

STATUTES OF THE FRATERNITAS ORDO DRACONIS VIGLAS

F.O.D. VIGLAS

TITLE I

ESTABLISHMENT, NATURE AND PURPOSES

ARTICLE 1 – ESTABLISHMENT, NATURE, HEADQUARTERS AND PURPOSES

The Fraternitas Ordo Draconis Viglas – F.O.D. VIGLAS is an international, non-profit associative institution of a magisterial, noble and chivalric nature, inspired by the principles of fraternity, honour, dignity, solidarity, charity, culture and service.

The Fraternitas aims to preserve, restore and perpetuate the tradition of the nobles and dignitaries who, in the year 1408, gave origin to the Societas Draconistrarum – Fraternitas Draconum, adopting, while respecting its contemporary associative nature, the ideals of human dignity, fraternity, solidarity and service.

The historical documentation of 1408, preserved within the Hungarian documentary tradition, constitutes a historical reference for the Fraternitas. The historical designation Societas Draconis or Societas Draconistrarum is understood herein within its proper historical context and not as an identification with modern organisations having a different origin or designation.

The Fraternitas Ordo Draconis Viglas therefore distinguishes itself from any other Order of the Dragon established, re-established or designated in a subsequent period, and identifies itself according to its specific nature as a Fraternitas or Confraternity.

The historical tradition of the Societas is connected to the Castle of Viglas, which today constitutes the Official, Historical and International Headquarters of the F.O.D. VIGLAS.

The Fraternitas pursues, in particular:

- a) the promotion of peace, universal fraternity and solidarity among peoples;
- b) the promotion of tolerance, mutual respect, freedom of conscience and freedom of thought;
- c) cultural, educational, social, welfare and charitable initiatives;
- d) the promotion of social and economic development according to the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity;
- e) the protection and enhancement of cultural, artistic, literary, artisanal and historical traditions;
- f) the dissemination of human values, solidarity and humanitarian assistance;
- g) initiatives connected with environmental protection and sustainable development;
- h) publishing, educational and independent research activities;
- i) relations of friendship, collaboration, twinning and cooperation with institutions, associations and entities compatible with the principles of the Fraternitas;
- j) the patronage and moral aegis of non-profit initiatives consistent with its purposes.

The Fraternitas may establish headquarters, representations, delegations, Priories, Bailiwicks, Commanderies, Sections and other territorial structures in any country.

The duration of the Fraternitas is unlimited.

ARTICLE 2 – ASSETS AND RESOURCES

The resources of the Fraternitas consist of:

- a) annual membership fees;
- b) contributions relating to institutional activities, events and initiatives;
- c) voluntary contributions from members and third parties;
- d) public and private fundraising;
- e) movable and immovable property;
- f) donations, gifts, legacies and inheritances;
- g) contributions, grants and financing compatible with the institutional purposes;
- h) any other income compatible with the nature and purposes of the Fraternitas.

Membership fees and ordinary contributions are non-refundable.

Any donations may benefit from the tax advantages provided for by applicable legislation.

The assets shall be used exclusively for the pursuit of the institutional, cultural, welfare, charitable and social purposes of the Fraternitas.

In the event of dissolution, the General Chapter shall appoint the liquidator and determine the destination of any remaining assets in accordance with applicable legislation, preferably in favour of non-profit entities pursuing charitable, solidarity-based or social purposes.

ARTICLE 3 – EMBLEM

The emblem of the Fraternitas consists of a Dragon arranged in a circular form, with its tail wrapped around its neck.

The back of the Dragon is represented in a divided form, as a symbol of trial, suffering and rebirth, with a symbolic wound from which blood is represented.

The white part represents the non-bleeding part of the Dragon.

Within the white field is placed the Cross of Saint George, as a symbol of Christian tradition, honour and the defence of the values of the Fraternitas.

The official motto is:

“O quam Misericors est Deus Justus et Paciens”.

ARTICLE 4 – BANNER AND MANTLE

The official banner of the Fraternitas consists of the colours red and green.

Red represents courage, sacrifice and the blood shed in defence of the values of the Fraternitas.

Green represents life, hope, continuity and rebirth.

Members may wear the emblem of the Fraternitas as a pendant and, on the occasions provided for, wear the official mantle in the colours red and green, as a symbolic reference to the Dragon's skin and the wound upon its belly.

National and territorial structures shall use the same banner, unless otherwise specifically provided by the Magisterium.

ARTICLE 5 – RITE AND CEREMONIAL

The rite of the Fraternitas is based on the principles of symbolic initiation, personal perfection, fraternity, honour and service.

Admission, Investiture, promotion and official ceremonies shall be governed by these Statutes and by the Internal Regulations.

TITLE II

DIGNITIES, RANKS AND ADMISSION

ARTICLE 6 – HIERARCHY OF RANKS

The ordinary hierarchy of ranks of the Fraternitas is as follows:

1. Knight / Dame;
2. Officer Knight / Officer Dame;
3. Commander Knight / Commander Dame;
4. Knight Grand Officer / Grand Dame;
5. Knight Grand Cross / Dame Grand Cross;
6. Knight Grand Cross with Collar, reserved for the Prince-Grand Master and former Grand Masters.

Should the office of Prince-Grand Master be held by a woman, the corresponding dignity shall be Dame Grand Cross with Collar.

ARTICLE 7 – DIGNITIES AD HONOREM

The Fraternitas may confer the following Ad Honorem dignities:

- a) Knight Grand Cross Ad Honorem / Dame Grand Cross Ad Honorem;
- b) Knight Grand Officer Ad Honorem / Grand Dame Ad Honorem;
- c) Knight Ad Honorem / Dame Ad Honorem.

Ad Honorem dignities constitute an honorary recognition and do not automatically entail governmental, representative or operational functions, unless expressly delegated or assigned by the Prince-Grand Master.

ARTICLE 8 – ADMISSION OF WOMEN AND MINORS

Women are fully admitted to the Fraternitas and may receive the corresponding dignities and chivalric ranks, with full dignity and institutional equality with male members.

Minors may be admitted:

- a) as Page, from the completion of the tenth year of age, without distinction of sex;
- b) as Squire, from thirteen to seventeen years of age;
- c) young girls may be admitted as Damsel, as the corresponding female designation of the youth pathway, according to the same age groups and the same educational process as the Page and Squire.

The Damsel pathway therefore constitutes the corresponding female form of the youth pathway of the Page and Squire.

The admission of minors shall take place in compliance with the applicable provisions concerning the protection of minors and any required authorisations.

The transition from Page to Squire, or from Page to Damsel in the case of young girls, and subsequently to a higher dignity or rank, shall take place in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes and the Internal Regulations.

Attainment of legal adulthood does not automatically entail the conferment of a higher chivalric rank, which must be granted according to the ordinary procedures of the Fraternitas.

ARTICLE 9 – ADMISSION AND MOTU PROPRIO

Ordinary admission to the Fraternitas is decided by the Prince-Grand Master, following examination of the candidacy and in compliance with the procedures established by these Statutes and the Internal Regulations.

By way of derogation from the ordinary procedure, the Prince-Grand Master, as Supreme Head of the Fraternitas, may, by his own Motu Proprio, independently order, without prior approval of the Grand Council or the Ordinary Council:

- a) the admission of a person;
- b) the conferment of the rank of Knight or Dame;
- c) the conferment of a higher rank;
- d) the conferment of a particular dignity;
- e) the conferment of an Ad Honorem dignity.

The Motu Proprio shall take effect from the date of the relevant decree or magisterial act and shall not require subsequent ratification.

The Grand Chancellor shall record the acts in the official registers of the Fraternitas.

The power of Motu Proprio does not limit the ordinary competences of the organs of the Fraternitas.

Every member is required to pay the annual membership fee, unless expressly exempted by the Prince-Grand Master.

ARTICLE 10 – APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

The application for admission shall be submitted to the Chancellery or to authorised territorial structures.

The candidate declares that he or she fully accepts these Statutes and the Internal Regulations.

The documentation may include:

- a) birth certificate or equivalent document;
- b) criminal record certificate or substitute declaration, where permitted;
- c) photograph;
- d) identity document;
- e) personal and professional curriculum vitae;
- f) any documentation relating to merits, qualifications and activities.

The Prince-Grand Master may waive, in whole or in part, the submission of such documentation.

Voluntary contributions may be allocated to support charitable, institutional and cultural activities and to the preservation and promotion of the Fraternitas.

TITLE III

INVESTITURE AND CEREMONIAL

ARTICLE 11 – SOLEMN INVESTITURE

The Investiture shall be solemnly celebrated according to the official rite of the Fraternitas.

Dignities conferred Ad Honorem may also be granted without physical Investiture, as determined by the Prince-Grand Master.

A member who has not yet been invested may not fully exercise the prerogatives associated with the rank nor confer or promote others, except by specific magisterial provision.

ARTICLE 12 – FORM OF INVESTITURE

The Investiture shall include, according to the rank conferred:

- a) the mantle;
- b) the oath or solemn undertaking;
- c) acceptance of the Statutes and the Internal Regulations;
- d) the presentation of insignia and any decorations;
- e) the issuance of the relevant certificate or diploma.

ARTICLE 13 – AUTHORITY PRESIDING OVER THE INVESTITURE

The Investiture is normally presided over by the Prince-Grand Master.

In his or her absence, it may be presided over by the Lieutenant General or by another dignitary expressly delegated in writing by the Prince-Grand Master.

ARTICLE 14 – PLACE OF CEREMONIES

Investitures and the principal ceremonies shall ordinarily take place at the Castle of Viglas or at another location deemed suitable by the Grand Magisterium.

Official ceremonies shall be governed by the ceremonial regulations of the Fraternitas.

TITLE IV

ORGANS OF THE FRATERNITAS

ARTICLE 15 – FUNDAMENTAL ORGANS

The following are fundamental organs and structures of the Fraternitas:

- a) the Prince-Grand Master;
- b) the Grand Magisterium;
- c) the Grand Council or Supreme Council;
- d) the Ordinary Council;
- e) the General Chapter;
- f) the Grand Jury;
- g) the Council of Supervisors;
- h) the Guard Corps;
- i) the territorial, national and international structures provided for by these Statutes.

ARTICLE 16 – FOUNDING KNIGHTS

The Founding Knights constitute the historical and institutional reference of the Fraternitas.

They retain for life the rank of Knight Grand Cross, subject to resignation, revocation or disciplinary action in accordance with these Statutes.

The Founders may be granted a special insignia consisting of a gold plaque and a red or green sash.

ARTICLE 17 – PRINCE-GRAND MASTER

The Prince-Grand Master is the Supreme Head of the Fraternitas and directs the Grand Magisterium.

The term of office shall be five years and may be renewed without limitation.

The Prince-Grand Master:

- a) directs the Fraternitas and the Grand Magisterium;
- b) presides over the Grand Council and the General Chapter;
- c) exercises the magisterial functions provided for by the Statutes;
- d) orders ordinary admissions, appointments and promotions;
- e) appoints and coordinates Delegates and Magisterial Vicars;
- f) represents the Fraternitas;
- g) exercises any other function provided for by these Statutes.

The approvals of the competent organs shall apply to ordinary procedures, without prejudice to the power of Motu Proprio provided for in Article 9.

At the end of his or her term of office, the Prince-Grand Master shall be entitled to the dignity of Knight Grand Cross with Collar, if not already so invested.

ARTICLE 18 – MAGISTERIAL DECREES AND SEAL

The resolutions of the Grand Council and the General Chapter are promulgated by the Prince-Grand Master.

Magisterial decrees shall take effect upon the signature of the Prince-Grand Master or of a person expressly delegated and upon affixing the Seal of the Fraternitas, kept by the Grand Chancellor.

The Prince-Grand Master may delegate to the Lieutenant General, the Grand Chancellor or other authorised Delegates the signing of specific decrees.

Delegated acts shall be communicated and recorded in accordance with internal provisions.

Motu Proprio acts referred to in Article 9 shall directly produce their effects and shall not be subject to ratification.

ARTICLE 19 – GRAND MAGISTERIUM AND ORDINARY COUNCIL

The Grand Magisterium constitutes the governing and supreme directing body of the Fraternitas and is presided over and directed by the Prince-Grand Master.

It consists of:

- a) the Prince-Grand Master;
- b) the Lieutenant General;
- c) the Grand Chancellor.

The Grand Magisterium assists the Prince-Grand Master and coordinates the institutional, administrative, diplomatic and organisational action of the Fraternitas.

The Ordinary Council constitutes the operational structure of ordinary governance and is directed by the Grand Chancellor.

It consists of:

- a) the Lieutenant General;
- b) the Grand Chancellor;

- c) the Treasurer;
- d) the Secretary;
- e) the Grand Prior;
- f) the Grand Commander;
- g) the First Counsellor.

The term of the collegiate offices shall coincide with that of the Prince-Grand Master's mandate, unless otherwise provided.

At the end of the Prince-Grand Master's mandate, the Grand Council entrusts the Lieutenant General with the task of initiating, within three months, the procedure for identifying the candidate for magisterial succession.

ARTICLE 20 – LIEUTENANT GENERAL

The Lieutenant General is appointed by the Grand Council from a shortlist of three candidates proposed by the Prince-Grand Master.

He or she is the second dignitary of the Fraternitas.

He or she represents and replaces the Prince-Grand Master in the event of his or her absence or prolonged impediment.

Decisions taken by the Lieutenant General in the exercise of substitute functions may be revoked exclusively by unanimous resolution of the Grand Council, without prejudice to acts already carried out with respect to third parties.

ARTICLE 21 – GRAND COUNCIL

The following form part of the Grand Council according to their respective functions:

- a) the Lieutenant General;
- b) the First Marshal;
- c) the Grand Chancellor;
- d) the Grand Prior;
- e) the Grand Commander;
- f) the Grand Bailiff;
- g) the Treasurer;
- h) the Secretary;
- i) the Spiritual Counsellor;
- j) the Grand Ceremonier;
- k) the Gonfalonier;
- l) the Seneschal;

- m) the Orator;
- n) the First Counsellor;
- o) the Grand Jury;
- p) any additional dignitaries provided for by the Statutes or the Internal Regulations.

The offices are collegiate and not life appointments, except for the prerogatives recognised to the Founders and honorary dignities.

ARTICLE 22 – FOUNDING KNIGHTS AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTINUITY

The Founding Knights constitute the custodians of the historical and institutional memory of the Fraternitas.

They:

- a) retain the dignity of Grand Cross for life;
- b) safeguard the history, values and traditions of the Fraternitas;
- c) may propose and indicate persons suitable to complete the Grand Council;
- d) by secret ballot and with a majority of at least two-thirds of the Founders present, may exercise a right of veto over the appointments of Grand Dignitaries relating to social and institutional functions.

This power shall not apply to ordinary appointments of Knights and Dames and shall not limit the Motu Proprio authority of the Prince-Grand Master provided for in Article 9.

Should the Prince-Grand Master become permanently unable to exercise his or her office, the Founders may designate the successor according to internal procedures.

The Lieutenant General, the Grand Chancellor, the Treasurer and the Secretary shall be selected from among the Founders or their legitimate institutional successors.

The General Chapter may submit a list of candidates to the Founders.

TITLE V

FUNCTIONS OF THE DIGNITARIES

ARTICLE 23 – FUNCTIONS AND COMPETENCES

1. Lieutenant General

Represents and replaces the Prince-Grand Master in the cases provided for by the Statutes and exercises the functions of Vicar General.

2. Grand Chancellor

He or she is the custodian of the Seal of the Fraternitas, provides the required countersignatures, directs and coordinates ordinary governance within his or her competences, manages institutional and diplomatic relations, assists the Prince-Grand Master and the Lieutenant General, organises the work of the Grand Council, supervises dependent or delegated structures and reports to the Prince-Grand Master.

The Grand Chancellor directs the Ordinary Council and coordinates the activities of the Secretariat and the Treasury, respecting the specific technical competences of their respective officeholders.

He or she may appoint or remove, following consultation with the Prince-Grand Master, Plenipotentiary Ministers, Ambassadors and Diplomatic Delegates.

In the exercise of a magisterial delegation, the Grand Chancellor acts in the name and on behalf of the Prince-Grand Master, within the limits of the delegation received.

After the Prince-Grand Master and the Lieutenant General, he or she is the principal operational dignitary within the functions and delegations assigned.

3. Treasurer

Manages the treasury, the collection of fees and contributions, donations and payments authorised by written orders.

4. Secretary

Manages correspondence, archives, the Secretariat, convocations, minutes and institutional communications.

5. Spiritual Counsellor

Oversees spiritual and religious matters and official celebrations.

6. Grand Ceremonier

Oversees ceremonies, events, assemblies and institutional and diplomatic protocol.

7. Gonfalonier

Guards and represents the banner and collaborates in institutional and charitable activities.

8. Seneschal

Assists and guides new Knights and Dames through the process of joining the Fraternitas.

9. Orator

Is the custodian of the statutory principles, oversees official matters and contributes to maintaining order and dignity during meetings.

10. First Counsellor

Collaborates in cultural, social, charitable and cooperation initiatives and manages institutional relations according to the responsibilities assigned.

11. First Marshal

Is primarily responsible for the planning, preparation, organisation, choreography and conduct of all official functions.

He or she supervises compliance with the dress code and the correct arrangement and use of mantles, decorations, collars and medals according to the rank of membership, including Knight, Officer Knight, Commander, Grand Officer and Grand Cross.

During ceremonies, he or she supervises the conduct of members and reports to the Grand Magisterium or Supreme Grand Council any violations of the Statutes, Internal Regulations or chivalric dignity.

12. Master of Ceremonies

Is responsible for the Rite of Investiture Ceremonies and assists and collaborates with the Grand Ceremonier in carrying out official functions.

13. Captain of the Guard

Commands the personal and institutional Guard Corps of the Prince-Grand Master.

He or she is appointed directly by the Prince-Grand Master and reports to the Prince-Grand Master and the Grand Magisterium.

He or she reports directly to the Prince-Grand Master with regard to the protection, representation and personal service of the Supreme Head.

He or she reports to the Grand Magisterium with regard to the organisation, coordination and ordinary functioning of the Guard Corps.

He or she coordinates members of the Guard, representation services, internal discipline, ceremonial and protocol order; accompanies the Prince-Grand Master and collaborates with the Grand Magisterium and the other organs of the Fraternitas.

He or she may receive additional assignments from the Prince-Grand Master or the Grand Magisterium.

The Captain of the Guard does not exercise general disciplinary authority over members of the Fraternitas.

14. Grand Jury

Is the body competent in disciplinary and conciliatory matters.

It consists of the Grand Judge, the First Judge and the Assistant Judge.

It examines internal disputes, violations of the Statutes and Internal Regulations and disciplinary matters.

With the approval of at least ten High Dignitaries, it may request the extraordinary convocation of the Grand Council to bring any member, including the Prince-Grand Master, before proceedings in accordance with Article 31.

15. Council of Supervisors

It consists of at least three Knights, at least one of whom must hold the rank of Commander or higher.

It supervises territorial and diplomatic structures and the conduct of Knights and Dames.

It reports to the Lieutenant General.

It does not directly exercise disciplinary authority, except for the reporting and supervisory powers provided for by the Statutes and Internal Regulations.

ARTICLE 24 – MEETINGS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL

The Grand Council shall meet at least four times a year.

It is convened by the Prince-Grand Master or at the request of the majority of its members.

Ordinary notice shall be given at least ten days in advance; in urgent cases, it may also be convened on the preceding day.

It is presided over by the Prince-Grand Master or, in his or her absence, by the Lieutenant General.

The meeting is validly constituted with the presence of a majority of its members, provided that the Prince-Grand Master or the Lieutenant General is present.

The presence of all members renders the meeting valid even without prior notice.

Resolutions shall be adopted by a majority of those present. In the event of a tie, the vote of the President shall prevail.

The Grand Council shall deliberate on:

- a) budget and financial statements;
- b) matters to be submitted to the General Chapter;
- c) assets;
- d) fees and contributions;
- e) emblem and symbols;
- f) general and territorial regulations;
- g) regulations governing national structures;
- h) any other matter assigned by the Statutes.

ARTICLE 25 – INSIGNIA OF THE HIGH DIGNITARIES

The Grand Cross is accompanied by a gold plaque and a red or green sash according to the ceremonial regulations.

Collars, insignia, medals and other decorations shall be regulated according to the rank and office held.

ARTICLE 26 – FORMER DIGNITARIES

Former High Dignitaries retain the corresponding Ad Honorem title.

During ceremonies, they retain a precedence subsequent to that of the serving holders of the same dignity.

ARTICLE 27 – GENERAL CHAPTER

The General Chapter shall meet at least once a year.

It is convened by the Prince-Grand Master or, in his or her absence, by the Lieutenant General.

The meeting shall be validly chaired by the Prince-Grand Master, the Lieutenant General or a Magisterial Delegate.

An Extraordinary Chapter may be requested by half of the members entitled to participate.

Should the General Chapter not be convened, the Grand Chancellor may convene it within two months.

Knights and Dames belonging to the categories provided for by the Statutes shall participate.

Ad Honorem dignities have an advisory function and no voting rights, unless otherwise provided by magisterial decision.

The General Chapter:

- a) examines the financial statement;
- b) examines the report on activities;
- c) ratifies amendments to the Statutes when required;
- d) exercises the additional powers assigned by the Statutes.

Notice of the meeting must be given at least thirty days in advance by post, electronic means or publication on the official website.

Each member in good standing with his or her associative obligations has one vote and may represent, by proxy, only one other member.

The Prince-Grand Master presides over the assembly and verifies the regularity of the voting procedures.

The Prince-Grand Master may exercise a veto on stated institutional grounds.

At first convocation, a quorum of half plus one of those entitled to vote is required; at second convocation, the assembly shall be valid regardless of the number of members present.

Resolutions shall be approved by a majority of votes cast, abstentions not being counted.

ARTICLE 28 – REGISTERS AND MAGISTERIAL ARCHIVE

Magisterial acts shall be recorded by the General Secretariat in the official registers of the Fraternitas.

Acts shall be signed by the Prince-Grand Master and countersigned by the Grand Chancellor when required.

The historical archive of the Fraternitas is permanent and shall be carefully preserved.

ARTICLE 29 – TERRITORIAL STRUCTURES

The Fraternitas may be organised into National Chapters, Provinces, Lieutenancies, Pories, Bailiwicks, Commanderies, Sections, Sub-Pories and other authorised structures.

The territorial officer in charge is a Magisterial Delegate, who may bear the title of Prior, Bailiff or Commander according to the level of the structure.

He or she manages ordinary affairs, meetings and ceremonies within the assigned territory.

He or she may be assisted by a Chancellor, Judge, Sacristan, Treasurer, Master of Ceremonies, Gonfalonier, Counsellor, Secretary, Seneschal and Orator.

Territorial structures do not possess administrative or accounting autonomy, except by specific derogation of the Grand Council.

Structures may be divided into Sections, Commanderies, Sub-Priories, Priories and Bailiwicks.

The Grand Chancellor may accredit Plenipotentiary Ministers and Ambassadors.

ARTICLE 30 – GENERAL CHAPTER AND INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

The General Chapter is convened by the Prince-Grand Master or, in his or her absence, by the Lieutenant General or the Grand Chancellor.

It examines the reports of the organs and territorial structures.

Chapters of other States may participate through a maximum of three representatives.

TITLE VI

DISCIPLINE

ARTICLE 31 – DISCIPLINE AND SANCTIONS

The Lieutenant General may apply the minor sanctions provided for by the Internal Regulations.

In cases of serious violations, the Lieutenant General, following consultation with the Grand Chancellor, may order a precautionary suspension pending examination by the Grand Jury.

Sanctions may include:

- a) verbal reprimand;
- b) written reprimand;
- c) formal censure;
- d) warning or formal reprimand;
- e) suspension;
- f) dismissal;
- g) lifetime suspension from offices and prerogatives.

The Grand Jury may propose dismissal or lifetime suspension after hearing the person concerned and acquiring the necessary information.

The accused must be informed and may defend himself or herself personally or with the assistance of a Knight of the Fraternitas.

The Prince-Grand Master may accept the explanations, impose a different sanction, confirm the decision or grant a pardon or commutation by Motu Proprio.

Dismissal and lifetime suspension constitute prerogatives of the Prince-Grand Master according to the procedure provided for by these Statutes.

If the accused is a member of the Grand Jury, the other two members shall proceed with the assessment.

If the accused is the Prince-Grand Master, the proceedings shall take place in two stages before the Grand Council: the first requires a unanimous vote, and the second requires a simple majority.

The Grand Jury may regulate procedural matters through the Internal Regulations.

Internal disciplinary procedures do not constitute the exercise of public judicial functions. Any criminal offences remain within the jurisdiction of the competent public authorities.

ARTICLE 32 – ADVISERS AND EXPERTS

The Prince-Grand Master may invite members or persons external to the Grand Council for technical, scientific, cultural or specialised matters.

The Grand Chancellor, with the authorisation of the Prince-Grand Master, may establish committees composed of at least three Knights and any external experts.

TITLE VII

INTERNATIONAL NATURE, HEADQUARTERS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 33 – INTERNATIONAL NATURE AND FUNCTIONAL AUTONOMY

The Fraternitas has an international nature and operates through functional and territorial structures.

The dignities, offices and functions exercised within the Fraternitas are associative and internal institutional in nature and do not entail the exercise of sovereign powers or public authority, unless such powers are expressly recognised or attributed by the applicable law.

The Fraternitas may establish relations of friendship, collaboration, twinning, cooperation and representation with entities and institutions compatible with its purposes.

ARTICLE 34 – OFFICIAL, HISTORICAL AND INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

The Official, Historical and International Headquarters of the Fraternitas is established at the Castle of Viglas, Slovakia.

The Grand Council may resolve to transfer the headquarters.

Internal communications may be carried out by electronic mail, messaging systems or publication on the official website.

Unless otherwise provided, the ordinary period for communications shall be eight days, without prejudice to the specific periods provided for in Articles 24 and 27.

ARTICLE 35 – RESIDENCE OF THE GRAND MASTER AND REPRESENTATION AT THE HEADQUARTERS

The Prince-Grand Master has his or her residence at the Castle of Viglas, Official, Historical and International Headquarters of the F.O.D. VIGLAS.

The presence of the Grand Master at the Official Headquarters guarantees the continuity of the magisterial function and constitutes the principal institutional reference.

The Castle of Viglas therefore represents the centre of the magisterial, institutional and ceremonial life of the Fraternitas, where the Grand Magisterium, Grand Council, General Chapter and principal ceremonies may be convened.

In the event of the absence or impediment of the Grand Master, the functions of representation and governance shall be exercised in accordance with Article 20 by the Lieutenant General, within the limits of his or her competences and any delegations received.

No permanent position of Magisterial Vicar at Viglas is provided for, except where specific needs are determined by the Grand Magisterium.

ARTICLE 36 – FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year shall close on 31 December of each year.

Within one hundred and twenty days, the Treasurer shall prepare the financial statement and accounting documentation.

The Grand Council shall examine and approve the documentation and submit it to the General Chapter when required.

Management shall be based on transparency, correctness and respect for the non-profit nature of the Fraternitas and applicable legislation.

ARTICLE 37 – AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

Amendments to these Statutes shall be resolved exclusively by the Grand Council by a majority of two-thirds of those present, unless higher majorities are required by applicable law.

Where provided for by Article 27, amendments shall be submitted for ratification by the General Chapter.

The resolution of the Grand Council and any ratification by the General Chapter constitute two distinct stages of the procedure.

For matters not governed by these Statutes, the Internal Regulations and applicable legislative provisions shall apply.

ARTICLE 38 – ENTRY INTO FORCE AND OFFICIAL TEXT

These Statutes shall enter into force on the date of their approval by the competent body.

They may be published in such international languages as deemed appropriate.

In the event of translations, the official text approved by the Grand Council shall prevail over any translated version.

This document constitutes the official text of the Statutes of the Fraternitas Ordo Draconis Viglas – F.O.D. VIGLAS.

Viglas, 2026