

# STATUTES

## CHAPTER I GENERAL

### **Article 1 Definition**

- 1.1 The “Fédération Internationale de Philatélie” (hereafter referred to as “FIP”) is a non-profit organisation founded in Paris on 18th June 1926.
- 1.2 The members of FIP retain their national autonomy. Membership is regulated under Chapter III of these Statutes.
- 1.3 FIP is formed in perpetuity.

### **Article 2 Non Discrimination**

- 2.1 FIP and its members do not discriminate for reasons of sex, age, race, religion, or politics.

### **Article 3 Offices**

- 3.1 The registered office of FIP is located at Zurich, Switzerland.
- 3.2 The administrative headquarters of FIP (hereafter referred to as “FIP Secretariat) shall be located in Switzerland.

### **Article 4 Business year**

- 4.1 The business year of FIP starts on 1st January and ends on 31st December.

## CHAPTER II AIMS OF FIP

### **Article 5 The aims of the FIP**

- 5.1 To promote philately and stamp collecting, in all its aspects, on the international level.
- 5.2 To create friendly relations and to maintain close co-operation among philatelists and stamp collectors throughout the world, with the aim of promoting peace and friendship among all people.
- 5.3 To promulgate regulations governing its various activities.
- 5.4 To establish and maintain close contacts with partners in the philatelic field and with national and international organisations.
- 5.5 To support philatelic events of all kinds organised by its Members.

### **Article 6 FIP is empowered:**

- 6.1 To organise on its own initiative World or International stamp exhibitions and shows, with the agreement of the National Federation where the event is to be held.
- 6.2 To organise, on its own initiative, World or International Stamp Competitions, in concordance with the special Guidelines approved by the FIP Board. These Guidelines shall be promulgated in the official information magazine FLASH or otherwise published as approved by the FIP Board.
- 6.3 To issue publications of philatelic interest.
- 6.4 To make awards to individuals or philatelic partners as provided in CHAPTER VIII of the Statutes.

## CHAPTER III MEMBERSHIP

### **Article 7 Composition of FIP**

- 7.1 Regular Members including Temporary and Provisional Members
- 7.2 Promotional Members
- 7.3 Associate Members

### **Article 8 Regular Membership**

**8.1** National Federations to which the majority of philatelic societies of the country belong may be admitted as Regular Members (hereafter referred to as “Members”). Only one Member can be accepted from each country.

The expression “Country” wherever used in these articles shall mean any country, state or autonomous region which in its absolute discretion is accepted by FIP Congress as constituting the area of jurisdiction of a recognised Member.

Once a Member has been elected it shall represent the Country until it resigns as provided under Article 14 or withdraws in favour of another National Federation which must satisfy all the requirements of Article 11.

### **8.2 Temporary Members**

Where no National Federation exists, temporary membership may be granted to the most representative philatelic organisation in that country. Such membership shall be on a temporary basis. As soon as a National Federation representing directly or indirectly the majority of philatelists in the country has been formed it will replace the temporary member.

### **8.3 Provisional Members**

Where a National Federation submits an application for Membership more than six months prior to Congress the FIP Board on satisfying themselves of all requirements having been fulfilled under Article 11 may grant provisional membership to a National Federation subject to membership being ratified by the following Congress. Should the Congress not confirm the membership, the National Federation ceases to be a Member of FIP forthwith.

### **Article 9 Promotional Membership**

- 9.1 The Postal Organisations of countries, where there are no national federations or philatelic organisations, may be admitted as a Promotional Member for a period up to 6 years. Only the Postal Organisation may apply for promotional membership, it may not delegate its responsibility to an Agent.
- 9.2 As soon as a National Federation is formed they shall apply for full membership at the next appropriate Congress and, the Promotional Member shall step down after Congress elects to Membership the National Federation.
- 9.3 The Promotional Member has no right to vote in the Congress.
- 9.4 The Promotional Member has the right to appoint two delegates to Congress who may speak on matters of concern to it.

### **Article 10 Associate Members**

- 10.1 National Federations from each Continental Region may constitute a Continental Federation which may include philatelic organisations of countries that are not Members

- of the FIP. Only one Continental Federation may be admitted as Associate Member provided they operate in accordance with the Statutes and regulations of FIP.
- 10.2 Continental Federations may only represent National Federations in their own Continent subject to the provision of Article 10.3 below.
  - 10.3 FIP Members of countries where no Continental Federation has been established may join an adjoining Continental Federation until a Continental Federation is established in their own Continent.
  - 10.4 If there is an established FIP Member in a country no other Federation from that country may be recognised by the Continental Federation.
  - 10.5 The views of the Continental Federations will be taken into consideration by the FIP Board on matters of interest concerning the Continent.
  - 10.6 Associate Members may appoint a Delegate to represent them at Congress. Such Delegate has no voting rights but may speak on matters concerning the Continental Federation with approval of the President of FIP.

#### **Article 11 Admission of new Members**

- 11.1 Applications for Regular, Promotional or Associate Membership must be submitted by registered mail to the FIP Secretariat at least five months before the Congress, applications for Temporary Membership may be submitted at any time to the FIP Secretariat.
- 11.2 Applications for Regular Membership including Temporary Membership must include:
  - a) their Constitution
  - b) a list of the number of affiliated societies and their total membership
  - c) a written declaration to accept and implement without qualification all FIP Statutes and regulations
- 11.3 Applications for Promotional Membership are to be submitted to the FIP Board for approval by Congress. They must include:
  - a) Details of the Philatelic services provided in their country
  - b) Plan for promotion of philately and stamp collecting in their country
  - c) An undertaking that on formation of a National Philatelic Body the Promotional Member will sponsor that body's application to become a Member
  - d) A written declaration to accept and implement without qualification all FIP Statutes and regulations.
  - e) once admitted, a Promotional Member shall report annually in writing to the FIP Secretariat on the development of philately in their country.
- 11.4 Any National Federation applying for Membership of the FIP, must be represented by their delegation at the Congress at which their application is to be considered. Such applications must be sponsored by the Associate Member, if they are members thereof, or by two Members. Such sponsorship shall include guarantee of the payment of FIP fees for first three years of the membership.
- 11.5 Applications for Associate or Promotional Membership must include:
  - a) their registered address
  - b) details of their proposed philatelic activities
  - c) a written declaration to accept and implement without qualification all FIP Statutes and regulations

#### **Article 12 Provisional membership**

- 12.1 Should Congress grant only provisional membership to a Federation such Federation shall have the same rights and obligations as other members until the FIP Board has received all the required documentation and has assured themselves of the status of the applicant provided the necessary documentation is received before the next Congress.
- 12.2 The Federation shall be responsible for any mutually agreed costs involved with Board members visiting the Country to meet with the Federation members.

#### **Article 13 Subscription and Dues**

- 13.1 All Members and Promotional Members shall pay an annual subscription, the amount of which shall be determined by the Congress for the coming two years.
- 13.2 Such subscription must be paid at latest by 30th June of each official year. On such years when the Congress is held before 30th June, the same shall be paid before the opening of the Congress.
- 13.3 Members who have not paid all their subscriptions and any other dues are denied the right to vote.
- 13.4 Should a Member or a Promotional Member fail to pay their subscription or other outstanding dues for a period of eighteen months, without justification acceptable to the FIP Board their membership will terminate automatically, such termination will be reported to the following Congress.
- 13.5 A Federation whose membership has been terminated under Article 13.4 above and who reapplies for membership shall be responsible for all outstanding dues and other debts before being reinstalled.

#### **Article 14 Resignations**

- 14.1 The resignation of a FIP Member or Promotional Member shall be accepted only if all outstanding dues have been paid to FIP.
- 14.2 The resignation must be addressed to the FIP Secretariat and sent by registered mail before 1st October and shall apply to the following year.

#### **Article 15 Disciplinary Action**

- 15.1 Any Member that acts in breach of the Statutes or regulations of FIP or takes any action which injures the material or moral well-being of another Member, may be called upon for an explanation of its action at the request of either the FIP Board or the aggrieved Member.
- 15.2 Any disagreement will be examined by the FIP Board and a recommendation for action may be submitted to the Congress for a decision.

### **CHAPTER IV FIP ORGANISATION**

#### **Article 16 The structure of FIP is:**

- 16.1 Congress
- 16.2 The Board of Directors (hereafter referred to as "FIP Board").
- 16.3 The Members
- 16.4 The philatelic Commissions and Sections (hereafter referred to as "Commissions")
- 16.5 The secretariat (see Article 36)

## **Article 17 Congress**

17.1 The Congress is the supreme body of FIP.

## **Article 18 Representation at Congress**

18.1 Only Members as defined in Article 8 have the right to vote in the Congress.

18.2 Members are represented at Congress by a delegation of not more than two persons. Each delegation shall have one vote. The delegates must be members of the National Federation and residents of the country concerned. (Exception: Temporary professional assignment abroad.)

18.3 At the request of a Member, the FIP Board may permit two observers from that Member to attend.

18.4 The names and addresses of the delegates and of any observers must be forwarded to the FIP Secretariat in writing at least one month before the Congress or as mentioned in the notice of convocation. Failure to send nominations in time may deprive the FIP Member of voting rights.

18.5 Members can be represented at Congress by proxy. It must be in favour of a delegation of another Member.

18.6 Proxies must be authorised by the President or the Secretary General of the member concerned in writing and received by the FIP Secretariat at least one month before the Congress.

18.7 A Member may represent by proxy only one other FIP Member.

18.8 In case of illness or for other unforeseeable reason, the FIP Board shall allow a substitution in the persons named for the delegation (Article 18.2) or accept a proxy prior to the opening of the Congress, provided it has been properly submitted in writing by the President or Secretary General of the Member concerned.

## **Article 19 Attendance at Congress**

19.1 Delegates of Members, including Temporary, Provisional, Promotional and Associate Members

19.2 The following attend the Congress in their capacity as elected members of FIP:

- a) Members of the Board of Directors
- b) Chairmen of Commissions and Sections

19.3 As invitees:

- a) Honorary Presidents
- b) Honorary Members
- c) Consultants to FIP (see Article 39 below)
- d) Representatives from International Philatelic organisations and the media subject to invitation from the FIP

## **Article 20 Convocation**

20.1 Congress shall meet every second year at the time and place determined by the preceding Congress.

20.2 The President on behalf of the FIP Board shall convene the Congress. The notice of convocation shall be sent to all Members and to all those referred to in Article 19 not less than three months prior to the opening date.

**Article 21 The notice of convocation shall include:**

- 21.1 The agenda.
- 21.2 The reports:
  - a) of the FIP Board
  - b) of the Commissions
- 21.3 The treasurer's report including
  - a) The Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account of the last year
  - b) The Budget for the forthcoming two years
- 21.4 The report of the Auditor.

**Article 22 Motions**

- 22.1 Motions may be submitted by the FIP Board and by Members.
- 22.2 Formal motions are to be submitted in writing to the FIP Secretariat at least five months before the Congress. All motions received within the time limit must be put before the Congress for discussion.
- 22.3 Motions may be submitted by the FIP Board up to two months before the Congress. Such motions must be circulated to all members.
- 22.4 Motions of urgency, with the exception of any concerning modification of the Statutes or the dissolution of FIP, received after the time limit stated in Article 22.3 may be presented after approval of the FIP Board and then must be made available in writing to all delegates prior to the opening of Congress.
- 22.5 Commissions may only submit Motions concerning their activities through the FIP Board who will present them on behalf of the Commission.
- 22.6 The procedure for admitting amendments during discussion of motions is set out in the Guidelines for the Conduct of Congress.

**Article 23 Election**

- 23.1 The Congress shall elect by secret ballot:
  - a) The President
  - b) Three Vice-Presidents
  - c) Three Directors
- 23.2 The FIP will be responsible for conducting an audit in accordance with the appropriate legal provisions.

**Article 24 Nominations and Voting for Candidates**

- 24.1 Nominations by a Member must be submitted in writing to the FIP Secretariat not later than five months before the opening of Congress. Nominations can be made for one or more posts of the FIP Board.
- 24.2 Nominations must be seconded by the Continental Federation. Their support shall be shown on the nomination form and shall be signed by the President of the Continental Federation or his authorised representative
- 24.3 A Nominee can only be a candidate for one position on the Board at any one election
- 24.4 The candidates for each post obtaining the highest number of votes will be declared elected. In case of a tie, voting will be repeated until one candidate receives a greater number of votes than any other. The President does not have a casting vote.

### **Article 25 Voting on Congress business including Motions**

- 25.1 A quorum for the transaction of business at Congress shall be the presence in person or by proxy of more than half of the Members entitled to vote unless a higher number of members is required to form a quorum by any other provision of the Statutes.
- 25.2 All decisions of the Congress will be taken by polling the highest number of votes of the Members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote except in those matters for which special conditions are required.
- 25.3 The President shall have the casting vote in case of a tie.
- 25.4 Voting shall be by show of voting cards unless a secret ballot is requested by the Board or by a Member and seconded by another member. If a secret ballot is requested this must be carried out.

### **Article 26 Amendments to the Statutes**

- 26.1 All changes to the Statutes require a quorum of not less than three quarters of the Members present in person and by proxy and entitled to vote and affirmative votes of more than two thirds of the Members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote.

### **Article 27 Expulsion**

- 27.1 The expulsion of a Member on any grounds other than those set forth in Article 13.4 or the readmission of an expelled Member, shall require the affirmative vote of at least three quarters of the Members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote.

### **Article 28 Postal Votes**

- 28.1 Written votes of Members not present or represented by proxy are not admitted in the meetings of the Congress.
- 28.2 The FIP Board may carry out a written poll during the period between Congress. Such written poll may not be used to make changes to the Statutes. The result of such a written poll will be advised to members within one month and must be ratified at the next Congress.

### **Article 29 Language**

- 29.1 The proceedings of the Congress must be conducted in one of the FIP Languages.
- 29.2 The President shall determine the language in which the proceedings are conducted (see Article 29.3 below). Simultaneous translation shall be provided.
- 29.3 The proceedings of the Congress, including financial reports and Motions, shall be recorded and published in English, French, German and Spanish. The Organisers of the Congress are responsible for publishing the proceedings and the costs thereof.
- 29.4 In the event of different interpretations, the English text shall prevail, in accordance with the Art. 55 of these Statutes.
- 29.5

### **Article 30 Board of Directors**

- 30.1 The FIP Board is the directing body of FIP.
- 30.2 It comprises a President, three Vice-Presidents and three Directors.
- 30.3 All members of the FIP Board shall be elected for a four year term and no member of the Board may serve for more than two full terms in the same position or three full terms in all, unless elected President. Membership of the FIP Board shall be subject to election

every second year i.e. the President, one Vice-President and one Director to be elected at one Congress, and two Vice-Presidents and two Directors to be elected at the following Congress. No more than one member federation may be represented in the FIP Board.

- 30.4 All Continental Federations are to be represented on the FIP Board.
- 30.5 The President may only serve for two full terms in this position.
- 30.6 The FIP Board will meet at the invitation of the President or at the call of any three members of the FIP Board.
- 30.7 The Quorum for meetings of the FIP Board shall be more than half the serving members.
- 30.8 The FIP Board represents the FIP. The President alone or the Treasurer together with one Vice-President are authorised to sign on behalf of the FIP in a legally binding manner and the prescribed form of signature shall be determined by the Board. The Board may authorise other persons to sign on behalf of FIP.

### **Article 31 Powers of the Board**

- 31.1 The FIP Board is empowered to approve and reform all the FIP Regulations, except the Statutes and GREX. They may take decisions on matters which don't admit delay subject to their being published by FIP in Flash or the FIP newsletter and ratified at the next Congress.
- 31.2 Changes to the GREV and SREVs must be reported in Flash and be confirmed at the next Congress. If not confirmed the changes shall be withdrawn
- 31.3 The FIP Board may introduce a bylaw amending the GREX between Congresses subject to this being ratified at the next Congress.
- 31.4 If the bylaw imposes a financial requirement on a Federation this may only be brought into application following approval by Congress.

### **Article 32 Relations with Commissions**

- 32.1 No member of the FIP Board may at the same time hold office in any Philatelic Commission of FIP.
- 32.2 The President or his representative shall be entitled to attend any meetings of the FIP Commissions.

### **Article 33 Treasurer**

- 33.1 At the first meeting of the Board following Congress the Board shall appoint one of the members as Treasurer.
- 33.2 The Treasurer shall serve until the day following the next Congress. The Treasurer may be re-appointed.
- 33.3 There is no limit on the number of times a Board member may be re-appointed to serve as Treasurer. However should he not be re-elected as a Board member he may not be appointed Treasurer.

### **Article 34 Legal representative**

- 34.1 The President or the FIP Board's nominee shall represent FIP at all times and shall be its legal representative.

### **Article 35 Vacancies**

- 35.1 The President shall preside at all meetings of the Congress and the FIP Board.

- 35.2 In the absence or incapacity of the President the Vice-President who has served longest on the Board shall take his place.
- 35.3 In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the FIP Board will elect the Vice-President who has served longest on Board to act as President until the next Congress is convened. A new President will be elected at the next Congress for the remaining term of his predecessor.
- 35.4 In the event of vacancy in the office of Vice-President, the FIP Board may appoint one of the FIP Directors to that office.
- 35.5 If a FIP Director is appointed to fill a vice-presidential vacancy, or if there are any Director vacancies for other reasons, the FIP Board may appoint any individual in good standing of any Member to fill any Director vacancies subject to the consent of the Member concerned. Any such appointees shall fill such vacancies until the next Congress.
- 35.6 If a vacancy arises during the Congress, caused for instance by the election of the President, a Vice-President or a Director who held any other office at the time of his election, then such vacancy shall be filled at the same meeting, provided that there is a candidate, properly nominated under article 24.2.

#### **Article 36 Secretariat**

- 36.1 The FIP Board shall have the assistance of the FIP Secretariat in carrying out its official duties, the cost of which shall be borne by FIP.
- 36.2 The Secretariat shall be located in a head office as provided in Article 3.
- 36.3 The day by day duties of the Secretariat shall be organised by the Secretary General.
- 36.4 The Secretary General shall attend meetings of the FIP Board and other meetings as required by the FIP President.

#### **Article 37 Funds**

- 37.1 The FIP is authorised to hold its assets in a general fund and such restricted funds as Congress may authorise..
- 37.2 A restricted fund is established to hold assets for the development of philately by way of education, collaboration with other like organisations, sponsorship of prizes, publication, and promotion and public relations activities.

#### **Article 38 Auditor**

- 38.1 The Auditor shall examine and certify all of the accounts and balance sheet of FIP not later than 15th March following the end of the preceding fiscal year.
- 38.2 The Auditor shall submit the audit report to the FIP Board in writing and it will be published together with the financial reports of the FIP including any restricted Fund not later than 6 months after the year end.

### **CHAPTER V CONSULTANTS TO FIP**

#### **Article 39 Consultants**

- 39.1 The FIP Board may appoint individuals or institutions who in their specialised capacity, agree to assist FIP in accomplishing its objectives. Such appointments may be for specific periods or for particular assignments.
- 39.2 They may be invited to attend Congress to report on their activity.

## CHAPTER VI PHILATELIC COMMISSIONS AND SECTIONS OF FIP

### **Article 40 The Philatelic Commissions and Sections**

- 40.1 The Philatelic Commissions and Sections (hereafter referred to as “Commissions”) are technical committees of FIP.
- 40.2 They work in compliance with the Guidelines for duties for the Philatelic Commissions and Sections of the FIP.

### **Article 41 Membership of Commissions**

- 41.1 Every Member and Promotional Member may appoint a delegate to every FIP Commission.

### **Article 42 Commission Bureau**

- 42.1 The Commission Bureau shall comprise a Chairman, Secretary and ordinary Bureau members.
- 42.2 Membership of the Bureau shall be restricted to the delegates to the Commission.
- 42.3 All members of the Bureau shall be elected by vote of all the delegates present or holding a proxy in the following sequence:
  - a) The Chairman
  - b) The Secretary
  - c) Three Ordinary Bureau members each representing one of the current three Continental Federations.
- 42.4 Commission Chairmen may add up to two additional members to the Commission Bureau on an appointment basis from within the ranks of the delegates of those Commissions. This will be under the supervision of the Directors of the FIP responsible for those Commissions.
- 42.5 The FIP Board shall submit the nomination of each Chairman of the Commissions to the Congress for confirmation for a term of four years. Commission Chairmen, Secretaries and three ordinary Bureau Members may not serve for more than two consecutive terms in the same position and four terms in total.
- 42.6 No person may, at one and the same time, hold office as Bureau member of more than one Commission.
- 42.7 The President of a Continental Federation may not be elected as a Bureau member at the same time.
- 42.8 If there are no candidates nominated to fill one of the places reserved for Associate Members, such Bureau membership shall be left vacant. The Bureau may subsequently co-opt a representative from the Continental Federation who shall serve until the next Congress.
- 42.9 The FIP Board shall nominate one of its members to co-ordinate the activities of each Commission and to attend that Bureau’s and Commission’s meetings.

### **Article 43 Commission Regulations**

- 43.1 Commissions must submit all rules governing their own proceedings, other than for elections, and all draft regulations to the FIP Board for approval.

- 43.2 Election for Chairman, Secretary and ordinary Bureau members shall be carried out as follows :
- a) Voting shall be by secret ballot of delegates present or holding a proxy.
  - b) In the case of a tie a second, and further ballots shall be held between the tied candidates until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
  - c) Only one proxy may be held by any Delegate. Postal votes are not allowed.
- 43.3 Each Continental Federation is to be represented on the Bureau by one ordinary member.
- 43.4 Those elected shall be the candidates receiving the highest number of votes subject to the provision of Article 43.3.

**Article 44 Powers of Commissions**

- 44.1 No Commission shall be empowered to enter into any obligations on behalf of the FIP except with the approval of and only to the extent conveyed in writing by the FIP Board.

**Article 45 Commission Reporting**

- 45.1 Each Commission shall report to Congress in writing:
- a) its work since the last Congress
  - b) Motions and proposals affecting their responsibility
  - c) programme of work for the next two years
  - d) Its membership
- 45.2 These reports shall be submitted to the FIP Board at least five months before the Congress and shall be published together with the Congress agenda.
- 45.3 They shall also report in writing their activities during the five months prior to Congress including the results of any elections for the Bureau. These reports shall be circulated immediately prior to the opening of Congress.
- 45.4 The Commissions shall report to the FIP Board on the work of the Commission in the preceding year. Such reports must be submitted by 30 January.

**Article 46 Commission Expenditure**

- 46.1 The FIP Board submits to Congress its recommendations for all allocation of funds to Commissions.
- 46.2 The expenditures of the Commissions must be submitted to the FIP Board with receipts not later than 14 days after year end.

**CHAPTER VII EXHIBITIONS**

**Article 47 Exhibitions**

- 47.1 World or International Philatelic Exhibitions may be organised under FIP Patronage or Auspices in compliance with the General Regulations of FIP for Exhibitions (hereafter referred to as "GREX").
- 47.2 Formal requests for FIP Patronage or Auspices must be submitted to the FIP Board at least three but no more than five years in advance. The request must specify the following:
- a) Name of the Exhibition
  - b) Dates
  - c) Venue

- d) Provisional Budget
- e) Names of principal members of the Exhibition Management.
- 47.3 Congress shall formally approve any granting of Patronage or Auspices by the FIP Board.
- 47.4 The contribution for Patronage or Auspices will be paid as specified in the contract.
- 47.5 Requests for Recognition of an International Exhibition shall be submitted to the FIP Board at least six months in advance.

#### **Article 48 Exhibitors**

- 48.1 Only exhibitors affiliated through personal or Society membership to a Member can participate in World Exhibitions organised under the Patronage of FIP.
- 48.2 Exhibitors who are members of a National Federation, affiliated to an Associate Member but not being a Member of FIP, may participate in FIP World or International Exhibitions being held in the Continent represented by the Associate Member.

#### **Article 49 Exhibition Management**

- 49.1 The Member granted the Patronage or Auspices of FIP agree as follows:
  - a) to pay to FIP the appropriate financial contribution as laid down by Congress
  - b) to abide by all the regulations of FIP including the Statutes, GREX, GREV, SREV's and Guidelines
- 49.2 The member may delegate the responsibility of organising the exhibition to an exhibition management but this does not relieve them from their responsibility outlined in Article 49.1.

### **CHAPTER VIII FIP HONOURS, MEDALS AND AWARDS**

#### **Article 50 Honorary President and Honorary Membership**

- 50.1 FIP Presidents who have long and outstanding service in the FIP Board may be granted the distinction of Honorary President.
- 50.2 Honorary Membership of FIP may be granted to Board members and Commission Chairmen who have provided long and outstanding service to FIP.
- 50.3 Honorary members shall be elected by the Congress, on proposal of the FIP Board.
- 50.4 Honorary Presidents and Honorary Members have no voting or other rights.

#### **Article 51 FIP Medals and Awards**

- 51.1 The FIP has the following medals and awards at its disposal:
  - a) The FIP Medal for Service
  - b) The FIP Medal for Research
  - c) The FIP Award of Appreciation
  - d) Such other awards as the FIP Board or Congress may consider appropriate
- 51.2 The FIP Medal for Service is the most prestigious recognition awarded by the FIP. The sole criterion for presentation is exceptional service to organised philately at the international level, normally of a continuing, long-term nature.
- 51.3 The FIP Medal for Research is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional philatelic study and research.
- 51.4 The FIP Award of Appreciation is awarded to dignitaries and officials, normally outside the ranks of organised philately, in recognition of significant support to philately.

- 51.5 The Board of Directors of the FIP shall establish procedures for the granting of FIP Medals and Awards.
- 51.6 More than one medal or award may be made in any one year at the discretion of the FIP Board.
- 51.7 The FIP shall maintain a permanent record of FIP Medals and Awards.
- 51.8 The criterion for the award of any of the above shall be given in the current regulations as may be published by the FIP Board in 'Flash' or elsewhere from time to time.

## **CHAPTER IX FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 52 Dissolution of FIP**

- 52.1 At the request of the FIP Board or upon request of more than two-thirds of the FIP Members, the FIP can be dissolved by Congress.
- 52.2 Any meeting called for the dissolution of FIP will require a quorum of three quarters of all FIP Members entitled to vote to be present in person or by proxy. Approval of such resolution will require the affirmative votes of three quarters of the voting members present.
- 52.3 Upon the dissolution of the FIP, the assets of FIP shall be transferred to the Federation of Swiss Philatelic Societies in trust. This Federation shall retain such assets until the organisation of a new federation of international philately.

### **Article 53 Occurrences not covered**

- 53.1 Matters that are not covered by these Statutes, will be determined by the FIP Board and must be ratified by the next following Congress.

### **Article 54 Legal jurisdiction**

- 54.1 The legal domicile of FIP will be Zurich, Switzerland.
- 54.2 Any legal disputes will be determined under Swiss law.

### **Article 55 Interpretation of Statutes**

- 55.1 In the event of any discrepancies in the text arising from translation, the English text shall prevail.

### **Article 56 Approval of Statutes**

- 56.1 These Statutes were accepted by the Congress at its 66th meeting on October 14, 2000, in Madrid, amended at the 70<sup>th</sup> Congress on June 28, 2008, in Bucharest, and take effect immediately following closure of Congress. All previous Statutes are hereby invalidated.

Zurich, June 2008