemed as having resigned his/her post on the Council.
7. When a vacancy for an official of the Council arises, or when no member has been elected to fill such a vacant post, the Council can co-opt members from among the general membership who would have the same rights and privileges of Council directors. This is subject to the provisions of Article 12 Section 16.
8. The Council shall not co-opt more than two members (2) in the same year. Co-opted members may be reconfirmed in their posts after twelve months.
9. Decisions during any meeting shall be determined by a majority of votes. In case of a tie, the President of the Council shall have a casting vote.

Article 13 - Election of Council

Council Posts

1. Elections for the members of the Council shall take place every three (3) years. Such elections will be held in the last six months of the Council's term. However the elected Council members will not take office before the lapse of the third year.
2. The Electoral Commission will issue a call for nominations for the post of Council director thirty (30) days before the Annual General Meeting of an election year, which General Meeting shall be duly convened by the secretary at the same time.
3. Nominations for elections shall be received in writing by the Electoral Commission and accepted up to two weeks before the election date at the official address of the Association of Private Family Doctors.
4. The nomination forms shall be signed by two Ordinary Members and by the proposed member himself, signifying his/her willingness to serve on the Council once elected.
5. The Electoral Commission shall be composed of three members appointed by the last General Meeting to be held before the election year. They shall have their appointment communicated to them in writing.
6. No member can contest elections for any post on the Council if:
 - (a) S/he has not been a member of the Association for at least a year.
 - (b) Is a Member of Parliament.
7. After nominations close, the Chairman of the Electoral Commission shall publish a detailed list of the members nominated.
8. If in respect to elections the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies, a postal ballot shall be held.
9. If there are fewer nominations than the number of vacancies, then the new Council will have the right to co-opt Ordinary Members to Council with full voting rights.
10. The election of the Council shall take place within two weeks following the Annual General Meeting.
11. The rules governing the election of the Council shall be as follows:
 - (a) The ballot paper should only show the names of all the candidates who are contesting. The list of names shall be in alphabetical order. Voting papers shall be signed by all three electoral commissioners.
 - (b) In the case that there are more than two (2) candidates with the same name, the Chairman of the Electoral Commission shall make sure that there is a clear distinction between them.

- (c) Voting for the post of Council members:
 - (i) Shall take place on ballot papers which shall be signed by the members of the electoral commission and, which should give precise and clear instructions of how members should cast their vote.
 - (ii) Shall have the voting documents posted by not later than two weeks from the closing date of the receipt of nominations.
 - (iii) Shall take place by postal ballot and all the votes shall be returned to the Electoral Commission within a week. The last date of acceptance of the voting document shall be clearly specified
 - (d) Claims of non-receipt of the ballot paper will only be entertained if supported by an affidavit.
12. The Chairman of the Electoral Commission together with other members of the Electoral Commission shall be responsible for ensuring the validity of the votes and for the counting of votes.
 13. The Chairman of the electoral commission shall announce the official result in the manner decided by the outgoing Council.
 14. If two (2) or more candidates obtain the same number of votes, so that more than seven members would have been elected, a further ballot shall be held to decide between any such candidates.
 15. The office of a Director of Council shall be vacated in any of the following cases:
 - a. If the official delivers his resignation in writing and such resignation is accepted by a simple majority of the Council during a Council Meeting.
 - b. If the official is found guilty of serious professional misconduct by the Medical Council of Malta.
 - c. If an official fails to attend three consecutive Council meetings without justifiable cause.
 - d. If the official ceases to be a member of the Association.
 - e. If the official is removed from office by a vote during a General Meeting, This may be done by a simple majority vote.
 16. When a vacancy arises on Council during a period prior to six months from when the next election is due, the runner-up in the preceding election shall be asked invited to fill in the vacancy.
 17. Should this member refuse the vacant post on Council the electoral commission shall immediately initiate the process for a new election for the vacant post.
 - i. No fresh ballot will be called if the vacancy arises within six months of the next election.
 - ii. Council may nominate a member to fill the vacancy
 - iii. Such a nominated member shall hold that post until the next Council elections.
 18. Should the Council resign *en bloc*, it shall be the duty of the outgoing President, Secretary and the Treasurer to take urgent action together, and within 2 weeks after the said resignation, ask the Chairman of the Electoral Commission to hold a new election. Such elections should be held within two months. During this interim period the outgoing Council shall only act as caretaker.

Article 14 - Investment Practice and Account Keeping

1. The Council may invest any Association funds not immediately required for its purposes.

2. This has to follow recognised practices and the advice of a recognised Investment Advisor appointed by Council.
3. The Treasurer is the official appointed by the Council to administer and safeguard the finances of the Association.
4. At every Annual General Meeting the Council shall submit for approval Certified accounts covering the period since the last General Meeting.
5. The Council shall appoint the first auditor of the Association and s/he shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting. Thereafter an auditor shall be appointed at each Annual General Meeting and shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting, when s/he may be reappointed.
6. No person shall be appointed as, or be entitled to act as, an auditor unless s/he is qualified for such appointment.
7. The books of accounts of the Association shall at all times be open to the inspection of fully paid-up ordinary members.

Article 15 – Rules for all Meetings

[A] The Annual General Meeting

1. Every meeting is chaired by the President or the Vice-President in the absence of the former.
2. The APFD shall hold an Annual General Meeting, specified as such, and at such time and place as may be determined by Council. This Annual General Meeting must be convened with at least twenty days' notice.
3. The Agenda shall be as follows:
 - A. Reading of the minutes
 - B. Address by the President
 - C. Administrative report by the Secretary.
 - D. Financial report and audited accounts by the Treasurer.
 - E. Appointment of an accounting firm to overview accounts.
 - F. Appointment of two members of APFD to act as auditors.
 - G. Appointment of an Electoral Commission made up of three members.
 - H. Appointment of two members to the membership subcommittee.
 - I. Appointment of a disciplinary Council made up of three members.
 - J. Motions and amendments to the rules by members.

[B] Extraordinary General Meetings

1. The Council may convene an Extraordinary General Meeting:
 - (A) At the request of the President.
 - (B) At the request of the majority of the directors of Council
 - (C) At the written request of not less than 20% of the Ordinary fully paid-up members so long as the request is made by a member in writing to the Council and delivered to the Secretary, stating clearly the reason why a General Meeting is deemed necessary.
2. Each signatory must include the following details: name and surname in BLOCK letters; address; telephone number/mobile; e-mail; and I.D. card number.
3. Whilst the Annual General Meeting shall have at least twenty days' notice, an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened with at least fifteen days' notice.

4. A notice to the members of an approaching General Meeting shall be sent by circular/e-mail to all members. The circular shall include the date, time, place of the meeting as well as the agenda of the General Meeting. Only in urgent cases where the Council is limited by time, may the Council call an urgent General Meeting by means of an SMS/telephone/email.

Proceedings during General Meetings

1. The deliberations made in the general meetings, whether ordinary or extraordinary, are valid whenever not less than twenty-five per cent (25%) of paid-up members have participated therein, of which at least four must form part of the Council.
2. If, however, after half an hour, less than twenty-five per cent (25%) of paid-up members are present, the members present shall constitute a *quorum* and the meeting shall be competent to make valid deliberations unless a motion for an adjournment is presented and such motion is approved by a simple majority of members present.
3. Every meeting shall follow an agenda prepared by the Secretary in consultation with the President. No other matters outside this agenda can be discussed if not with the approval of the majority of members present.
4. Every motion or amendment to the rules shall be received by the Secretary ten (10) days before the date of the General Meeting.
5. When a member who has proposed a motion or amendment fails to attend the General Meeting, such motion or amendment shall only be discussed if the General Meeting so decides by a simple majority.
6. Members wishing to speak during a general meeting shall stand and address the President. No member shall speak more than once on the subject being discussed except such member who has proposed the original motion / amendment, if not on a "Point of Order" or personal explanation.
7. The member who proposes the original motion / amendment cannot speak for more than five (5) minutes to propose the motion and no more than another five (5) minutes to answer any queries / make clarifications
8. When there is a "Point of Order", accepted by the President or Vice President as the case may be, discussion shall stop until the "Point of Order" is discussed. Every member shall address the President whenever s/he intervenes. When more than one member wishes to intervene, the President shall determine the order of these interventions.
9. When the President calls a member to order, the member who is speaking shall stop and no other member shall speak before s/he is asked to do so by the President.
10. The first motion on any subject shall be considered as the original motion and any changes / proposals that may be made to it shall be considered as amendments. An amendment is voted upon first. If it is passed, the original motion shall be dropped.
11. A motion to close a debate can only be made and seconded by members who would have participated in the discussion. However the President may at any time decide to stop the discussion at his/her discretion. A simple majority of members present at the meeting can decide to close the discussion and the member who had proposed the original motion has the right to conclude the discussion before the President calls for a vote on this motion.
12. The President may call for a vote by: (a) A show of hands or (b) By a secret ballot.
13. At any time any member may propose a secret vote.
14. Every member has the right to present a motion to adjourn the meeting but s/he cannot speak on anything else except on matters that are related with the adjournment motion. This adjournment shall be effective if approved by a simple majority.

15. The President has the right to suspend from the meeting, whether for a specified time or for the rest of the meeting, any member who misbehaves or shows serious disrespect, against any official or member of the assembly. The suspended member shall leave the room and shall only be able to participate at the next meeting.
16. The President shall suspend or adjourn the meeting for as long as necessary when s/he deems fit..
17. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall be also entitled to a casting vote.

Article 16 – Extraordinary General Meetings

1. The extraordinary general meetings are to be fixed by the Council by a notice, delivered or sent to the individual members of the APFD, indicating the object, the date and time of the meeting.
2. The convening of an Extraordinary General Meeting may be made by the Council for any purpose it may deem fit.
3. A Member may convene an Extraordinary General Meeting by forwarding a request to the Council seconded by twenty percent (20%) of fully paid-up members, and explaining what should be discussed in the meeting.

Article 17 – Council Meeting

1. The Council is convened by the President, or in his absence or due to a supervening impediment, by the Vice-President, where he deems fit, by means of a circular signed by the Secretary, or by e-mail, indicating the object, the date and the time of the meeting.
2. The meeting of the Council may be convened or held upon the demand of two directors of the same with the approval of the President
3. For the validity of the sitting and its decisions, the presence of (5) members is to be considered a *quorum*.
4. In the absence of the President and Vice-President the meeting shall be chaired by the Treasurer. If these three officials are absent another member shall chair the meeting after being chosen by a simple majority from among the members present.
5. Every decision taken by the Council is final and shall not be revised or reconsidered before 3 months unless a motion is presented to discuss it at an Extraordinary General Meeting. The EGM can reject or amend the decision of the Council as long as two thirds (²/₃) of the members present for the EGM vote in favour of it.

Article 18

In all cases not contemplated in these Statutes the APFD shall in general meeting, make provision by means of a resolution, which shall be incorporated in the Statutes, if the APFD, in passing the resolution, shall so order, by a simple majority

Article 19 – General Rules

1. Every member shall observe the rules of the Association when representing the Association.
2. Instances of non-observance of the rules may be referred to a disciplinary sub-committee set up specifically for this purpose and composed of three members chosen in a General Meeting.. This sub-committee may recommend to the Council the application of one of the following measures: (a) Fine, (b) Censure, (c) Suspension from the Association or (d) Expulsion.
3. The measure/s recommended has/have to be approved by Council with two thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the Council directors present.
4. Instances of non-observance of the rules include:
 - a. Gross unethical behaviour which might tarnish the good name of the Association.
 - b. Infringement of the Association's rules or other orders issued by the Council.
 - c. The divulging of confidential information regarding the Association
 - d. Being the cause of any misunderstanding between the Association and the MAM or the Malta College of Family Doctors.
 - e. The commitment of other irregularities deemed by Council to merit referral to the sub-committee referred to in para 2 of this article.
- 5 The APFD is apolitical and cannot lend anything to or borrow anything from any political party.
6. Anything donated to the Association shall automatically become the property of the Association.
7. The premises of the Association shall be The Federation of Professional Bodies, Sliema Rd., Gzira. GZR 1633
8. The official website of the Association is: <http://www.apfd.info>
9. The official e-mail address of the Association is: admin@apfd.info
10. The official postal address of the Association shall be: The Association of Private Family Doctors, PO Box 16, Balzan. 1251
11. Council may change clauses 8-10 above according to circumstance.
12. The Association shall be dissolved if $\frac{2}{3}$ or more of its members present at a General Meeting called for this specific purpose and vote for such an action.
13. The Association shall also be dissolved if no more than 13 paid up members remain on the books of the Association.
14. These rules can only be amended / deleted by a vote of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members present for a General Meeting called specifically for this purpose.
15. Any one member who proposes or seconds an amendment to the Statute has the right to present such amendments during a Council meeting held specifically for that purpose but has no right to vote at such Council meeting.
16. Any motion to amend the Statute shall be sent by the members in writing at least ten (10) days before the General Meeting.

17. The interpretation of these rules is the prerogative of the Council and where there are no provisions in the Statute, the Council has the right to act according to circumstances.

18. The Council of the Association may alter or revoke the foregoing rules in the best interest of the Association but changes shall be approved by 2/3 of the members present at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

19. The Association may accept sponsorships in order to advance, promote and execute its aims. Such acceptance is however subject to specific rules and conditions in terms of this statute. Amongst other things the APFD recognises that the cooperation between the APFD and the Pharmaceutical Industry shall be subject to the rules and directives outlined in the Joint Declaration of the CPME (Comite' Permanente des Medecins Europeens) and the EFPIA (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations) of June 2005 (Appendix 1), which rules and directives shall be considered as forming part of this Statute.