



## **Constitution of the Labour Movement for Europe**

### **Name**

1. The organisation shall be known as the Labour Movement for Europe or LME.

### **Aims**

2. LME exists to promote positive debate of the European Union both within the Labour Movement and beyond.
3. LME shall aim for full affiliation to the Labour Party as a Socialist Society.
4. LME shall seek to work with other organisations that share similar aims and objectives to build a pro-European consensus in the UK

### **Membership**

5. A member shall be any person who accepts the aims of LME, is an individual member of the Labour Party or is eligible to be a member of the Labour Party and has paid the annual subscription.

### **Structure**

6. LME's structure shall consist of the National Membership, the National Executive, the Parliamentary Group, the EPLP Group and LME Branches.

### **National Executive**

7. The National Executive is responsible for developing the policy and strategic objectives of LME and for implementing the aims of the organisation, according to an annual work plan agreed at an Annual General Meeting.
8. All members of the National Executive must be members of the LME who are also members of the Labour Party.
9. Ad hoc working groups may be formed by the National Executive to undertake specific work in line with the aims of LME and the annual work plan.
10. The National Executive will consist of:
  - a) The LME Patrons
  - b) National Chair
  - c) 2 members of the Parliamentary Group
  - d) 2 members of the EPLP Group
  - e) 5 non-Parliamentary members who are elected by the AGM. At least two shall be female.
  - f) 2 non-Parliamentary members who are aged 30 or under and are elected by the AGM. At least one shall be female.
  - g) Up to 3 co-opted members who will reflect pro-European feeling from throughout the Labour Movement. They shall be from industry and commerce, the professions, academia, trade unions and European Union institutions with the exception of the European Parliament.
11. Vice Chair, National Secretary, National Treasurer, and Membership Secretary will be appointed by the National Executive by a simple majority vote.
12. Any executive member elected via categories c,d,e,f may also become Vice Chair, National Secretary, National Treasurer or Membership Secretary
13. LME Patrons will be invited to become Patrons by a two-thirds majority of the National Executive or by a unanimous decision of the Parliamentary Group Officers and EPLP Group Officers.
14. A LME Patron holds office for five years.

15. The Chair of the National Executive will be directly elected by the Membership.
16. All members of the National Executive, including the Chair, take office immediately after the AGM at which their election was announced
17. A member of the National Executive holds office until their term expires or in the event of a vote on a motion to remove them from office of two thirds of those present at a General Meeting.
18. Co-opted members of the National Executive will be co-opted by a two-thirds majority of the National Executive or by a unanimous decision of the National Executive Officers.
19. A co-opted member takes office at the first meeting of the National Executive after their co-option.
20. The National Executive shall meet not fewer than four times a year.
21. Meetings of the National Executive shall be responsible for determining the direction of LME between AGMs.

### **Parliamentary Group**

22. A LME Parliamentary Group shall be formed. It shall consist of any Labour MP or Labour Peer who is a member of the LME. It shall elect a Chair, two Vice Chairs, a Secretary and a Treasurer, of whom at least two shall be female. Two members of the Parliamentary Group will join the National Executive
23. An Officer holds office for one year or in the event of a vote on a motion to remove them from office of two thirds of those present at a Parliamentary Group Meeting, or two thirds of those present at a general meeting.
24. The Parliamentary Group shall be responsible for co-ordinating parliamentary activity and disseminating LME material amongst the PLP.
25. The Parliamentary Group shall meet at least once a year. The Chair shall call meetings independently or if requested to do so by 10 members or more.

### **EPLP Group**

26. A LME EPLP Group shall be formed. It shall consist of any Labour MEP who is a member of the LME. It shall elect a Chair, two Vice Chairs and a Secretary, of whom at least two shall be female. Two members of the European Parliamentary Group will join the National Executive
27. An Officer holds office for one year or in the event of a vote on a motion to remove them from office of two thirds of those present at a European Parliamentary Group Meeting, or two thirds of those present at a general meeting.
28. The EPLP Group shall be responsible for co-ordinating activity in the European Parliament and disseminating LME material amongst the EPLP.
29. The EPLP Group shall meet at least once a year. The Chair shall call meetings independently or if requested to do so by 5 members or more.

### **Branches**

30. A LME Branch shall be a group of LME members from within a given geographical area choosing to meet and work together.
31. To be eligible for recognition, a branch must:
  - a) hold annual elections to a committee with at least a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer with all members of the branch eligible to vote;
  - b) agree with the National Executive the name of the branch and the geographical area to be covered;
  - c) open a bank account in the name of the branch and submit an annual account to the Treasurer of LME;
  - d) demonstrate a commitment to an annual level of activity and have a membership of at least twenty.
32. Potential branches shall inform the National Executive of their wish to affiliate for approval by submitting a Branch Start-up Proposal.
33. Each new branch may apply to the National Executive for an initial and one-off start-up grant. The National Executive shall agree the amount given based on the number of branch members, potential branch members and the content of Branch Start-up Proposal.

34. Branches will receive an annual capitation grant from LME based on the number of LME members who are members of the LME in the catchment area of the branch at a rate and on a basis agreed by the National Executive. The Branch has to provide evidence of points 31a, 31c and 31d above to be eligible for this capitation grant.

### **General Meetings**

35. The General Meeting shall be the sovereign body of LME and shall determine the policies of the organisation within the aims of LME and this constitution. The aims shall be further defined and elaborated by all the documents and resolutions approved by the General Meetings of LME.
36. All members of LME may attend, speak, propose resolutions, amendments and constitutional amendments and vote at General Meetings.
37. Each General Meeting shall deal with the following business:
- a) Any resolutions and amendments proposed; and
  - b) Any amendments proposed to this constitution.
38. A General Meeting shall be quorate if 10% of the members are present or 20 members are present, whichever is the smaller number.
39. The Chair of the National Executive shall call and chair each General Meeting. The National Executive shall call General Meetings independently, or if requested to do so by 40 members or more.

### **Annual General Meeting**

40. An Annual General Meeting shall be held within 14 months of the previous Annual General Meeting. In addition to the business of a General Meeting, the AGM shall deal with:
- a) Agreement of the annual subscriptions;
  - b) Approval of financial and membership reports;
  - c) The election of members of the National Executive.

### **Rules of Procedure**

41. All votes on resolutions, amendments, amendments to this constitution and procedural motions shall be by show of hands, unless a motion that a secret ballot be held is passed by a two-thirds majority of those members present.
42. The chair of any meeting shall only have a casting vote.
43. Resolutions to be debated at a General Meeting must be submitted with the names of the proposer and seconder in writing to the National Executive at least 14 days before the General Meeting.
44. Amendments to motions to be debated at a General Meeting must be submitted with the names of the proposer and seconder in writing to the National Executive by 5pm the day before the General Meeting.
45. Constitutional amendments and motions to remove a member of the National Executive from office must be submitted with the names of the proposer and seconder in writing to the National Executive at least 14 days before the General Meeting. Amendments to any such proposals shall be submitted to the National Executive by 5pm the day before a General Meeting.
46. A Calling Notice of a General Meeting shall be sent to members at least 30 days in advance.
47. The text of any proposed resolutions, amendments to this constitution and motions to remove a member of the National Executive from office shall be sent to members at least 10 days in advance of a General Meeting.

### **Procedural Motions**

48. The following Procedural Motions may be moved at any time but shall have priority in the following order:
- PM1 to remove the present Chair;
  - PM2 to overturn the Chair's ruling;
  - PM3 to adjourn the General Meeting for a specified period of time;
  - PM4 to alter the agenda in a specific way to allow consideration of an issue;
  - PM5 to refer the matter under consideration to a specified body or person for further consideration;

- PM6 that the matter under consideration be deferred to later in the meeting or to a later General Meeting, as specified;
  - PM7 to issue a specific instruction to the Chair, such instruction shall not contradict the Rules of Procedure;
  - PM8 that the General Meeting shall vote on the resolution, amendment, or part as it now stands;
  - PM9 to take the resolution or amendments in parts, as specified;
  - PM10 to allow a non-member of LME to speak;
  - PM11 that the resolution or amendment be withdrawn.
49. PM1 and PM2 need to be carried by a two-thirds majority.
50. All other procedural motions need to be carried by a simple majority.

### **Elections**

- 51. The National Chair, and non-Parliamentary members of the National Executive will be elected by postal ballot of the membership.
- 52. The outgoing National Executive shall nominate a Returning Officer.
- 53. The name and address of the Returning Officer shall be included in the Calling Notice for nominations.
- 54. The Returning Officer shall be responsible for the conduct of the elections.
- 55. The Returning Officer may not be a candidate in the elections, nor may they propose or second any candidate.
- 56. Elections must take place no later than a week before the AGM
- 57. The results of the election will be announced formally at the AGM
- 58. The Parliamentary Group will elect the Parliamentary Group Chair, two Vice Chairs, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The EPLP Group will elect the EPLP Group Chair, two Vice Chairs and a Secretary.
- 59. All elections shall be by secret ballot and shall be counted according to the Electoral Reform Society rules for Single Transferable Vote
- 60. A Calling Notice for nominations shall be sent, by the Returning Officer, to the membership at least 6 weeks before the AGM.
- 61. Nominees must be supported by a Proposer and a Secunder.
- 62. Upon close of the nominations, nominees will be invited to submit a formal statement, in no more than 200 words, to the Returning Officer
- 63. Manifestos will be sent by mail to all LME members together with a ballot paper and instructions.
- 64. Ballot papers must be sent to members at least 3 weeks before the AGM
- 65. Ballot papers must be returned to the Returning Officer by the appointed deadline, which should be no later than one week before the AGM
- 66. The decisions of the Returning Officer with regard to the conduct of the election may be referred to an Arbitration Board, only in the event of a two-thirds majority vote of those present at an Annual General Meeting, or at the request of two-thirds of the National Executive.
- 67. Each candidate in the elections shall have the right to a representative in the count, nominated by themselves and notified to the Returning Officer with their nomination.

### **Amendments to the Constitution**

- 68. Amendments to the Constitution shall be discussed by General Meetings and adopted if two-thirds of the members present are in favour.

### **Interpretations to the Constitution**

- 69. At any meeting of LME, the Chair shall uphold and interpret this Constitution. Their interpretation may be overturned by two-thirds of those present at the meeting in which the dispute arises.

### **Arbitration Board**

- 70. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Constitution, any member may appeal to an Arbitration Board, which shall arbitrate on all disputes arising within the Constitution. It shall have three members, who shall be:
  - a) A member of the LME National Executive;

- b) A former member of the LME National Executive who has not served on the National Executive for at least a year; and
- c) An ordinary member of LME elected by the General Meeting where the dispute arises, providing a simple majority of those present are in favour.

### **Dissolution**

71. LME may be dissolved by an Annual General Meeting or General Meeting of the membership on a resolution proposed and supported by a simple majority of the National Executive and carried by the votes of two-thirds of the members present. On the passing of such a resolution, the National Executive shall proceed to wind up the affairs of the organisation in as advantageous a manner as is reasonably possible, and shall report to the membership within one year of the decision being taken.