

Articles of Association

Section I GENERAL CONDITIONS

Article 1 Headquarters and official languages

- 1 The International Military History Commission (known by its French abbreviation CIHM), founded in 1938, is part of the International Committee of Historical Sciences (CISH) as an affiliated international organisation.
- 2 The CIHM is made up of national commissions as well as specialised committees.
- 3 The administrative and head office of the Commission is located at the treasurer's residence.
- 4 The official languages of the CIHM are English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. Any one of these languages can be used during general meetings. CIHM documents are not necessarily translated into all official languages. Simultaneous interpretation during meetings of congress is covered by specific instructions.
- 5 The original version of the articles of association, drafted in French, shall be deemed authentic.

Article 2 Objectives

- 1 The aim of the CIHM is to foster and co-ordinate military historians' research in a spirit of international friendship, so that researchers can become better acquainted with each other, co-operate and share the results of their work.
- 2 To this end, the CIHM shall:
 - a) Supervise international congresses, arranging for them to be organised by affiliated national commissions,
 - b) Publish international issues of the *Revue internationale d'histoire militaire (International Review of Military History)* and annual issues of the International Bibliography of Military History,
 - c) Encourage contacts and co-operation between military historians, the organisations and people who manage military archives and museums,
 - d) Promote the circulation of work and publications of affiliated national commissions and of specialised committees,
 - e) Co-operate with institutions that pursue similar objectives.
- 3 The CIHM may initiate other work and research programmes.

Section II STRUCTURES OF THE CIHM

Article 3 General

- 1 The CIHM is made up of the national commissions and specialised committees affiliated to it.
- 2 Ordinary five-year (during which elections are held) and Extraordinary General Meetings, the Bureau, the Executive and the auditors are the instruments of the CIHM.
- 3 The Bibliography Committee and the Archives Committee are organisations set up by the CIHM. It may set up other permanent or temporary specialised committees.
- 4 The CIHM may set up transnational military history commissions in order to bring researchers together and/or encourage the study of military history in geographical areas that are underrepresented as far as the CIHM is concerned. Transnational commissions shall enjoy the

same rights and duties as national commissions.

- 5 The CIHM may enter into co-operative agreements with other organisations to pursue its statutory objectives.

1. NATIONAL COMMISSIONS

Article 4 Affiliation

- 1 Only one national military history commission per country may be affiliated to the CIHM.
- 2 To be able to apply and join the CIHM, a national commission must meet the following requirements:
 - a) Have an executive office made up of at least one president and one secretary general,
 - b) Bring together, either continuously or for regular activities, representatives of various civilian and/or military institutions (Ministry of Defence, universities, research establishments, archives departments, libraries, museums, etc.),
 - c) Undertake to pay the annual subscription to the CIHM.

Article 5 Application

- 1 A national military history commission wishing to become a member of the CIHM shall send a membership request to the secretary general, for the attention of the Bureau, attaching documents certifying that it meets the requirements laid down in Article 4.
- 2 If the application is complete and terms of membership seem to be fulfilled, the Bureau shall inform all the other national commissions of the application and invite the applying commission to attend the next international Congress sponsored by the CIHM as an observer.
- 3 The membership request shall be ratified by a General Meeting. From that time on, the national commission shall enjoy its full rights and shall take on its full duties.

Article 6 Rights and duties

- 1 National commissions of the CIHM are entitled to:
 - a) Take part in the Congresses sponsored by the CIHM, as well as the work of specialised committees,
 - b) Have access to documentation drafted by specialised committees working within the CIHM,
 - c) Use the archives and information bodies of the CIHM under preferential terms,
 - d) Take part, with voting rights, in Ordinary and Extraordinary General Meetings.
- 2 National commissions of the CIHM are required to:
 - a) Organise regular activities at the national level,
 - b) Comply with the articles of association of the CIHM,
 - c) Attend or appoint someone to represent it at both international Congresses sponsored by the CIHM and General Meetings,
 - d) Pay their dues on time.

Non-compliance with these requirements may lead to suspension and possibly even exclusion by the Ordinary General Meeting.

Article 7 Dues

- 1 The annual dues for national commissions is set by the Ordinary General Meeting.
- 2 Annual dues shall normally be paid during the course of the relevant year.
- 3 Once membership has been approved by the General Meeting, the national commission shall pay the dues for the current year.

Article 8 Suspension and exclusion

- 1 At the proposal of the Bureau and for reasons of *force majeure*, the General Meeting may temporarily exempt a national commission from paying the annual dues.
- 2 Failure to pay the annual dues for four consecutive years shall result in the national commission being suspended by the Ordinary General Meeting, with the possibility of being excluded.
- 3 The Bureau is authorised to ask the Ordinary General Meeting to exclude a national commission.
- 4 A national commission excluded from the CIHM shall not be able to request its reinstatement before a period of three years starting on the date of the decision taken by the Ordinary General Meeting.

2. SPECIALISED COMMITTEES**Article 9 Constitution and scope of activities**

- 1 The Bibliography Committee and the Archives Committee are permanent specialised committees of the CIHM. Their task is to encourage, co-ordinate and support the research of military historians from all countries in a spirit of international friendship, so that researchers can become better acquainted with each other and share the results of their work. These committees work in areas that are particularly interesting in terms of the study and promotion of military history.
- 2 The Bibliography Committee and the Archives Committee are independent in terms of internal organisation, operations, funding, the appointment of their members and of their Bureau. In the CIHM protocol their president is akin to a national commission president.
- 3 By analogy, by applying the principles that govern the Bibliography Committee and the Archives Committee, the CIHM can set up either permanent or temporary specialised committees.

Article 10 Operations and funding

- 1 Specialised committees normally hold their ordinary meetings during the annual international Congresses sponsored by the CIHM.
- 2 Specialised committees are responsible for their own operating expenses, keep their own accounts, set their own budgets and appoint their own auditors.
- 3 The treasurer/assistant secretary general shall keep a close watch on the accounts of specialised committees.
- 4 The publications or actions of specialised committees can be subsidised by the CIHM. The amounts shall be determined by the General Meeting.

3. TRANSNATIONAL COMMISSIONS**Article 11 Definition**

- 1 At the proposal of the CIHM Bureau, the General Meeting can set up transnational military history commissions in specific geographical areas in order to:
 - a) encourage the future creation of national military history commissions in countries in that area,
 - b) promote the study of comparative military history, create better links between military historians in that area, as well as the exchange of information and the co-ordination of research.
- 2 Setting up a transnational commission affiliated to the CIHM requires the agreement of a double

majority of military history commissions affiliated to the CIHM and of those active in the area.

Section III BODIES OF THE CIHM

1. GENERAL MEETING

Article 12 Ordinary and Extraordinary General Meeting

- 1 Ordinary or Extraordinary General Meetings are the CIHM's supreme body.
- 2 A General Meeting is normally held every year.
- 3 Every five years, the Ordinary General Meeting holds statutory elections and discharges the Bureau for the accounts for the previous five years.
- 3 The Bureau convenes Ordinary and Extraordinary General Meetings.
- 4 One third of national commissions in full possession of their rights can request that an Extraordinary General Meeting be held.

Article 13 Participation

- 1 Only those national commissions in full possession of their rights are entitled to vote during the General Meeting.
- 2 The General Meeting (except when elections are taking place) is led by the president of the CIHM, normally together with members of the Bureau.
- 3 Participants of the international Congresses sponsored by the CIHM, those who accompany them, including honorary members, may take part as observers of the General Meeting.
- 4 Statutory elections shall be led by an election committee.

Article 14 Jurisdiction

- 1 It is the responsibility of the (Ordinary or Extraordinary) General Meeting to:
 - appoint the auditors,
 - deliberate on the activity reports, programmes, accounts and budgets submitted by the Bureau,
 - deliberate on topics of general interest to the CIHM, as well as on any other topic suggested by the Bureau,
 - deliberate on instructions for national commissions submitted by the Bureau,
 - deliberate on the interpretation and amendment of the articles of association,
 - deliberate proposals submitted by the Bureau for exempting a national commission from paying its dues.
- 2 In addition, it is the responsibility of the Ordinary General Meeting to:
 - suspend or exclude a national commission,
 - discharge the outgoing Bureau for the accounts for the previous five years,
 - set the annual subscription for national commissions,
 - elect the president, secretary general, treasurer/assistant secretary general and members of the Bureau by secret ballot,
 - elect honorary members.

Article 15 Notice of meetings

- 1 Normally, General Meetings are convened in writing by the secretary general (two months before the Ordinary General Meeting is held). They take place during an international meeting of Congress sponsored by the CIHM.

- 2 The agenda is attached to the notice of meeting.

Article 16 Representation and postal votes

- 1 A national commission is officially represented at the General Meeting by its president or vice president, unless written authority is given by the president or the vice president to another member of his commission.
- 2 A national commission which is not represented at the Ordinary General Meeting for reasons of *force majeure* may vote by post, but only for statutory elections.
- 3 A suspended national commission can attend the General Meeting but has no voting rights. An excluded commission cannot attend the General Meeting.

Article 17 Deliberations

Subject to the provisions laid down for amending the articles of association and for winding up the CIHM, the General Meeting can make legitimate decisions with a simple majority, regardless of the number of commissions represented at the General Meeting.

2. THE BUREAU OF THE CIHM

Article 18 Constitution

- 1 The Bureau handles the CIHM's routine business, communicates with the national commissions and represents the CIHM to the outside world.
- 2 The Bureau is made up of the president, 1-2 vice president, the secretary general, the treasurer/assistant secretary general, and between 5 and 10 members.
- 3 A national commission can only have one member on the CIHM Bureau.
- 4 Within the Bureau, the Executive (made up of the president, vice president deputy chairman (vice presidents), the secretary general and the treasurer/assistant secretary general) prepares the plenary meetings.
- 5 In the event of the president's inability to attend, sickness or death, the vice president who has been in office for longest or, if they were appointed at the same time, the eldest, shall become the acting president of the CIHM.
- 6 At the end of his/her term, members of the Bureau who are deemed to have rendered services of exceptional significance to the CIHM, may be elected honorary members by the Ordinary General Meeting.

Article 19 Tasks of the secretary general

The secretary general:

- a) Shall ensure communications and ensure co-ordination on a permanent basis, between members of the Bureau and the national commissions,
- b) Co-ordinates and, if necessary, supervises the web sites and publications of the CIHM, in particular the *International Review of Military History* and ensures that they are stocked and distributed (the *International Bibliography of Military History* is a special case),
- c) Keeps the CIHM's archives,
- d) Runs the secretariat and takes the minutes of both the Bureau and the General Meeting,
- e) Submits an activity report for the previous year to the Ordinary General Meeting.

Article 20 Tasks of the treasurer/assistant secretary general

The treasurer / assistant secretary general:

- a) Keeps the accounts and manages the funds of the CIHM,
- b) Is authorised to sign accounting records and payment orders by himself,
- c) Provides information, at every international Congress sponsored by the CIHM, about the statement of accounts as at 31 December for the previous year, and about the budget for the current period,
- d) Submits the accounts for the previous five accounting years, closed as at 31 December of the previous year, to the Ordinary General Meeting, and presents a financial report.

3. AUDITORS

Article 21

- 1 The CIHM Bureau proposes three auditors, chosen from three different national commissions. They are elected by the General Meeting.
- 2 These auditors shall submit an audit report to the Ordinary General Meeting.

Section IV ELECTIONS

Article 22 Rules

The CIHM Bureau shall issue rules concerning the five-year statutory elections and submit them to the General Meeting.

Article 23 Eligibility

- 1 Only those national commissions in full possession of their rights may propose candidates to be elected to the CIHM Bureau (president, vice president (vice presidents), secretary general, treasurer/assistant secretary general and Bureau members).
- 2 A candidate elected to several positions must choose. He/she cannot hold more than one position.

Article 24 Term of office

The term of office of members of the CIHM's Bureau and that of auditors is 5 years. It can only be renewed once.

Article 25 Election committee

- 1 The election committee shall prepare and organise the entire election process. The election committee is made up of at least 1 president, 1 secretary and 1 member, elected by an Extraordinary General Meeting two years before the date of the elections.
- 2 In order to be elected to the election committee, candidates put forward by the CIHM Bureau must obtain a 2/3 qualified majority of attending national commissions.

Article 26 Applications

- 1 The application letter shall be sent to the secretary general of the CIHM, who submits it to the secretary of the election committee. The letter bears three signatures: the applicant's, the chairman's and that of the secretary general of the relevant national commission.
- 2 The application letter must reach the secretary general of the CIHM by the end of April at the latest of the year when the five-year statutory elections are held.
- 3 During the election year, at the international Congress sponsored by the CIHM, the election committee shall display the full list of candidates for election to the Bureau.

Article 27 Progress of elections

- 1 Elections to the CIHM Bureau take place in the following order: president, secretary general, treasurer/assistant secretary general, members.
- 2 Once the election results have been announced, the president of the election committee immediately invests those elected.
- 3 At its first meeting, the new Bureau shall appoint the vice president (vice presidents) from its members.

Section V MEETINGS OF CONGRESS

Article 28 International Congresses sponsored by the CIHM

- 1 Taking into account the geographical breakdown and variety of themes, the CIHM Bureau shall prepare a schedule of international Congresses of military history, appointing either a national commission to organise it which applied or a national commission which was asked to do so.
- 2 Two years at the latest prior to the start of an international Congress, the theme of the Congress shall be agreed by the organising national commission and the Committee.
- 3 Every five years, the dates and place where the international Congress of military history is to be held shall, if possible, match the dates and place chosen by the International Committee of Historical Sciences for its five-year meeting of a Congress.
- 4 The scientific procedures, selection of conference papers, organisation, progress and simultaneous interpretation of international meetings of a Congress sponsored by the CIHM are covered by specific instructions.

Article 29 Symposiums organised independently by national commissions

The Bureau can support symposiums organised independently by national commissions and designed as scientific meetings of military historians around a theme, a specific period of history or a specific geographical area.

Section VI PUBLICATIONS AND ARCHIVES

Article 30 International Review of Military History

- 1 The *International Review of Military History* is the CIHM's publication aimed at maintaining contacts between military historians from all countries. Each issue may be published by the Bureau (international issue) or by one or more national commissions (national issue).
- 2 In accordance with French legislation in force, the secretary general automatically becomes the administrator of the review for the conservation of the title's ownership, filed in Paris by the Comité d'histoire militaire comparée, founded by A. Desprésaux, who was responsible for publishing the very first issues (1939-1946).
- 3 The secretary general coordinates publication of both national and international issues.
- 4 National issues are normally funded by national commissions and international issues by the CIHM.

Article 31 Archives

The archives of the CIHM are filed at the Château de Vincennes at the Historical Department of

the French Army.

Section VII FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 32 Amendment of articles of association

- 1 Proposed amendments to the articles of association come from the CIHM Bureau or from national commissions. They are to be submitted six months at the latest prior to the annual international Congress sponsored by the CIHM so that the secretary general can bring them to the attention of affiliated national commissions.
- 2 Concerning the amendment of articles of association, the General Meeting can make legitimate decisions provided that at least half of the national commissions are represented. In order to be approved, amendments require a 2/3 majority of votes cast in a secret ballot.

Article 33 Winding up of the CIHM

- 1 To deliberate on the winding up of the CIHM, for any reason whatsoever, there must be two General Meetings separated by a period of twelve months, the first of these gathering at least half the national commissions. The majority required for it to be wound up is at least two thirds of the votes cast in a secret ballot.
- 2 In the event of winding up, measures shall be taken by the General Meeting regarding the archives and assets of the CIHM.

Article 34 Entry into force

These articles of association were approved by the Ordinary General Meeting of the ICMH on 26 August 2005 at Madrid, Spain. The statutes will enter into force on 1 January 2006.