



**The European Sailing Fraternity
Its Origin, Purpose and Operation
November 2011**

(Draft translation- March 2012)

THE EUROPEAN SAILING FRATERNITY

The European Sailing Fraternity (Cofradía Europea de la Vela – CEV) was created in Sanxenxo Galicia) on the 15th of February 2001. Their founders were people linked with sailing and sea navigation in general. They wanted to create an institution totally independent from other existing institutions, and whose aim was to share and to protect the culture of the sea and sailing, that was the link that initially united them all. The initial idea came from Francisco Quiroga, and the founders were mostly from Galicia and Portugal along with people from other Spanish communities, who joined together under such a this traditional form among sailors, as is a fraternity.

Its headquarters are currently situated in Vigo.

0.- This Document

We have prepared this document to explain the basic aspects of the Fraternity. It is mainly aimed at new members and all those who wish to have a clear and simple vision of the most essential aspects of our institution.

1. Its Mission and Objectives

The primary purpose of the Fraternity, as defined in its statutes, is the defence of the tradition of sailing and the promotion and development of marine culture and knowledge of the sea by the society.

These aims were reflected in a set of statutory objectives as set out below:

- To raise awareness of the importance of the sea from a sporting, social and ecological point of view, and specially the youth on the importance and responsibility in preserving the seas, rivers and inland waters.
- To create opportunities for studying and debating on the sailing culture particularly, and on the sea in general.
- To promote and to spread the sustainable use of marine resources.
- To promote races and sailing meetings.

2.- Its Legal Arrangement

The European Fraternity of Sailing is set up as a Spanish civil association. Its legal arrangement is constituted by its' statutes. In order to adapt to the current legislation, their present version was approved in the General Council on November the 8th 2009 in Ferrol.

3.- The Members

The European Fraternity of Sailing is a personal association. No institution can as such be a member of the Fraternity, nor can anyone be a member because of his position. The members can hold any position outside of the Fraternity, but not enter or leave it because of it.

The members are appointed by co-option, and are proposed by the Table. You cannot apply to be a member of the Fraternity, as you must be proposed by other members, in the manner prescribed in the statutes,

They are people, men and women, united in a life devoted to the sea, and especially sailing.

There are two kinds of members: full and honorary. They basically differ in the fees they have to pay, and the right to vote.

4.- The organisation

The General Council

The supreme governing body of the Fraternity is its General Council, and all the “brothers” are members who participate as it’s prescribed by the Statutes.

As prescribed by the Statutes, the General Council meets at least once a year to receive and to invest new members, to approve new projects and to inform about management decisions taken.

The meetings are chaired by the Grand Master and assisted by the Table.

The Council has a mandatory annual meeting, which usually takes place in Galicia, owing to the fact that the Fraternity was born there, or in Portugal. The meeting coincides with the invest ceremony of the new Fraternity members.

The Table

It is the governing body of the Fraternity.

The positions or posts tend to assimilate the most commonly used in these types of organizations, and these are:

- Grand Master (President), a position that is held by Francisco Quiroga Martinez.
- Commodore (Vice Chairman), held by Ramon Sabin Sabin.
- Scribe (Secretary), Manuel Bermudez Soliño.
- Commander (Treasurer), Pedro Rey Barreiro-Meiro.
- Chancellor (Speaker), Xosé Luis Blanco Campaña.

and a maximum of six members. Currently they are:

- Arturo Delgado Almeida.
- Joan Anton Camuñas Feijoo.
- Jorge Pinheiro Arnoso.

- Antonio Roquette.
- Segimon Obradors.
- Juan Carlos Rodríguez-Toubes Núñez.

5.- Territorial Organization

Chapters

The Chapters are groups of members in a defined territorial or regional scope, whose aim is to generate activity and relationships between themselves, and between them and the Fraternity.

Their origin lies in the need to encourage activity and the presence of the Fraternity in those geographical areas in which the sufficient number of members advises it

Chapters do not represent areas or countries within the Fraternity, but represent the Fraternity in its territory.

The launching of a new Chapter may be started at any level within the Fraternity, but it always requires the approval of the Table and the ratification of the General Council.

At present, the following are constituted:

- Galicia.
- Madrid.
- Catalonia.
- Porto.
- Lisbon.
- Balearics.

Other Groups of Members

In addition to areas where there is a Chapter, the Fraternity has members in many different places around the world, although other than Spain and Portugal, the Iberian American and European countries are predominant. Among them are: Puerto Rico, Mexico, Venezuela, Uruguay, Ecuador, Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, Andorra, France, Italy, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. It is the aim of the Fraternity to open new ground and to start new Chapters in the future.

6.- The Functional Organization and Activities of The Fraternity

In addition to the Table and Regional Chapters, the Fraternity is also organized into different committees. These committees are based on some specialization criteria and they take in charge specific projects and tasks.

Currently, the appointed committees are as follows:

- Invest Ceremony. It takes care of organizing the annual ceremony of investing the new members.

- Sailboats Meeting. Promotion and spreading of the sea culture. It organises an annual meeting of sailing boats in the some places where the Fraternity develops any activity. There two editions of this event have been organized. This committee also assumes the study, proposal and promotion of the activities of the Fraternity.
- Maritime Culture. The preservation and transmission of the culture of the sea is part of our foundational objective. This committee takes care of its implementation.
- Knowledge Forum and Sailing Future Issues Forum.
- The Sailing International Forum. This committee takes care of the regular organization of international forums to analyze and to discuss on the role and development of sailing in the world. The format includes lectures, debates, round tables about key issues in the world of sailing. A first edition was held in 2009.
- Latin America. Its purpose is to promote the development of the Fraternity in these countries, proposing new members and activities. It should also be a channel for initiatives that could arise there.
- European Fraternity Sailing Award. This Committee takes care of the management of this yearly Award, that is detailed below.
- Institutional Relations. It takes care of the relationship of the Fraternity with sports, social, and governmental institutions and administrations, and especially with civilian and military navies of the world.
- Presence in Major Events. The fraternity is frequently invited to major events. Their study, proposal and management is carried out by this committee.
- European Maritime Strategy.

7.- Our Web Site

The Fraternity has a web site in which all the information about the organisation can be found, as well as debates, photographs, opinions, information, pictures.... etc. It is also an excellent forum for communication.

The address is: <http://eurocofradevela.wordpress.com/>

8.- Badges and Emblems

The Fraternity, deeply rooted in Galicia according to its origin, and strongly linked to the culture of the sea and sailing that gave rise to it, has several distinctive elements which are:

- The cape, made of blue woollen cloth with velvet collar and gold buttons. The Spanish Navy's own cape was taken.
- The shield embroidered in gold thread, with the symbol of the Fraternity that is worn on the cape or blazer.
- The logo/badge, in gold or silver, which is worn on the collar, or a brooch for the ladies, which carries the symbol of the shield.
- The shell of the pilgrim, made in Sargadelos ceramic.

9.- Awards and Distinctions

Annually, The Fraternity awards a Distinction to a person who has excelled in the world of sailing in any of its many facets. The members can channel their proposals through the relevant committee, who will pass them on to the Table, who will in turn raise the final proposal to the General Council of the Fraternity

10.- The Resources of the Fraternity

The Fraternity, according to its voluntary and associational nature, does not generate commercial activity. Its financial resources come mainly from the fees of its members, and the contributions made by their members, and other persons, entities or institutions.

Moreover, all the social positions of the Fraternity are entirely honorary and free.

The fees are the main contribution of the members to the maintenance of the Fraternity. They are set annually by the Table and they are subject to the approval of the General Council.

The Fraternity also accepts contributions from its members and others. They usually have a more finalist character, and are used to finance specific activities.

It's expected that in the near future, the Fraternity could receive financial support under the form of patronage

We believe that these few pages, express an initial idea and some information about the European Sailing Fraternity

Other documents are available, but probably the personal experiences in the Fraternity will enable us to better understand and to participate in its activities.

Ferrol, November 25th, 2011.

(Draft translation- March 2012)