

**STATUTE**  
**of**  
**the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria**

**Chapter one**  
**Basic principles**

**Article 1** /1/ The Union of Scientists in Bulgaria (USB) is a national, voluntary, non-governmental and democratic professional organisation of scientists. It is open for scholars from the EU member-countries and all other countries in the world.

/2/ USB is a non-profit juridical person – a union acting for the profit of society, founded for an indefinite period, with its seat in Sofia.

/3/ USB and its branches act in accordance with the laws in the country, this Statute and following the acts, directives and standards of the EU.

/4/ USB is based and functions on a federative principles. Its branches can be juridical persons within the Union, preserving its property.

**Article 2** USB is a continuator of the scholarly traditions of the scientific community in Bulgaria.

**Chapter two**

**Goals, means of their achievement and activities of USB**

**Article 3** /1/ The major goal of USB is to aid the development of science and higher education in the country, stimulate their contribution to the prosperity of Republic of Bulgaria and its establishment as a full-fledged member of the EU.

/2/ USB gives expression to and protects the rights and interests of its members and supports their scientific and professional activities.

/3/ USB works actively for securing the wide mobility and successful career development of scholars, for the implementation of the European Chart of Researchers and the Code of Behaviour in the selection of researchers.

**Article 4** /1/ USB implements all means provided by the law in achieving its goals.

/2/ USB participates as an independent partner and consultant of legislative and executive institutions in the formation of the national policy of developing science and higher education as integral part of the European scientific and educational space:

1. assists in the popularisation and application of Bulgarian scientific achievements in the country and abroad, in the active implementation and development of foreign methods and technologies;
2. works for the promotion of science in all spheres of public life and economy, aids the development and implementing of science projects;
3. helps to:
  - strengthen and expand academic autonomy;
  - improve the qualification of scholars;
  - provide life-long learning and suitable forms of participation in this process;
  - provide adequate climate for research, unbiased scientific criticism and scholarly ethics;
  - develops innovations;
  - fights corruption in science and higher education.
4. participates in international scientific events;
5. works for the democratisation and free development of science;
6. contributes to the integration of scholars of scientific organisations, universities and schools of higher education, to the cooperation between fields of science, of science and other spheres of society;
7. takes part in the democratic formation of elective organs of academic autonomy, of national, branch and regional organs and funds for higher education and science;
8. organises and helps in the dissemination of knowledge among Bulgarian citizens, their training, qualification, re-training, etc;
9. works actively for the dissemination supports the participation of Bulgarian scholars in the realisation of European frame programmes and structural funds, for the implementation of Bulgarian scientific achievements in operative programmes and strategies, the ministries and regional organs of managements.

/3/ USB expresses and protects specific scientific and professional interests of scholars:

1. by participation, with its representatives, in expert, attestation and other state and public organs in the sphere of science and higher

- education;
- 2. by preparing and offering for consideration projects for the perfection of normative acts in the sphere of science and higher education;
- 3. by expressing and defending stands on problems concerning salaries, social security, and employment of scholars before state institutions, public and scientific organisations and schools of higher educations;
- 4. by taking a stand on financial and taxation policy concerning schools of higher education and scientific organisations;
- 5. by helping Union branches and members in negotiations with the managing bodies of schools of higher education and scientific organisations and in the resolution of problems related to their scientific and professional activities;
- 6. by achieving contacts and organising joint activities with trade -union and other organisations in the defence of the common interests of its members;
- 7. by taking part in committees and other public formations for coordination of interests;
- 8. by using active forms of protection of intellectual property of union members and Union branches.

/4/ USB stimulates creative initiatives of its members by:

- 1. carrying out programmes for post-graduate qualification and specialisation of scholars, on its own and/or together with foreign organisations;
- 2. preparing and offering for consideration research projects, expert opinions, reviews and prognoses;
- 3. providing necessary material conditions for the creation of products of science of high quality;
- 4. popularising the best products of science;
- 5. organising events to morally and materially stimulate its members – competitions, prizes, etc;
- 6. making proposals for the election of academicians and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences, for granting state awards, honorary titles and prizes;
- 7. using various forms to help its members who suffer financial difficulties, medical problems or high degree of disability. To achieve this mission, USB cooperates with humanitarian and other organisations and with donors.

**Article 5** To achieve its goals USB, by itself or with other organisations:

- 1. forms provisional or permanent councils, committees, work groups, agencies, etc;
- 2. organises and supports scientific congresses, conferences, discussions, lectures;
- 3. participates in and supports the participation of its members in international congresses, symposia, seminars, keeps up active links with other foreign scientific organisations and makes use of other forms of scientific exchange;
- 4. publishes in the country and abroad;
- 5. organises homes and clubs for scientific activities;
- 6. executes public control on scholars for breaches of academic ethics;
- 7. acquires assets and takes care of property;
- 8. organises or takes part in events, permitted by the law, in defence of the interest of the scientific community;
- 9. assists Union members and members of their families in insurance, supplementary retirement and health insurance, legal procedures, recreation, congress tourism and other activities;
- 10. supports, within its capacities, members of the Union, their families and their heirs;
- 11. answers complaints and requests and offers consultations to its members;
- 12. makes use of the mass media to advertise its activities and its stands on current issues of science and higher education.

**Article 6** USB in Bulgaria functions in the following spheres: science and research, education, innovation, culture, ecology, health care, international cooperation, information and information technologies, social security and sports.

**Article 7** /1/ USB carries out additional economic activities, connected with its major sphere and uses the funds acquired to achieve the goals stated in the Statute of USB:

- organises participation in national and foreign programmes and projects and guarantees their financial and legal services;

- organises groups for the development and resolution of problems and tasks, negotiated with commercial organisations, enterprises, government, economic and non-profit bodies and organisations;
  - organises a bank of intellectual products and their presentation to the consumers by functioning as mediator in sells and agreements for their implementation and distribution;
  - acts as mediator in the protection of intellectual property;
  - represents national and foreign organisations and institutions related to the goals of USB;
  - publishes and aids the publishing of books, journals, brochures, newspapers, advertising and other printed materials, prepress connected with them and distribution;
  - organises and participates, in the country and abroad, in scientific events, fairs, expositions, takes care of hotel reservations, transport, conference halls, printed materials connected with them;
  - organises scientific and congress tourism, entertainments, visits to cultural and sports events, etc;
  - carries out cultural activities in all spheres of science, technology, production, economy, finance, ecology, medicine, education, law, history, etc;
  - organises and carries out education, qualification and re-training of people with different educational degrees, offering courses, schools and other educational forms created for the occasion;
  - assesses real property, land property, machines and equipment, projects, prototypes and products, scientific products, privatisation deals, building and consolidation plans;
  - acts as mediator in supplementary retirement and health insurance;
  - offers copying, printing and other services connected with the activities of scholars;
  - creates, individually or together with other organisations, laboratories, consulting centres, diagnostic structures, technical bases, etc. aiding the realisation of economic activities, of small enterprises and initial production of science-consuming products.
- /2/ USB can, individually or in cooperation with other organisations, create companies, participate as partner with limited liability in companies, buy stakes, bonds and securities.
- /3/ USB publishes the journal "Science" as its official organ.
- /4/ USB considers electronic carriers of information the basic means of communicating with its members and organisation branches and keeps up a Web-page in Internet. It contains the recent events in the activity of the organisation and problems of science and higher education, topics for discussion.

### **Chapter three**

#### **Membership, rights and responsibilities**

**Article 8** Membership in USB is voluntary.

**Article 9** Members of USB can be physical and juridical persons.

**Article 10** /1/ Members of USB can be Bulgarian and foreign citizens who possess scientific degree and/or academic rank or have a university degree and lecture or have lectured at university or have practiced research.

/2/ The title "Honorary member of USB" can be awarded to a Bulgarian or foreign citizen of international recognition or one who has considerable contribution for the structuring and development of USB. The General Assembly of Proxies (GAP) specifies the concrete criteria and requirements for awarding the title.

**Article 11** /1/ Written applications for membership in USB are deposited with the respective Union branch accompanied by:

1. CV;
2. list of major publications;
3. copies of two publications of the candidate;
4. written recommendations by two members of USB.

/2/ Requirements under paragraphs 3 and 4 of the preceding Article are not valid for scholars possessing academic rank and scientific degree.

/3/ The **Bureau** of the Union branch pronounces its decision on the application within a month.

/4/ The decision for the acceptance of a new member is sent to the Managing Board of USB.

/5/ Refusal of a Union branch to accept the applicant as member of USB can be contested before the General Assembly of the branch and in case of refusal – before GAP of USB.

/6/ Scholars from EU countries members of USB and working on the territory of the country share equal rights with Bulgarian members. Members of USB, residing permanently in their

home countries, practice their rights and responsibilities in accordance with the concrete conditions and organisational forms of the structure of which they are members.

/7/ The rules for membership of applicants outside the EU, their rights and responsibilities, membership fee, etc., are arranged in regulations adopted by the GAP of USB.

**Article 12** Honorary members of USB are announced by the GAP of USB after a motivated proposal by the Managing Board or the **Bureau** of a branch or section.

**Article 13** /1/ A regular member of USB has the right to:

1. participate in discussions and decision making in the respective Union structures;
2. elect and be elected to the organs of the Union;
3. participate in the activities of various Union structures and choose the structure where he or she will pay membership fee;
4. be informed about the activities of the Union;
5. receive professional protection and social assistance;
6. use accommodations and utilities, resort homes and clubs of USB;
7. be awarded for high achievements with awards of the Union and be presented for awards by other organs and organisations;
8. participate in the Union organisational and scientific activities;
9. get assistance for bettering his or her living conditions and, if necessary, receive material support according to the capacities of USB;
10. receive help in further professional qualification;
11. receive help in protecting intellectual property and labour rights;
12. be present in cases when his or her activity and behaviour are considered;
13. address questions, proposals, complaints and opinions to all organs of USB and receive answers within a period of one month;
14. use recommendations from USB in applying for a job or for membership in foreign scientific organisations;
15. receive the organ of USB – the journal “Science”;
16. make use of all results of the activities of USB.

/2/ Professional, economic and social priorities of Union members can be made use of under conditions specified by the Managing Board of USB.

**Article 14** /1/ Members of USB must:

1. work towards achieving the goals of the Union;
2. comply with the Statute;
3. carry out research or/and teach at universities;
4. obey the laws and the ethical requirements;
5. pay regularly membership fee;
6. follow the obligations ensuing from the position he or she occupies in organs of USB.

/2/ Requirement under paragraph 3 of the preceding Article is not obligatory for Union members who are already retired.

**Article 15** /1/ Union members may take advantage of the rights and priorities under this Statute only if they are regular members and have paid their fee for the current year.

/2/ Long stays of members abroad do not relieve them from the obligations under Article 14.

**Article 16** Responsibilities of Union members correspond to the amount of the membership fee paid. Members are not personally responsible for the commitments of the Union.

**Article 17** Membership in USB is discontinued:

1. on personal application by the Union members;
2. in case of death, when under juridical disability and under discontinuation of the juridical person;
3. in case of discontinuation of membership under Article 18;
4. in case of expulsion under Article 19;
5. in case of closure of the Union.

**Article 18** /1/ Member of USB who has not paid his or her membership fee for two years is deleted from the list of Union members on decision of the General Assembly of the Union branch.

/2/ A scholar with long membership in USB, deleted from the members list, can restore his or her membership by paying membership fee for the respective term. On decision of the Bureau of the Union branch the number of years can be reduced but not more than two years preceding the year of renewal of membership.

**Article 19** /1/ A members of USB is expelled when he or she:

1. violates major provisions of the Statute of USB;
2. is sentenced to imprisonment or some other serious punishment for criminal offence;
3. as a scholar has performed unethical acts, which affect the prestige of USB.

/2/ Expulsion takes place at the respective General Assembly of the Union branch.

/3/ The decision taken under Article 2 may be appealed before the GAP of USB.

**Article 20** /1/ Juridical persons, members USB, can be unions, societies, associations, schools of higher education, research institutes, clubs, public scientific organisations, which:

1. unite scholars who are individual members of USB;
2. unite scholars and specialists with university education;
3. are non-governmental and democratic organisations and their goals are not in contradiction with the Statute of USB;
4. accept the forms and means of USB for achieving the goals and the activities of the Union and declare their readiness to participate in them.

/2/ Juridical persons, members of USB, built up of physical persons alone, members of USB, take part in the activities and management of USB following the rules envisaged for branches of USB.

/3/ Membership of these organisations in USB, except provisions under paragraph 2, does not concern their status of juridical persons, their self-government, self-financing and independence and does not turn their members into individual members of USB.

/4/ Members of USB can be research, development and qualification organisations as well as similar independent centres, institutes and foundations from the country and abroad which are involved in science and higher education.

/5/ Members of USB can be also other juridical persons which include predominantly specialists with university education and/or which have become prominent with acts of stimulation and support of science and education – donations, sponsorship, implementation of products of science, providing material and technological conditions for educational and research.

/6/ Members of USB can be scientific organisations, student research formations, inventors' clubs, as well as organisations developing and providing products of high technology.

**Article 21** /1/ The management of the organisation applying for membership hands in a written application accompanied by:

1. a decision of the supreme organ of the organisation for membership in USB, specifying the motives and the spheres in which the organisation wants to cooperate with USB;
2. statute or founding agreement of the organisation;
3. information concerning the organisation members and the financial situation of the organisation;
4. information about organisations in the country and abroad with which they have contacts.

/2/ The decision for membership of the organisation in USB is taken by the GAP on a proposal by the managing body.

/3/ Membership in USB is voluntary and the organisation may discontinue membership on decision of its supreme organ after a three-month warning.

/4/ USB may, with a three-month warning, ask discontinuation of the membership of the organisation.

**Article 22** /1/ Juridical persons, members of USB, have the right to:

1. receive information about events organised by USB and participate in them;
2. when required, be represented by USB before government institutions and other organisations, for the protection of their interests;
3. add to their name the words "within USB";
4. have priority in using the services of USB;
5. participate with their proposals at elections for managing bodies of USB or for Union councils and committees;
6. participate with their members and specialists in competitions organised by USB;
7. be assisted in the organisation of scientific events carried out in collaboration with branches and sections of USB;
8. receive collective life and accident insurance providing the necessary initial insurance sum;
9. participate in joint economic activities.

/2/ Juridical persons members of USB must:

1. pay regularly membership fee specified by the GAP;
2. inform USB about their activities;
3. participate in events connected with the protection of common interests of the organisation and the realisation of its goals and activities;
4. inform the management of USB about all changes in their status and functioning;
5. participate with their funds in the organisation of joint scientific events, competitions, publications, etc.

/3/ USB and the managing bodies of juridical persons, members of USB, sign an agreement specifying the organisational, financial and other relations. Agreements can be of limited duration or for an indefinite period and can be amended on mutual agreement.

/4/ Branches and sections, which don't have the status of juridical persons, can sign agreements for joint activities and agreements with other juridical persons and organisations. Juridical persons, parties to such agreements, may become members of USB only after approval by the GAP of USB.

**Article 23** Doctoral students, specialists and students connected with the processes of research and university lecturing can be associated to USB. They are accepted by branches of the Union and pay membership fee of the amount at least 30% of the membership fee of a regular member. The associated members participate in scientific life of the Union branch and can receive professional protection by USB.

#### **Chapter four Organisational bodies of USB**

**Article 24** /1/ USB organises its activities by means of bodies structured on a thematic and/or regional principle:

- a) sections;
- b) branches;
- c) associations, clubs, centres, etc.

/2/ Union bodies, registered as juridical persons, act according to their own statute, which is not in contradiction with the Statute of USB and does not differ from it in terms of mandate, rights and responsibilities of members, amount of membership fee.

/3/ On a territorial principle, science organisations, universities or companies of EU countries can create Union bodies of Bulgarian citizens residing temporarily or permanently in this country as well as scholars nationals of this country.

**Article 25** /1/ Sections are bodies of USB in the capital. Each section includes, on a voluntary principle, at least 25 members of USB from a given field of science and is adopted by the GAP of USB.

/2/ Branches are bodies of the Union outside the capital. They can create sections within their structure.

/3/ Sections and branches of USB, existing before the adoption of this Statute, and having less members than provided by this Statute, continue their existence.

/4/ Union bodies, which have common interests within a science structure or region, can build joint councils for cooperation with the respective administrative institutions.

/5/ At the end of the mandate Union bodies must go through attestation concerning the achievement of the basic goals of USB. Those having best results receive Union awards.

**Article 26** /1/ The General Assembly is a supreme organ of the sections.

/2/ The General Assembly of the section:

1. formulates the major goals of the section following the provisions of this Statute;
2. adopts a programme of the scientific events for the year;
3. approves the financial balance;
4. elects a Bureau, including a president, vice-president, secretary and members, controller, control committee and specify their authority and obligations.
5. elects proxies to the GAP;
6. makes proposals before the respective Union organs for professional protection, social assistance and for awards for its members;
7. adopts Regulations for the functioning of the section;
8. discontinues individual membership in the Union;
9. adopts decisions on other issues of the activity of the section.

/3/ When the members of the section are too many, a General Assembly of Deputies (GAD) can be established. A deputy cannot represent more than 10 Union members. The exact number of deputies and the rules for their election is specified by the Bureau of the section.

/4/ The GAD is summoned at least once a year:

1. the session of the Assembly is announced by means of a written personal invitation by the chairman of the Bureau, the control committee (controller) or 1/10 of the members of the section;
2. the Assembly is legitimate if more than 50 % of the members, deputies respectively, are present. If the session is inquorate, it is postponed for an hour, with the same agenda, and is declared

legitimate if not less than 1/3 of the members (deputies) are present. Otherwise, the session is postponed for another date and members receive a written invitation.

3. the Assembly takes decisions with ordinary majority of those present unless other requirements are adopted by the Assembly.

/5/ At least once in two years the **Bureau** of the section and the Control Committee (the controller) report about their activities before the GAD.

**Article 27** Each section:

1. works for the realisation of the goals of the Union;
2. assists members in their research and in protection of their professional rights and interests;
3. assists in scientific exchange with Bulgarian and foreign scholars and science organisations;
4. organises congresses, conferences, symposia and other scientific events;
5. can create interdisciplinary research groups and set up funds in support of its members;
6. carries out its activities using membership fees, sponsorships and other sources;
7. can acquire the status of a juridical person in compliance with this Statute and the rules provided by the law, have independent bank account and act as a self-governing body.

**Article 28** /1/ Sections from different geographical regions can unite voluntarily on a national or regional principle for joint activities.

/2/ The management of the joint activity is carried out by a coordination committee including at least one representative from each section.

/3/ The joint activity may include information on all branches of Union activity, organisation of joint scientific events, expressing opinion on the activities of committees and specialised scientific councils at government institutions, discussion of problems of the respective field of science and the attestation of scholars in it.

**Article 29** Sections may negotiate with science institutes, public and government organisations for the realisation of joint scientific events, publishing, consulting and other activities.

**Article 30** /1/ Branches are bodies of USB outside the capital, founded on a territorial principle.

/2/ Branches are established on a decision of the GAP of USB when there are at least 25 Union members from one or different fields of science.

/3/ Branches can create sections as organisation structures.

/4/ The branch of USB bears the name "Branch of USB, branch in the town of".

**Article 31** /1/ The General Assembly is the supreme body of the Branch.

/2/ The General Assembly:

1. adopts the major goals and activities of the branch;
2. adopts a programme of scientific events for the year;
3. adopts the financial balance;
4. elects a Bureau, president, vice-president, secretary and members, a controller and control committee for a period of four years, specifying their authority and obligations;
5. elects proxies to the GAP;
6. discontinues individual membership in the Union;
7. makes proposals before the respective organs for social support and granting awards;
8. adopts Regulations for the functioning of the branch and its sections and organs;
9. adopts decisions on other issues of its activity.

/3/ The Bureau manages the operative activity of the branch, in compliance with the Statute of USB.

/4/ In case of a large number of members of the General Assembly of the branch, it may, on its decision, be transformed into a GAD and it specifies the number and procedures for the election of deputies.

/5/ The GAD is summoned at least once a year.

1. the session is announced by a written personal invitation by the President, the Bureau, the Control Committee (controller) or 1/10 of its members.
2. the Assembly is legitimate if more than 50 % of the members, deputies respectively, are present. In the session is inquorate, it is postponed for an hour, with the same agenda, and is declared legitimate if not less than 1/3 of the members (deputies) are present. Otherwise, the session is postponed for another date and members receive a written invitation.
3. the Assembly takes decisions with ordinary majority of those present unless otherwise specified by the Assembly.

/6/ At least once in two years the **Bureau** of the section and the Control Committee (the controller) report about their activities before the GAD.

/7/ The President of the branch:

1. represents USB for the activity of the branch;
2. organises, manages and controls the implementation of the decisions of the GAD and the Bureau;
3. presides the Bureau;
4. summons and chairs the session of the General Assembly;
5. summons and chairs the session of the Bureau;
6. has other responsibilities attributed by the General Assembly.

**Article 32** The branch of USB:

1. carries out activities specified by the Statute of USB;
2. acts as a self-governing body, has an independent bank account and can acquire the status of a juridical person in compliance with this Statute and following a procedure specified by the law;
3. can create interdisciplinary research groups and set up funds in support of its members;
4. carries out its activities using membership fees, sponsorships and other sources;
5. assists members in their research and in protection of their professional rights and interests;
6. organises congresses, conferences, symposia and other scientific events;
7. assists in scientific exchange with Bulgarian and foreign scholars and science organisations;

**Article 33** /1/ A scientific organisation on a local principle can be established in towns outside the seat of the branch where there are at least 10 Union members.

/2/ The scientific organisation on a local principle is created on the initiative of local Union members.

/3/ The scientific organisation on a local principle is adopted by the GAD of the closest branch or by the Managing Board of USB. The adoption decision specifies its functions and goals.

**Article 34** /1/ The scientific organisation on a local principle can be founded at a university, science institute or other scientific organisation.

/2/ The major goal of the scientific organisation is to express and defend the interests of its members before the management of the organisation.

/3/ The scientific organisation on a local principle of USB is created on the initiative of Union members in the respective school of higher education or scientific institution. The organisation is approved by the GAD of the respective branch or section.

/4/ The concrete functions and goals of the organisation of USB on a local principle are specified in the decision for its adoption.

/5/ The Union member chooses personally the Union body of his or her membership – the section or the organisation on a local principle. Irrespective of where the member pays his or her membership fee, he or she has the right to take part in decision making in both Union bodies.

/6/ When members of a section are predominantly from one school of higher education or scientific organisation, the section can also function as an organisation of USB on a local principle.

**Article 35** /1/ The scientific organisation based on a given field of science can be formed in a section or branch on the initiative of Union members.

/2/ The scientific organisation has as its major goal the development of creative initiatives and the scientific exchange among its members.

/3/ The scientific organisation is founded on the decision of the Bureau of the section or branch. It specifies its goals and functions. The sections and the branch can transfer some of its authorities to the organisation.

**Article 36** /1/ The sections and the branches, on their own initiative or on the initiative of Union members, can create clubs, centres and other organisational forms, connected with the realisation of the professional goals and functions of USB.

/2/ On the initiative of USB, its sections and branches can build students' scientific organisations at schools of higher education and colleges.

**Article 36 a** /1/ The duration of the mandate of bureaus of scientific bodies (sections, branches, scientific organisations) and the proxies is four years. On the decision of the general assemblies the mandate can be extended for not more than one year.

/2/ The General Assembly can discontinue the mandate of a member of the Bureau of the Union as well as of a proxy when he or she:

1. is not a regular member according to articles 15 and 19 of the Statute and/or has been absent from two sessions.
2. cannot perform his or her functions due to illness or stay abroad for more than one year.
3. does not perform his functions and with his or her behaviour lowers the prestige of the organisation.
4. has handed in a written application.

/3/ With a written proposal of no less than 25% of the members of the Union bodies the mandate of bureaus and individual members and proxies can be discontinued prematurely.

/4/ in the election of new members of bureaus or proxies, the General Assembly specifies the duration of the mandate – till the expiration of the mandate of the other members of the bureaus or a maximum period of four years.

## **Chapter five** **Organs of management and control**

**Article 37** Organs of management and control of USB are:

1. the General Assembly of the Proxies;
2. cancelled;
3. the Managing Board;
4. the President;
5. the Control Committee;
6. the Ethics Committee.

**Article 38** /1/ The supreme organ of USB is the GAP.

/2/ The GAP consists of representatives of every 60 regular Union members, elected by the GADs of Union bodies.

/3/ The Union bodies elect the proxy with full authority when the number of their members is approximately multiple of the normative but do not amount to more than 10% of it.

/4/ The Union bodies can negotiate to elect (all or individually) proxies in order to achieve a number of members multiple to the normative.

/5/ The juridical person, member of USB, participates in the GAP with one representative.

/6/ The branches and sections having more than 60 members but no less than 30 have one proxy.

/7/ The President and the Vice President of USB are by right members of the GAP and of the Managing Board.

**Article 39** /1/ The General Assembly of the Proxies:

1. amends the Statute;
2. adopts other internal rules;
3. elects and discontinues the mandate of the President of USB after the first mandate following the adoption of this Statute by the Eighth Congress of USB, the Vice Presidents of USB, members of the Managing Board, the Control Committee and the Ethics Committee;
4. takes decisions for the opening and closing of Union bodies;
5. takes decisions for participation in other organisations, companies;
6. takes decisions for transformation and discontinuation of the functioning of the Union;
7. adopts a programme for the functioning of the Union;
8. adopts the budget and the financial balance;
9. takes decisions concerning the rules and amount of membership fees and/or of property payments;
10. approves the yearly reports about the functioning of the Managing Board, the Control Committee and the Ethics Committee;
11. invalidates decisions of other organs of the Union, which contradict the law, the Statute or other internal acts;
12. cancelled;
13. considers and decides on appeals to the Union by its members as well as by sections, branches and organisation bodies;
14. authorises the Vice President to perform the functions of the President of USB in cases when the latter is incapable of performing his or her functions;
15. awards the title "Honorary member of USB";
16. adopts rules for awarding the titles and prizes of USB for active participation in the organisation, for high scientific achievements and cooperation with the Union;
17. elects members of the Committee for High Scientific Achievements;
18. takes other decisions envisaged in the Statute or ensuing from amendments to normative acts.

/2/ The GAP cannot delegate its authorities under Article 1 paragraphs 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13.

/3/ Decisions of the GAP are obligatory for all organs and bodies of USB.

/4/ Decisions of the GAP are liable to control by the court concerning their legitimacy and compliance with this Statute.

/5/ Decisions of the organs of USB, taken in contradiction of the law, this Statute or preceding decisions of USB, can be disputed before the GAP after an appeal of members of the General Assembly

concerned or of its organ, handed in within one month but no later than one year of the date of the decision making.

/6/ Disputes under Article 4 can be raised before the court registering USB by any member of the Union, its bodies or by the public prosecutor within a period of one month but no later than a year after the decision has been taken.

**Article 40** /1/ The GAP is in session once a year.

/2/ The GAP is summoned by the Managing Board on its initiative or on the initiative of at least 1/3 of its members. If in the latter case the Managing Board does not send an invitation for summoning the Assembly, it is summoned by the court in the town where the USB is seated on a written appeal of the members concerned or persons authorised by them.

/3/ The invitation must contain the agenda, the hour and place of the session of the Assembly, on whose initiative it is summoned, and the place where members of the General Assembly can get acquainted with the materials on the agenda.

/4/ The invitation is published in the State Gazette and the information Bulletin of USB and is placed on the information board at the seat of the Managing Board.

**Article 41** /1/ The GAP is legitimate if more than 50% of its members are present.

/2/ If the session is inquorate, the meeting is postponed for an hour with the same agenda and can take place irrespective of the number of members present but no less than 30% of the overall number of members. Otherwise the session is postponed for another day and time in accordance with the provisions of Article 40 paragraphs 3 and 4.

**Article 42** /1/ Each member of the GAP has the right of one vote.

/2/ Decisions of the GAP are taken with a ordinary majority of the members present.

/3/ Decisions under Article 39 paragraphs 1 and 6 and decisions related to Article 41 paragraph 2 are taken with a majority of 2/3 of those present.

/4/ On questions not included in the agenda no decisions can be taken.

**Article 43** USB, on its own or in cooperation with science institutes and universities, with government institutions and public organisations, carries out public discussions and scientific events on current problems of science and higher education, of scholars and university lecturers.

**Article 44** /1/ The Managing Board of USB consists of at least 11 and not more than 15 members.

/2/ Members of the Managing Board are elected for a period of 4 years.

/3/ The GAP can decide to discontinue the mandate of a member of the Managing Board under conditions stated in Article 35 paragraph 2 of this Statute.

/4/ The procedure for the election of members of the Managing Board (by secret ballot or by show of hands) is decided by the GAP immediately before the election.

/5/ The GAP can take a decision to continue the mandate of the Managing Board but for not more than one year.

/6/ The mandate of the Managing Board or its member can be discontinued with a written motivated proposal of at least 25% of the members of the GAP or 1/5 of the bureaus of the sections and branches.

**Article 45** /1/ The Managing Board:

1. manages the activities of USB;
2. makes possible the implementation of the decisions of the GAP and coordinates the activity of Union bodies;
3. represents the Union and defines the scope and type of authority of its members;
4. manages the property of the Union following the provisions of the Statute and the Regulations adopted by the GAP;
5. prepares and hands in before the GAP for consideration a proposal for the budget;
6. prepares and hands in before the GAP for consideration a report for the activities of the Union;
7. specifies the rules and organises the activities of USB;
8. appoints General Editor of the "Science" journal and heads of Union bodies, engaged in economic activities;
9. makes proposals for granting government awards and takes decisions for awarding Union prizes;
10. forms provisional and permanent bodies (councils, committees, etc.) and specifies the rules of their functioning, the material, financial and administrative services;
11. specifies the strategy, appoints managers and executes control on the activity of companies with limited liability and other bodies with economic activities;
12. specifies the rules and the conditions for registration following the provisions of the law of Union bodies as juridical persons, of companies or for participation in companies, centres, funds and other forms of activity;

13. considers appeals and complaints against unlawful acts of the management of Union bodies;
14. takes decisions on all problems, which by law or by this Statute are not part of the authorities of other organs;
15. takes care of other tasks delegated by the GAP and ensuing from this Statute and for which no responsible body is specified;
16. executes the liquidation of the Union.

**/2/** Each member of the Managing Board is responsible for a specific activity of the Union and, when necessary, presides Union committees and councils.

**Article 46 /1/** The Managing Board carries out its regular meetings at least once in two months.

**/2/** Meetings of the Managing Board are summoned and presided by the President of USB. The President may also summon the Managing Board on a written request by 1/3 of its members. If the President does not summon the Board within a week, it can be summoned by any of the members concerned.

**/3/** The Managing Board can take a decision if more than 1/2 of the members are present.

**/4/** A member of the Managing Board with whom there is a two-way telephone connection, is considered present. The vote of such a member is certified in the minutes by the Chairman of the meeting.

**/5/** Decisions are taken with majority of those present while decisions under Article 45 paragraphs 3, 6 and 16 – with a majority of all members of the Managing Board.

**/6/** The Managing Board can take a decision without holding a meeting if minutes about the decision taken are signed with no dissenting votes and contestations by all members of the Managing Board.

**Article 47 /1/** The President of USB represents the Union and works for the implementation of decisions of the GAP and the Managing Board.

**/2/** The President of USB summons and presides the meetings of the GAP and of the Managing Board.

**/3/** Fulltime assistants are appointed by the President and the Managing Board.

**/4/** The concrete obligations of the President, Vice President and members of the Managing Board are specified by the GAP.

**Article 48 /1/** The Control Committee is elected by the GAP. It has 9 members and 3 associate members. The procedure of electing the members (by secret ballot or by show of hands) is specified by the GAP immediately before the election.

**/2/** Members of the Control Committee cannot be members of the GAP of USB and of the Bureaus of sections and branches.

**/3/** The newly elected Control Committee, at its first session, elects a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary of the committee.

**/4/** The Control Committee adopts Regulations for its activity which is adopted by GAP.

**/5/** The Control Committee:

1. supervises the execution of the decisions of GAP and compliance with the Statute of USB;
2. supervises the use and status of Union property;
3. supervises the financial and material status of USB and the financial discipline;
4. expresses opinion on documents adopted by GAP and the Managing Board;
5. makes proposals before the GAP and the general assemblies of sections and branches to discontinue the mandate of members of the Managing Board and of the bureaus for gross breaches of the Statute of USB and the internal normative acts;
6. checks signals for unlawful acts of managing organs of the Union, managements of sections, branches and other bodies of USB;
7. aids the functioning of the control committees and the controllers of sections and branches.

**/6/** Decisions of the Control Committee of the Union are obligatory for the control committees (controllers) of sections and branches.

**/7/** To remove established violations, the Control Committee makes a proposal before the GAP and the management of Union bodies.

**/8/** The Control Committee may require an extraordinary session of the GAP and the Managing Board of USB.

**Article 49 /1/** The Ethics Committee is elected by GAP. The number and the procedure of electing the members (by secret vote or by show of hands) is specified by GAP immediately before the election.

**/2/** Members of the Ethics Committee cannot be members of managing organs of USB and its bodies.

**/3/** At its first session the Ethics Committee elects a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary.

**/4/** The Ethics Committee approves Regulations for its functioning which is adopted by GAP.

**/5/** The Ethics Committee considers written complaints concerning violations of ethics of research and relations between scholars and with society.

/6/ When a member of USB has violated academic ethics, the Commission expresses censure on the violator. In cases of grave violations, the Commission makes a proposal before the respective Union bodies for expulsion from USB.

/7/ The Commission cooperates actively with similar commissions at universities and scientific institutes for adapting and implementation of the Chart of European Researchers and the formation of a public national association on matters of ethics in science and education.

**Article 49** /1/ The mandate of the Control Committee and the Ethics Committee is 4 years.

/2/ The mandate of members of the Control Committee and the Ethics Committee can be discontinued following the procedures envisaged by the Managing Board.

**Article 50** /1/ To the GAP and/or the Managing Board of the Union can be formed permanent or provisional councils, commissions, committees, etc. concerning various aspects of Union activities.

/2/ The bodies under the previous paragraph adopt Regulations for their functioning. They are allotted funds and bear responsibility for their expenditure.

## **Chapter six (cancelled)**

**Article 51** cancelled.

**Article 52** cancelled.

**Article 53** cancelled.

**Article 54** cancelled.

## **Chapter seven Funds and assets**

**Article 55** /1/ The assets of USB consist of the right of property and other reserved and real rights and receivables.

/2/ The assets acquired by USB and its branches belong to the whole organisation.

/3/ The operative management and the care for the movable and real property is carried out by the Managing Board of USB on the basis of Regulations adopted by GAP.

/4/ USB carries out a unified investment and crediting policy.

/5/ The use of the Union property by the branches and sections is based on agreements, adopted by GAP.

/6/ Property acquired by USB, its bodies (sections, branches, organisations, etc.) which are not juridical persons, and by the companies with limited liability, belongs to the whole organisation.

/7/ Real property, acquired by USB, belongs to the whole organisation, no matter who manages and keeps it up.

/8/ Property acquired by branches and sections of the Union as well as property acquired with funds of USB, belongs to the whole organisation.

/9/ Property acquired with funds of a member of USB, which is a juridical person and consisting of individual members of USB, belongs to the juridical person but is used by the whole organisation.

/10/ The use of property acquired by a member of USB which is a juridical person and does not consist of individual members only as well as the use of the common property of such a juridical person is arranged in an agreement.

**Article 56** /1/ USB provides funds for its activities by:

1. membership fees;
2. donations, testaments, etc.;
3. sponsorship;
4. interest and dividends;
5. economic activities under this Statute;
6. funds from property rented by physical and juridical persons;
7. deductions from companies with limited liability, founded by USB;
8. other sources envisaged by the law.

/2/ The decision of GAP of USB for adopting the balance of receipts and expenditures and the expenditures for the current year does not specify:

1. the amount, rules and format of deductions of companies with limited liability and independent bodies for financing the activities of the Union;
2. the amount of deductions by sections and branches for the keep up of their property;
3. the amount of deductions from pure receipts of sections and branches and from membership fees for the realisation of events concerning directly all members of the Union;
4. the amount of subsidies of Union branches for scientific events and international relations;
5. preferences and the amount of gratuitous sums which the USB grants to its members;

6. the amount of investments for modernisation and expansion of USB property.

**Article 57** /1/ The amount, the procedure of collection, exemption from fees and the spending of the membership fees and other receipts from property are specified by GAP. The specified amount of minimal membership fee cannot be reduced by Union bodies, juridical persons included.

/2/ By decision of the GAD of the branch or section needy members of USB can be exempt from paying membership fee.

/3/ By decision of the GAD of the section or branch, taken with majority of 2/3 of the overall number of members, the amount of the fee can be raised. The raise above the amount of the fee specified under Article 1 is used by the branch or section.

/4/ The amount of the entrance fee is specified by GAP.

/5/ Members of USB and its sympathisers can express their approval of the goals and activities of the Union in the form of donations and sponsorship for scientific events, publishing, foundation of awards, celebrations, etc. They receive a document certifying the donation before taxation authorities.

/6/ Regular Union members and sponsors can use preferences at scientific events organised and co-organised by USB. Certain preferences are given to members participating also in other Union bodies.

**Article 58** /1/ USB sets up mutual aid and insurance funds and other forms of support of scholars.

/2/ The choice of persons and forms of support is carried out in accordance with the financial capacity of USB following rules specified by the Managing Board.

**Article 59** /1/ The Union manages the International Home of scholars *Joliot-Curie* as a seat of many international and national scientific events, congress tourism and recreation of Union members.

/2/ USB manages the company with limited liability "Nauka-invest" acting in tourist operating, hotel operating, restaurant management and trade, prepress and publishing, expertise and consulting.

/3/ USB, on its own or in cooperation with other organisation, constructs and manages recreation homes, medical centres and social homes.

/4/ USB is active in the field of consulting, analysis and expertise as forms most suitable for participation in national and international programmes and projects, structural funds of EU and Bulgarian operative programmes for their realisation. For the purpose USB can create provisional or permanent structures, expert group in various science and applied fields.

**Article 60** /1/ USB and its structures, on their own or in cooperation with other organisations, may set up companies with limited liability, in compliance with this Statute, following the regulations of the law.

/2/ The status and the activity of individual items of property are arranged in statutes and regulations adopted by the Managing Board.

**Article 61** /1/ All bodies of USB have financial accounts for receipts and expenditure. They must apply maximal efforts to procure profits and cover their expenditure.

/2/ The accounting procedures, the order and form of processing accounting papers is unitary for the whole system of USB.

/3/ Financial control within USB covers all Union bodies irrespective of their legal status.

## **Chapter eight** **Transitional provisions**

**Article 62** The seal of USB is round with the inscription "Union of Scientists in Bulgaria" and "Republic of Bulgaria" in the middle.

**Article 63** USB is a successor of actives and passives of the Union of Scholars in Bulgaria.

**Article 64** Branches, sections and other bodies of USB are obliged to bring their statutes and regulations into compliance with this Statute.

**Article 65** This Statute was adopted at the constituent assembly of the Union of 13 December 1944 and was amended and supplemented by the general assemblies that took place on 20 November 1947, on 6 and 7 July 1950, on 26 June 1953, on 21 March 1956, on 2 December 1959, on 28 February 1964, on 21 March 1967, by the First Congress of 15 and 16 November 1971, the Second Congress of 25 and 26 November 25 1976, the Third Congress of 23 and 24 April 1982, the Fourth Congress of 14 and 15 March 1989, the Fifth Extraordinary Congress of 20 and 21 April 1990, the Sixth Congress of 29 and 30 October 1994, the Seventh Congress of 30 and 31 October 1998, the Eighth Congress of 26 and 27 October 2001, the General Assembly of Proxies at its session of 28 October 2004 and at its sessions on March 23 and March 29, 2007.