



## STATUTES

### *Section I* GENERAL NORMS

#### Article 1. ICMH Nature, Headquarters and Official languages

- a. The International Commission of Military History (ICMH) is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation founded in 1938, which is an affiliated international organisation of the International Committee of Historical Sciences (ICHS).
- b. The ICMH is composed of National Military History Commissions (National Commissions) and Specialised Committees.
- c. The administrative seat and head office of the Commission is located at the Treasurer's residence.
- d. The ICMH is funded through the Annual dues paid by the National Commissions and from other sources.
- e. The official languages of the ICMH are English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. Any one of these languages can be used during general meetings. During annual ICMH International Congresses the language of the hosting nation may also be used. Documents are not necessarily translated into all official languages. Simultaneous interpretation during annual ICMH International Congresses is covered by specific instructions.
- f. Both the original English and French versions of these Statutes shall be deemed authentic.

#### Article 2. Aims

- a. The aim of the ICMH is to foster and co-ordinate studies and researches in the field of military history in the broadest sense, in a spirit of international friendship, so that scholars can become better acquainted with each other, co-operate and share the results of their work.
- b. To this end, the ICMH shall:
  - Supervise ICMH International Congresses, arranging for them to be organised by affiliated National Commissions;
  - Publish international journals and other scholarly works;



- Encourage contacts and co-operation between military historians, archivists, museum curators, and teachers of military history;
  - Promote the circulation of publications of the affiliated National Commissions and the Specialised Committees, and disseminate information on their activities;
  - Co-operate with institutions that pursue similar objectives
- c. The ICMH may initiate other works and research programmes.

*Section II*  
**STRUCTURE OF THE ICMH**

Article 3. Governing bodies and offices

- a. The ICMH governing bodies are the General Assembly, the Full Board, and the Executive Board. The General Assembly elects every five years the President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer, the other members of the Full Board, , as specified in Section VI.
- b. The ICMH officers are the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General, and the Treasurer. Together they form the Executive Board.
- c. The ICMH has an Audit Committee. The General Assembly elects the three members of the committee as specified in article 22.

Article 4. The Specialised Committees

The Specialized Committees are: the Archives Committee, the Bibliography Committee, and the Educational Committee. The Full Board may decide to set up other permanent or temporary Specialised Committees. In this case the decision will be ratified by the General Assembly.

Article 5. Collaboration with other organisations.

The ICMH Full Board may decide to enter into co-operative agreements with other organisations to pursue its statutory aims.



*Section III*  
**NATIONAL COMMISSIONS**

Article 6. Affiliation

- a. Only one National Commission per country may be affiliated to the ICMH.
- b. To be able to apply and join the ICMH, a National Commission must meet the following requirements:
  - Have an executive office made up of at least one President and one Secretary General;
  - Bring together, either continuously or for regular activities, representatives of various civilian and/or military institutions (Ministries of Defence, universities, centres of research, archives, libraries, museums, etc.);
  - Undertake to pay their annual dues to the ICMH.

Article 7. Application

- a. A National Commission wishing to become a member of the ICMH shall send a membership request to the Secretary General, for the attention of the Full Board, attaching documents certifying that it meets the requirements laid down in Article 6.
- b. If the application is complete and terms of membership seem to be fulfilled, the Full Board shall inform all the other National Commissions of the application and invite the applying commission to attend the next international ICMH Congress as an observer.
- c. The membership request needs to be approved by the Full Board and ratified by the General Assembly. From that time on, the new National Commission shall enjoy its full rights and shall take on its full duties.

Article 8. Rights and duties

- a. National Commissions of the ICMH are entitled to:
  - Take part in the ICMH International Congresses as well as in the work of the Specialised Committees;
  - Have access to documentation drafted by the Specialised Committees of the ICMH;



- Use the archives and information bodies of the ICMH under preferential terms;
  - Take part, with voting rights, in the General Assembly.
- b. National Commissions of the ICMH are required to:
- Comply with the Statutes of the ICMH;
  - Organise regular activities at the national level;
  - Be represented at both ICMH International Congresses and General Assemblies;
  - Pay their annual dues on time;
- c. Non-compliance with these requirements may lead to suspension and even exclusion by the General Assembly.

## Article 9. Annual dues

- a. The amount of the annual dues for National Commissions is proposed by the Full Board and determined by the General Assembly.
- b. Annual dues shall normally be paid during the course of the relevant year.
- c. Once membership has been approved by the General Assembly, the National Commission shall pay the annual dues for the current year.

## Article 10. Suspension and exclusion

- a. At the proposal of the Full Board and for compelling reasons, the General Assembly may temporarily exempt a National Commission from paying the annual dues. The exemption may not exceed two years. A National Commission may be granted only one exemption.
- b. Failure to pay the annual dues for four consecutive years shall result in the National Commission being automatically suspended by the General Assembly.
- c. The Full Board may ask the General Assembly to exclude a National Commission for not complying with art. 9 and 10.
- d. A National Commission excluded from the ICMH shall not be able to request its reinstatement before a period of three years starting on the date of the exclusion decision taken by the General Assembly.



Article 11. Transnational Commissions

- a. The ICMH Full Board may propose to set up transnational military history commissions in order to bring researchers together and/or encourage the study of military history in geographical areas that are not represented by National Commissions.
- b. Transnational Commissions should encourage the future creation of National Commissions in their regions.
- c. The setting up of a transnational commission needs to be approved by the General Assembly.

*Section IV*

**GOVERNING BODIES AND OFFICES OF THE ICMH**

Article 12. General Assemblies

- a. A General Assembly is normally held every year during the ICMH International Congress.
- b. Every five years, the General Assembly holds statutory elections and discharges the Executive Board for the accounts for the previous five years.
- c. In accordance with the Full Board, the Secretary General normally convenes in writing General Assemblies two months before the date of the meeting. The agenda is attached to the notice of meeting.
- d. One third of National Commissions in full possession of their rights can request that an Extraordinary General Assembly be held.

Article 13. Participation to the General Assemblies

- a. Only National Commissions in full possession of their rights are entitled to participate and vote during the General Assemblies.
- b. The General Assemblies are chaired by the President of the ICMH, except when statutory elections are taking place.
- c. Registered participants to the International ICMH Congresses may attend as observers to the General Assembly.
- d. Statutory elections shall be led by an election committee.



Article 14. Representation and postal votes

- a. Each National Commission is officially represented at the General Assembly by its President. A President may delegate in writing the participation to a Vice President, the Secretary General or another member of his National Commission.
- b. A National Commission which for compelling reasons is not represented at the General Meeting holding statutory elections may vote by post.
- c. A suspended National Commission can attend the General Assembly but has no voting rights. An excluded commission cannot attend the General Assembly.

Article 15. Deliberations

Subject to the provisions laid down for amending the Statutes and for winding up the ICMH, the General Assembly can make legitimate decisions with a simple majority, regardless of the number of National Commissions represented.

Article 16. Jurisdiction

It is the responsibility of the General Assembly to:

- a. Deliberate on the activity reports and programmes.
- b. Approve the budgets submitted by the Full Board.
- c. Deliberate on topics of general interest to the ICMH, as well as on any other topic suggested by the Full Board.
- d. Deliberate on instructions for National Commissions submitted by the Full Board.
- e. Deliberate on the interpretation and amendment of the Statutes.
- f. Deliberate on proposals submitted by the Full Board for exempting a National Commission from paying its annual dues.
- g. Suspend or exclude a National Commission.
- h. Discharge the outgoing Board for the accounts for the previous five years.
- i. Set the annual dues for National Commissions.



- j. Elect the President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer and the members of the Full Board. The elections take place by secret ballot or, if unanimously agreed, by acclamation.
- k. Elect Honorary Members.
- l. Appoint the members of the Audit Committee.

Article 17. The Full Board and the Executive Board

- a. The Full Board is composed by the President, the two Vice Presidents, the Secretary General, the Treasurer, and between 5 and 10 other members.
- b. A National Commission can only have one member on the ICMH Full Board.
- c. The Full Board meets in person at least on the occasion of the General Assemblies. It may have additional telematics meetings.
- d. Within the Full Board, the Executive Board is composed by the President, the two Vice Presidents, the Secretary General and the Treasurer. It meets in person at least twice a year, one meeting during the ICMH International Congress. It may have additional telematics meetings.
- e. Meetings of the Full Board and of the Executive Board have a quorum consisting in the simple majority of their members. Full Board and the Executive Board deliberate with a simple majority of those participating to the vote; in case of parity the vote of the President will determine the decision.
- f. Every two years the Full Board proposes for election by the General Assembly one or more new members of the Audit Committee, as specifies in article 22.
- g. In the event of the President's resignation, inability to attend, sickness or death, the senior Vice President shall become the acting President of the ICMH. Seniority is determined by the duration in office; if the appointment took place at the same time, seniority is determined by the number of votes obtained; in case of parity of votes age will determine seniority. In case of necessity the new President will be elected by the Full Board for the completion of the mandate.
- h. In the event of the Secretary General's inability to attend, sickness or death, the Treasurer shall become acting Secretary General of the ICMH. In the event of the Treasurer's inability to attend, sickness or death, the Secretary General shall become acting Treasurer of the ICMH. In case of necessity the new Secretary General and the new Treasurer will be elected by the Full Board for the completion of the mandate.



- i. At the end of their term, officials who are deemed to have rendered services of exceptional significance to the ICMH may be elected to honorary positions by the General Assembly.

#### Articles 18. The President

- a. The President is the official representative of ICMH, carries out his activities in accordance with the governing bodies, chairs the meetings of the Executive Board, the Full Board and the General Assembly;
- b. Nominates two members of the Full Board for the positions of Vice President; the nominations are ratified by the Full Board;
- c. May delegate specific tasks to members of the Full Board;
- d. May attend the meetings of the Specialised Committees;
- e. Together with the Secretary-General and the Treasurer has a shared responsibility regarding the execution of the financial transactions of the ICMH;
- f. In case the Treasurer may not be able to fulfil his function, has the authority to handle the current financial transactions of the ICMH.

#### Article 19. The Vice Presidents

The Vice Presidents collaborate directly with the President, represent him at his request, and may be delegated to fulfil particular tasks or oversee specific sectors of ICMH activities.

#### Article 20. The Secretary General

The Secretary General:

- a. Ensures communications and co-ordination on a permanent basis, among members of the Board, and between the Board and the National Commissions and the Specialised Committee;
- b. Runs the secretariat and takes the minutes of the Executive Board, of the Full Board and of the General Assembly;
- c. Co-ordinates the website and the publications of the ICMH, and ensures that they are stocked and distributed;
- d. Submits an activity report for the previous year to the General Assembly;



- e. Keeps the ICMH's archives and arranges their deposit as specified in art. 33;
- f. Together with the President and the Treasurer has a shared responsibility regarding the execution of the financial transactions of the ICMH;
- g. In case the Treasurer may not be able to fulfil his function, has the authority to handle the current financial transaction of the ICMH.

Article 21. The Treasurer

The Treasurer:

- a. Keeps the accounts and manages the funds of the ICMH, in accordance with the guidelines approved by the governing bodies;
- b. Together with the President and the Secretary General has a shared responsibility regarding the execution of the financial transactions of the ICMH;
- c. Provides information, at each General Assembly, about the statement of accounts as at 31st December for the previous year, and about the budget for the current period.
- d. Submits, in the year of the General Election, the accounts for the previous five accounting years, closed as at 31st December of the previous year, to the General Assembly, and presents a financial report.

Art. 22. Verification of accounts

- a. The accounts of the ICMH are controlled by the Audit Committee.
- b. The committee submits a report to the General Assembly every year.
- c. The three members of the Audit Committee are chosen from three different National Commissions.
- d. Every two years the Full Board proposes for election by the General Assembly one or more new members of the Audit Committee for a period of two years with the possibility of two re-elections.



*Section V*  
**SPECIALISED COMMITTEES**

Article 23. Constitution and scope of activities

- a. The permanent Specialised Committees of the ICMH are: the Archives Committee, the Bibliography Committee and the Educational Committee. Their task is to encourage, co-ordinate and support the research of military historians from all countries in a spirit of international friendship, so that researchers can become better acquainted with each other and share the results of their work. These committees work in areas that are particularly relevant for the study and promotion of military history.
- b. In the ICMH protocol their President is akin to a National Commission President.

Article 24. Operations and funding

- a. Specialised Committees, operating under the supervision of the Full Board, enjoy autonomy in terms of internal organisation.
- b. Specialised Committees normally hold their ordinary meetings during the ICMH International Congresses.
- c. For their operations, Specialised Committees may receive funds from the ICMH budget and from other sources. They submit their budget to the Treasurer, who presents it to the Executive Board for approval.

*Section VI*  
**ELECTIONS**

Article 25. Eligibility

- a. Only National Commissions in full possession of their rights may propose candidates for the elections.
- b. Nobody can hold more than one position. A candidate elected to several positions must choose among them.



Article 26. Term of office

The term of office of the President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer, and the other Members of the Full Board is five years. Nobody may be elected to the same position for more than two consecutive terms.

Article 27. Election committee

- a. The election committee shall prepare and organise the entire election process. The election committee is made up of at least a President, a Secretary and one member, and is elected by the General Assembly two years before the date of the elections.
- b. In order to be elected to the election committee, candidates put forward by the Full Board must obtain a 2/3 qualified majority of the National Commissions attending the General Assembly.

Article 28. Candidatures

- a. The letter of candidature shall be sent to the Secretary General of the ICMH, who submits it to the secretary of the election committee. The letter shall bear three signatures: of the candidate, of the President and of the Secretary General of the relevant National Commission.
- b. The letter of candidature must reach the Secretary General of the ICMH three months before the date of the elections.
- c. At the ICMH International Congress, before the general elections the election committee shall display the full list of candidates with curricula and photos, as received.

Article 29. Progress of elections

- a. Elections take place in the following order: President, Secretary General, Treasurer, the other Members of the Full Board and the Auditors
- b. Once the election results have been announced, the president of the election committee immediately invests those elected.
- c. At its first meeting, the new Full Board ratifies the nominations of the Vice Presidents made by the President within its members.



Article 30. Change of the Rules

Rules concerning the five-year statutory elections can be changed by the General Assembly.

*Section VII*  
**MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES**

Article 31. ICMH International Congresses

- a. Taking into account the geographical breakdown and variety of themes, the Full Board shall prepare a schedule of ICMH International Congresses, entrusting their organisation to National Commissions.
- b. All the aspects of these Congresses, scientific, social and logistic will be dealt by the relevant National Commission in close consultation with the Executive Board. The scientific procedures, selection of conference papers, organisation, progress and simultaneous interpretation are covered by specific instructions.
- c. Two years at the latest prior to the date of the International Congress, the theme shall be agreed by the Full Board and the organising National Commission.
- d. Every five years, the dates and place where the ICMH International Congress of military history is to be held shall, if possible, match the dates and place chosen by the International Committee of Historical Sciences for its five-year meeting of a Congress.

Article 32. Symposiums organised independently by National Commissions

The President, with the consent of the Full Board, may grant the ICMH sponsorship to symposiums organised independently by National Commissions and designed as scientific meetings of military historians around a theme, a specific period of history or a specific geographical area.

*Section VIII*  
**PUBLICATIONS AND ARCHIVES**

Article 33. International Review of Military History

- a. The International Review of Military History is the ICMH's journal aimed at publishing scholarly works of military historians from all countries. Each issue



may be published by the Board (international issue) or by one or more National Commissions (national issue).

- b. In accordance with French legislation in force, the ICMH Secretary General automatically becomes the administrator of the Review for the conservation of the title's ownership, filed in Paris by the Comité d'histoire militaire comparée, founded by A. Despréaux, who was responsible for publishing the very first issues (1939-1946).
- c. The Secretary General coordinates publication of both national and international issues.
- d. National issues are normally funded by National Commissions and international issues by the ICMH.

Article 34. The International Journal of Military History and Historiography

The ICMH Bibliographic Committee edits The International Journal of Military History and Historiography published by Brill.

Article 35. Newsletter and Website

Under the supervision of the President, the Secretary General is responsible of the ICMH Newsletter, of the ICMH Website and of other on line social media which might be approved by the Full Board.

Article 36. Archives

The archives of the ICMH are filed at the Service historique de la Défense in the Château de Vincennes, Paris.

Article 37. Changes in the titles of publications

If for compelling reasons changes must be made in the title, editorial or publishing organisation of the ICMH above mentioned publications, they need to be approved by the Full Board, without requiring amendments to this Statute.



*Section IX*  
**FINAL PROVISIONS**

Article 38. Amendment to the Statutes

- a. The Executive Board or a group of at least three National Commissions may propose amendments to these Statutes.
- b. The Secretary General will submit the proposed amendments to all National Commissions not later than six months before the General Assembly.
- c. Proposed amendments will be approved by the General Assembly, provided that at least half of the National Commissions are represented and they obtain a 2/3 majority of votes.

Article 39. Winding up of the ICMH

- a. To deliberate on the winding up of the ICMH, for any reason whatsoever, there must be two General Assemblies separated by a period of twelve months, the first of these meetings with the participation of at least half of the National Commissions. The majority required for the winding up is at least two thirds of the votes cast in a secret ballot at both Assemblies.
- b. In the event of winding up, measures shall be taken by the General Assembly regarding the archives and assets of the ICMH.

Article 40. Entry into force

These Statutes were approved by the General Assembly of the ICMH on ... 2017 in ... and entered into force on ... 2017, replacing the old Articles of Association approved in 2012.