

## **Amendment to our Articles of Association**

An amendment will be proposed to the General Assembly on 19 June 2023, to clarify the distinct term of membership for a board member and an officer of the board.

Our current Article of Association can be found here:

The amendments are shown as tracked changes in the text below:

**Art. 20** The association is managed by a Board that is composed of at least 5 and no more than 11 members, elected by the General Assembly by a simple majority vote and chosen from among the delegates of ordinary members. Any country may be represented by no more than one Board member at any time. The association will seek representation on the Board from stroke survivors and care givers. Only ordinary members can propose candidates for the Board and become members of the Board.

Twelve weeks prior to the General Assembly, the Secretary shall circulate a request to all ordinary members for nominations to the Board. Any ordinary member wishing to nominate a delegate for election as a Board member, shall submit such nomination in writing to the Secretary at least eight weeks prior to the General Assembly. In support of such nomination, a brief biography of the delegate shall be provided. Two weeks prior to the General Assembly, the Secretary shall circulate, to all ordinary members, copies of all valid nominations received, together with the accompanying biographies. In case no nomination is received in advance of the General Assembly, the Board will have discretion to propose candidates on the day of the General Assembly.

The Board members shall be elected for a term of three years and are in principle eligible for re-election once. No person shall in principle be eligible for more than six consecutive years. However, the Officers constitute an exception to this rule. After six continuous years of service on the Board, the Board member may not again be nominated for re-election until at least one calendar year has elapsed, except when he is an Officer.

The General Assembly shall elect the President ~~(and when applicable, the President Elect)~~, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, called the Officers of SAFE, amongst the elected Board members by a simple majority vote. The President Elect (see article 27) is not an Officer.

Twelve weeks prior to the General Assembly, the Secretary shall circulate a request to all ordinary members for nominations of the Officers. Any ordinary member wishing to nominate a delegate for election as an Officer, shall submit such nomination in writing to the Secretary at least eight weeks prior to the General Assembly. In support of such nomination, a brief biography of the delegate shall be provided. Two weeks prior to the General Assembly, the Secretary shall circulate, to all ordinary members, copies of all valid nominations received, together with the accompanying biographies. In case no nomination is received in advance of the General Assembly, the Board will have discretion to propose candidates on the day of the General Assembly.

Only individuals that have been elected as Board member can be elected as Officer. The Officers shall be elected for a term of three years and are eligible for re-election once. The start of the mandate as an Officer implies the start of a new mandate as a Board member. In derogation from the rule above, the mandate as a Board member of an Officer can exceed six consecutive years. The mandate as a Board member of an Officer is only terminated when the mandate as an Officer is terminated, irrespective of the time the Officer has been a Board member before he or she became an Officer. -No person shall be eligible as an Officer for more than six consecutive years. After six continuous years of service as an Officer, the concerned Officer may not again be nominated for re-election until at least one calendar year has elapsed.

If the President is absent, his/her functions shall be assumed by the Vice President or, by default, by the Secretary.

All acts concerning the election, the revocation and the cessation of the functions of Board members or of the persons entitled to represent the association, are submitted for publication in the Annexes to the Belgian State Gazette within 30 days. Any Board member may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of ordinary members at a General Assembly.

Those Board members who retire, shall remain in office until their successor(s) are put in place.