

§ 1 PRINCIPLE

These contribution rules are part of the statutes. The contribution rules govern the members' contribution obligations. They can only be amended by the association's general meeting.

§ 2 CONTRIBUTION OBLIGATION

- (1) Every full member of the association is obliged to pay a membership fee.
- (2) The amount of the contribution is determined by the general meeting (see § 3 Association Funds and § 7 Fees).

§ 3 MEMBERSHIP FEE

- (1) The annual full membership fee is EUR 14,000.—.
- (2) Natural persons as well as partnerships, corporations, associations and federations that have a maximum of 50 employees or an annual turnover of up to EUR 5 million have the possibility to apply for a reduced fee to the board in written form. The reduced fee is EUR 7,000.—.
- (3) As a rule the board will assent to such a request as long as the conditions described above are met and the granting of such a reduced financial contribution seems to be reasonable according to § 3 sec. 4. The member has to substantiate its request and it has to add significant evidence and documents. The board has at any time the right to request for additional documents.
- (4) The board will not assent to requests even if the member meets the conditions according § 3 sec. 2 in case a reduced fee does not seem to be appropriate. The board will take into consideration all the companies that are associated with the applying member as well as other overall circumstances when deciding on this issue. Considering the latter the board e.g. has the possibility to take into account whether the applying member as a subsidiary is part of a bigger overall organisation (e.g. of a corporate structure), that itself has more than 50 employees or an annual turnover of more than EUR 5 million. In case of federations (associations) the board has the right to focus on the conditions of the federation members (association members) behind. In each case the board takes its decision based on its best judgement for the good of the association and its members. The board's corresponding decision will be communicated in written form by setting out the reasons.
- (5) In the year of joining the association, the first membership fee is calculated pro rata from the annual membership fee according to the month of joining and the remaining months until the end of the financial year, and must be paid within the first three weeks of joining the association. In all subsequent years, the annual member fee has to be paid within the first three weeks after the beginning of the financial year.
- (6) In no case the member shall be entitled to reclaim paid fees, donations or any other grants after resignation from the association.

Notification: above contribution rules are a translation of the original document which is in German language.