



Statutes of the New World Federation of Major International Wine and Spirits Competitions (VINO FED)

Preamble

The new World Federation of Major International Wine and Spirits Competitions (VINO FED) is constituted *ex officio* by the members of the existing federation, headquartered in Sierre, Switzerland, and by the members elected to the Executive Committee during the General Assembly held on March 4, 2025, in Cannes.

CONSTITUTION AND HEADQUARTERS

Article 1

The New World Federation of Major International Wine and Spirits Competitions (hereinafter “the Federation”), commonly known as VINO FED, is an autonomous and independent entity established as an Association under the French Law of 1901, for an unlimited duration.

Article 2

The headquarters of the Federation is determined by the General Assembly. It is currently located at:

**La Maison des Œnologues de France,
21-23 rue de Croulebarbe,
75013 PARIS
FRANCE**

IDENTITY AND MISSION

Article 3

- To bring together, within a Federation, organizations that organize international wine and spirits competitions in accordance with the regulations

of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV), or, if not applicable, those of VINO FED.

- To promote the exchange of information regarding the economic and technical management of member wine and spirits competitions.
- To enhance the international recognition and value of wine and spirits competitions.
- To protect, develop, and promote the interests of its members.
- To coordinate the dates and locations of member competitions.
- To provide shared services to its members.
- To offer consumers a guarantee of the credibility of award-winning products.
- To position the Federation as a global reference in the wine and spirits sector by conducting relevant studies and leveraging the full range of digital tools available on the market.
- To promote any other activity aligned with the objectives set out in this article.

COMPOSITION

Article 4 Members

Membership in the Federation is open to any organization that organizes one or more international wine and spirits competitions and meets the conditions outlined in the *Protocol for the Membership of a New Competition*, as set out in Appendix 2 of the Federation's Internal Regulations. The organization must also fulfil the criteria specified in Article 5 of these Statutes.

The application procedure is defined in the Internal Regulations referred to in Article 2 and detailed in Appendix 2.

Article 5 The Criteria of an International Wine and Spirits Competition.

An international wine and spirits competition is defined as a competition that meets the following criteria:

Criterion No. 1:

A VINO FED member competition must agree to comply with the rules for international competitions established by the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV), or, if not applicable, with the regulations set by VINO FED.

Criterion No. 2:

A competition applying for VINO FED membership will be granted *Observer Member* status for the necessary period prior to validation by the General Assembly, upon recommendation by the Executive Committee (COMEX).

Criterion No. 3:

An international wine and spirits competition must strive for broad international representation among producing countries.

For general competitions, at least **8 producing countries** must be represented.

- For competitions in specific categories, a minimum of **5 producing countries** is required.

To qualify as international, competitions must also aim to include:

- **More than 20% of products of foreign origin** in the host country for general competitions.
- **At least 15% of products of foreign origin** for category-specific competitions.

Criterion No. 4:

An international wine and spirits competition must be conducted in accordance with the rules of the Federation to ensure:

- Objectivity of the competition;
- Integrity in the selection and evaluation of samples;
- A high level of qualification among jury members;
- A reliable procedure for determining product quality;
- An on-site inspection by a VINO FED delegate to verify the proper conduct of the event.

Criterion No. 5:

A recognized international competition must not award more prizes than the maximum percentage allowed by the OIV, based on the total number of products entered. If OIV rules do not apply, the limit defined by VINO FED regulations will be used.

Criterion No. 6:

The tasting jury must consist of at least **five members**, with a **majority of international judges**.

In exceptional circumstances (e.g., pandemics, travel restrictions), and with prior approval from the OIV—or, if not possible, from the Federation’s members—a deviation from the requirement for a majority of international jury members may be allowed.

Article 6 Rights, obligations and responsibilities of members

6.1 Each member must pay the basic membership fee as well as the additional fee based on the number of samples, annually, upon request by the VINO FED General Secretariat.

6.2 Unless a valid reason is provided, each member is required to participate in the Annual General Meeting—either in person or remotely—through their official representative, alternate representative, written communication, or by issuing a written proxy to another member.

6.3 Each member must inform the General Secretariat of the dates and locations of their competition(s).

6.4 Once an international competition has been officially accepted as a Member of the Federation by the General Assembly, it is entitled to present itself as a member, use the Federation's distinctive marks, and benefit from any advantages arising from agreements the Federation may enter into with other organizations.

6.5 In general, all members of the Federation are entitled to the same rights that the Federation holds as an organization.

6.6 Each member agrees to confidentially provide VINO FED with any information necessary to initiate studies and carry out specific research.

6.7 Any member may withdraw from the Federation upon request, with one calendar year's notice. Membership fees remain payable for the entire current calendar year. Upon withdrawal, the member will no longer benefit from sponsorships granted to the Federation and may no longer refer to VINO FED or use its name.

6.8 Membership in VINO FED may be terminated by resignation, removal, or exclusion as decided by the General Assembly in accordance with Article 23.

Article 7 Elective functions

Elected positions within VINO FED are voluntary. However, the specific responsibilities of the General Secretariat may give rise to compensation, subject to approval by the General Assembly (see Internal Regulations). These elected roles must not be used by their holders for personal gain.

ORGANIZATION OF VINO FED

Article 8 VINO FED's governing bodies are as follows:

- General Assemblies
- The President
- The Office
- The Executive Committee (hereinafter COMEX)

Article 9 Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assemblies:

All VINO FED members whose membership fees are up to date as of the date of the General Assembly are considered members in good standing.

9.1 The General Assembly of VINO FED is the Federation's highest decision-making authority and must be held at least once per year, preferably in conjunction with a competition organized by a member of the Federation. General Assemblies should be held in person whenever possible but may also take place in a hybrid format (in person and remote).

If it is not feasible to gather members physically due to serious circumstances, the General Assembly may be conducted electronically.

9.2 The General Assembly is convened by the President via the General Secretariat, with notice given at least four weeks in advance.

Article 10 Decisions and votes during an Ordinary or Extraordinary General Assembly

10.1 Decisions are made following joint consultation among members, who may express their views either through their official representative, their alternate representative, or by providing a written proxy to another member.

10.2 Voting at a General Assembly is conducted by a show of hands, unless a secret ballot is requested by a member.

10.3 Vote counting—including for secret ballots—is carried out by a neutral party under the supervision of the General Secretariat.

Article 11 Competence of the Ordinary General Assembly

11.1 The Ordinary General Assembly may only deliberate validly if at least two-thirds of the Federation's members participate, either through their official representative or their alternate. If neither can attend, the member may submit a written statement to express their opinion and vote on a specific item on the agenda.

11.2 A member may be represented by another member through a signed proxy submitted to the General Secretariat prior to the General Assembly. However, no member may represent more than one other member.

11.3 The Ordinary General Assembly decides on the following matters:

- a) Amendments to the Statutes and Internal Regulations
- b) Approval of new members or reinstatement of former members
- c) Exclusion of members
- d) Appointment of the President
- e) Appointment of the Vice-President, Deputy Vice-President, and other members of the Executive Committee
- f) Appointment of the General Secretariat
- g) Approval of the annual budget
- h) Approval of annual membership contributions
- i) Approval of the financial accounts
- j) Validation of the Federation's strategic roadmap
- k) Any decision on matters submitted by the Executive Committee

Article 12 The Extraordinary General Assembly

12.1 The Extraordinary General Assembly may only deliberate validly if all VINO FED members participate.

12.2 Extraordinary General Assemblies may be convened whenever required by the needs of the Federation. If it is seriously impractical to gather members in person, or in the event of an emergency, the Extraordinary General Assembly may be held electronically.

12.3 The Extraordinary General Assembly is responsible for decisions on the following matters:

- a) Continuation or termination of the Federation
- b) Dissolution of the Federation
- c) Liquidation and allocation of assets following dissolution
- d) Creation of a new Federation
- e) Change of bank account
- f) Modification of the Registered Office
- g) Approval of exceptional expenses

1 2.4 Regarding the dissolution of the Federation, a unanimous vote is required.

Article 13 The President

- The President implements the policy proposed by the Executive Committee and approved by the General Assembly.
- The President is elected for a term of four years, with the possibility of renewal in successive two-year terms.
- The President is the legal representative of VINO FED in all circumstances and in all organizations in which the Federation is involved.

In this capacity, the President shall in particular:

- Represent the Federation in legal proceedings, whether as plaintiff, defendant, or civil party, in matters concerning the Federation or the defence of its members' material and moral interests;
- Sign contracts and agreements binding VINO FED, subject to prior approval by the Executive Committee;
- Chair meetings of the Executive Committee (COMEX) and the General Assemblies;
- Oversee and supervise all financial transactions together with the Treasurer;
- Convene and set the agenda for General Assemblies and COMEX meetings in collaboration with the General Secretariat;
- Sign the minutes and ensure the implementation of adopted decisions;
- Delegate any of his or her responsibilities to the Vice-President or Deputy Vice-President, as necessary;
- Delegate his or her signature to the Vice-President, if required;
- In the event of temporary or permanent incapacity, all responsibilities are automatically transferred to the Vice-President.

Article 14 Vice-Presidents

The two Vice-Presidents (Vice-President and Deputy Vice-President) are appointed for an initial term of four years and may be re-elected for successive terms of two years.

The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in the event of the latter's inability to perform them or upon formal delegation.

In the event of the President's permanent incapacity, the Vice-President shall immediately convene the Executive Committee to notify it of the situation and shall assume the presidency of VINO FED until the end of the current term.

If the Vice-President is also unable to fulfil this role, the Deputy Vice-President shall undertake the responsibilities accordingly.

Article 15 General Secretariat

The person responsible for the General Secretariat is appointed from among the members of the Office, subject to validation by the General Assembly.

The Secretary General, in close collaboration with the President, ensures compliance with all legislative and regulatory provisions, as well as with the Statutes and Internal Regulations of VINO FED. He or she is responsible for the proper functioning of the governing bodies and the implementation of their decisions, for which he or she serves as guarantor.

In this capacity, the General Secretariat shall in particular:

- Ensure effective communication with members;
- Be responsible for organizing and overseeing electoral procedures;
- Prepare the agenda for General Assemblies and Executive Committee meetings in collaboration with the President;
- Supervise the drafting of minutes and reports;
- Report to the General Assembly on the activities of the Office and the Executive Committee;
- Ensure that members comply with the rules established by VINO FED;
- Ensure that members receive timely and accurate information, particularly regarding regulations;
- Prepare and circulate the calendar of member competitions to prevent scheduling conflicts and coordinates the appointment of VINO FED delegates to these events;
- Collect and process the reports submitted by delegates responsible for monitoring competitions and compiles an annual summary;
- Issue requests for contributions from members;
- Be responsible for preparing membership application files.

In the event of absence, the Secretary General is replaced by the Deputy Secretary or, if unavailable, by a member appointed by the Executive Committee (COMEX).

Article 16 Treasurer

Treasurer is elected for a term of four years, with the possibility of renewal for successive two-year terms.

Working in close collaboration with the President and the Office, the Treasurer ensures compliance with legislative and regulatory provisions, as well as with the Statutes and Internal Regulations of VINO FED, in all matters relating to accounting and budgetary management, for which they are responsible.

In this capacity, the Treasurer shall in particular:

- Ensure the accuracy of accounting entries;
- Be responsible for and supervise financial flows;
- Prepare the budget and present it to the Office;
- Submit the proposed budget to the Executive Committee (COMEX);
- Act as a driving force in proposals regarding VINO FED's budgetary and financial management;
- Report on the performance of their responsibilities to the Office;
- Present the financial report to the Executive Committee and the General Assembly.

In the event of being unable to attend, the Treasurer shall be replaced by the Deputy Treasurer or, failing that, a member appointed by the Executive Committee.

Article 17 COMEX

All members of the Executive Committee (COMEX) are elected for a four-year term, with the possibility of renewal for successive two-year terms.

They are assigned missions and functions directly by the President and the Office.

Article 18 The Office

The Office is composed of the President, the Vice-President, the Deputy Vice-President, and the Treasurer (with the Secretary General, appointed from within the Office, serving de facto as a member).

The Office is responsible for preparing the files to be presented to the Executive Committee and to the General Assemblies.

The Office is empowered to:

- Define and propose to the COMEX the objectives and areas of work for

- VINO FED, and ensure their achievement;
- Develop and revise the Statutes and Internal Regulations to submit to the COMEX;
 - Propose and implement the budget—covering revenues, expenditures, investments, and operations—as well as the action and investment plans approved by the COMEX;
 - Convene the Ordinary General Assembly when it is not convened by the President;
 - Decide on the conclusion of leases, loans, contracts, and agreements binding VINO FED;
 - For acts committing VINO FED to amounts exceeding thresholds set by the COMEX, obtain prior approval from the COMEX;
 - Ensure that all publications and communications comply with the regulations of the countries represented by member competitions;
 - Fill vacant elected positions in the event of resignation, exclusion, or death.

Article 19 Meetings of the Office

The Office meets primarily via video conference as often as necessary, with a minimum of meetings held to prepare for COMEX sessions. Decisions of the Office are made by simple majority, with the President holding the casting vote in the event of a tie.

Article 20 Executive Committee (COMEX)

The Executive Committee consists of up to seven members, including those holding positions within the Office. Certain roles may be combined if necessary:

- The President
- The Vice President
- The Deputy Vice President
- The Secretary General
- The Assistant Secretary
- The Treasurer
- The Deputy Treasurer

The Executive Committee, together with the Office, serves as the executive body of the General Assembly. All members hold deliberative voting rights. Decisions are made by simple majority, with the President holding the casting vote in the event of a tie. If a vacancy arises due to resignation or incapacity, the seat is filled by a Federation member, subject to COMEX approval, until the next elections.

Article 21 Role of the Executive Committee

- Validates the strategy proposed by the Office;
- Proposes the text of the Statutes and Internal Regulations of the Federation, including any modifications, and submits them for approval to the Extraordinary General Assembly;

- Proposes changes to the Registered Office to the Extraordinary General Assembly;
- Approves financial elements for validation by the General Assembly, including investments, loans, cash flow plans, and budgets;
- Approves the annual accounts, which are then approved by the General Assembly;
- Sets the amount of basic and sample contributions for approval by the General Assembly;
- Determines the number of elected members on the closed list of the Office;
- Grants honorary status.

Article 22 Meeting of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (COMEX) meets as often as necessary to ensure the smooth running of the Federation, upon the proposal of the President or members of the Office. Except for exceptional cases, Executive Committee meetings are held via video conference. Minutes of these meetings are prepared by the General Secretariat and distributed to all Executive Committee members following approval by the President.

Article 23 Disciplinary measures and exclusion

23.1 When a member no longer meets the conditions required for membership in the Federation, or if the integrity of the Federation so requires, the Executive Committee, after hearing the explanations of the member concerned, may propose their exclusion to the General Assembly. This exclusion must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the members. The proposal for exclusion must be notified to the member in writing, stating the reasons for the exclusion.

23.2 A member who fails to pay their annual contributions (basic and sample fees) for two consecutive years shall be excluded from the Federation, following a decision by the General Assembly approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the members.

Article 24 Internal Regulations

The COMEX issues directives for the practical operation of the Federation in the form of Internal Regulations. These Regulations are ratified by the General Assembly. All members must agree to comply with them.

Article 25 VINO FED Accounts

25.1 The accounts are maintained by the Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer through the chronological recording of expenditures and income in a dedicated ledger, without erasures or overwriting. All invoices, expense reports, and fee reports are systematically filed in chronological order.

25.2 At the General Assembly, the Treasurer presents the financial position of VINO FED for the fiscal year ending on the calendar year. This presentation includes both the Budget and Actual figures for the financial year.

25.3 At the General Assembly, based on proposals from the Executive Committee, the Treasurer submits the Budget for the upcoming financial year for approval by vote.

Article 26 Resources

The Federation's resources derive from:

- Contributions paid by members;
- Donations;
- Sponsorships;
- Public and private subsidies;
- Other resources authorized by law.

Article 27 Ethics

Members of the Federation commit to acting in good faith, upholding the spirit and philosophy of the Federation.

Article 28 Dissolution

The dissolution of VINO FED is decided by the Extraordinary General Assembly. In accordance with Article L411-9 of the Labor Code, in the event of voluntary, statutory, or court-ordered dissolution, the Federation's assets shall be transferred in accordance with the rules determined by the Extraordinary General Assembly. Under no circumstances shall the assets be distributed among the member organizations.

Article 29 Entry into Force

These Statutes were adopted by the Constituent General Assembly on 06/30/2025. They replace all previous Statutes concerning the Federation.

Adopted by the Extraordinary General Assembly on the 30th of June 2025.



Thierry GASCO
Président de VINO FED
Le 03 Juillet 2025



Edita ĐURČOVÁ
Secrétaire Générale de VINO FED
Le 03 Juillet 2025