



The General Statutes of the Order

(promulgated 10th May 1981; revised by the Grand Magisterial Council 30th May 2005)

The Articles of Association of The Sovereign Order of the Knights of Justice

Preamble

The Sovereign Order of the Knights of Justice is an international, non-political, nondenominational and independent non-profit Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) according to the European Convention on the Recognition of the Legal Personality of International Non-Governmental Organizations. Traditionally it has been organized as a Chivalric Order.

The Order shall proliferate as a non-profit society. Admission shall be possible for any person of good standing no matter their social or political affiliation. The Order originated as a Christian Order but is now ecumenical. The Grand Master is the Sovereign Head of the Order and it is within his gift to grant admission to the Order, though he may delegate his Powers. In each jurisdiction a Priory or Commandery shall be established. Those particular dependent Priories or Commanderies are governed by a Prior. The Priories are, in case they shall be if legally required, registered in each of the states or countries where they are located. A registration as a joint-stock company is not permitted.

The Chivalric Order of the Knights of Justice is an ancient Order from medieval times and has its origin in England. It was referred to as "L'Odre de la Table Ronde" after King Arthur's round table. After the accession to the throne of Henry the 8th (1491 - 1547) and the Anglican "schism", the Order strictly Catholic became almost dormant and was revived in the 19th century. In case that any unauthorized third person, body corporate, etc. shall illegally make use of the name, the Insignias etc. of the Order or attempts to do so, it will be our explicit aim to try by all means to stop these.

The highest priority of the Order is to attain recognition under international law. Toward that aim, the Grand Chancellery may register the Order in other jurisdictions as may be most convenient.

General Administration

All statutes and decrees of the governing Grand Magisterial Council of the Order, and of the Grand Master, shall be promulgated through the office of the Grand Chancellery and copies of each such statute or decrees shall be forwarded to the Head of each Jurisdiction within the Order, and to such additional persons within the Order as may be required to ensure full distribution of such statute or decree. It shall be the responsibility of each Jurisdiction within the Order to establish procedures for such Jurisdiction, which shall ensure that each Member of the Order in that Jurisdiction receives notice of each statute and decree promulgated.

All decrees emanating from the Grand Master, whether issued direct or through the Grand Chancellor, shall be promulgated through the Grand Chancellery.

No Branch or Grand Priory or Commandery within the Order shall without prior written approval of the Grand Chancellery or the governing Grand Magisterial Council of the Order solicit, circularise or

otherwise contact the members and affiliates of any other subordinate Jurisdiction within the Order on any matter dealing with the Order, in the absence of the written consent of the Head of the subordinate Jurisdiction whose members are to be contacted. Where consent has been given to such contact by the Head of the Jurisdiction whose members are to be contacted, the Head of the Jurisdiction making the contact shall report in writing to the Grand Master's office or the Grand Chancellery the purpose for such contact. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the communication between Commanders or Officers or individual members of different Jurisdictions.

As a rule each Member forms part of his/her national Jurisdiction. If this Jurisdiction is divided into sub-jurisdictions the member may join one sub-jurisdiction acting in its region. If a member wishes to be transferred from one sub-jurisdiction to another national or international Jurisdiction, this may be performed on written approval or confirmation of the involved Heads of Jurisdictions only.

Heads of Jurisdictions may make statutes for the good administration of their Jurisdiction but such statute may not contain any authority that disagrees with the decrees and statutes of the Order, which will always be the main ruling authority.

Article 1

The Order is a legal entity registered in the country and/or state of residence. The name of this non-profit foundation is "The Sovereign Order of the Knights of Justice". The registered address will be the location of the registrar. The registrar will operate as current President or Chairman of this non-profit foundation until the designated Prior/Chancellor or Head of Jurisdiction will be appointed for these positions.

Article 2

The social objectives of this non-profit foundation are to function as a charitable, chivalric order to keep and further its founding purposes and historic traditions.

Article 3

The structure of this non-profit foundation is formed through the Board of the Order and their members. All members are belonging to their local Commanderies and/or Pories.

Article 4

The Members of the Board of this non-profit Foundation are the Grand Prior (appointed as Chairman of the Board), the Prior or Chief Commander (appointed as Vice-President), the Chancellor (appointed as President of the Foundation), the Secretary General, the Treasurer General and the Counsellor/Justiciar. One board member can act in more than one position. The Board of this non-profit foundation will have an annual meeting to verify and revise the Order's activities and revenues. The Grand Prior (or Prior) will have a double vote and all other members of the Board have a single vote. All resolutions will be confirmed and ratified by simple majority plus one vote. The Quorum for any Board shall consist of not less than 4 high officers, and not more than 6. The non-profit foundation has to be maintained in legal good standing at all times. The dissolution of this non-profit foundation can be filed only by the majority vote of the Board and upon written approval of the Grand Chancellery's office.

Article 5

The finances of the Order and/or all payments are based on donations. All moneys are used for materials and decorations of the Order, and for events and other expenses. Any donations aside from ablations and/or annual fees or fund raising are considered special and outside of the general operating fund and shall be used for charity activities.

On passage fees (entry fees); the national jurisdictions will retain the amount approved by the Grand Master and remit the balance to the Grand Chancellery with the application to join the Order.

It shall be a requirement of membership of the Order that each member shall pay such obligations and/or passage fees as may properly from time to time be assessed, as provided in the Ordinances. No individual or body shall be deemed to have become a member until their oblations / passage fees shall have been received in full by the Grand Chancellery of the Order. For good cause shown, in individual cases, the Grand Master or the Head of the appropriate Jurisdiction may suspend or remit the requirements of this Article 5.

If a Subscriptions / Annual Dues have been agreed by the council of a jurisdiction and payable, then Article 5 shall become due for each member of this jurisdiction and shall become due on the 15th of February in every year.

If any Member (who or which is liable to pay any agreed dues) shall fail to pay the his/her dues and has become due, the Grand Chancellery may order their name to be struck off the list of Members whereupon they shall cease to be a Member, and will become as inactive Member of the Order. Members who refuse or neglect to comply with the provisions of the Constitution or Statutes or behave in a way which in the opinion of the Grand Council is or may be injurious to the Order may be called upon by the Grand Chancellery by notice in writing to resign. Any such Members who, when so called upon, fail to do so within 30 days of the receipt of the said notice may forthwith be expelled by the Grand Council of the Order after a resolution for this purpose has been passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Council's Members present and voting at a meeting of which special notice has been given to the member in question. A Member resigning or expelled und the Constitution or Statutes or whose name is struck off pursuant to Article 5 shall nevertheless remain liable for all moneys then due to the Order.

If sub-jurisdictions are established depending to a local Jurisdiction, all fees and annual oblations have to be paid directly to the Treasurer of local Jurisdiction who shall in turn remit the amounts ordered by the Grand Chancellery.

The approved amount for retention is for administrative purpose and each Jurisdiction will settle the amount between Jurisdictions and sub-jurisdictions themselves.

No approval will be given without receipt of the appropriate fees.

All donations or fund-raising may be retained in full at the national Jurisdiction and also other donations to be used for charity activities.

Article 6

Each jurisdiction and Grand Priory and Commandery, etc. shall maintain full books of accounting presentable to the Grand Chancellery's office upon demand at any time.

Article 7

The non-profit foundation operates as a Chivalric Order and has a limited liability of a maximum of free and non-pledged assets in the Jurisdiction of registration. The exemption of liability shall be set up legally in accordance to the local law recognition.

Article 8

Every applicant (male and female) for membership of the Order shall submit his/her application through his/her local (national) Jurisdiction on application forms provided by the Order. The application has to be duly signed and sealed by the senior commanders or officers of the Jurisdiction and submitted to the Grand Chancellery's office for final approval.

Each Jurisdiction within the Order shall follow the Grand Master's criteria.

The appropriate ranks of the Knights of Justice are divided into four Classes:

1st Class:

Knight (or Dame) Grand Cross is wearing the red Sash and the Breast Star Cross of the Order.

The rank of Grand Cross is a mark of highest distinction.

The use of the post-nominal letters GCJ

2nd Class:

Knight (or Dame) Grand Commander/Officer is wearing the Commander Cross with Crown on the ribbon pendant from the neck.

The Grand Commander/Officer's ribbon is red with four yellow lines, two lines on each side.

The use of the post-nominal letters KCJ/DCJ

3rd Class:

Knight (or Dame) Commander is wearing the Commander Cross with Crown on the ribbon pendant from the neck.

The Commander's ribbon is red with two yellow lines, one yellow line on each side.

The use of the post-nominal letters KCJ/DCJ

4th Class:

Knight (or Dame) of Justice, or Knight (or Dame) of Honour is wearing the Knight Cross on the ribbon pendant from the neck.

The Knight's ribbon is red with two green lines, one green line on each side.

The use of the post-nominal letters KJ/DJ

Further in this class, the Order can issue or award the Cross of Merit of the Order in the rank as Knight (or Dame) of Honour.

The use of the post-nominal letters for Knight (or Dame) of Honour: KJ/DJ

Companion:

Member Companion is wearing just the Order's lapel pin (cross).

The use of the post-nominal letters MJ

Article 9

The Insignia consists of red enamelled cross of eight points with golden edges and golden dots on each point; on the centre of golden embossed shield, 19th century English style, with two crossed swords and a rampant lion on top, thereon the motto of the Order at the bottom LEX · JUSTITIA · PAX and at the top end of the shield is written S·O·K·J (or K·O·J). The cross of Knight Commander comes with a golden crown on the upper end of the cross. The ribbon of the Order is red with either side of one green stripes for Knights or Dames and/or with either side of one or two yellow stripes for Commanders.

Article 10

The Insignia of the Knight Classes are by tradition a red enamelled cross of eight points with golden shield on the centre and is worn on a ribbon pendent from the neck.

The Insignia of the Commander Classes are recognized by the same cross with a golden crown on the upper end of the cross and is worn on a ribbon pendent from the neck.

The Order's First Class Insignia is the golden chipped star of eight points; in the centre the red enamelled cross/shield and is worn on the left side of the chest.

The size of the cross is of 4.5 x 4.5 centimetres and the ribbon is of 3.0 centimetres width.

Article 11

All classes of the Sovereign Order of the Knights of Justice are awarded for women too, as well as the crosses and decorations, and carried in the same way as is formed by the ribbon of the Order and the cross as mentioned before in Article 8 and 10 for each class.

Article 12

The Sovereign Order of the Knights of Justice will reserve the right to grant the Grand Cross on special occasions only. The rank of Grand Cross is the highest distinction of the Order. The Grand Cross will be awarded exceptionally to personalities of positions in the rank of Grand Officer and/or Grand Prior or similar. The Order doesn't want a generalization of the endowment of this special class.

Article 13

Whenever the Order endows somebody with decorations of the Order it shall always be led by the original aim of the Order. Namely, the reward for the services somebody renders for the Sovereign Order of the Knights of Justice, and the acknowledgement of proven loyalty and devotion.

Article 14

The conferment of the ranks and titles of the Order ensues upon approval by the Grand Chancellery and by the Grand Master in recognition of the special services being accomplished for the Sovereign Order of the Knights of Justice by postulants.

Article 15

After the decease of the bearer of the decorations of the Order may be kept in the remaining family. Heir has a right to join on application and acceptance, at the discretion of the Grand Master.

Article 16

Departure from the Order:

Persons wishing to depart from the Order shall inform the Office of the Sovereign Grand Master or his Designate Officer (e.g. Grand Chancellor) at the Executive Council in writing of their resignation there from. The Grand Master and The Executive Council will accept and confirm the Determination of those persons and will determine their Membership from the Order.

Dismissal from the Order:

In case that the Holder/Member of an honourable rank misbehaves or violates any of the codes of conduct, propriety and tarnishes or potentially damages the reputation of the Order, the Order has the duty to withdraw the honour of the Order granted to any such Member. Passage fees forfeited.

The Dismissal from the Order shall be invoked only for the gravest Cause and for the most recalcitrant dishonouring of the Oath of Loyalty and of the Aims and Purposes of the Order.

Dismissal shall always be preceded by intervention with the Member concerned by the Sovereign Grand Master or his Designate Officer (e.g. Grand Chancellor) or the Executive Council, to attempt to resolve the Matters at Issue.

If, after informal efforts have been unsuccessful, it is determined that Dismissal is appropriate and in reference to the foregoing case of Misbehaviours or Violations of the Codes of the Order, the Executive Council of the Order will have a meeting of Dismissal and will agree and decide the Issue of Dismissal from the Order. The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Council shall not be less than three members and a majority vote shall decide the Issue. The Issue of Dismissal has to be approved and

confirmed by The Grand Master of the Order. The Member concerned shall be informed of the Dismissal by written Notice.

Should the Member concerned a Motion of Dismissal by the Executive Council then the Member concerned shall be provided with an opportunity to answer in writing within 7 days after the Member concerned has got a written Notice regarding his/her case of Misbehaviours or Violations of the Codes of the Order and that the Executive Council of the Order will have a meeting of Dismissal of that Member concerned.

Once the opportunity of Motion is missed or the Motion request by Member's concerned writing is done, the Executive Council shall vote upon the Motion of Dismissal and a majority vote shall decide the Issue.

Article 17

The Motto of the Order is: “**Lex – Justitia – Pax**” or “**Law – Justice – Peace**”.

Article 18

The Organization of the Order will be divided in Councils as follows:

- a) GOVERNING GRAND MAGISTERIAL COUNCIL
- b) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (GRAND CHANCELLERY)
- c) COUNCIL OF THE GRAND PRIORY (JURISDICTION)
- d) MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF THE ORDER'S COUNCILS

- All appointments to the each of these Order's Councils will be at the discretion of the Sovereign Grand Master, and will be for life, but serve at the pleasure of the Grand Master.
- All correspondence between Heads of Jurisdiction and the Grand Master relating to the Order shall be channelled through the Office of the Grand Chancellery.
- All members of these Order's Councils will retire at the age of eighty years, when they have to offer their resignation. They may apply to continue for a period of two more years followed at the pleasure of the Grand Master.

a) The GOVERNING GRAND MAGISTERIAL COUNCIL of the Order:

- The Governing Grand Magisterial Council of the Order shall consist of not more than 24 nor less than 12 high officers by appointment.
- In addition the Grand Master will appoint such members are remaining part of the Grand Magisterial Council for the time being but subject as inactive member of the Governing Grand Council's quorum.
- The Grand Magisterial Council will normally be held once a calendar year (at least every two years) and will be summoned by the Office of the Grand Chancellery upon the order of the Grand Master.
- The agenda of the Grand Magisterial Council Meeting will be prepared by the Grand Chancellor or the Lieutenant Grand Master, and has to be sent out with a formal invitation by 2 (two) months in advance before scheduling that Grand Magisterial Council Meeting.
- A member of the Governing Grand Magisterial Council who fails to attend a Grand Magisterial Council Meeting for 3 (three) consecutive times unless “force major” (which should be specified) shall forfeit his/her seat forthwith. No proxy is permissible and presence must be in person. Members of Grand Magisterial Council whose service is terminated for any reason whatsoever may be appointed Grand Magisterial Council Emeritus or not at the discretion of the Grand Master.
- The Council's Meeting will consist of the Grand Master, the Grand Chancellor and all members appointed to the Governing Grand Magisterial Council of the Order.
- No member may hold two appointments on the Governing Grand Magisterial Council at the same time.

- Any member of the Grand Magisterial Council who resigns his/her Grand Office or becomes incapable of fulfilling the duties required of him/her as a member of the Grand Magisterial Council shall be removed from that Council by decree of the Grand Master.
- The quorum for a Grand Magisterial Council meeting shall be not less than 6 (six) members including the Grand Master or the Grand Chancellor. Should a quorum of six members not be reached, the meeting is proceeded with after thirty minutes when those present will form a quorum providing that either the Grand Master or the Grand Chancellor is present. If neither of these high dignitaries is present, the meeting will be proceeded with under the chairmanship of the senior member present who will present a report to the Grand Master, and the Grand Master has agree and confirm that report.
- The Grand Magisterial Decrees of the Order and matters relating to administration must be signed by: Grand Master (or Lieutenant Grand Master), and/or Grand Chancellor, and/or Grand Secretary, and/or Grand Justiciar, but at least of two signatories.
- The relative Duties of Senior High Officers are issued under “The Duties of Senior High Officers of the Order”.

The administration of The Governing Grand Magisterial Council of the Order shall consist of:

1. Sovereign Grand Master
2. Lieutenant Grand Master
3. Grand Chancellor
4. Grand Secretary
5. Grand Treasurer
6. Grand Magistrate
7. Grand Bailiff
8. Grand Justiciar
9. Grand Custodian and Grand Ceremonist
10. King of Arms and Herald Principal
11. Grand Archivist and Grand Historian
12. Grand Prelate

The following seats are to remain part of the Grand Magisterial Council for the time being but subject to natural wastage without having any vote at the quorum of the Governing Grand Magisterial Council’s meeting and shall not be replaced, unless the Grand Master will decide otherwise. They will continue that way at the discretion of the Grand Master:

13. Lord Protector of the Order
14. Royal Patron of the Order
15. Vice Grand Chancellor & Keeper of the Seal
16. Grand Registrar
17. Counsellor General
18. Grand Commissioner (Grand Marshall)
19. Chief Herald
20. Grand Genealogist
21. Grand Inquisitor
22. Grand Almoner
23. Grand Hospitaller
24. Speaker of the Grand Council

Some of those seats (13. to 24.) may be not covered for the time being, but will be appointed on the Order’s needs and at the discretion of the Grand Master.

b) The EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (GRAND CHANCELLERY) of the Order:

- The Executive Council of the Order shall consist of not less than 4 high officers, and not more than 6 by appointment.

- The Grand Chancellor shall be the Chairman of the Executive Council.
- The Executive Council acts as the Grand Chancellery of the Order and is the Supreme Council of the Order.
- The Executive Council shall meet at least once every calendar year and/or at discretion of the Grand Master in order to examine the affairs of the Order in general as the Order's executive organ and reports therewith to the Grand Master. The Executive Council shall also discuss, and advise and assist the Grand Master in the execution of matters of policy.
- The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Council shall not be less than four members.
- All matters relating the membership to the Order and matters relating operations of the Order shall be decided and agreed by the Executive Council. All issues have to be approved and confirmed by The Grand Master of the Order.
- All documents relating the membership and Operations of the Order, and Diplomas must be signed by: Grand Master (or Lieutenant Grand Master), and/or Grand Chancellor, and/or Grand Secretary, and/or Grand Bailiff, and/or Grand Justiciar, but at least two signatories.
- In all cases unless the above documents bear the signatures indicated, they shall be declared null and void.

The members of The Executive Council (Grand Chancellery) shall be:

1. Sovereign Grand Master (or Lieutenant Grand Master)
2. Grand Chancellor
3. Grand Secretary
4. Grand Treasurer
5. Grand Bailiff
6. Grand Justiciar

c) The COUNCIL OF THE GRAND PRIORY (JURISDICTION):

- The Order is divided into a number of Jurisdictions that vary in name but all are equal in rank and status. They form part of the Order's country organization and are commanded by Grand Priors, Priors, Commanders, Companions and Delegates.
- Jurisdictions may in turn be divided into dependant sub-jurisdictions called Commanderies or Delegations, but such are always subject to their Head of Jurisdiction and the Grand Chancellery.
- There shall be no distinction between Pories and Grand Pories and Commanderies as these terms have historically been used in the Order except as provided herein. All Jurisdictions called Pories or Commanderies are by nature the same, and the foregoing terms may be used interchangeably as best suits the requirements of the local jurisdiction. The terms Grand Pories may also be interchangeable as best suits the requirements of the local jurisdiction, but those terms are normally limited to jurisdictions which are divided internally into Commanderies or Delegations or sub-jurisdictions of the national one, or which have within their geographic boundaries one or more Hereditary Commanderies, notwithstanding the fact the latter do not depend from the local Grand Priory, but directly from the Grand Chancellery.
- Heads of Jurisdiction, duly appointed and approved, are acting as the direct representatives of the Order. They are the only ones responsible for all matters and activities, official and unofficial, for finances and membership within their national Jurisdiction as well as for its depending sub-jurisdictions, according to the Constitution and Statutes of the Order. They may delegate as necessary to their Deputy and national Prior.
- Heads of Jurisdictions may appoint from suitable members for local officers as listed below and/or such additional local officers as may be required. They may appoint similar such officers for sub-jurisdictions under their control, including their heads, or they may delegate such power to the heads of the sub-jurisdictions. All such appointed members have to be approved by the Grand Chancellery.
- Heads of Jurisdictions may appoint from the various clerical members a Spiritual Prior upon approval by Grand Chancellery.
- On a change of Head of Jurisdiction or sub-jurisdiction all officers of such are subject to re-appointment. They hold their appointment at the pleasure of the Head of their Jurisdiction upon approval by Grand Chancellery.

The administration and organization of The Council of each Country or Jurisdiction as independent Grand Priory, or Priory, of the Order remain in office for five years and may be re-appointed:

1. Grand Prior of Country/Jurisdiction (Head of Jurisdiction and Commander-in-Chief)
2. Prior of Jurisdiction (or Sub-Jurisdiction or State/Region/County)
3. Chancellor of Priory (Country/Jurisdiction)
4. Secretary General of Priory (Country/Jurisdiction)
5. Treasurer General of Priory (Country/Jurisdiction)
6. Bailiff of Priory (Country/Jurisdiction)
7. Master of Ceremonies of Priory (Country/Jurisdiction)
8. Counsellor or Justiciar of Priory (Country/Jurisdiction)
9. Commissioner of Priory (Country/Jurisdiction)
10. Herald of Priory (Country/Jurisdiction)
11. Hospitaller of Priory (Country/Jurisdiction)
12. Chaplain or Prelate of Priory (Country/Jurisdiction)
13. Commanderies/Sub-Jurisdictions

d) MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF THE ORDER'S COUNCILS:

- Regulations in reference to the appointment of Higher Officers and/or Members of Order's Council.
- All appointments to the each of these Order's Councils will be only available for such members those are not Officers of other Councils or Board Members of any other Orders of Chivalry or other Brotherhoods or similar Societies.
- To avoid any conflict situation while a member is serving as High Officer or Board Member in more than one Order or Brotherhood it is important to have this regulation set in force.
- Each High Officer or Member of Council has to confirm and agree these regulations.
- These regulations are valid and set force for the Order's Organization and Administration like The Governing Grand Magisterial Council, and The Executive Council, and The Council of each and every Grand Priory and Priory of Jurisdiction, and Head of Commandery.
- These regulations will be enforced by the Grand Chancellery at the discretion of the Sovereign Grand Master, and will be approved and ratified by the Grand Master.

Article 19

The establishment of Grand Priories, or Priories, or Sub-Jurisdictions, or Commanderies, or Associations, and the approval of their statutes, belong to the Grand Master with the consenting majority vote of the Grand Magisterial Council.

Each Grand Priory or Priory can form its own independent administration as a Jurisdiction or Sub-Jurisdiction of that country and operates under national law and in accordance to the Order's General Statutes. Such a Grand Priory will be financed from their local membership fees and donations. The regulations about handling of all payments such as membership fees and donations are mentioned above, under Article 5. All funds shall be used in accordance with the Order's goals and budget plan approved by the Grand Chancellery's office.

The Jurisdiction or Grand Priory has to remit its tribute or donation to the Order's governing organization for supporting and maintaining the Order. The amount of donation per Grand Priory will be determined through the office of the Grand Chancellery.

In reference to the Constitution of the Order each Jurisdiction or Grand Priory can install Priories and/or Commanderies within its Jurisdiction. The Priory will be managed by a Prior and the Commandery by a Commander and they will report direct to the Head of Jurisdiction/Country. The Head of Jurisdiction/Country will nominate each Prior or Commander within the Jurisdiction or Grand Priory. Appointment will be by the Grand Master from among the nominees. The Grand Prior may make nominations.

The Grand Priory or Priory gets its name from the Jurisdiction or State or Region itself, like the name of that region or state.

The Priories and the Sub-Jurisdictions may form regional Delegations in accordance with the Order's General Statutes and Codes.

Article 20

Within the territory of the Jurisdiction or Grand Priory a Commandery can be established beside Priories, and under the supervision of a Commander or Prior. They have to follow the instructions of the authority of the Head of Jurisdiction/Country and Grand Master.

The Commandery will assume the name of the city or county/region in which it operates. A Commander will manage a Commandery.

Article 21

In addition to Grand Priories, the Order can set up Diplomatic Representations. These Representations are diplomatic by nature and depending upon the recognition of the hosting country and according to the norms of international laws.

Those Diplomatic Representations are appointed as Ambassadors for International Relations of the Order according to the International Law. Ambassadors can be citizens of the hosting country or foreign citizens, which have to be approved by the hosting country. All Ambassadors will maintain good relationships with governing bodies in the hosting country.

Upon the recognition of hosting countries the Order will issue Diplomatic Passport according to the international law. Delegates or Counsellors may hold service passports and/or member identification cards.

Article 22

The official language of the Order is English for all codes and agreements and documentations, and for all Order's official communications and decrees. In addition the Order accepts French, German, Italian and Spanish for internal communications within those Jurisdictions. In case of different interpretations, the official English text prevails.

Article 23

Indemnity: All Officers of the Order and all other Members of the Grand Council, including co-opted members of Sub-Committees of the Order and the Executive Council, shall be indemnified by the Order against all costs, expenses and losses for which they may become liable by reason of any act or thing done by them in the proper discharge of their office or duty, provided that any such expenditure shall have been authorized by the Grand Council before it was incurred.

Article 24

Amendments to the General Statutes: The General Statutes of the Order may from time to time (subject to the provisions of the Charter) be altered, added to or repealed by a resolution passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Grand Council present and voting at a general meeting of the Order duly convened for that purpose.

Amendments shall also require the Assent of the Grand Master.

Article 25

The resolution of the General Statutes of the Order were adopted:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the foregoing General Statutes of the Order read to the Grand Magisterial Council be, and hereby are adopted, ratified, confirmed and approved in all respects as the General Statutes or Articles of Association of the Sovereign Order of the Knights of Justice, and initialled by the Grand Master, and the Secretary is directed to cause these General Statutes to be amended to the Constitution of the Order. These foregoing revised General Statutes of the Order hereby are replaced the previous made General Statutes of the Order in all paragraphs.

These General Statutes have been adopted, and duly signed and sealed by our hands on this Thirtieth (30th) day of May in the year of Two Thousand Five (2005) of our Lord.

Prof. Dr. Paul A. Zammit-Lewis, The Grand Master of the Order
(former Ambassador of the Republic of Malta)