

Association Order 'Fraternitas Draconis

TITLE ONE

GENERAL PROVISIONS AND PURPOSES OF THE ORDER

Article 1

The Association **FRATERNITAS ORDO DRACONIS VIGLAS (FOD VIGLAS)** is a non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO). It has a magisterial - noble knightly - inspiration with humanitarian and welfare purposes; it restores, preserves and perpetuates the tradition of the noble dignitaries who in 1408 founded the order called 'Societas Draconistrarum' in defence of human rights. This Order carried out part of its social and administrative activities at the historical seat of Viglas Castle in Slovakia, today the international headquarters of the **FRATERNITAS ORDO DRACONIS VIGLAS Association (FOD VIGLAS)**.

Translated with DeepL.com (free version)The Association (from now on also the Order) pursues the following aims:

1. - Support the realisation of universal peace and brotherhood among all peoples by defending tolerance, self-respect and respect for others, freedom of conscience and thought;
- 2.- promotes cultural, educational and social initiatives;
- 3.- contribute to the development and growth of the socio-economic level of society by implementing social and subsidiarity projects;
4. - contribute to the promotion of knowledge through the dissemination of cultural, artistic, literary and craft values in the context of international relations between peoples;
- 5.- disseminate human values and implement humanitarian projects in the light of the values of solidarity and sustainability;
6. - carrying out publishing and educational activities as well as promoting free research in any field;
7. - cooperate with democratic, including international, public and private bodies and institutions with the same or similar aims;

8. - to lend its aegis to initiatives, consistent with the Order's purposes, promoted by non- profit institutions and organisations.

To pursue its purposes, the Order may establish branches wherever it deems necessary. This Association is established for an indefinite period.

Article 2

The association's economic resources consist of:

- - Annual membership fees;
- - from the proceeds of organising or participating in events;
- - any other income that contributes to increasing the company's assets;
- - funds received from occasional public collections,
- - Voluntary contributions;
- - Movable and immovable assets;
- - Donations and legacies;
- - Public subsidies and funding.

The association cannot reimburse annual membership fees, not even in the event of withdrawal or any other individual termination of the membership relationship.

Members are free to make any voluntary contribution to fund initiatives, this contribution will be tax deductible according to the tax laws of their country. The same applies to donations by non-members.

The Association is obliged to use its assets, including any

revenues, returns, proceeds

and income however denominated, to carry out its statutory activities for the exclusive pursuit of civic, solidarity and socially useful purposes.

In the event of dissolution of the Association, the Chapter General that resolves on the dissolution shall appoint a liquidator. The Chapter General also decides on the destination of the patrimony remaining from the liquidation, within the limits of the following paragraph.

Following the termination or extinction of the Association, the residual assets, after liquidation, shall be mandatorily devolved, unless otherwise required by law, to one or more Third Sector Bodies with priority to charitable ones.

Article 3

The insignia of the Order are: *that of the Dragon curved in the shape of a circle, turning on itself, with its tail twisted around its neck, divided on the back in two parts, from the top of the head and the nose to the end of the tail by a flow of blood coming out of the deep cleft of a wound, white and bloodless, and on the front a red cross in the same way as those who, militating under the banner of the glorious martyr George, use to wear a red cross on a white field*'. The Motto of the Order is "**O quam Misericors est Deus Justus et Paciens**"

Article 4

The Order's standard is red and green and is valid for all the national chapters.

Its members will wear the pendant-like emblem around their necks and will wear a green/red cloak on their armour (symbolising the dragon's skin and its wounded belly)

Each National Chapter will have a banner equal to the Order's official banner.

Article 5

The Order observes its own ritual and ceremonial based on initiation and perfection, applied at meetings and festivals. The manner in which it is carried out and managed is set out in the Rules of Procedure.

TITLE SECOND ORDER STRUCTURE

Category Classes:

Article 6

- 1) Knight/Dame
- 2) Knight Officer
- 3) Commander
- 4) Grand Officer/Grand Dame
- 5) Knight Grand Cross with Collar (reserved for GMs and former GMs)

Article 7

Honorary categories are divided into three classes 1) Knights of the Grand Cross
2) Knights Grand Officers
3) Knights

Article 8

Women are admitted to the Order with the title of Dame or Grandama

The ranks reserved for Dames mirror those of the Knights.

On the proposal of the Knights, minors from the age of 10 years can also be admitted to the Order as 'pageboys' and from 14 to 18 years as 'squires', for women the title of damsel.

TITLE THREE ADMISSIONS IN THE ORDER

Article 9

All persons who distinguish themselves by special moral qualities and merits towards the Order, and who are willing to pursue its purposes in absolute respect and in equal fidelity to the Statute and the annexed provisions, may be admitted to the Order.

The Grand Master, with the approval of the Ordinary Council, has the right to appoint "Motu Proprio" Knights in any category and rank. The relevant diploma will indicate the title of the appointment.

All the Knights and Dames of the Order must pay an annual fee, the amount of which will be determined annually by the Ordinary Council.

Article 10

Candidates wishing to join the Order, when submitting their application to the Grand Master of the Order, must declare that they are familiar with the Statutes and Internal Rules and comply with its provisions.

The following documents must be attached to the application:

1. birth certificate
2. general criminal record certificate or self-certification
- 3- a passport-size photograph
4. identification document
5. curriculum vitae

Applications must be addressed to the Grand Chancellery of the Order, through its facilities.

The Grand Master may, in exceptional cases, grant dispensation from the presentation of the documents referred to in the previous Article.

The application is accompanied by a charitable merit for works of assistance, charity, maintenance and propaganda of the Knightly Institution.

TITLE FOUR

DRESSING AND PROFESSION OF KNIGHTS AND LADIES

Article 11

The Knights and Dames are required to ask the Grand Master for solemn investiture

according to their own ritual.

Honorary Knights and Dames are exempt from the investiture rite.

The Knights and Dames who have not fulfilled this obligation will not be able to participate in the active life of the Order or achieve

further promotions; they will be considered as aggregate members of the Order, however obliged to loyally observe the Statute and any annexes, in the common spirit of obedience towards the Order and its Dignitaries, to observe and converse excellent moral, civil and ethical conduct.

Article 12

The investiture consists of the solemn imposition of the green/red cloak, the oath of allegiance to the Order and the Grand Master and the acceptance of the Statute of the Knightly Institution.

Article 13

The Investiture ceremony is performed by the Grand Master, in the absence of the Grand

Master by the Lieutenant or a Representative duly delegated in writing.

Article 14

The Investiture Ceremony may take place in a suitable place decided by the Grand Magistrty. For the Ceremonial, the rules of the Order's ritual described in the Internal Rules must be followed.

TITLE FIFTH

ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE ORDER

ARTICLE 15

The organs of the Order

are: the Grand Master

Grand Magistrty

the Grand Council or Supreme Council the Assembly of Members known as the General Chapter

Article 16

For the operation of the present statute, the founding knights of the present association shall be by right Knights of the Grand Cross and shall hold office without time limit, until resignation, renunciation and/or mortis causa, in the Grand Council, with the right to bear a gold plaque and red (or green) sash.

Article 17 - The Grand Master

The Supreme Head of the Order is the Prince-Grand Master. **He remains in office for five years and the mandate can be renewed several times. He directs** the Grand Magistracy, the governing body, composed of the Lieutenant General and the Grand Chancellor, and personally administers the Order in accordance with the Statute and the directions of the Grand Council. He presides over the Grand Council and the Chapter General. On its approval depend the admission of Candidates into the Order, appointments and promotions in the various grades and any other decision concerning the Knightly Institution. At its discretion, the Grand Council only expresses a consultative opinion on the admission of candidates. It appoints and coordinates the Magistral Delegates and Vicars. On ceasing to hold office, the Grand Master is entitled to the title of Knight of the Grand Cross with Collar.

Article 18

The Grand Master of the Order promulgates the decisions of the Grand Council and the Chapter General. No decree is valid and enforceable unless it bears the signature of the Grand Master and the Seal of the Order, which remains in the custody of the Grand Chancellor.

The Lieutenant General, the Grand Chancellor and the national and international Lieutenants (Priors- Bailiffs- Commanders) may be delegated, in exceptional cases, by the Grand Master to sign the decrees concerning admissions to the Order, giving immediate communication to the headquarters for the preservation of data. The Grand Chancellor issues the appropriate decree of ratification in this regard.

Article 19 - The Grand Council

Is the Order's constitutional reviewing, guiding and controlling body of the Fraternitas Ordo Dragonis Association is the **Grand Council**, also known as the **Supreme Council**. The President (Grand Master), the Lieutenant General, the Grand Chancellor, the Grand Treasurer, the Secretary General, the Grand Prior General, the

Grand Commander General and the First Councillor form the basic operational structure of the Council, hereinafter referred to as the Ordinary Council.

Offices are exercised in a collegial form. They may not be conferred for life, except for those provided for in Article 22, and may be held for a fixed term.

When the term of office of the Prince-Grand Master expires, the Grand Council delegates the Lieutenant General to nominate the new Head of the Order within three months.

The Grand Council has a term of five years and three months.

Article 20

The Grand Council appoints the Lieutenant General from a trio of names indicated by the Grand Master. The Lieutenant General after the Grand Master and the highest dignitary of the Order.

He takes part in the ceremonies and meetings of the Grand Council and the Chapter General, sitting to the left of the Grand Master. In the prolonged absence of the latter, he replaces him completely and his decisions can only be revoked by the Grand Council with a unanimous vote.

Article 21

The Grand Council consists of members appointed to their respective offices by the same

body in a valid session, by a majority of those present.

LIST OF HIGH DIGNITARIES

1. The Lieutenant General
2. The First Marshal
3. The Grand Chancellor
4. The Grand Prior General
5. The Grand Commander General 6- The Grand Bailiff General
7. The Grand Treasurer
8. The Grand Secretary

9. The Grand Sacristan
10. The Grand Master of Ceremonies
11. The Grand Gonfalonier 12- The Grand Siniscalco 13- The Grand Orator
- 14- The First Adviser
- 15 - 16 - 17 - The Grand Jury (Grand Judge - First Judge - Assistant Judge) 18 Next Components

ARTICLE 22

The Articles of Association provide for **founding knights of the order** who will be knights by right with the rank of Grand Cross and, will remain in office without time limit.

The aforementioned founding knights are such because they are the custodians of the history, values and traditions of chivalry that have been handed down over the centuries, and they are those who spontaneously decided, in respect of the same values, to join together to promote them, which is why they have special powers within the Order.

The Founding Knights are the subjects who, in their state, have the right to appoint the remaining subjects who will eventually be members of the Grand Council. The Founding Knights are the subjects who, by secret ballot, have the right of veto, with a qualified majority of the same, i.e. with the presence of 2/3 of the members of the founding knight category in relation to the appointment of high dignitaries elected to social offices of the order.

The founding Knights have the right to appoint, in the event of their permanent inability to perform their duties, a direct successor, with the possibility, in any case, of bearing the title by right until their death and succeeding t h e m in office.

_____The high dignitaries (Lieutenant General, Grand Chancellor, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary) shall, in any case, be identified and appointed from among the founding members and/or their successors.

Without prejudice to the aforementioned reservation among the founding members of high dignitaries, the General Assembly of Members may, in accordance with a democratic principle, propose

to the founding knights a list of persons to be appointed as high dignitaries.

Article 23 Each **High Dignitary** has specific functions, namely:

1 - the Lieutenant General represents and replaces the Grand Master when he is impeded.

He is, to all intents and purposes, the Vicar General of the Grand Magistracy.

2 - the Grand Chancellor has custody of the Seal of the Order and countersigns all decrees; he is also in charge of the Government of the Order and of relations with foreign States. For this task he can appoint, after consulting the Grand Master, Plenipotentiary Ministers and Ambassadors. The GC assists and supports the Grand Master and the Lieutenant General in their functions and ensures the organisation of the meetings of the Grand Council. He supervises and directs the activities of all the dependent and/or delegated Institutions and submits to the Grand Master its observations in this regard, making the decisions of the Head of the Order known to those concerned. He is the highest dignitary after the Grand Master and the Lieutenant General.

Translated with DeepL.com (free version)3 - The Grand Treasurer is in charge of the Order's treasury, collects admission fees and

voluntary offerings for charitable works, assistance and propaganda, and makes payments at the written order of the Grand Chancellor. He is responsible to the Grand Chancellor for all administrative and accounting activities.

4- The Grand Secretary oversees all correspondence, the Secretariat, attends meetings,

assemblies, etc., taking minutes, and works under the direct supervision of the Grand Chancellor. He assists the Grand Chancellor in the development and implementation of internal and external communication programmes.

5 -The Spiritual Counsellor is the guardian of the sacredness of the order and the celebrant

of sacred ceremonies.

6. the Grand Master of Ceremonies is in charge of organising and directing all

ceremonies, events and assemblies and is in charge of the Order's diplomatic ceremonial, overseeing the reception of Heads of State, Government Members, etc.

7. the Grand Gonfalonier holds the Order's standard. He oversees propaganda in

favour of the Order's works and institutions.

8-. the Grand Siniscalco guides and assists the new Knights and Dames in the first years of their admission into the Order, guiding them on the path of perfection and knowledge.

9. the Grand Orator is the supreme guardian of the Statute and ensures that it is

respected in all its form and content. He introduces and illustrates the topics of the assembly as well as acting as moderator in assembly debates; in these cases he can also impose silence as an invitation to meditation or reflection.

10. The First Counselor promotes and coordinates promotional events, both cultural and

solidarity-related, cooperation projects and initiatives to maintain contact with members of the Order.

11. The Grand Jury, which consists of the Grand Judge and two High Dignitaries.

The Grand Jury is in charge of the internal discipline of the Order in compliance with the Statutes and Regulations of the Order. It takes cognizance of all questions that may arise between the various Institutions and the Members of the Order, and seeks to reconcile

them. It may, with the approval of at least 10 other High Dignitaries, convene the Grand Council in extraordinary session to impeach any member of the Order, including the Grand Master.

Article 24

The Grand Council meets at least four times a year and in any case: a)

whenever the Grand Master deems it appropriate;

b) at the request of the majority of the High Dignitaries. The request must be made in writing and must indicate the items on the agenda, which must be relevant to the Association's activities.

The convocation notice, which must contain the agenda, must be sent by letter, telegram, fax, e-mail and whatsapp as a rule at least 10 calendar days before the date set for the meeting; in urgent cases at least the day before the meeting.

The Grand Council is chaired by the Grand Master or the Lieutenant General. It is principally responsible for the following functions:

- a) Preparation of the budget as well as the drafting of the annual report and balance sheet.
- b) Preparation and convocation of the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assembly.
- c) Management of the Association's Assets
- d) Recruitment and dismissal of the Association's employees
- e) Protection and preservation of the emblem and other distinctive signs of the FRATERNITAS ORDO DRACONIS (FOD);
- f) Definition of the amount of the annual membership and registration fee;

- g) Issuing regulations governing the organisation in general of the FRATERNITAS ORDO DRACONIS (FOD) at both supranational and national levels;
- h) The Grand Council approves the Rules and Regulations governing the functioning of the Organisation and all National Chapters, which shall strictly adhere to them.

For meetings to be valid, the majority of the members of the Council, including the Grand Master or the Lieutenant General, must be present. In the absence of convocation, totalitarian meetings are in any case valid.

Resolutions are validly passed with the favourable vote of the majority of those present. In the event of a tie, the vote of the Grand Master prevails.

The Grand Council has the task of doing what is necessary to promote the Association's aims and the realisation of its objectives, for the growth of the Organisation worldwide.

The Grand Council, has all the tasks, which by statute are not assigned to other association bodies.

All offices will have a duration equal to that of the Grand Master. The posts can also be held by Dames and Grand-Dames.

Article 25

The Members of the Grand Council of the Order are by right Knights with the rank of Grand

Cross with the right to bear the gold plaque with the red or green sash.

Article 26

The High Dignitaries of the Order who have ceased to hold office retain the title "Ad Honorem". In the Order of Precedence they follow the High Dignitaries and Members of the Order.

Article 27 - General Chapter

Meetings of the Chapter General are fixed annually and are convened by the Grand Master or, in his absence, by the Lieutenant General. They are not valid unless the meeting is presided over by the Grand Master or the Lieutenant General or another Dignitary of the Order expressly delegated by Magistral Decree. The Chapter General may also be convened extraordinarily at the express request of at least 1/2 of its members, and if it is not convened during the calendar year, the Grand Chancellor is obliged to convene it ex officio within 2 months of the annual deadline.

The Chapter General is composed of all the Knights and Dames of each Category and Rank. All members may submit motions and speak at the assembly with voting rights, excluding the "Ad Honorem" category, which has only an advisory function without voting rights.

The powers of the assembly are:

- - Approve the annual balance sheet
- - Ratifying the changes to the statutes decided by the Grand Council

The General Assembly must be convened in ordinary session at least once a year, to approve the balance sheet of the previous year, and may also be convened in extraordinary session if the Grand Council deems it necessary.

The General Assembly is composed of all Members duly registered on the date of dispatch of the notice of convocation and in good standing with their annual dues payments.

The convocation notice, which shall contain the agenda, shall be communicated to the Members 30 (thirty) calendar days before the date set for the Assembly by any postal or telematic means, alternatively by publication on the Association's website or press organ.

The Assembly is validly constituted if so recognised by the Grand Master. The representation of Members in the Assembly is regulated as follows:

- a) Each Member has only one vote;
- b) Each Member may be represented by another Member;
- c) In addition to their own vote, each Member may be the bearer of a maximum of one proxy representing as many Members, thus being able to cast a maximum of two votes.

The General Assembly is presided over by the Grand Master, who ascertains the regular constitution of the Assembly and voting rights, including proxies.

The minutes of the Assembly must be signed by the President and the Secretary. The Assembly is validly constituted with the presence, in person or by proxy:

- a) By one half plus one of the Members, at first convocation;
- b) Whatever the number of Members present, in second call;

Resolutions are passed by a majority of the votes cast. Abstentions are not considered votes cast.

The Grand Master may, for justified reasons, exercise the right of veto over the resolutions of the Assembly.

Article 28

All magistral measures are recorded in special registers kept by the Grand Secretary. These measures are signed by the Grand Master and countersigned by the Grand Chancellor.

The registers constitute the historical archive of the Order.

Article 29

The members of the Order of the same nationality are united in **National Chapters**,

constituting a Province or Luogotenance of the Order.

He looks after the affairs of the Order in his Province, presides over meetings and ceremonies, and is assisted by Dignitaries who have the title of:

1. Chancellor
2. Judge
3. Sacristan
4. Treasurer
5. Master of Ceremonies
6. Gonfaloniere
7. Councillor
8. Secretary
9. Siniscalco
10. Speaker

National and International Chapters are subdivided into Sections, Commanderies, Sub- Pories, Pories, Bailiwicks, at the head of which there is a Knight chosen from among the Grand Officers and/or Commanders. The Sections, the Commanderies, the Subpories, the Pories, the Bailiffs, have no administrative or accounting autonomy except through special dispensations issued by the Grand Magistr.

In each Government, with which the Order maintains official relations, the Grand Chancellor may accredit a Representative of the Order with the functions of Minister Plenipotentiary and/or Ambassador.

Article 30

The Order's Chapter General is convened by the Grand Master, who presides over it, by the Lieutenant General or by the Grand Chancellor, in the absence of the Grand Master, to listen to the reports of the national and international Chapters and to make its own vote or observations. Chapters established in other states may send three delegates chosen by their respective Grand Priors, Grand Bailiffs or Grand Commanders.

TITLE SIX

DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS AND RADIATION Article 31

The Lieutenant General can deliberate minor disciplinary punishments. In the case of a serious infringement, the Lieutenant General, after hearing the opinion of the Grand Chancellor, is authorised to immediately suspend the member who has committed the infringement from the Order, pending the official judgement by the Grand Jury.

In the most serious cases, the Grand Jury may propose to the Grand Master the dismissal and the "suspension ad vitam" of the members of the Order who have failed in their duties as Knights or who have not kept the oath they swore.

The Grand Jury makes the request to the Grand Master on the basis of the evidence gathered. The accused shall be invited to present his defence.

The Grand Master may accept the exculpatory statements or determine their suspension ad vitam. In the event that the accused is one of the members of the Grand Jury, the other two members of the Grand Jury shall be responsible for receiving the documentation and the resulting proposal. In the event that the accused is the Grand Master, two votes will be required by the Grand Council, the first unanimously and the second by a simple majority.

TITLE SEVEN FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 32

The Grand Master may invite any Member of the Order, as well as persons from outside the

Order, to the sessions of the Grand Council for technical matters.

For scientific-technical matters, the Grand Master will delegate tasks to the Grand Chancellor, who will be assisted by the scientific-technical committee of three knights. The committee can be expanded by external persons appointed as needed.

Article 33

The Order always retains its international character and enjoys functional sovereignty.

Article 34

The representative seat of the Order remains, to all intents and purposes, in the Castle of Viglas in Slovakia. The Grand Council, when it sees fit, may order the transfer of the Seat to any other State.

Convocations of ordinary and extraordinary meetings must be received eight days in advance by email and instant messaging (e.g. WhatsApp) in the institutional chat made up of the founding members and the Grand Master.

Article 35

If the Order does not reside in that Seat, it is represented by a Magistral Vicar, chosen from

among the Knights residing there

Article 36

The financial year ends on 31 December each year. Within 120 days after the end of the financial year, the Grand Treasurer must prepare the budget, which must be approved by the Grand Council. The budget for the current financial year shall also be submitted to the Ordinary Council for approval. The annual financial statements shall consist of the balance sheet, the operating statement, showing income and expenses, and the mission report, which shall illustrate the items in the balance sheet, the economic and operating performance of the Association, and the manner in which the statutory purposes are pursued. In the case of revenues, income or receipts however denominated of less than EUR 220,000.00 per annum, the balance sheet may be drawn up in the form of a cash account.

Article 37

This Statute may only be amended by the Grand Council.

A qualified majority of those present, i.e. two-thirds of the members of the Grand Council, is required to vary this statute.

For matters not expressly provided for in these statutes, reference is made to the law and the internal regulations resolved upon by the assembly.

Article 38

This Statute enters into force today and will be published in several languages
