

CHAMBER OF ORGANIC PRODUCERS – COP

S T A T U T E

of the Chamber of Organic Producers - COP

December, 2019

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I BASIC PROVISIONS

Article 1

(1) The Chamber is a business-professional organization, which in accordance with the Law on the Chambers of Commerce of Macedonia ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 54/2002 and the amendments published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 84/2005), harmonizes, protects and represents the interests of its members;

(2) The Chamber of Organic Producers - COP (hereinafter: Chamber COP) operates on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia.

(3) The Chamber works on encouraging the development and competitiveness of its members, promoting the production and services in the organic production in the capacity of entrepreneurship development, market economy and the general development of the Republic of North Macedonia;

(4) The Chamber will be an important and recognizable factor that will positively affect the economic and wider social sustainable development of the Republic of North Macedonia, by establishing cooperation with other economic entities, state bodies and organizations, local self-government, scientific and professional institutions and organizations, media and NGOs in the country, the region, Europe and beyond;

(5) The Chamber develops and nurtures business morals, good business customs, commitment, openness (transparency) and accountability by respecting the *Chamber's Professional and Ethical Code* in mutual relations and in relations with third parties (**Book of regulations for conducting the professional and ethical Code of the Chamber**);

Article 2

The name of the Chamber is: "Chamber of Organic Producers", abbreviated COP.

Article 3

The Chamber is an independent and autonomous organization in the capacity as a legal entity. The Chamber acquires the status of a legal entity on the day of registration in the register of other legal entities kept by the Central Register of the Republic of North Macedonia.

The seat of the Chamber is at the address: Tromejja nn, 1300 Kumanovo.

Article 4

The chamber has a round-shaped stamp and a rectangular seal, which contain the name and the seat of the Chamber.

The chamber has its own trademark.

II GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CHAMBER

Article 5

The goals and objectives of the Chamber are:

- (1) Fostering and promoting opportunities for development and improvement of the organic production;
- (2) Assisting the members of the Chamber in providing opportunities to access projects and other actions at local, national, regional and international level through a database of potential domestic and foreign clients;
- (3) Establishment and maintenance of a network of networks of organic producers in the country and abroad, as part of the international networks of organic producers;
- (4) Giving initiatives (for preparations) of legal and other regulations in the field of organic production in the Republic of North Macedonia;
- (5) Encouraging, developing and supporting the partnership approach of organic producers with other economic entities in the Republic of North Macedonia, the region and beyond;
- (6) Providing business-professional services (outsourcing: legal, accounting and consulting) for the needs of the members for their development and work;
- (7) Connecting with other economic entities, state bodies and organizations, local self-government, scientific and professional institutions and organizations, media as well as non-governmental organizations to implement joint projects;
- (8) Commitment to bringing world trends closer to the values and standards of the organic producers in the Republic of North Macedonia;
- (9) Providing professional assistance to the members of the Chamber in the development of certain activities, adoption of modern technologies and methods of operation;
- (10) Encouraging research, development and innovation of the achievements in organic production, improving the quality and standards of services;
- (11) Contributing the improvement and promotion of the business climate in the country;
- (12) Participation in the conception and presentation of interests and views on the development of organic production in the European Union by becoming a member of the relevant European organizations and associations;
- (13) Contributing to the development of the organic production, as well as the management, marketing, advertising, public relations, quality control and promotion, energy, environment, information technology, finance, accounting, human resources and more;
- (14) Participation in international fairs and events in order to promote the innovations and other achievements of the members of the Chamber;

(15) Organizing and participating in congresses, conferences, forums in order to present the practical and theoretical achievements of the members of the Chamber but also to exchange experiences, knowledge and skills with foreign colleagues.

(16) Organizing seminars and workshops for continuous education, improvement, trainings, retrainings and additional qualifications for the members and other interested entities in the country and abroad.

(17) Certificating the members of the Chamber in accordance with the international standards for organic production;

(18) Protection and advocating the interests of the members of the Chamber over the issues of economic and social character;

(19) Providing and exchanging information on systematic regulation, projects development, global economic flaws and trends, as well as the integration of the Macedonian economy into the world economic trends.

(20) Encouraging the members of the Chamber to promote the development of environmental management and protection and improve the quality by applying standards and norms and other tasks in the interest of the economy, especially for the small and medium enterprises;

(21) Providing professional assistance to the members through the arbitration in resolving mutual disputes and disputes with third parties;

(22) Providing assistance, support and recommendations for the members of the Chamber in establishing and promoting businesses, especially abroad;

Article 6

The Chamber is a non-profit organization.

The Chamber may establish trade associations or other forms of service for the members of the Chamber.

The gained profit is used for the needs of the Chamber to achieve and support its goals and objectives.

Article 7

The Chamber may engage scientific and professional institutions and organizations and individual experts.

III MEMBERSHIP, LAW, OBLIGATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

Article 8

A member of the Chamber may be a legal entity or a person, a citizen of the Republic of North Macedonia and an organization registered in the Central Register of the Republic of North Macedonia, as well as individual farmers registered in the register of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy of RN Macedonia.

Article 9

Joining and leaving the Chamber is voluntary.

Article 10

The external member of the Chamber may be a foreign entity if the relevant organization of organic producers in the home country has concluded a bilateral agreement on reciprocity according to which Macedonian entities could be members of the relevant foreign organizations and have the same rights and obligations.

Article 11

Entities that have excelled in establishing, developing and promoting the Chamber acquire the status of an honorary member.

Article 12

In order to achieve the goals and objectives, the members of the Chamber have the right and obligation:

- (1) to manage the work of the Chamber,
- (2) to elect the bodies and to be elected as bodies of the Chamber,
- (3) to supervise the work of the institutional bodies of the Chamber;
- (4) to take initiative for giving opinions on draft laws and other regulations and measures for activities in organic production;
- (5) to use and provide professional and other assistance in connection with their operation, as well as the services performed by the Chamber;
- (6) to resolve their mutual disputes and cases of violation of good business customs in first instance in front of the Arbitration and the Court of Honor of the Chamber;
- (7) to keep the documents and data available to them as a business secret while working with clients
- (8) to adhere to this Statute, the general acts, the decisions of the institutional bodies and the forms of organization and operation in the Chamber while doing their work and take actions;
- (9) to participate in providing financial and other resources for achieving the goals and tasks of the Chamber, in accordance with the needs determined by the programs and decisions of the bodies and the forms of organization and operation of the Chamber.

Article 13

The mandate in the institutional bodies of the Chamber is four years with the possibility of re-election.

IV ORGANIZATION, INSTITUTIONAL BODIES AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CHAMBER

Article 14

The Chamber is managed by its members through their authorized representatives of individual producers, craftsmen and registered trade companies.

Article 15

Representatives in the forms of organization in the Chamber work according to the guidelines of the members of the Chamber who delegated them.

The members of the institutional bodies of the Chamber submit a report for their work to the forms of organization they have been chosen by.

During the voting, the members of the bodies are obliged to adhere to the instructions of the entities that have elected them and to the forms of organization they have been chosen by. At the same time, they respect the interests of each member, the respective activity and the regional chambers.

Article 16

The institutional bodies of the Chamber are: Chamber Assembly, Chamber Management Board, Chamber Supervisory Board, Chamber President, Chamber Arbitration, Chamber Commission of Honor, Chamber Ombudsman, Chamber Development Fund, Chamber Education and Certification Board, Center for Perfection, Research, Development, Innovation and Education of the Chamber.

1. Chamber Assembly

Article 17

The Assembly of the Chamber is the highest body of the Chamber.

The Assembly of the Chamber consists of all the members of the Chamber.

The election and dismissal of the members of the institutional bodies of the Chamber shall be decided by a majority vote of the Assembly of the Chamber.

In order to ensure continuity in the activities of the Chamber, no more than 50% of the members of the indicated body during the election assembly are changed.

Article 18

The Assembly of the Chamber:

- (1) adopts the Statute of the Chamber and its amendments;

- (2) Elects and dismisses the members of the bodies of the Chamber;

- (3) Determines the criteria and the manner of selection and dismissal of the bodies of the Chamber;
- (4) Adopts the Annual Working Program and the Annual Financial Plan of the Chamber. The procedure is determined by the Book of regulations for preparation of the Annual financial plan of the Chamber;
- (5) Adopts the Report on the implementation of the Annual Work Program and the Annual Financial Plan of the Chamber;
- (6) Determines the amount of the membership fee of the members of the Chamber;
- (7) Elects and dismisses the President of the Chamber;
- (8) Gives a mandate to the President to nominate members of the Management Board and the Secretary General;
- (9) Elects and dismisses the members of the Management Board, the members of the Supervisory Board and the Secretary General of the Chamber;
- (10) Elects and dismisses the members of the Chamber Arbitration, the Commission of Honor of the Chamber, the Chamber Ombudsman, the Board of Education and Certification of the Chamber, the Chamber Development Fund and the Director of the Center for Perfection, Research, Development, Innovation and Training of the Chamber;
- (11) Determines attitudes, conclusions and initiatives on issues of interest to the members;
- (12) Determines initiatives for preparing legal and other regulations in the field of organic production;
- (13) Adopts the Acts of the Chamber prepared by the President of the Chamber.

In order to perform certain activities within its scope, the Assembly may establish permanent or temporary working bodies.

Article 19

The Assembly of the Chamber works in sessions.

The sessions of the Assembly are convened and chaired by the President of the Chamber in the function of the President of the Assembly.

The Assembly holds sessions at least once a year.

The Assembly adopts the Annual Working Program including the Financial Plan and adopts the reports for their realization.

Article 20

The Assembly of the Chamber can fully work if the majority of the total number of members of the Assembly is present.

The Assembly adopts the decisions by a majority vote of the present members of the Assembly.

2. Management Board of the Chamber

Article 21

The Management Board of the Chamber is the governing body of the Chamber.

The Management Board consists of a President and 5 (five) members elected and dismissed by the Assembly of the Chamber from among the representatives of the members of the Chamber.

The Management Board submits a report on its work to the Assembly of the Chamber.

Article 22

The Management Board:

- (1) prepares the sessions and determines the proposals of the acts and decisions adopted by the Assembly of the Chamber;
- (2) adopts conclusions for convening sessions of the Assembly of the Chamber;
- (3) implements the policy, conclusions and decisions of the Assembly of the Chamber;
- (4) passes decisions on the manner and dynamics of the implementation of the Annual Working Program, the Annual Financial Plan and other decisions of the Assembly of the Chamber;
- (5) gives initiatives and takes positions on the adoption of laws and other regulations and acts that are of interest to the members of the Chamber;
- (6) passes decisions regarding the enforcement of the Statute of the Chamber, the Annual Working Program and the Annual Financial Plan, if they are not within the competence of the Assembly of the Chamber;

To perform certain tasks within its scope, the Management Board may establish permanent or temporary working bodies.

The Management Board submits reports on its work to the Assembly of the Chamber at least once a year.

Article 23

The Management Board works in sessions, which are held when necessary.

The sessions of the Management Board are convened and chaired by the President of the Chamber, in function as a President of the Management Board.

Article 24

The Management Board of the Chamber can fully work if more than half of its members are present.

Decisions on matters within its competence are made by a majority vote of the present members.

The Management Board of the Chamber, determines the proposals of the acts adopted by the Assembly of the Chamber by a majority vote of the present members.

3. Supervisory Board of the Chamber

Article 25

The Supervisory Board supervises the legality of the material and financial management of the Chamber, the regularity of the Chamber's management in accordance with the Statute and other acts and informs the Assembly of the Chamber about the determined situation at least once a year.

The Supervisory Board supervises the collection of the membership fee and supervises the spending of the funds.

The Supervisory Board is obliged to conduct an audit procedure at least once a year.

Article 26

Experts in the field of material and financial management may also be elected as members of the Supervisory Board.

The Supervisory Board of the Chamber consists of a President and 2 (two) members, who are elected among the members of the Chamber or among the external experts.

A member of the Supervisory Board may not be: the President of the Chamber and a member of the Management Board of the Chamber.

The Supervisory Board submits a report on its work to the Chamber Assembly.

4. President of the Chamber

Article 27

The President of the Chamber is elected from the representatives of the members of the Chamber.

The President of the Chamber delegates and represents the Chamber.

The President of the Chamber manages the Chamber and executes the decisions and conclusions of its institutional bodies.

The President of the Chamber is the President of the Management Board.

The President of the Chamber is responsible for the legality of the operation of the Chamber.

The President of the Chamber proposes the members of the Management Board to the Assembly.

The President of the Chamber may transfer his / her certain authorizations to the Executive Director of the Chamber in accordance with the act regulating the transmission of the type, the scope and the duration of the authorization, which are approved by the Management Board of the Chamber.

The President submits a report on his/her work to the Assembly of the Chamber.

The President is elected for a term of five (5) years with a right to be re-elected.

5. Arbitration of the Chamber

Article 28

Arbitration, as a permanent elected court, decides on business disputes between the members of the Chamber.

Its decisions are final and mandatory.

The arbitration submits a report on its work to the Assembly of the Chamber.

Article 29

The competence, composition and organization of the Arbitration and the procedure on the cases within its competence are regulated by the Book of regulations on the work of arbitration of the Chamber, which is adopted by the Assembly of the Chamber.

6. Commission of Honor of the Chamber

Article 30

The Commission of Honor of the Chamber is an independent body that decides about non-performance of the obligations given to the members of the Chamber, for other violations of the good business customs, violation of the acts of the Chamber by its members, as well as violating the principles of the market economy in general.

The work of the Commission of Honor is regulated by the Book of regulations of the Commission of Honor of the Chamber.

Article 31

For violating the good business customs and the provisions of the Statute and the other acts of the Chamber, the Commission of Honor may utter:

- (1) a warning,
- (2) a public reprimand, published in the media;
- (3) an exclusion from the Chamber.

Article 32

The competence, composition and organization of the Commission of Honor, the manner of election and dismissal of its members and the procedure on the cases within its competence, as well as the competence, election and dismissal of the prosecutor are regulated by a general act adopted by the Assembly.

The Commission of Honor submits a report on its work to the Chamber Assembly.

7. Chamber Ombudsman

Article 33

The Ombudsman mediates in the process of determining the damage and reconciliation between the aggrieved members of the Chamber, as well as between the members of the Chamber and other entities.

The Ombudsman takes care of the satisfaction of the injured party in an optimal time, which would reduce the damage.

The Ombudsman also has a preventive function through an educational mission.

The Ombudsman submits a report on its work to the Chamber Assembly.

8. Board for Education and Certification of the Chamber

Article 34

The Board of Education and Certification (hereinafter: the Board) conceptualizes, plans, programs, organizes, performs and controls the education and training of the members of the Chamber. The operation of the Board is regulated by the Book of regulations of the Board of the Chamber.

Prominent experts who are not members of the Chamber may be members of the Board.

The Board certifies the members of the Chamber by checking their ability to work with clients.

The Board submits a report on its work to the Assembly of the Chamber.

9. Center for Perfection, Research, Development, Innovation and Education of the Chamber

Article 35

The Center for Perfection, Research, Development, Innovation and Education is in fact a system of projects (hereinafter: Center). The work of the Center is regulated by the Book of regulations of the Center of the Chamber.

The Center submits a report on its work to the Assembly of the Chamber.

10. Chamber Development Fund

Article 36

The Development Fund (hereinafter: the Fund) provides material resources for the development of the functions and activities of the Chamber mainly from foreign donations and foundations. The work of the Fund is regulated by the Book of regulations of the Fund of the Chamber.

For its work, the Fund submits a report to the Assembly of the Chamber.

V CLUSTERING THE MEMBERS IN ASSOCIATIONS AND REGIONAL CHAMBERS ACCORDING TO THEIR SCOPE OF WORK

1. Association according to work activities

Article 37

The Association according to work activity (-ies) (hereinafter: Association) is a professional form of the Chamber throughout which the members decide and implement decisions of interest to the respective activity.

Article 38

The members of the Chamber in a certain work activity are allied in an Association according to the activity. The Assembly of the Chamber determines the type and the number of Associations.

Article 39

The members of the Chamber also participate in the work of the Association through their permanent or occasional representatives.

The Association works in plenary sessions, in which the representatives of all the members of the Association can participate.

Article 40

The Association works directly on achieving the goals and objectives of the Chamber:

- (1) considers issues related to the improvement of the work and solution of the current problems in the work activity;
- (2) initiates or determines plans, programs and measures for business development;
- (3) harmonizes the different interests in order to overcome the contradictions in the Association;
- (4) adopts conclusions and proposes measures of interest to the work activity, taking into consideration the interests of the Chamber as a whole;

The management and the manner of working of the Association are regulated by the Book of regulations of the Associations.

Article 41

The Associations cooperate between themselves on issues of common interest.

Article 42

The Association has a Management Board, as a governing body.

The members of the Management Board are elected at a plenary session of the Association, among the representatives of the members of the Association.

Article 43

Due to taking a coordinated action on issues of common interest, the management boards of two or more associations may hold joint sessions.

Article 44

If the issue of common interest of the associations is not agreed upon by two or more associations, the final stand shall be adopted by the Arbitration Court.

2. Regional Chamber

Article 45

Regional chambers are organized to decentralize the Chamber.

A regional chamber is a form of territorial organization of the Chamber with special importance for the region.

In the Republic of Macedonia, regional chambers are organized in the statistical regions.

Article 46

The regional Chamber:

- (1) initiates the adoption of regulations and measures on issues related to the development and promotion of organic production activities associated to the development of the region itself;
- (2) consider issues and initiate proposals for the entrepreneurship development in the region;
- (3) initiates and cooperates on issues of common interest with the members of the Chambers from the neighboring regions or with regional chambers from the neighboring countries, in accordance to the program activities and the general acts of the Chamber;
- (4) harmonizes the different interests in order to overcome the contradictions in the Regional Chambers;

The management and the way of working of the regional chamber are regulated by the Book of regulations of the Regional chambers.

Article 47

The Regional Chamber has a Management Board as a governing body.

The members of the Management Board are elected at a plenary session of the Regional Chamber, among the representatives of the members of the Chamber from the area of the Regional Chamber.

3. Other forms of organization

Article 48

Sections, boards, commissions and other forms may be organized and operated in the Chamber. The decision on organizing, the working program and the source of providing funds is made by the Management Board of the Chamber.

VI COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CHAMBER AND OTHER ENTITIES

Article 49

In order to develop and promote the organic production in Republic of North Macedonia and to establish economic relations abroad, the Chamber cooperates with the relevant associations and institutions and chambers of commerce and other relevant national and international economic associations and institutions.

The cooperation with the chambers and other associations and institutions abroad is achieved through:

- (1) mixed chambers and business councils,
- (2) joint projects,
- (3) mutual informing, education, certification and promotion,
- (4) fairs and events,
- (5) other promotional activities,
- (6) business visits, study trips and
- (7) other ways of cooperation and contacts.

VII GENERAL ACTS OF THE CHAMBER

Article 50

The general acts of the Chamber are: The Statute, Books of regulations, Decisions, Recommendations, Attitudes and Opinions and other general acts, which, in accordance to the Law and this Statute, are adopted by the Assembly, the Management Board and other institutional bodies and forms of organizations in the Chamber.

Article 51

The Statute and the other general acts of the Chamber will be published in the Chamber's bulletin within five days of the adoption.

The Statute of the Chamber enters into force on the eighth day from the day of its adoption.

Other acts shall enter into force on the day of their publication.

VIII OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE WORKING OF THE CHAMBER

Article 52

The work of the Chamber is public, which is provided by informing the members of the Chamber and the public through the media and the possibility of attending the sessions of the bodies and the other forms of organizations within the Chamber.

Article 53

The Chamber has its own website in Macedonian and English language.

The Chamber may publish permanent or periodical bulletins, reviews, journals and other means for informing its members and the public.

The Chamber publishes the decisions of the institutional bodies of the Chamber on its website.

Article 54

The Management Board of the Chamber determines the degree of confidentiality of the documents or certain data that represents business secrets in accordance to the law or the acts of the Chamber if their announcement to an unauthorized person, due to their nature and significance would be contrary to the interests of the members.

IX EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CHAMBER

Article 55

The Chamber has an Executive Director as a permanent employee who is appointed and dismissed by the Management Board of the Chamber.

The Executive Director organizes the preparation of the sessions of the Assembly and the Management Board.

The Executive Director has other authorizations determined by an act of the Assembly of the Chamber.

The Executive Director submits a report for his/her work to the Assembly of the Chamber, the Management Board and the President of the Chamber.

The Executive Director organizes and manages the work of the Professional Service of the Chamber and performs other activities in accordance to the Statute and the general acts of the Chamber.

X PROFESSIONAL SERVICE OF THE CHAMBER

Article 56

The professional, administrative-technical, assistant and other activities conducted for the needs of the Chamber are performed by the Professional Service of the Chamber.

The professional service performs the administrative-professional work related to the preparation and implementation of the Statute, decisions, conclusions and other acts of the institutional bodies and the forms of organizations of the Chamber as well as the legal and other regulations related to the work activities of the Chamber.

The professional service prepares information, analyzes, drafts of general and other acts for the needs of the Chamber, proposals for adoption and opinions on draft laws and other regulations in the field of economy at national, regional and local level.

The employees in the Professional Service have a special responsibility for their attitude towards the data collected by the companies regarding their use and publication.

The professional service of the Chamber provides business information, data, expert advice, suggestions, etc., which help to the work of the members of the Chamber.

The professional service performs the services primarily for the members of the Chamber, as well as for domestic and foreign legal entities and people who are not members.

The professional service cooperates with the professional services of the members of the Chamber, with scientific, professional and other institutions in the country and abroad in performing its activities.

XI PROPERTY AND RESOURCES OF THE CHAMBER

Article 57

The property and subjects of permanent value as a part of the property of the Chamber can not be alienated, pledged or dismissed without compensation, except in cases when these kind of solutions lead to increase of their values and functionality for which the Assembly decides.

Article 58

The funds for the work of the Chamber are provided by:

- (1) the membership fee paid by its members;
- (2) compensation for professional and other services;
- (3) compensation for performing public authorizations;
- (4) allocated funds and
- (5) other sources.

The amount of the membership fee, the manner and the deadlines for its payment is determined by the Assembly of the Chamber.

The members of the Chamber have the obligation to regularly pay the membership fee in a manner and within the deadlines determined by the decision of the Assembly of the Chamber.

Article 59

The Assembly of the Chamber determines the amount and manner of distribution of the finances.

The associations according to work activities, and / or regional chambers, may also provide special funds for certain specific purposes for their own purposes.

Article 60

In order to perform certain activities of their interest that are not financed by the Chamber's Financial Plan, ie to finance special activities, not determined by the annual working program of the Chamber, certain members of the Chamber may raise funds or establish funds for special purpose within the Chamber. The members have these funds at their disposal independently, in accordance to the act of their association and the general acts of the Chamber.

Article 61

The funds paid in the name of deposit and / or compensation for disputes before the Permanent Elected Arbitration Court and the Commission of Honor, as well as in other cases determined by law or a general act of the Chamber, are included in the Annual Financial Plan of the Chamber.

XII TERMINATION OF THE CHAMBER

Article 62

The Chamber ceases to exist with a decision adopted by the Assembly by a two-thirds majority vote of the present members.

In case of ceasing to exist, the property of the Chamber is transferred to the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia.

XIII TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 63

This Statute enters into force on the day of its adoption.

This Statute was adopted at the Constitutive Session of the Assembly of the Chamber of Organic Producers held on 16.12.2019.

No. _____

16.12.2019, Kumanovo

President

Dragi Cvetkovikj