

**Bye-Laws of
Open Source Automation Development Lab (OSADL)**

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PREAMBLE

The automation industry and its suppliers benefit greatly from open-source operating systems such as Linux which guarantee long production cycles, rapid troubleshooting and independence from individual software manufacturers. However, this branch requires specific expansions of the operating system such as real-time capability, the compatibility with these expansions must be certifiable, and standardized software interfaces must be available. The development of these requirements is the goal of the Open Source Automation Development Lab OSADL.

I. COOPERATIVE SOCIETY, REGISTERED OFFICE, PURPOSE AND OBJECT OF THE UNDERTAKING

§1 Cooperative society and registered office

The name of the Cooperative Society is Open Source Automation Development Lab (OSADL) eG. The registered office of the Cooperative Society is in Schramberg.

§2 Purpose and object of the Cooperative Society

- (1) The purpose of the Cooperative Society is to support its members and to promote their economic and business interests.
- (2) The object of the undertaking is
 - (a) to set up, operate and maintain test laboratories for Linux-based operating systems for the automation industry and its suppliers,
 - (b) to develop an open-source operating system environment for the automation industry and its suppliers,
 - (c) to render license-free services for the automation industry and its suppliers.
- (3) The Cooperative Society can conduct all transactions that directly or indirectly promote the object of the undertaking. The Cooperative Society can establish branches and participate in companies involved in industry, trade and business.
- (4) The Cooperative Society is allowed to extend its business operations to non-members.

II. MEMBERSHIP

§3 Acquisition of membership

- (1) Membership can be acquired by:
 - (a) natural persons;
 - (b) business partnerships;
 - (c) legal persons as defined by private or public law.
- (2) Only those persons can be admitted who meet the requirements for using the facilities of the Cooperative Society or whose membership lies in the interests of the Cooperative Society.
- (3) The following is required for membership:
 - (a) an unconditional declaration of membership signed by the new member and the agreement with OSADL to effect the payments on the shares and
 - (b) receipt of permission by the OSADL Board of Directors;
- (4) The member shall be entered without delay into the list of members (§16 Para. 2 letter h) and notified accordingly without delay.

§4 Termination of membership

Membership is terminated by:

- a) Notice to withdraw (§5)
- b) Transfer of the credit balance (§6)
- c) Death (§7)
- d) Dissolution of a legal person or business partnership (§8)
- e) Expulsion (§9)

§5 Notice to withdraw

- (1) Each member has the right to withdraw from the Cooperative Society at the end of a financial year by giving written notice of three months.
- (2) If a member has several shares without being bound in this respect by the bye-laws or an agreement with the Cooperative Society, the member shall be entitled to give written notice of three months to return one or more such additional shares at the end of a financial year.

§6 Transfer of credit balance

- (1) Any member may transfer his/her credit balance, including during the financial year, to another person through a written agreement, thus terminating membership without a settlement providing that the buyer joins the Cooperative Society to replace the departing member. If the buyer is already a member, the credit balance may only be transferred as long as his/her existing credit balance in addition to the newly-acquired shares does not exceed the shareholding threshold with which the buyer has a participating interest.
- (2) The transfer of credit balance shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

§7 Death of a member

Membership is terminated on a member's death. The member's membership shall pass to the member's heirs. It shall end with the end of the financial year in which the inheritance occurred. The heirs may only exercise the member's rights jointly.

§8 Dissolution of a legal person or business partnership

If a legal person or business partnership is dissolved or terminated, membership shall end at the end of the financial year in which dissolution or termination has taken effect. In the event of universal succession, membership shall be maintained by the universal successor until the end of the financial year. Termination of membership shall be entered into the list of members without delay; the member or universal successor shall be notified immediately.

§9 Expulsion

- (1) A member may be expelled from the Cooperative Society at the end of the financial year if:
 - (a) the member does not fulfill his/her duties to the Cooperative Society as stipulated in the bye-laws or other duties despite a written request with the threat of expulsion:
 - (b) the member damages or has damaged the Cooperative Society by not fulfilling his/her duties;
 - (c) the member has become insolvent, or insolvency proceedings have been initiated

- against the member's assets;
 - (d) the member's permanent residence is unknown;
 - (e) the requirements for admission in the Cooperative Society are not now met or were not met at the time of admission;
 - (f) the member's behavior is not consistent with the interests of the Cooperative Society.
- (2) The Board of Directors is responsible for expulsion. The members of the Board of Directors or Supervisory Board may only be expelled by resolution of the General Assembly.
 - (3) Before a resolution is adopted, the party being expelled shall be provided with an opportunity to make a statement regarding the proposed expulsion. The party being expelled shall be notified of the essential reasons for his/her expulsion and the legal basis for expulsion or the basis found in the bye-laws.
 - (4) The resolution to expel the member must indicate the facts on which the expulsion is based as well as the legal basis for expulsion or the basis found in the bye-laws.
 - (5) The resolution must be immediately communicated to the expelled party by the Board of Directors in a registered letter. As of the date on which the letter was sent the member shall not be entitled to participate in the General Assembly, nor shall the member be entitled to use the facilities of the Cooperative Society or to be a member of the Board of Directors or Supervisory Board. The sending of the letter is equivalent to a statutory expulsion by resolution of the General Assembly.
 - (6) The expelled party shall be entitled to submit an appeal to the Supervisory Board within one month from the date on which the letter was sent if the General Assembly did not pass a resolution to expel the member. The decision by the Supervisory Board pertaining to the appeal is final within the Cooperative Society. If the expelled party does not submit an appeal by the deadline, the decision to expel shall be final.

§10 Settlement

- (1) Settlement between the departed member and the Cooperative Society shall be based on the approved financial statements. Losses carried forward shall be prorated according to shares. Settlement is excluded if the credit balance is transferred.
- (2) The settlement balance due to the departed member must be paid to the departed member within six months after departure. The Cooperative Society shall be entitled to deduct its claims arising from the settlement from the balance payable to the departed member. The member shall not be entitled to any parts of the reserves or other assets of the Cooperative Society.
- (3) The member's settlement balance shall be held by the Cooperative Society as liable security for any shortfall, including but not limited to the event of insolvency proceedings against the member.
- (4) Paragraphs one to three correspondingly apply to settlement arising from the redemption of individual shares.

§11 Members' rights

Each member is entitled

- (a) to utilize the Cooperative Society's facilities in accordance with the regulations on use;
- (b) to participate in the General Assembly, its discussions, voting and elections, and to request information on matters concerning the Cooperative Society unless otherwise stipulated in §34;

- (c) to submit motions for the agenda of the General Assembly; the signatures of at least 10% of the members are required for this purpose (§28 Para. 4);
- (d) participate in submitting requests to convene an extraordinary General Assembly; the signatures of at least 10% of the members are required for this purpose (§28 Para. 2);
- (e) request a transcript of the financial statements and management report if prescribed by law in a timely manner before the financial statements are adopted by the General Assembly, and to request the report of the Supervisory Board;
- (f) to inspect the transcripts of the General Assembly;
- (g) to inspect the list of members.

§11 a Members' extraordinary right of withdrawal

- (1) Members' extraordinary right of withdrawal, as per §67a of the Cooperative Societies Act (GenG) owing to
 - (a) an increase in the shares,
 - (b) introduction or extension of compulsory purchase of more than one share,
 - (c) introduction or extension of the obligation of members to make additional contributions,
 - (d) extension of the minimum period of membership,
 - (e) introduction or increase in the minimum capital,
 - (f) duty of a member to use the facilities of the Cooperative Society shall not be prejudiced by these bye-laws.
- (2) A member shall also be entitled to exercise the extraordinary right of withdrawal under §11 (2) d under the same preconditions if compulsory membership for a period of longer than one year has been decided.
- (3) If a member exercises his/her extraordinary right of withdrawal the change in the bye-laws shall neither be to the benefit nor the detriment of the member.

§12 Members' duties

Each member is required to support the Cooperative Society that serves to maintain his/her financial independence to the best of his/her abilities. In particular, the member must:

- (a) observe the provisions of the Cooperative Societies Act, the bye-laws and resolutions of the General Assembly;
- (b) comply with the applicable general terms of business, delivery and payment;
- (c) keep secret from outsiders any bid documents, prices and conditions, memorandums and other information of the Cooperative Society marked as confidential;
- (d) pay an admission for membership fee allocated to the capital reserves (§39 a) whose amount and methods of payment are determined by the General Assembly;
- (e) observe the rights and duties of the respective open-source license when software and specifications are developed in collaboration with OSADL;
- (f) meet his/her contractual obligations assumed upon joining.

III. CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES OF THE COOPERATIVE SOCIETY

§13 Constitutional bodies of the Cooperative Society

The constitutional bodies of the Cooperative Society are:

- A. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- B. THE SUPERVISORY BOARD**
- C. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

A. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

§14 Management of the Cooperative Society

- (1) The Board of Directors manages the Cooperative Society on its own responsibility.
- (2) The Board of Directors conducts the business of the Cooperative Society according to the provisions of the law, including but not limited to the Cooperative Societies Act, the bylaws and the standing rules of the Board of Directors.

§15 Representation

- (1) The Cooperative Society is legally represented by two members of the Board of Directors, or one member of the Board of Directors jointly with an officer with procuracy.
- (2) Proxy powers, power of attorney and other powers of legal representation may be granted. This is regulated in greater detail by the standing rules of the Board of Directors.
- (3) The Board of Directors represents the Cooperative Society both in court and out of court.

§16 Tasks and duties of the Board of Directors

- (1) In conducting their business, the members of the Board of Directors shall exercise the due diligence of a conscientious management of a cooperative society. They shall observe secrecy concerning confidential information and secrets, i.e., managerial or business secrets that they become aware of in their activities on the Board of Directors.
- (2) In particular, the responsibilities of the Board of Directors are as follows:
 - (a) to conduct business in line with the purpose and object of the Cooperative Society;
 - (b) to plan and implement personnel and technical measures in a timely manner that are necessary for the proper conduct of business;
 - (c) to ensure proper provision of goods and services and proper support for members;
 - (d) to prepare standing rules with the approval of the Supervisory Board that are unanimously approved by the Board of Directors and signed by all members of the Board of Directors;
 - (e) to ensure proper accounting and a productive accounting system;
 - (f) to take proper inventories, prepare an inventory record at the end of the financial year, and immediately present it to the Supervisory Board;
 - (g) to prepare the financial statements and a management report as required by law within five months of the end of financial year at the latest, immediately present it to the Supervisory Board, and then present it with the comments of the Supervisory Board to the General Assembly for the adoption of the financial statements;

- (h) to decide on admission for membership and acquisition of additional shares up to a maximum of 10 shares, maintain the list of members according to the Cooperative Societies Act, and to be responsible for the announcements and publications stipulated by the Cooperative Societies Act;
- (i) to notify the statutory auditing federation in good time of the convening, date, agenda and motions for the General Assembly;
- (j) to rectify insufficiencies found in the audit report and to notify the statutory auditing federation of the changes;
- (k) to notify the statutory auditing federation of intended changes to the bye-laws in a timely manner.

§17 Reports to the Supervisory Board

The Board of Directors shall present the following to the Supervisory Board at least quarterly and at shorter intervals upon request:

- (a) a review of the business trend of the Cooperative Society over the previous period in interim financial statements;
- (b) a summary of the overall liabilities of the Cooperative Society including bills payable and guarantee liabilities;
- (c) an overview of the credit granted by the Cooperative Society;
- (d) a report on unusual events; if necessary, the chairperson of the Supervisory Board must be notified immediately in advance.

§18 Composition and employment status

- (1) The Board of Directors comprises two to five members. Members of the Board of Directors that are not full-time should be independent, active members.
- (2) The Board of Directors is appointed by the Supervisory Board and hired if the board membership is not an honorary position. The chairperson of the Supervisory Board shall sign a written service agreement with each full-time member of the Board of Directors. Oral agreements are not permissible.
- (3) Members of the Board of Directors shall retire from the Board of Directors at the end of the calendar year in which they become 65.
- (4) The appointment of honorary members to the Board of Directors is limited to three years. These members may be reappointed.
- (5) The employment status of a member of the Board of Directors may be terminated after observing the contractual or legal period of notification by the Supervisory Board represented by its chairperson. The General Assembly is responsible for the extraordinary termination of employment for cause (termination without notice). The Supervisory Board represented by the chairperson shall be entitled to conclude agreements to terminate membership. The termination of employment results in the termination of the board position at the time of departure.
- (6) The General Assembly may dismiss a member of the Board of Directors at any time.
- (7) The Supervisory Board shall be entitled at its discretion to temporarily suspend members of the Board of Directors until a decision is reached by the General Assembly which must be convened immediately, and to take the necessary measures to continue business.

§19 Decision-making

- (1) A quorum shall be constituted if more than one half of the members of the Board of

Directors are present. Resolutions are adopted by a majority of votes cast. In the case of §16 Para. 2 letter d, unanimous consent is necessary. Motions are rejected in case of a tie.

- (2) Resolutions that extend beyond the regular course of business must be recorded for the sake of documentation. The minutes must be numbered consecutively and signed by the members of the Board of Directors participating in the resolution.
- (3) If the Board of Directors discusses business matters pertaining to the Cooperative Society that affect the interests of a member of the Board of Directors, his/her spouse, parents, children and siblings or a person that s/he represents as stipulated by law or power of attorney, the affected member of the Board of Directors will refrain from discussing and voting on the matter. However, the opinion of the member of the Board of Directors must be considered before adopting a resolution.

§20 Participation in Supervisory Board meetings

The members of the Board of Directors are entitled to participate in Supervisory Board meetings. Participation may be excluded by a resolution of the Supervisory Board. In the meetings of the Supervisory Board, the Board of Directors shall present the pertinent information concerning business matters.

§21 Credit granted to members of the Board of Directors

The Cooperative Society may not grant members of the Board of Directors credit.

B. THE SUPERVISORY BOARD

§22 Tasks and duties of the Supervisory Board

- (1) The Supervisory Board is responsible for monitoring the management by the Board of Directors and, for this purpose, for informing itself about matters concerning the Cooperative Society. The Supervisory Board may request a report from the Board of Directors at any time and inspect the books and documents of the Cooperative Society itself or through individual members appointed by it, and may review the cash assets and portfolio of securities and commercial documents.
- (2) The Supervisory Board is responsible for reviewing the financial statements and management report as required by law, and the proposal of the Board of Directors for the appropriation of net income for the year or coverage of net loss for the year. The Supervisory Board shall provide its opinion on these matters and report to the General Assembly before the financial statements are adopted.
- (3) The Supervisory Board shall participate in the acceptance and review of the inventory. This includes reviewing the ascertainment of inventory and signing it.
- (4) The Supervisory Board may form committees composed of its members to meet its legal responsibilities and those related to the bye-laws, and may obtain the assistance of professionals for this purpose at the cost of the Cooperative. If the Supervisory Board forms committees, it shall determine whether such committees shall be consultative or entitled to make decisions. In addition, the Supervisory Board shall determine the number of committee members. A committee must consist of at least three persons. A quorum is formed in a committee when more than one half of its members are present. The adoption of resolutions shall also be subject to §25.
- (5) Details on the fulfillment of a Supervisory Board's responsibilities are governed by the

standing rules prepared by the Supervisory Board. A copy of the standing rules shall be handed out to each member of the Supervisory Board against a confirmation of receipt.

- (6) In conducting their business, the members of the Supervisory Board shall exercise the due diligence of a conscientious supervisory board of a cooperative society. They shall observe secrecy concerning confidential information and secrets concerning the Cooperative Society, its members and customers of which they become aware in their activities on the Supervisory Board.
- (7) The members of the Supervisory Board shall not receive any remuneration based on the business results (bonus). Instead, in addition to the reimbursement of expenses, compensation for the Supervisory Board may be granted which shall be determined by the General Assembly.

§23 Joint meetings of the Board of Directors and Supervisory Board, Matters requiring approval

- (1) The Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board shall decide on the principles of business policy after joint consultation and a separate vote.
- (2) The following matters require the approval of the Supervisory Board:
 - (a) the acquisition, development, and the sale of properties and rights equivalent to real property with the exception of the acquisition of properties and rights equivalent to real property to salvage company claims;
 - (b) the acquisition and sale of long-term investments;
 - (c) the conclusion of major agreements, especially agreements that establish recurrent, substantial obligations for the Cooperative Society;
 - (d) the distribution of refunds (§43);
 - (e) the use of reserves according to §§39, 39 a;
 - (f) membership of organizations and federations;
 - (g) specification of the location at which the General Assembly shall be held;
 - (h) appointment of a manager
 - (i) the acquisition of profit participation capital, the establishment of subordinate liabilities and silent partnerships;
 - (j) the drafting of a business plan that outlines required investment and capital in particular;
 - (k) the acquisition of more than 10 shares.
- (3) Joint meetings shall be convened by the chairperson of the Supervisory Board, or his/her representative if s/he is prevented from doing so. §25 Para. 5 correspondingly applies to the convening of meetings.
- (4) The chairperson of joint meetings shall be the chairperson of the Supervisory Board or his/her representative unless otherwise resolved.
- (5) The Board of Directors and Supervisory Board shall form a quorum if more than one half of members of the Board of Directors and more than one half of the members of the Supervisory Board, including the chairperson or his/her representative, are present.
- (6) A motion shall fail if it does not receive a majority of votes cast in the Board of Directors and Supervisory Board.
- (7) Resolutions will be recorded in joint minutes for documentation purposes. The results of the separate vote shall be recorded in the minutes; §19 Para. 2 and §25 Para. 6 apply accordingly.

§24 Composition and election

- (1) The Supervisory Board comprises at least three and at most seven members that are

elected by the General Assembly. They should all be independent, active members.

- (2) §33 applies to the election of members of the Supervisory Board.
- (3) The term of office is usually three years. The term of office shall start upon conclusion of the General Assembly that held the election, and ends after the conclusion of the General Assembly held in the third financial year after the election. This includes the financial year in which the Supervisory Board member was elected. One third of the members of the Supervisory Board shall retire annually. If the number is not divisible by three, the lesser portion shall retire first. In the first two years, this shall be decided by lot and later by the term of office. If the Supervisory Board is expanded, one third of the longest-serving members shall retire from the Supervisory Board. One third of the new members shall also retire by lot until a rotation results. Term of office shall subsequently be the determining factor for these members as well. Members may be re-elected.
- (4) If members retire while they are in office, the Supervisory Board shall only be composed of the remaining members until the next ordinary General Assembly at which the replacement election will be held. An earlier replacement election at an extraordinary General Assembly is only necessary if the number of members of the Supervisory Board falls below the minimum of three required by law. Replacement elections shall be for the remainder of the term of office of the retired member.
- (5) Members of the Supervisory Board shall retire from the Supervisory Board when they reach the age of 65. The time at which they retire shall be the end of the subsequent ordinary General Assembly.
- (6) Members who have retired from the Board of Directors may only be elected to the Supervisory Board after they have been relieved of all of their duties associated with the Board of Directors.

§25 Constitution and resolutions

- (1) Following an election, the Supervisory Board shall elect from its members a chairperson, a secretary, and representatives for both. The Supervisory Board shall be entitled to reassign its offices at any time.
- (2) The meetings of the Supervisory Board shall be convened by its chairperson, or his/her representative if s/he is prevented from doing so. As long as the chairperson and a representative are not elected, the meetings of the Supervisory Board shall be convened by the oldest member of the Supervisory Board.
- (3) The Supervisory Board shall form a quorum if more than one half of its members, including the chairperson or his/her representative, are present. Resolutions are adopted by majority of the valid votes that have been cast. Abstentions and invalid votes are not counted. In case of a tie, motions shall be rejected. In elections, ties shall be decided by lot; §33 applies accordingly.
- (4) A resolution may be passed without convening a meeting by a written vote or by other remote communication media if the chairperson of the Supervisory Board or his/her representative proposes such a resolution and no member of the Supervisory Board disagrees with this method.
- (5) Meetings of the Supervisory Board shall be held at least quarterly. The chairperson shall also convene a meeting and notify the members of the agenda as frequently as necessary to promote the interests of the Cooperative Society, or if the Board of Directors or one half of the members of the Supervisory Board request in writing that a meeting be convened indicating the reasons. If this request is rejected, the requesting parties may convene the Supervisory Board themselves while providing notification of the reasons.
- (6) Resolutions must be recorded for purposes of documentation. The minutes must be consecutively numbered and signed by the chairperson of the Supervisory Board or his/her representative and the Secretary or his/her representative.

- (7) If business matters pertaining to the Cooperative Society are discussed which affect the interests of a member of the Supervisory Board, his/her spouse, parents, children and siblings or a person that s/he represents as stipulated by law or power of attorney, the affected member of the Supervisory Board shall refrain from discussing and voting on the matter. However, the opinion of the member of the Supervisory Board must be considered before adopting a resolution.

C. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

§26 Exercising rights of membership

- (1) The members shall exercise their rights in cooperative matters in the General Assembly. Members must be personally present in order to vote.
- (2) Each member has at least one vote. Members with two shares have two votes. Members with three or more shares have three votes. Multiple voting rights may not be exercised for resolutions based on §43 III sentence 6 Cooperative Societies Act. The member entitled to multiple votes shall only have one vote for such resolutions.
- (3) Members who are legally incapacitated, of restricted legal capacity, and legal persons and business partnerships shall exercise their voting right through their legal representative or a person empowered to represent them.
- (4) Members or their legal representatives or persons empowered to represent them may be represented by proxy (§43 Para. 5 Cooperative Societies Act). The several heirs of a deceased member (§7) may only vote through a joint proxy. A proxy cannot represent more than two members. Persons who are notified of their expulsion (§9 Para. 5) cannot be proxies.
- (5) Legal or duly authorized representatives or proxies entitled to vote must demonstrate their agency in writing upon request of the chairperson of the General Assembly.
- (6) No person can exercise the right to vote for him/herself or another person when a decision is being made on whether s/he or the member s/he represents shall be granted discharge or be relieved from his/her liability, or on whether the Cooperative Society is to assert a claim against him/her or the member represented. However, the person's opinion must be considered before adopting the resolution.

§27 Deadline and location

- (1) The ordinary General Assembly shall be held within the first six months of the end of the financial year.
- (2) Extraordinary General Assemblies shall be convened as needed.
- (3) Unless an alternative location is specified by the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board the General Assembly shall be held at the Cooperative Society's registered office.

§28 Convening the General Assembly and the agenda

- (1) The General Assembly shall be convened by the Supervisory Board represented by its chairperson. The rights of the Board of Directors under §44 Para. 1 of the Cooperative Societies Act shall remain unaffected.
- (2) The members of the Cooperative Society may request an extraordinary General Assembly in a motion that they have signed which indicates the reason why such meeting should be convened.
- (3) The General Assembly shall be convened by directly informing all members or by announcing the General Assembly in the publication provided in §47, observing a seven-day period of notification between the date of receipt (Para. 7) or the publication of the

convocation and the date of the General Assembly. The subject matter of the resolution must be announced before a General Assembly is convened.

- (4) The agenda shall be set by the constitutional body which has convened the General Assembly. Members of the Cooperative Society may request that matters be proposed for a resolution in the General Assembly in a motion signed by them which indicates the reasons.
- (5) No resolutions may be proposed concerning matters that are not announced in a timely manner, i.e., at least three days should pass between the receipt of the announcement (Para. 7) and the date of the General Assembly. This provision shall not apply to resolutions concerning the procedure of the General Assembly and to motions to convene an extraordinary General Assembly.
- (6) Motions and negotiations not subject to resolutions do not need to be announced.
- (7) In the cases addressed in paragraphs 3 and 5, the corresponding announcements shall be held to be received if they are mailed two days before the start of the notification period.

§29 Chairperson of the General Assembly

The chairperson of the General Assembly shall be the chairperson of the Supervisory Board or his/her representative. A member of the Board of Directors shall chair the General Assembly if the General Assembly has been convened by the Board of Directors. The chair may be transferred by a resolution to another member of the Cooperative Society or to an agent of the statutory auditing federation. The chairperson of the General Assembly shall appoint a secretary and the required vote counter.

§30 Issues on which the General Assembly can make decisions

In addition to the others matters addressed in these bye-laws, the following matters are also subject to resolutions reached by the General Assembly:

- (a) Amendments to the bye-laws;
- (b) Dissolution of the Cooperative Society;
- (c) Continuation of the Cooperative after a resolution to dissolve it;
- (d) Merger of the Cooperative Society;
- (e) Change in legal form;
- (f) Revocation of the appointment of members of the Supervisory Board and members of the Board of Directors;
- (g) Change in the amount of the earned surplus under §39a;
- (h) Change in voting rights based on the number of acquired shares or contractual payment agreement;
- (i) Amendment to the object of OSADL cited in §2;
- (j) Confirmation of suspension of members of the Board of Directors under §40 Cooperative Societies Act;
- (k) Approval of the Board of Directors and Supervisory Board;
- (l) Election of members of the Supervisory Board and rules on its remuneration;
- (m) Expulsion of members of the Board of Directors and Supervisory Board from the Cooperative Society;
- (n) Pursuit of recourse claims against current and former members of the Board of Directors and Supervisory Board;
- (o) Determination of credit restrictions under §49 of the Cooperative Societies Act;
- (p) Determination of admission for membership fees;

- (q) Approval of the financial statements, utilization of the net income for the year or cover for the net loss for the year, and the extent to which the audit report is publicized.

§31 Majority requirements

- (1) Resolutions passed by the General Assembly shall require a simple majority of votes unless a larger majority is otherwise stipulated by law or these bye-laws.
- (2) A majority of three fourths of the votes cast is required for the instances cited in §30 letters b - j. A three-fourths majority of the cast votes is also required to amend this paragraph.
- (3) A resolution to change the legal form (§30 letter e) requires a 9/10 majority of the votes cast. For a resolution to dissolve the Cooperative Society or change the legal form, two-thirds of all members must be present or represented at a General Assembly convened for this purpose. If this number of members is not present at the General Assembly to resolve to change the legal form of the Cooperative Society or dissolve it, any other General Assembly within the same financial year may resolve to change the legal form of the Cooperative Society or to dissolve it irrespective of the number of present members.
- (4) Before passing a resolution concerning a merger, dissolution or continuation of the dissolved Cooperative Society or change of its legal form, the auditing federation must first be heard. The Board of Directors must request a report from the auditing federation in a timely manner and read it to the General Assembly.
- (5) Paragraphs 3 and 5 can only be amended after observing the requirements cited in paragraph 3.

§32 Discharge

The discharge of the Board of Directors and Supervisory Board is subject to separate vote in which neither the members of the Board of Directors nor the Supervisory Board are entitled to vote. If more than one half of the members of the Board of Directors or Supervisory Board are represented, each member can vote for the discharge of the constitutional body in which s/he is not represented.

§33 Voting and elections

- (1) Votes and elections shall be held in the General Assembly by a show of hands. Votes and elections must be carried out by secret ballot if demanded by the Board of Directors, Supervisory Board or one fourth of the valid votes cast in a resolution.
- (2) In case of a tie, a motion shall be rejected. In elections, a tie shall be decided by lot.
- (3) In counting the votes, only votes cast shall be counted. Abstentions and invalid votes shall not be counted.
- (4) If an election is held by show of hands, a special ballot is required for each mandate to be granted. Whoever receives the most votes shall be elected.
- (5) If an election is held by secret ballot, each person shall be entitled to as many votes as there are posts to be filled. The party entitled to vote shall identify the candidate for whom s/he wishes to vote on the ballot. Each candidate may only receive one vote.
- (6) The elected candidate shall immediately notify the Cooperative Society whether s/he accepts his/her election.

§34 Right to information

- (1) Upon the request of the General Assembly, each member must provide information on

matters affecting the Cooperative Society if the information is necessary to properly evaluate the item on the agenda. The information shall be communicated by the Board of Directors or the Supervisory Board.

- (2) This information may be refused if:
- (a) based on sound business judgment, communicating the information may cause the Cooperative Society substantial harm;
 - (b) the matter refers to purchasing conditions of the Cooperative Society and the basis used for calculation;
 - (c) the matter concerns assigned tax values;
 - (d) communicating information would be punishable by law or violate a legal or contractual confidentiality requirement or one derived from these bye-laws;
 - (e) the requested information concerns the personal or business situation of a third party;
 - (f) the information concerns employment contracts with members of the Board of Directors or Supervisory Board of the Cooperative Society.

§35 Minutes of the meeting

- (1) Minutes must be kept of the resolutions of the General Assembly for documentation purposes. The minutes must be consecutively numbered. Minutes are not required for resolutions to take effect.
- (2) The minutes must be recorded within two weeks at the latest. The minutes must indicate the location and date of a General Assembly, the name of the chairperson of the meeting, the type and results of the votes, and the declaration of the chairperson of the meeting concerning the resolutions. The minutes must be signed by the chairperson of the General Assembly, the Secretary and the members of the Board of Directors who participated at the General Assembly. The minutes shall be added to the documentation on the convening of the meeting as an appendix.
- (3) If an amendment to the bye-laws is passed in a resolution that affects the subject matter of §16 Para. 2 to 5 of the Cooperative Societies Act or if it concerns a substantial change to the object of the undertaking, a list of the members or represented members and the members' representatives must be appended to the minutes.
- (4) The minutes shall be archived with the associated appendices. Each member of the Cooperative Society shall be entitled to inspect the minutes.

§36 Right of federations to participate

Representatives of the auditing federation can play a consulting role in the General Assembly.

IV. CAPITAL AND UNCALLED LIABILITIES

§37 Shares and credit balances

- (1) A share is worth €1,000; in words: one thousand euros.
- (2) The share must be paid for by the end of the first month of membership.
With the approval of the Board of Directors, a member can acquire up to 10 shares. With the approval of the Board of Directors and Supervisory Board, a member can purchase more than 10 shares.
- (3) A member's credit balance is the sum of the payment made for the share plus any credit memos minus amounts deducted for coverage of loss.

- (4) As long as the member has not left the Cooperative Society, the credit balance may not be used by the Cooperative Society for payment, may not be offset, or used as security in the business transactions of the Cooperative Society. A member may not be released from a payment that is due. The member cannot offset the due payment.
- (5) Credit balances may not be assigned or pledged to third parties, and the assignment or pledging will not be recognized by the Cooperative Society. A member may not use his/her credit balance to offset liabilities to the Cooperative Society. §10 shall apply to credit balances in case of departure.

§38 Statutory reserves

- (1) Statutory reserves are only intended to cover accumulated deficits.
- (2) Statutory reserves are formed by an annual allocation of at least 10% of the net income for the year plus any unappropriated profits brought forward or minus any losses brought forward, as well as an amount that corresponds to at least 5% of the provided cooperative reimbursement as long as the reserves do not attain 25% of the balance sheet total.

§39 Earned surplus

In addition to statutory reserves, an earned surplus is formed from the annual allocation of net income for the year plus any unappropriated profits brought forward minus any loss brought forward. The Board of Directors and Supervisory Board shall decide how to use the earned surplus in a joint meeting (§23). The General Assembly retains the right to use the earned surplus to cover accumulated losses (§45)

§39 a Capital reserves

Collected admission for membership fees shall be allocated to a capital reserve. The Board of Directors and Supervisory Board shall decide how to use the capital reserve in a joint meeting (§23 Para. 2 letter e). The General Assembly retains the right to use the earned surplus to cover accumulated losses (§45)

§40 Obligation to make additional contributions

Obligation of members to make additional contributions does not exist. The liability of the Cooperative Society with regard to its creditors is limited to the assets of the Cooperative Society. (§40 sentence 2 adheres verbatim to the wording of §2 of the Cooperative Societies Act (GenG) of 16 October 2006).

V. ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

§41 Financial year

The financial year shall be the calendar year. The first financial year shall start upon the registration of the Cooperative Society and end on December 31 of the same year.

§42 Financial statements and management report

- (1) The Board of Directors shall prepare the financial statements and management report for the prior financial year as required by law within five months after the end of the financial year.
- (2) The Supervisory Board shall participate in the acceptance and review of the inventory. The Supervisory Board shall review and sign the ascertainment of inventory.

- (3) In accordance with §16 Para. 2 letter g, the Board of Directors shall immediately present to the Supervisory Board the financial statements and management report as required by law, and then present them with the comments of the Supervisory Board to the General Assembly for the adoption of the financial statements.
- (4) As required by law, the financial statements, management report and report of the Supervisory Board should be presented for the members to review at least one week before the General Assembly in the facilities of the Cooperative Society or at another location to be announced, or the documents should be otherwise disclosed to the members.
- (5) The report of the Supervisory Board on its review of the financial statements and management report shall be presented to the ordinary General Assembly as required by law (§22 Para.2).

§43 Reimbursement

There will be no reimbursement.

§44 Appropriation of net income for the year

The General Assembly shall determine the appropriation of the net income for the year taking into account legal regulations and these bye-laws. The net income for the year due to the members shall be assigned to the credit balance until the share is reached, or a net loss for the year reduced by the credit balance is compensated. §39 a shall be observed.

§45 Coverage of net loss for the year

- (1) The General Assembly shall decide how to cover any net loss for the year.
- (2) If the net loss for the year cannot be carried forward or covered by using earned surplus, it shall be covered by legal reserves or capital reserves, or by depreciating the credit balance of members, or by all of these measures together.
- (3) If the credit balances are used to cover a net loss for the year, the percentage of the net loss for the year accruing to the individual members shall be calculated in relation to the accepted shares of all members, or shares to be accepted according to the bye-laws at the beginning of the financial year in which the net loss for the year occurred.

VI. LIQUIDATION

§46 Liquidation

After its dissolution, the Cooperative Society shall be liquidated in accordance with the Cooperative Societies Act. The assets of the Cooperative Society shall be distributed according to the provisions of the Act with the proviso that surpluses shall be distributed to the members prorated according to credit balances.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

§47 Announcements

The Cooperative Society's public announcements shall be published under the name OSADL in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung and on the Cooperative Society's website.

VIII. LEGAL VENUE

§48 Legal venue

The legal venue for all disputes over membership between members and the Cooperative Society shall be the local court or regional court with jurisdiction for the registered office of the Cooperative Society.