

(Please note: This is a non-binding English translation.
Only the German original version is the binding one.)

Statutes
of the religious denominational community
(*religiöse Bekenntnisgemeinschaft*)
“Atheistic Religious Society in Austria”
(“*Atheistische Religionsgesellschaft in Österreich*”)
of 7 March 2010

Name of the religious denominational community

§ 1. Our religious denominational community is named “Atheistic Religious Society in Austria”.

Presentation of the religious doctrine

§ 2. We, the members of the “Atheistic Religious Society in Austria”, when trying to explain the shaping of the world and our position as humans in this world, denominate ourselves in free religious self-determination as “atheists” and

(a) believe that not goddesses and/or gods and/or deities created us humans, but that in each case humans created and/or create, respectively, their/the goddesses and/or gods and/or deities (and their narratives and so on), so that all of these (and their narratives and so on) in the end only exist as goddesses and/or gods and/or deities (and their narratives and so on) that have been created by humans, and

(b) want this religious denomination to be recognized, in an inclusive sense, as a religious denomination in Austria.

**Aim of the religious denominational community and
rights and duties of the members**

§ 3. (1) As religious denominational community “Atheistic Religious Society in Austria” we strive for the long-term aim of becoming fully recognized by the state as a *Religionsgesellschaft* in Austria.

(2) All members have the right of being members free of charge (§ 7 paragraph 1) and of ending the membership at any time and free of charge (§ 4 paragraph 2); any change of these rights is excluded.

(3) All members, specifically the members of the Presidium, are bound to the Statutes of the religious denominational community if they explicitly act as members and/or organs of the “Atheistic Religious Society in Austria”.

Beginning and ending of membership

§ 4. (1) Everyone who is legally entitled to opt on his/her own for or against the membership to a religious denomination (*religionsmündig*), who has a legal residency in Austria and who is neither member of a registered religious denominational community according to the Austrian Law concerning the legal personality of religious denominational communities 1998 (RRBG, *Bundesgesetz über die Rechtspersönlichkeit von religiösen Bekenntnisgemeinschaften*, BGBl. I 1998/19) nor

member of a church or *Religionsgesellschaft* recognized by Austrian law can apply for membership. To reduce the administration effort, membership automatically begins at the point of time of the correct application.

(2) The members of our religious denominational community can end their membership at any time on their own and free of charge. To this end, declaring one's leaving at the respective district administration authority (*Bezirksverwaltungsbehörde*) that is competent according to the Austrian Law concerning the legal personality of religious denominational communities 1998 (RRBG, *Bundesgesetz über die Rechtspersönlichkeit von religiösen Bekenntnisgemeinschaften*, BGBl. I 1998/19) is sufficient; however, a short, officially recognized written note to the "Atheistic Religious Society in Austria" is also sufficient.

Organs of the religious denominational community

§ 5. (1) Organs of the religious denominational community are

- (a) the Presidium and
- (b) the president.

(2) Their territorial sphere covers the entire territory of the Republic of Austria. The official address of the Presidium is the residential address of the current president, unless the Presidium decides otherwise. The president has, unless the Presidium decides otherwise, his/her residential address at his/her personal place of residence.

(3) The Presidium is the only and, thus, also the highest decision-making body of our religious denominational community. The sphere of competence of the Presidium covers all affairs of our religious denominational community. The president in his/her role is bound to the decisions of the Presidium. Decisions of the Presidium, with the exception of a decision of self-liquidation of our religious denominational community, require always an absolute majority of votes and furthermore require a participating quorum of more than half of the members of the Presidium; beyond that, changes of the Statutes require a consenting quorum of more than half of the members of the Presidium. After any change of the Statutes the members of the Presidium shall very carefully read the Statutes. The Presidium can change the Statutes, it can recall the current president against his/her will from his/her office, and it can decide that a concrete member of the Presidium, even against the will of that member of the Presidium, is no longer member of the Presidium. The Presidium can be correctly convened by the president as well as by at least the tenth part of its members. Physical presence is not necessary for decisions, it is sufficient to ascertain the will of each single member of the Presidium; thereby, each member of the Presidium has to be contacted and informed preferably at an early point of time and verifiably and, if necessary, also repeatedly.

(4) The members of the Presidium shall be awake to notably being representatives of the religious denominational community.

(5) The Presidium is entitled to incorporate members of our religious denominational community who agree with this incorporation; at the occasion of their incorporation, the new members of the Presidium shall very carefully read the Statutes. In this context, the Presidium has the task of sustaining a quorum of five people being members of the Presidium. The first five members of the "Atheistic Religious Society in Austria" who signed the original of the Statutes of 14 January 2009 are at the same time also the first five members of the Presidium. Each member of the Presidium is at any time free to ask the Presidium for the acceptance

of his/her resignation as a member of the Presidium; for becoming effective, such a resignation requires the decision of the Presidium to accept that resignation.

(6) The president is elected indefinitely by the Presidium out of the members of the religious denominational community and is at any time free to resign with proper notification of the Presidium. Resignation becomes official upon confirmation by the Presidium. The elected president by his/her election automatically becomes member of the Presidium, if he/she was no member of the Presidium directly before his/her election.

(7) The president has the task of organizing ballots and decisions, respectively, of the Presidium and of caring for the documentation and for the storage of the documents and/or written materials and the list of members of the "Atheistic Religious Society in Austria". Furthermore, the president is entitled to represent our religious denominational community to the state; this representation specifically includes the task of notifying without any delay the respective federal ministry that is competent according to the Austrian Law concerning the legal personality of religious denominational communities 1998 (RRBG, *Bundesgesetz über die Rechtspersönlichkeit von religiösen Bekenntnisgemeinschaften*, BGBl. I 1998/19) of the names and addresses of the members of the institutions entitled to represent our religious denominational community as well as of any change of the Statutes.

(8) If there is no currently acting president, then all functions fall to the member of the Presidium with the highest seniority; if several members of the Presidium fulfill this criterion, then to the one with the oldest membership of our religious denominational community; and if several members meet even that criterion, then to the oldest among them.

(9) If once the Presidium has no single member anymore, then its functions up to the correct election of five new members of the Presidium fall to those twenty members of our religious denominational community with the oldest memberships of our religious denominational community, whereupon each eligible member can renounce in favor of the respective following one; if among the eligible members there exists the same time of being a member of our religious denominational community, then in each case the age decides about the ranking of the members, whereupon in each case the older member gets priority. The twenty members entitled to vote shall be informed, if possible, about this special situation by the last previous member of the Presidium without any delay, and they always decide with absolute majority of votes and with a participating quorum of 100 percent. Only members of our religious denominational community who agree with their election can be elected new members of the Presidium.

(10) We deliberately did not establish an organ that consists of all members of our religious denominational community, in order to keep the costs for the "Atheistic Religious Society in Austria" as small as possible.

Outward representation of the religious denominational community

§ 6. The members of the Presidium, acting jointly as the Presidium, do the outward representation of our religious denominational community "Atheistic Religious Society in Austria". Toward the state the president functions as a representative of our religious denominational community.

Way of acquiring resources necessary for the fulfillment of economic needs

§ 7. (1) The membership in our religious denominational community is free of charge.

(2) Resources that may be necessary for the fulfillment of the economic needs of our religious denominational community shall be acquired specifically by means of donations and/or gifts.

(3) The religious denominational community commits to deal with its resources that may be at hand in a responsible, sustainable and sparing manner.

Regulations for the case of dissolving the legal personality

§ 8. (1) In the case of dissolving the legal personality of our religious denominational community resources that may be possessed by our religious denominational community must not be used for purposes that contradict its aim.

(2) In the case of dissolving the legal personality of our religious denominational community the last Presidium, if necessary, cares for the correct handling of claims against the religious denominational community.

(3) A decision of the Presidium to self-liquidate our religious denominational community is valid only if the Presidium consists of at least five members; such a decision requires an unanimous vote by the members of the Presidium. In the case of a valid self-liquidation of our religious denominational community by a decision of the Presidium, the Presidium takes care that all (hitherto) members are immediately informed, and the president notifies this in writing to the respective federal minister who is competent according to the Austrian Law concerning the legal personality of religious denominational communities 1998 (RRBG, *Bundesgesetz über die Rechtspersönlichkeit von religiösen Bekenntnisgemeinschaften*, BGBl. I 1998/19).

Vienna, this 7 March 2010

*(Please note again: This was a non-binding English translation.
Only the German original version is the binding one.)*