

EUROPEAN COMISSION FOR ROAD SAFETY IN THE ARMED FORCES



STATUTES FOR ECRAF

Approved by the General Assembly
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President ECRAF

PREAMBLES

Every year more than one million people worldwide lose their lives in road traffic accidents. More than 20 million people are seriously injured. This means that more people get killed in road traffic accidents than in all the ongoing wars.

Highly educated and trained personnel are the valuable resources in the Armed Forces, and we have a duty to avoid unnecessary and tragic losses in road accidents. Such losses can have a negative impact on operations, but also the morale in a unit.

Prevention of road traffic accidents rather than concentrating on reacting to them is a huge challenge for the armed forces in Europe.

The unique nature of military operations and transports – on and off road - and the fact that the Armed Forces in particular pose road safety issues to military employees and civilian populations, make this to be a big challenge. The Armed Forces as a large user of specialist vehicles and mobile weapon platforms must take an active part in efforts to prevent road traffic accidents. This will be achieved by thorough and relevant training. Operations are more likely to be conducted in urban areas or amongst the people with large wheeled (armored) vehicles in nations across the world. The military authorities have a duty of care to minimize loss to its own employees but also the civilian population of the nation in which operations are being conducted.

Article 1 – Name

The European Commission for Road Safety in Armed Forces, hereafter named ECRAF.

Article 2 - Type of organization

ECRAF is an open and non-profit forum established in 2002. ECRAF is a member forum and a meeting place for military professionals working in the field of Road Safety within Armed Forces to discuss and exchange ideas for improved road safety in the Armed Forces in Europe.

Article 3 – Mission and terms of reference

ECRAF has adopted the concept of Vision Zero. Each ECRAF delegate should promote Road Safety within the respective Armed Forces. The mission and purpose of ECRAF is to enable the exchange and sharing of experience, knowledge, ideas and initiatives between the Armed Forces in Europe in the field of road safety. Participation in ECRAF is an easy way to get and keep contact with road safety specialists and experts from a majority of European Armed Forces.

Article 4 - Annual congresses

The annual congress is the paramount activity of ECRAF where the organizations mission and purpose are being fulfilled. The congress is hosted by one of the members and participating nations.

Article 5 – Participating nations

ECRAF is open to all Armed Forces in Europe. In addition, non-European countries which share European democratic values can participate in congresses.

European Armed Forces can request to participate in congresses of ECRAF. Participation is approved by Executive Committee (EC). A new participant has to declare that they accept the Statutes of ECRAF. National Road Safety Partner Organizations can be invited to participate as guest speakers after approval by executive committee. In addition, international organizations, institutions or experts can be invited after approval by executive committee to attend ECRAF congress.

Article 6 - Annual subscription etc.

Each nation participating in the congress and the General Assembly must pay a congress fee as an annual subscription that funds the annual congress, the General Assembly and the administrative costs. The subscription for the forthcoming year will be decided one year in advance as a part of the annual budget by the General Assembly.

Article 7 - General Assembly

The General Assembly is the superior decision forum of ECRAF and shall discuss and decide all important organizational issues. Each national delegation has one vote.

The General Assembly approves the accounts from the previous year and the proposed budget including the subscription fee for the coming year. The actual documents regarding budget and subscription fee shall be sent to all delegates no later than one month before the General Assembly session/meeting.

The General Assembly elects the President and Vice-President. The election period normally lasts for two years up to a maximum of four years in the same position. The General Assembly shall appoint an Election Committee in order to prepare the coming elections according to the ECRAF guidelines for elections. The actual documents regarding elections shall be sent to all the delegates no later than one month before the General Assembly.

Article 8 - Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary and one EC member. The President and the Vice President are elected by General Assembly with a mandate for 2 years. The ECRAF Secretary is the fourth member of EC and is appointed by the President after recommendation from the sending nation. The fourth member of EC is appointed by the host nation that organizes the upcoming congress. All EC members have one vote. In case of equality of votes, the President's vote is decisive.

The EC meets at least twice a year. The first meeting takes place usually in April/May in next Congress Host Country for preparation of next Congress and the second meeting on the first day of Congress at the place of annual Congress.

The EC is responsible for:

- that the work during the year is carried out according to the statutes (including all annexes and guidelines), strategy and action plan and decisions made at the General Assembly.
- the governance of the accounts and preparation for audit of the accounts.
- preparation of the annual congress.

Article 9 – Presidency

The President is the Chairman of the EC. Duties and authority are described in the Requirements for election of members of the EC in Annex A.

The vice president assists the president. Duties and authority are described in the requirements for election of members of the EC in Annex B.

Article 10 – Secretary

The main task of the Secretary is to write minutes from meetings, prepare actual documents, manage and run the website, perform the secretary function for the election committee and assist the President.

Article 11 – Changing statutes

Changing the statutes shall be proposed in writing to the EC no later than three (3) calendar months before the next GA is to be held.

Adopting of changes requires approval of at least two thirds of the present nations at the GA.

Article 12 - Shut down

Any decision to shut down ECRAF must be taken at the annual General Assembly. It must be decided with a majority of at least 75% of the present nations at the General Assembly.

In case of shut down of ECRAF, all remaining funds of ECRAF must be donated to some non-commercial organization working for road safety or helping casualties of road accidents. The General Assembly decides to which organization at the same meeting as the decision of shut down of ECRAF.