

EBCU Constitution

1 General

1.1 EBCU

1.1.1 EBCU is a European federation of beer consumers associations founded in May 1990. It is apolitical, non-religious, non-profit making and independent from vested industry interests.

1.2 Aims & Objectives

- To represent the interests of beer consumers.
- The promotion and preservation of Europe's beer culture
- The promotion and preservation of traditional beer styles
- The promotion and protection of diversity and consumer choice
- To enhance the image of beer in Europe
- To support traditional brewing
- To support the introduction of progressive beer duty across Europe.
- To encourage the appreciation of beers from other countries and traditions.
- To encourage socially responsible drinking in a licensed environment
- To establish and promote networking and exchange of knowledge and expertise between member organisations

1.3 Span of organisation

1.3.1 "Europe": is a designated geographical notion covering:

- Mid-Atlantic [Greenland] to Ural / Arctic to Mediterranean Sea Islands)
- No political designations (EU, EES or other areas/groupings that may be defined now or in the future)

1.3.2 EBCU has its permanent seat in St. Albans under UK Law.

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1.4 EBCU Members

1.4.1 A list of the current member organisations of EBCU is attached as Appendix 1 to this constitution.

1.5 Alterations to constitution

1.5.1 This Constitution can only be altered as follows:

- Through a 2/3 majority of member organisations, abstentions being counted as votes against.
- Changes must be proposed in writing at the previous ordinary meeting in order to report back to member organisations for discussion.
- Alterations to Appendices to be decided by a simple majority vote of the plenary.

2 Structure

2.1.1 Conduct of meetings is governed by standing orders.

2.2 Plenary

2.2.1 Plenary meetings are the main structure of EBCU

- Plenary sessions are formal meetings of delegates of member organisations.
- Meetings will be held at least twice a year.
- All EBCU meetings are open to its Executive Committee members, to nominated delegates and to current members of EBCU organisations (as observers).
- The meeting may be deemed to be closed to all apart from delegates and the executive at the chairman's discretion.

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- Other individuals may be admitted to the relevant portion of the meeting at the chairman's discretion

2.2.2 Delegates are representatives of national organisations

- As defined in Appendix 1
- Delegates are elected by their national organisation.
- They are invested with all necessary powers by national organisation to discuss, negotiate, decide, and vote in name of national organisation.
- There is a maximum of 2 delegates per organisation, one of which shall if possible be a member of its national executive. Supernumeraries can be sent by member organisations at the chairman's discretion
- Delegates commercially involved in the brewing or related fields must declare their interests. Delegates not declaring such interests shall be excluded. The Executive can veto the vote of a delegate if it feels those interests are in conflict with the interests of EBCU

2.2.3 Votes:

- Decision reached by simple majority. Abstentions do not count.
- Two separate votes per organisation plus one vote per member of EBCU executive committee.
- Only motions on policy passed with unanimity can become EBCU policy and will be listed in Appendix 2
- Organisations not present at the plenary session may elect to submit their vote to the Chair on motions or issues proposed in advance of the meeting.

2.2.4 Voting shall be by a show of hands.

- A secret ballot can be held if requested by 1/3 of those present,
- Or at the discretion of the Chairman.
- In case of a tied vote, the chairman has a casting vote.

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2.2.5 Preferred language of communication is English. Informal discussions are held in whichever language is more practical with the delegates involved.

2.3 Executive Committee

2.3.1 Day-to-day direction of EBCU affairs is vested in the hands of the EBCU executive committee.

2.3.2 Executive:

- Maximum of 5 members: Chairman, two vice-chairs, finance, one member without portfolio.
- Any member of a member organisation, nominated by the executive of a member organisation, can be elected to the EBCU Executive Committee.
- When working for EBCU or on EBCU issues, Executive members work for EBCU and act according to EBCU's interests
- Executive members cannot be at the same time delegates of a member organisation.
- Tasked with the management of current EBCU business between plenary meetings, making decisions, subject to ratification by plenum.
- Meets as required, at least twice a year.

2.3.3 Will be elected yearly, by the plenary and with a simple majority, at the annual autumn meeting

2.3.4 Executive members must be current members of a member organisation as defined in 3.1 and listed in Appendix 1.

2.3.5 Not more than two executive seats per organisation.

2.3.6 Decisions taken by majority vote. Decisions can be made on the basis of all members minus one.

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2.3.7 Members of the executive are to represent commonly made and discussed decisions, even when opposed to them.

2.4 Secretariat

2.4.1 Tasks of the Secretariat are defined in Appendix 4.

2.4.2 Costs of the secretariat are deducted from the EBCU budget.

2.4.3 The executive will supervise the secretariat

2.5 Working Groups

2.5.1 Working groups can be formed by Plenary or Executive as required, for special tasks.

2.5.2 Working groups can include people external to EBCU structures defined above at the discretion of the executive.

2.5.3 Financial budgets and costs will be set and agreed by the executive

2.6 Arbitration Committee

2.6.1 Conflicts between member organisations or between member organisations and EBCU are examined by an arbitration committee.

2.6.2 The dispute committee is constituted of three members, elected by the EBCU plenary. It is non-permanent, being elected when the need arises.

2.6.3 Candidates are proposed by member organisations. They must be EBCU delegates since at least 3 years, or have been EBCU delegates for 3 years.

2.6.4 Members of the EBCU executive, The Chair and Vice-Chairs, as well as members of all organisations involved in the dispute, cannot be elected to the Arbitration committee.

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3 Member organisations

3.1 Conditions

3.1.1 To be EBCU member organisations must:

- Have aims and objectives compliant to EBCU aims and objectives.
- Have national span.
- Publish a regular newsletter or otherwise be in touch with their membership on a regular basis.
- Have an established financial base / demonstrate financial viability.
- Organisations not yet fulfilling those conditions can join as observer/associate members

3.1.2 Organisations are declared to be the official representative of the country. In exceptional circumstances for multilingual countries local agreements can be met by the organisations concerned

3.1.3 Organisations may, at any time, submit their intention to withdraw from membership and participation within EBCU. Notice of this intent must be communicated, in writing, to the chair. Such notice must honour any agreed commitments.

3.1.4 Organisations which are in conflict with the aims and intentions of EBCU may have their membership suspended until a full arbitration meeting has been convened. The suspension will be decision of the executive committee. The arbitrations session must be convened for the next full plenary session.

3.1.5 Organisations who are deemed by the arbitration committee to be in conflict with the aims and intentions of EBCU and whose subsequent decision has been ratified by a full plenary meeting shall be excluded from membership of EBCU. This decision shall be subject to a vote, in favour of exclusion, by a 2/3 majority of the plenary session.

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3.2 Participation within EBCU

- 3.2.1 Contacts from prospective members or corresponding member groups will be passed directly to the executive for action.
- 3.2.2 A recommended 18-month observation period will occur between first contact and application to join as full or associate members. Candidate organisation must attend at least one plenary meeting.
- 3.2.3 Written applications to join, accompanied by deposit (refundable if non-election), as full or associate member, voted upon by plenary. 2/3 of votes, from all member organisations, must be reached.
- 3.2.4 New organisations, deemed as fulfilling all conditions on 3.1 above, can be, on decision of the executive, allowed to join immediately.
- 3.2.5 New member organisations will sign acceptance to the constitution upon joining.
- 3.2.6 New member organisation would be expected to host an EBCU plenary meeting as soon as realistic..
- 3.2.7 Corresponding organisations:
- Are either organisations liable to join but which have not yet completed the process or Non-European organisations, which are outside the remit of the organisation.
 - Can attend meetings, but may not speak, except with permission from the chairman.
 - Can get such a status by decision of the Executive Committee.
- 3.2.8 Should a member organisation cease to exist, contact must be maintained with its former delegates to encourage formation of a new organisation which then may be liable to join.

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4 Financial Contributions

4.1 Payments and accounts

- 4.1.1 Every full member organisation (as listed in Appendix 1) is to pay a yearly contribution.
- 4.1.2 Contributions to be paid yearly and in full, by the end of February
- 4.1.3 Funds from contributions will be exclusively used to cover costs of EBCU activities, as defined in the financial guidelines in Appendix 3.
- 4.1.4 Finance presents a yearly report to the EBCU Executive Committee for ratification and approval...
- 4.1.5 The Executive Committee presents the yearly financial report and budget of the year to each member organisation in due time before the spring plenary meeting.
- 4.1.6 The plenary session must vote on the proposed budget and instruct the executive and also their organisations accordingly.

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Appendices:

- Appendix 1: List of member organisations
- Appendix 2: EBCU policies
- Appendix 3: Financial guidelines
- Appendix 4: Role of Secretariat

European beer Consumers Union

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Appendix 1: List of member organisations

1 Organisations

1.1 Members

Organisation	Full Name	Country	Status
ABO	L'Association des Buveurs d'Orges	Switzerland	Member
ATPUB	AssociaTion Pour l'Union des Biérophiles	France	Member
BierIG	Interessen-Gemeinschaft der Bier-Konsumenten	Austria	Member
Bractwo Piwne	Bractwo Piwne	Poland	Member
CAMRA	Campaign for Real Ale	United Kingdom	Member
DBE	Danske Ølentusiaster	Denmark	Member
NORØL	Norske Ølvenners Landsforbund	Norway	Member
Olutliitto	Olutliitto	Finland	Member
PINT	Vereniging Promotie Informatie Traditioneel Bie	The Netherlands	Member
SÖ	Svenska Ölförändandet	Sweden	Member
SPP	Sdruzeni Pratel Piva	Czech republic	Member
UnionBirrai	UnionBirrai	Italy	Member
Zythos	Zythos	Belgium	Member

1.2 Associates

Organisation	Full Name	Country	Status

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Appendix 2: EBCU Policies

1 Policies

1.1 Internal

To be determined at a future date

1.2 External

To be determined at a future date

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- **Appendix 3: EBCU Financial guidelines**

1 Finance

- The financial year will run from January 1st till December 31st
- Financial payments will be at the current agreed rates (€100) per annum per organisation, payable on January 1st of each calendar year.
- A working group will be established (as agreed at the meeting in Milan 24th November 2007) to investigate the financial option for EBCU.
- The group will report back to the plenary session with its findings and recommendations at the Spring 2008 meeting.
- The plenary session at the Spring 2008 meeting will review the recommendations and decide on future actions.

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Appendix 4: Role of Secretariat

- Provide a central contact point for EBCU communications
- Answer day to day queries and provide information to EBCU executive
- Financial management
- EBCU Secretariat is hosted at permanent offices of one member organisation as proposed by the executive to a plenary session