



MEDITERRANEAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL UNION
UNIONE FITOPATOLOGICA MEDITERRANEA
UNION PHYTOPATHOLOGIQUE MEDITERRANEEENNE

www.mpunion.org

PROPOSAL FOR MPU STATUTE AMENDMENT

Revised version approved by the General Assembly on June, 27, 2024

This Statute supersedes all previous versions.

Art. I Name, aims and seat

1. The Mediterranean Phytopathological Union, hereinafter referred to as the MPU, is a regional non-profit *de facto* association with cultural purpose of scientists, scientific societies, academia, research institutions, and other stakeholders, who are engaged in phytopathology and closely related fields relating to the Mediterranean agro-ecological regions. The MPU operates with the following aims, in the interest of its members, and always safeguarding the rights of its members:
 - a. to disseminate and increase knowledge;
 - b. to establish and foster relationships among scientists and other stakeholders, by promoting personal contacts, collaborations and exchange of ideas and information.
 - c. to promote the MPU Congress at regular intervals, and other scientific events and initiatives.
2. The MPU owns and manages the scientific journal *Phytopathologia Mediterranea* in order to better reach its aims.
3. The official address of the MPU shall be in Florence, Italy, where the MPU journal is published, in Piazzale delle Cascine, 28.
4. The MPU is a non-profit institution, and is prohibited from distributing, even indirectly, profits or surpluses, as well as funds, reserves or capital, during the life of the MPU, unless the destination or distribution is required by law.

Additional procedures relating to the Articles in this Statute are specified in the Annexed Rules.

Art. II Membership

Membership categories of the MPU are: National Society member, Individual member, Emeritus member, Affiliated member.

National Society member

Any national society of phytopathology and closely related fields in a country of the Mediterranean Region will become a National Society member when a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is signed by both parties. The members of a national society that is a member of the MPU are automatically considered to be Individual members, for all intents and purposes, except for the right to vote.

Individual member

Any individual or entity, with or without legal status, including those exercising activity for profit, who has interests in plant pathology and closely related fields or in disseminating the MPU journal, can become an Individual member.

Emeritus member

A retired member who has been an MPU member, and who has rendered distinguished services to the MPU, can become an Emeritus member.

Affiliated member

Any society, organization, institution or network with interests in phytopathology and closely related fields, can become an Affiliated member when a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is signed by both parties.

Admission of members is decided by the Governing Board, upon the proposal of an active member. All members are required to abide by the rules of this Statute and any internal regulations, in accordance with the resolutions passed by the appropriate bodies. In case of dissimilar behaviour that is detrimental to the purposes or assets of the MPU, the Governing Board shall intervene and apply the following sanctions: recall, warning, expulsion from the Association.

Any membership fee or contribution, with the exception of transfers due to death and non-revaluation of the same, is non-transferable.

Art. III Constituents of the MPU

Constituents of the MPU are the President, the Governing Board, the Advisory Committee, and the General Assembly.

A Governing Board member with exceptional merits for activities carried out for the MPU can be nominated as Honorary President, who will only have consulting function.

President

The President is the legal representative of MPU. The roles of the President are: (i) to ensure good governance of the MPU; (ii) to coordinate the Governing Board in delivering the aims of the MPU; (iii) to provide leadership in establishing strategy and direction for the MPU; (iv) to represent and promote the MPU at an international level; and (v) to coordinate the organization of MPU congresses, scientific events and other MPU initiatives.

Governing Board

The MPU is managed by a Governing Board, under the guidance of the President, and supported by a Secretariat for administrative, communication and organizational aspects. The power of management and decision-making is collective. All components of the Board, following the decision by the Board itself, have rights to represent the MPU, so they can legally and validly represent it in all acts, contracts, judgments, and in relations with entities, companies, public, and private institutions.

The Governing Board is obliged to prepare and approve an annual income and financial statement, in accordance with statutory provisions, which is to be submitted to the MPU General Assembly.

The Governing Board is composed by:

The President-Elect

The President-Elect assists the President in leadership roles, and will become MPU President at the end of the elected term.

The Immediate Past-President

The Immediate Past-President assists the President in leadership roles for one term.

The Governing Board Members

The three elected Board Members support the MPU activities, with specific duties including: managing relations with International Organizations; supervising communication tools (e.g., website); and supervising scientific events.

The Secretary

The Secretary supports the President and the Governing Board in: (i) finalizing the legal aspects of MPU initiatives; (ii) ensuring recording and safe-keeping of MPU documents; (iii) maintaining communication and correspondence; and (iv) managing the legal requirements of governing documents.

The Treasurer

The Treasurer supports the President and the Governing Board in: (i) monitoring and reviewing the financial position of MPU; (ii) reporting on the financial health of MPU to the President, the Governing Board, and the General Assembly at meetings; and (iii) assuming responsibilities for the safe-keeping and management of all funds and financial records.

The Advisory Committee representative

The Coordinator of the Advisory Committee (see below) submits to the Governing Board issues examined and presented by the Advisory Committee, and contributes to the activities of the Board.

The Editor(s)-in-Chief and Journal Director

The Editor(s)-in-Chief and the Administrative Director of the MPU journal *Phytopathologia Mediterranea* contribute to the activities of the MPU through management of the journal.

The Governing Board is convened by the President at least eight days in advance of meetings of the Board, as informed by email with return receipt. The Governing Board deliberates by an absolute majority of those present.

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is composed by the Presidents of National Society members of the MPU or their representatives, and by the representatives of the Individual members and representatives of Affiliated members. The Advisory Committee is guided by a Coordinator, who will represent the Advisory Committee on the Governing Board.

General Assembly

The General Assembly of members is the fundamental forum for discussion, which is designed to ensure the proper management of the MPU. It consists of the Governing Board and the Advisory Committee, i.e., the Presidents of the National Associated Societies or their representatives and the representatives of Individual members. The General Assembly meets at each MPU Congress, and non-voting members may also participate in the discussions.

The General Assembly is called by the Governing Board (or by at least one-tenth of the total number of Advisory Committee members), and is convened by the President by notice to be published on the MPU website at least eight days in advance of the meeting, and/or by email with return receipt.

The notice must state the day, place, and time of the first and second convocation of the meeting, as well as the agenda and the modalities of video conference connections for those who wish to attend remotely.

The General Assembly may meet in ordinary or extraordinary session.

Ordinary session shall be convened at least once a year within four months after the closing of the fiscal year, either in person or online, in order to:

- deliberate on the budget prepared by the Governing Board;
- proclaim at the MPU Congress, the President and the Governing Board Members;
- deliberate on any other matters not within the jurisdiction of the Governing Board;
- deliberate on proposals for amendments to the Statute;
- deliberate on deeds and contracts relating to real property rights;
- deliberate on the dissolution of the Association and the modalities of liquidation.

Any resolution taken by the Governing Board must be ratified by the General Assembly, which represents all members.

The General Assembly is validly constituted in first call with the presence of an absolute majority of the members entitled to vote, and deliberates validly with the affirmative vote of the majority of those present. Each representative or member of the General Assembly is entitled to one vote.

An extraordinary session of the General Assembly in first call is validly constituted when two-thirds of the members entitled to vote are present, and deliberates with the affirmative vote of the majority of those present.

In second call, the meeting of the General Assembly, whether ordinary or extraordinary, is validly constituted with the presence of at least one-third of the members entitled to vote and deliberates, with the affirmative vote of the majority of those present.

In any case for amendment of the Statute, as well as for acts and contracts pertaining to real rights, the presence of at least half of the members entitled to vote and the affirmative vote of the majority of those present are required.

Art. IV Election of officers

a) Election of the Governing Board components

The President-elect and the three Board Members shall be elected by all MPU members entitled to vote by ballot. A simple majority of the voting members is sufficient. Voting by mail is also allowed. Votes shall be counted by the Secretary or the Treasurer and three Scrutineers, to be appointed by the President.

The Secretary and the Treasurer are nominated by the President, with the agreement of the simple majority of all Governing Board components. The Treasurer must be from Italy, where the journal is published.

The Director and the Editor(s)-in-Chief of the journal *Phytopathologia Mediterranea* are nominated by the Governing Board.

b) Terms of office

The terms of office of the President, the Governing Board Members, and the Advisory Committee Coordinator shall normally be for one term, which will have the duration of the period between two MPU congresses, preferably every three years.

The President, at the end of the mandate, becomes Past-President until the next congress.

The Director and the Editor(s)-in-Chief of the journal *Phytopathologia Mediterranea* stay in those positions as long as the Governing Board decides.

Art. V Publications and web-site

Phytopathologia Mediterranea is the official journal of the MPU, and is managed by the Editorial Board, which is composed of the Editor(s)-in-Chief, and at least 10 Editors who are selected in order to cover the different subjects of phytopathology. The MPU manages the MPU website with technical support of the Secretariat, and the website is open to all members and interested parties. Only MPU members can publish in *Phytopathologia Mediterranea*.

Art. VI Legal and financial affairs

Deliberations, balance sheets and all general matters relating to the MPU are presented during the General Assembly. The publication of *Phytopathologia Mediterranea* and all MPU activities are supported by member contributions. Social assets consist of: ordinary or extraordinary contributions from the members; any contributions from public or private institutions or any other sources; any income from events and related activities; of movable and immovable properties that the Association owns and may own in the future; any reserve funds established from any budget surpluses; and any donations from members and third parties.

Art. VII Membership fees

Membership fees are in Euro currency and are fixed by the Governing Board from year to year. Current membership fees will be published in the MPU website and in the journal *Phytopathologia Mediterranea* website.

Art. VIII Association to ISPP

The MPU is associated to the International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP).

Art. IX Congress and other initiatives

Unless prevented by beyond control reasons, a Congress of the MPU shall be held every three years. If more than one country wishes to host the Congress, the place and time of the Congress to be held is decided by the Governing Board. The Congress must be organised in countries where no restrictions of any kind are applied to participation in the Congress by members of an MPU National Society member. All MPU members may participate in the Congress without any limitations or restrictions.

Other initiatives (e.g., projects, workshops, meetings) may be arranged at any time, at the discretion of the Governing Board.

Art. X Amendments

MPU members may submit to the Governing Board proposals for amendments to the Statute. No change shall be made that goes beyond the main objectives of the MPU, nor, for any reason, changes affecting the legal status of the MPU. All amendments to the Statute are submitted to the General Assembly. The amendment proposals should be approved with the affirmative vote of the majority of those present, in person or remotely, at the General Assembly. Representatives will take care to communicate proposed amendments to the members they represent.

Art. XI Liquidation

The duration of the MPU is unlimited. The MPU may be dissolved only by specific resolution of the General Assembly of members, convened in extraordinary session, the request for which must be submitted by four-fifths of the members entitled to vote. The resolution must be adopted with the presence of four-fifths of the members and the affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present and entitled to vote.

In the event of dissolution of the MPU for any cause, the corporate assets must be donated to another association with a similar purpose, in accordance with current regulations.

It is obligatory to devolve the assets of the MPU, in the event of its dissolution for any cause, to another association with similar purposes or for the purpose of public benefit, after consulting the supervisory body referred to in Article 3, paragraph 190, of Law No. 662 of December 23, 1996, and unless otherwise required by law.

Art. XII Matters not covered by this Statute

Additional procedures for the Articles in this Statute are outlined in the Annexed Rules. The annexed rules may be amended, and amendments must be approved by the Governing Board.

For any matter not covered by this Statute, the laws of Italy (where the MPU is located) must be adhered to.