



The Sustainable *Eel* Group

Governance Summary

Copyright:



Version 2.1
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Versions Issued

Version No.	Date	Description of Amendment	Approved by:
1.1	10 June 2016	Original version	SEG Board
1.2	16 September 2016	4.8 Definition of consensus 4.9 SEG Standard System official language is English	SEG Board
2.1	October 2023	Update to reflect legal status as ASBL registered in Belgium	SEG Board

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For further information please see:

www.sustainableeelgroup.org

Or contact us at:

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Registered address:

c/o Wetlands International - European Association
Mundo J, Rue de l'Industrie 10,
1000, Bruxelles, Belgium.

1. Introduction

This document summarises key elements of the statutory documents that establish The Sustainable Eel Group (SEG) as an ASBL (a not for profit association) under Belgium Law in Brussels. 21 June 2018. These documents are:

- 001 SEG ASBL Certificate
- 002 SEG ASBL Memorandum of Association
- 003 SEG ASBL Articles of Association

- 1.1 The summary is intended to provide a ready, practical reference, to aid the understanding and operation of the Sustainable Eel Group. However, for formal interpretation the original legal documentation must be consulted and is considered definitive.
- 1.2 SEG is listed on the EU Transparency Register number 482866531502-69

2. Legal Status

2.1 The Sustainable Eel Group (SEG) Name and Legal Status

SEG's first listing was in London as The Sustainable Eel Development Ltd was legally registered on 17th February 2010 as a Private Limited Company in England and Wales under the 2006 Companies Act, Company No. 07159843. The Sustainable Eel Development Ltd trades as The Sustainable Eel Group (SEG), and is referred to as such in this document.

When the UK voted to leave the European Union the SEG Board decided to establish its primary legal base inside the EU and seek ASBL Status within Brussels and EU Law.

SEG's name on the ASBL Registration is the Sustainable Eel Group.

2.2 Registered Office and Mailing Address

SEG's registered office address is C/O Wetlands International European Association, Mundo J, Rue de l'Industrie 10, 1000 Bruxelles.

3. Object and purpose

- 3.1 The Association's object is:
- (a) to advance public awareness and knowledge of the conservation of eels of all species, in both the freshwater and marine environments;
 - (b) to advance and promote scientific education and research in relation to eels and to disseminate the same to the public;
 - (c) to advance and promote by any legitimate means, public education relating to eels;
 - (d) to advance and promote measures, by public and private organisations, including governmental and intergovernmental bodies, for the conservation of eels;
 - (e) to undertake, either alone or in partnership with other organisations, any practical projects to advance and promote eel conservation and sustainability; in all cases, both within Belgium and internationally.
- 3.2 The purpose of the Association is to contribute to the recovery of the European eel and other anguillid eels (*Anguillidae*). Further, the Association aims for the sustainable management of these populations with the help and collaboration of all stakeholders including the scientific, conservation and commercial sectors.

- 3.3 It is the Association's mission to provide the respected leadership alliance that enables, promotes and accelerates the conservation and management of eel, across the eel's natural range, linking all interests in an open and effective process to achieve healthy eel populations, fulfilling their role in the aquatic environment and supporting sustainable use for the benefit of communities, local economies and traditions.
- 3.4 The collaboration of the scientific, conservation and commercial sectors is essential. The Association initiates and supports scientific research and conservation projects and organises stakeholders' commitment. In addition, the Association provides a standard for a responsible eel sector with traceability from source to market, the SEG standard.
- 3.5 The Association is set up for an unlimited period, without prejudice, however, to each member's right to resign in accordance with clause 5.8 of these Articles or to the General Meeting's right to dissolve and liquidate the Association in accordance with clause 22 below of these Articles.

4. General Governance

The Association is lead and managed through the Board consisting of Founding Members and Members. A total of Seven. The remainder Members are defined as 'Adhering' Members. The key legal sentences are listed below.

4.1 Members

- (a) The members of the Association consist of at least three Members and include the Founding Members (the *Members*).
- (b) The Members have the rights and obligations granted to them by the Act and these Articles (and any other documents of the Association, as the case may be). The Members have a seat and vote at the General Meeting.
- (c) Without prejudice to any other obligation which the Members may have pursuant to these Articles, all Members shall comply with the Articles and with the decisions of the Board and/or the General Meeting.

4.2 Adhering Members

- (a) Besides the Members described above, the Association also welcomes adhering members, consisting of persons from the scientific conservation and commercial sectors, whose expertise and/or input may be of benefit to the Association (the *Adhering Members*).
- (b) The Adhering Members only have the rights and obligations expressly granted to them in the present Articles (and any other documents of the Association, as the case may be).
- (c) The Adhering Members shall provide advice and support to the Board and the General Meeting. In addition, they shall contribute expertise and thinking to the current and future work of the Association. They will share opinions at the General Meeting or the meeting of the Board, upon invitation, but have no voting power.
- (d) The above clauses 5.2 until 5.10 of these Articles regarding the application, admission, termination and contributions shall equally apply to the Adhering Members.
- (e) Without prejudice to any other obligation which the Adhering Members may have pursuant to these Articles, all Adhering Members shall comply with the Articles and with the decisions of the Board and/or the General Meeting.

4.3 Annual General Meeting

These take place in the early spring and are now conducted through video conferencing. The 2023 AGM link is:

<https://www.sustainableeelgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/SEG-AGM-18-April-2023-Minutes.pdf>

5. The Board and daily operations

- 5.1. The Board membership seeks to reflect a wide grouping of eel stakeholders drawn from environment, social and economic groupings often referred to as science, conservation and commercial. The Board meets face to face twice times a year and by conference call bimonthly.
- 5.2. The Board strives to achieve consensus in its decisions however if consensus cannot be achieved then in accordance with the Articles decisions may be taken by a majority of votes of those Members entitled to vote.
- 5.3. SEG's day-to-day operations are led by SEG's Board Chairperson working closely with the Members notably the SEG Standards System Manager and those from Science, Conservation and Commercial.
- 5.4. SEG forms consultation bodies as needed and example would be for the SEG Standard:

SEG Standard



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5.5. Official Language

The official language of SEG's daily operations and the SEG Standard System shall be English.