

**Statutes of the European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories (EARSeL),
as ratified by the EARSeL General Assembly on 1 June 2011**

Article 1 Title and Seat

The European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories, hereinafter referred to as ‘the Association’, is a non-government, non-profit-making body of laboratories and other bodies engaged in research and development of peaceful applications of remote sensing including associated geo-information.

The Association has its seat in Strasbourg, 6 rue de la Toussaint, it is registered as an association with the Strasbourg Court in Volume XXXVII No.31 and is governed by Articles 21 and 79 of the Civil Code, kept in force by the Act of 1 June 1924 introducing French civil law and by the present Statutes.

Article 2 Aims of the Association

The aims of the Association are to encourage European research and to promote concerted efforts in all disciplines of remote sensing, to facilitate exchange of knowledge between Member Laboratories, to identify priorities for research activities and to foster cooperation between Member Laboratories.

This may be accomplished by way of symposia, workshops and working groups focusing on technological issues and applications of remote sensing data in various research disciplines. The Association may associate itself with joint research projects of its Member Laboratories.

The Association abstains from all political activity.

Article 3 Members and Observers

Membership of the Association shall be granted to entities in Europe engaged in all aspects of scientific research and peaceful applications of remote sensing.

Observer status may be granted to individuals in Europe and to entities and individuals in countries outside Europe.

New Member Laboratories and observers are admitted – on advice of the Council of the Association - by a vote of the General Assembly, provided they obtain a vote of at least two-thirds of the Member Laboratories present.

Article 4 Withdrawal and expulsion

Member Laboratories and observers may leave the Association at the end of the year provided they have notified the EARSeL Bureau at least six months in advance.

The General Assembly may expel a Member Laboratory or observer by at least two-thirds of the Member Laboratories present if the conditions of its membership or observer statute are no longer fulfilled.

Article 5 Organs

The organs of the Association shall be the General Assembly, the Council and the Bureau.

Article 6 General Assembly

The General Assembly is composed of one representative of each Member Laboratory. Only Member Laboratories are entitled to vote in the General Assembly. Each Member Laboratory shall have one vote cast by a properly accredited nominee.

The General Assembly decides on all matters affecting the Association including amendments to the Statutes. Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority, except in circumstances provided for by the Statutes.

The General Assembly shall be convened at least once every year. The convocation and the list of subjects of the General Assembly shall be submitted to the Member Laboratories at least one month before it takes place. The Chairman of the Bureau shall be the Chairman of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly may be convened by the EARSeL Chairman, by a simple majority of members of the EARSeL Council or by one fifth of the Member Laboratories. The convocation is done by letter to the Member Laboratories at least one month before the General Assembly.

The European Space Agency, the European Union, the Council of Europe and UNESCO may each appoint a representative to the General Assembly in an advisory capacity.

Council may invite observers to the General Assembly.

Decisions taken during the General Assembly are recorded in the Minutes of the General Assembly sent to all members and observers of the Association.

Article 7 Council

The Association is governed by a Council consisting of one representative of each of the countries that have Member Laboratories. Laboratories in two or more countries may agree to be represented by one member of Council. Member Laboratories shall elect their representative to Council by country or by a group of countries.

A representative's terms of office shall be two years, renewable for further terms of two years. The current representative shall undertake the necessary action for renewal or replacement of the representative in her/his country or group of countries.

Council shall elect the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Secretary General and Treasurer of the Association who shall constitute the EARSeL Bureau.

The Council shall elect an auditor for the period of two years who shall audit the accounts of EARSeL annually. The General Assembly approves the auditor elected by Council.

The findings of the auditor are provided to Council in writing and then presented to the General Assembly by the EARSeL Treasurer.

The auditor comes from an EARSeL member laboratory, but is acting in an independent capacity. He/she is not currently a member of the EARSeL Bureau.

The European Space Agency, the Commission of the European Communities, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and national remote sensing societies may each appoint a representative to the EARSeL Council in an advisory capacity.

Article 8 Bureau

The EARSeL Bureau is the executive body of the Association.

The Bureau has four offices: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary General and Treasurer.

An 'International coordinator' is ex-officio member of the Bureau.

The Bureau may invite individuals to attend its meetings in an advisory capacity.

The Bureau communicates with the Member Laboratories by way of the EARSeL Newsletter and a Homepage on the Web.

Article 9 Terms and election of Bureau members

Election of Bureau members is made every two years.

Voting will be secret and by a written note. Voting may be made by mail.

Election for the four offices is made in the sequence of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary General and Treasurer. Re-election is possible, but no member of the Bureau may serve for more than two terms in one office.

A note in the EARSeL Newsletter and on the home page of the Association inviting potential candidates to present themselves opens the process of election. Member Laboratories are advised at the same time by mail. Candidates are presented to Council Members by mail at least one month before its meeting in connection with the General Assembly.

Article 10 Budget

Presented to the General Assembly, the Assembly shall approve the accounts for the preceding year and the budget for the coming year.

With a recommendation by Council the General Assembly shall approve the annual membership fee. The Association may accept gifts.

Article 11 Amendments of the Statutes

Members of the EARSeL Council or the EARSeL Bureau may suggest amendments to the Statutes. Proposals may be tabled with Council by one-fifth of the Member Laboratories.

Council will consider suggestions at its next meeting if tabled at least two months before.

With the recommendation of Council amendments shall take effect if they receive the support of two-thirds of the Member Laboratories present at the General Assembly.

Article 12 Dissolution

A move for the dissolution of the Association shall follow the rules laid down in Article 11 for amendments to the Statutes.

After the settlements of the debts of the Associations and the fulfilments of its commitments, the General Assembly that has voted for the dissolution shall decide on the sharing of its remaining assets among the Member Laboratories or otherwise.