

The undersigned, founding members,

- André Raymond Karel Vandierendonck;
- Frank Van Overwalle, Jacques;
- Axel Cleeremans;
- Tom René Johannes Beckers;
- Karl Verfaillie;
- Olivier Klein;
- Michel Hansenne;
- Emmanuelle Zech;
- Erich Baruffol;
- Alain Van Hiel;
- Bernie Caessens;
- Filip Germeys;
- Bert Timmermans;

all holding the Belgian nationality, conform art. 2, ^{1~} of the law of 27 June 1921 as modified by the law of 2 May 2002 on nonprofit organisations, have agreed to found a nonprofit society with the following constitution.

Title I. Name, Chair, Mission

Art. 1. The name of the society is “Belgische Associatie voor Psychologische Wetenschappen, Association Belge pour les Sciences Psychologiques, Belgian Association for Psychological Science”, abbreviated as BAPS. The society is allowed to use either language part of this name.

Art. 2. The social chair of the society is Agora Galerij, Grasmarkt 105/18, B-1000 Brussels in the judicial arrondissement Brussels.

Art. 3. The society is founded for an indefinite period.

Art. 4. The Belgian Association of Psychological Science is a nonprofit organisation which has the mission to promote and to support scientific psychology in Belgium.

Art. 5. Activities. The society deploys the following activities to achieve the goals defined in article 4.

1- The society publishes the internationally distributed scientific journal, *Psychologica Belgica* of which the society possesses the title.

2- The society organises regular scientific meetings to encourage exchange and discussion of new findings and ideas and to help young researchers in psychology to make contacts with other researchers in the domain.

3- The society organises annually the BAPS best thesis award for the best masters thesis (licentiaatsverhandeling, mémoire de licence) that contributes to psychological science and is realised at one of the Belgian universities with a master curriculum in

psychology.

4- The society encourages publication of research findings and creates the possibilities to improve communication among its members and between members and other interested parties.

Art. 6. The society continues the work initiated by the factual society known as “Belgische Vereniging voor Psychologie, Société Belge de Psychologie” and continues its activities as specified in articles 1-5. The former factual society ceases to exist and BAPS takes over its assets and its members.

Title II. Members

Art. 7. The society can have an unlimited number of members but the number cannot be less than 10.

Art. 8. The society distinguishes three types of members, namely full members, associate members and affiliate members. Only full members have the right to vote at the General Assembly. The associate and affiliate members are joined members.

1- In order to become a member of the association, an application is filed with the Administrative Council. This council provisionarily accepts the member in one of the three categories in accordance with the rules of procedure that have been approved by the General Assembly. Membership is decided at the next General Assembly meeting.

2- Full membership is open to persons with an academic diploma of doctor in psychology or psychological sciences.

3- Persons with a third cycle academic diploma of doctor in another scientific discipline can apply for full membership on condition that their scientific work is connected to psychology.

4- Persons with an academic diploma of the second cycle in psychology can apply for associate membership as specified by the rules of procedure. After a term of minimally 6 years of associate membership, associate members can become full members. The General Assembly defines the procedure and the criteria for handling these changes in membership.

5- Persons with an academic diploma of the first cycle in psychology can apply for affiliate membership.

Art. 9. Annually each member pays a fee for the services provided by the society. The level of the membership fee is decided by the General Assembly meeting and can differ according to the type of membership. The maximum fee is ~250 per year.

Art. 10. Members can resign from the society by writing a resignation letter to the Administrative Council at least one month before the end of the year. Members who

did not pay their annual fee for the past year are also considered to resign.

Art. 11. Members join the association to contribute to the goals of the association and in agreement with the deontological rules of the scientific community. Members who violate these rules or commit other public offenses can be disqualified as a member by the General Assembly on the basis of a well reasoned decision with a majority of two thirds of the present and represented members.

Art. 12. Members who resign or are disqualified cannot exert any right on the assets of the society, nor can they request a reimbursement of paid membership fees or other contributions or donations.

Title III. General Assembly

Art. 13. The General Assembly is composed of all full members. Each full member has one vote. The General Assembly meets at least once per year, not later than the month of June. The invitation must be sent at least 15 days before the meeting and it should contain the agenda of the meeting. The other members can be present but they do not have the right to vote.

Art. 14. The General Assembly has the full competence to perform all acts that contribute to the realization of the mission of the society as defined in article 4, 1-9- of the law of 27 June 1921 as modified by the law of 2 May 2002 on nonprofit organisations.

1- In particular, the General Assembly decides on the changes of the constitution, appointment and full discharge of the directors, approval of the budget and the annual balance, the dissolution of the society, and the exclusion of a member.

2- The General Assembly also approves the rules of procedure, the actions to be taken to achieve the goals of the organisation, and any set of rules with respect to the functioning of the society proposed by the Administrative Council.

Art. 15. The General Assembly is normally called by the president. However, the Assembly can also be called on the initiative of at least two members of the Administrative Council or by one fifth of the full members of the association.

Art. 16. Full members who are unable to attend the meeting can be represented by another full member by means of a written warrant submitted to the secretary before the start of the meeting. Each full member can bear only one warrant for another member.

Art. 17. The president chairs the meetings of the General Assembly. In the absence of the president, the past president chairs the meeting. If the past president is also absent, the oldest member of the Administrative Council in attendance chairs the meeting.

Art. 18. The General Assembly decides on the basis of simple majority on the points of the agenda, except for changes in the constitution. Points not posted on the agenda can be subject to a decision if the majority of the members present or represented agree to add the point to the agenda.

Art. 19. The minutes of the General Assembly are written in a report that is signed by the president and the secretary who keeps it on file. The Administrative Council decides on the way the minutes will be publicised among the members of the association. Members and concerned third parties can consult the minutes by written request to the Administrative Council.

Art. 20. The General Assembly approves the rules of procedure with a simple majority. Changes to the rules of procedure must be announced in writing at least 15 days before the meeting. These changes are approved with a simple majority.

Title IV. Administrative Council

Art. 21. The society is administered by an Administrative Council also known as the Executive Committee. This Council consists of minimally five and maximally nine full members. These are: the president, the past president, the secretary, the treasurer, the journal editor, and two to four other persons who take responsibility for the management of particular initiatives of the society as specified in Article 5 or other initiatives organized to realize the mission of the society. No more than two of these members can belong to the same institution or university; no more than two thirds of the members can belong to same linguistic community. In order to take valid decisions, at least three members of the Administrative Council must be present.

Art. 22. All the members of the Administrative Council are appointed by the General Assembly on the basis of an election procedure (see Articles 24–25) for a period of three years. This period normally starts the first of July following the General Assembly meeting and ends 30 June three years later; the previously appointed members of the assembly remain in charge until 30 June.

1- A member of the Administrative Council can resign at any time by submitting a written resignation letter to the Administrative Council. In its next meeting, the Administrative Council acknowledges the resignation. The council appoints a new director ad interim in agreement with article 25, ^{8~} of this constitution and charges one of the directors to take over the responsibilities of the resigning director.

2- In the case a new member of the Administrative Council is appointed ad interim, the appointment is effective immediately.

3- The directors can be dismissed at any time by the General Assembly.

Art. 23. Over a series of terms, the composition of the Administrative Council should reflect a balance of represented universities, on the one hand, and language-communities, on the other hand, for the choice of the president as well as for the other members of the Administrative Council.

Art. 24. In preparation of the last General Assembly meeting during the three-year period of the Administrative Council, this council will appoint an election committee that consists of the secretary and two other members of the council. The committee invites

nominations and organises the election ballot in agreement with the rules described in Article 25. All positions in the Administrative Council, except the position of past president which will be filled by the previous president and the position of journal editor, are vacant. For the latter position a special procedure is followed (see Article 28).

Art. 25. The following procedure is used to organise the election of the members of the Administrative Council.

1- At least three months before the General Assembly meeting that will appoint the new Administrative Council, the secretary calls for nominations among the full members of the association. That call stipulates all the vacant positions in the Administrative Council.

2- Each full member of the association can be nominated except the sitting president. A candidate is validly nominated if the nomination is presented by a full member and seconded by at least one other full member belonging to another university. Nominations for the vacant position of president should be specific for that position. To have a valid nomination, the nominated candidate must agree in writing with the nomination.

3- Nominations can be submitted during a period of one month counting from the day the secretary issued the call for the nominations. Nominations coming in after that this period are considered to be invalid.

4- If there is only one nomination for the position of president, then this nominated candidate is proposed to the General Assembly to become the next president. If more than one candidate is nominated for the position of president, then the election committee organises a ballot to elect one of these candidates as the next president.

5- If the number of the other nominated candidates is equal or less than the number of vacant positions, these candidates are proposed to the General Assembly to become members of the Administrative Council. If the number of nominated candidates exceeds the number of vacant positions, the election committee organises a ballot.

6- The election ballot for the position of president and for the other positions at the Administrative Council are organised not earlier than one week and no later than three weeks after the end of the nomination period. According to the specifications defined in the rules of procedure, all full members are given the opportunity to vote among the proposed candidates.

7- At the end of the procedure, the election committee performs a check to see whether the new proposal for the Administrative Council conforms to the rules of composition as specified in Article 21. If the balance is not met, a selection among the proposed candidates will be done on the basis of the rules of procedure which have been approved by the General Assembly.

8- Every time a position becomes vacant before the three-year term of a member

of the Administrative Council is ending, the Council can appoint a replacing member ad interim in accordance with the rules of procedure to complete the term of the previous director.

The next General Assembly meeting decides on this change of the composition of the Administrative Council. If the approval is not given, the General Assembly can appoint immediately a new director or charge the Administrative Council to appoint another member ad interim in accordance with the rules of procedure and to submit the new proposal for approval at the next General Assembly meeting.

Art. 26. At the end of the three-year term of service, the president automatically becomes the next past president. After ending the three-year term as past president this person is not immediately eligible for membership of the Administrative Council.

Art. 27. Except for the functions of president and past president, the term as member of the Administrative Council can be renewed, either in the same or in a different function. The functions of secretary and treasurer are assigned by the Administrative Council among its members. The Administrative Council also decides on the resignation of the secretary and the treasurer.

Art. 28. The Administrative Council appoints the editor of the journal *Psychologica Belgica* in accordance with the rules of procedure. The editor must be a full member of the association who is active in scientific research as shown by the vita provided to the Administrative Council. The journal editor is also appointed for a term of three years that can be renewed once. The Administrative Council decides on the resignation of the journal editor.

Art. 29. The Administrative Council performs all those acts of administration and management that are not explicitly assigned to the General Assembly by law or by this constitution.

Art. 30. The Administrative Council administers the affairs of the association. The president and the past president represent the society in all judicial affairs and do this jointly. The president, the treasurer and the secretary represent the society in all financial affairs and do this jointly; however a signature of either of these persons is valid in financial transactions.

Art. 31. The president chairs the meetings of the Administrative Council and the General Assembly. In the absence of the president, the past president chairs the meeting. If the past president is also absent, the oldest member present of the Administrative Council chairs the meeting.

Art. 32. The Administrative Council meets whenever this is required in the interest of the association. Decisions are made on the basis of simple majority.

Art. 33. Minutes of the decisions of the Administrative Council are taken by the secretary and approved by the members of the Council. After approval the corrected report of the meeting is signed by the president and kept on file by the secretary.

Art. 34. Without restricting Article 30, the Administrative Council can delegate some its competencies to one or more of its members. The duration of this delegation and its conditions are decided by the Administrative Council.

Title V. Changing the Constitution

Art. 35. Every proposal to change the constitution or to dissolve the association must originate from the Administrative Council or from one fifth of the full members of the association.

Art. 36. The constitution can only be changed by the General Assembly when the proposal for change is on the agenda of the meeting, has been clearly explained, and two thirds of the members are present or represented. A change of the constitution is then accepted when two thirds of the present or represented members vote in favour of the change. If the General Assembly does not reach the quorum needed for a valid decision, a new meeting is called according to the same modalities in conformity with the law of 27 June 1921 as modified by the law of 2 May 2002, art. 8 on nonprofit organisations and not earlier than 15 days later. This second General Assembly will vote on the proposal with the same majority rule irrespective of the number of members present or represented. For a change of the mission of the society a majority of four fifths of the present and represented members is required.

Art. 37. The changes to the constitution must be published in the annexes of the Belgian Monitor within a month after approval by the General Assembly. The Administrative Council is in charge of the publication in conformity with the law of 27 June 1921 as modified by the law of 2 May 2002, art 26 novies, par 1 on nonprofit organisations.

Title VI. Miscellanea

Art. 38. The financial year of the association starts on July 1 and is closed each year June 30. The Administrative Council submits the annual balance and the budget for the next year to the General Assembly for approval.

Art. 39. After approval of the present constitution by the General Assembly, the members of the Administrative Council of the Belgische Vereniging voor Psychologie, Société Belge de Psychologie, are appointed as Administrative Council to manage the association until June 30, 2005. During this period, the Administrative Council can be composed of up to 13 members.

Art. 40. At the meeting approving the present constitution, the General Assembly also approves the rules of procedure.

Art. 41. When the association is dissolved, the netto active means are transmitted to an organisation that gives support to scientific psychology in Belgium. The General Assembly decides the particular society meeting this requirement.