

Statutes of the Danish Consumer Council

Article 1 Name

1.1 The Danish Consumer Council is a not-for-profit association that acts as the consumers' interest group and is independent of public authorities, industry and political parties.

Article 2 Purpose

2.1 The Danish Consumer Council's purpose is to promote the common good by defending consumer interests by means of an active consumer policy, and the main tasks include:

- working for consumers' rights and economic interests, for the protection of consumers' health and safety and for their right to information and education;
- publishing a consumer magazine for the members;
- expressing consumer views with politicians, public authorities, industry and other stakeholders;
- ensuring consumer representation on relevant boards, councils and committees etc.;
- conducting analyses and awareness-raising activities on consumer policy issues;
- co-operating with relevant organisations and authorities nationally and internationally etc.

Article 3 Members

3.1 Members who may be admitted:

- a) national organisations;
- b) local consumer groups;
- c) private persons as individual members;
- d) honorary members.

3.2 The decision to admit national organisations and local consumer groups, whose activities are consistent with the Danish Consumer Council's purpose, is taken by the Council on the recommendation of the Board.

3.3 Local consumer groups that have existed for at least two years and have at least 100 members may be admitted and be members of the Danish Consumer Council with the right to appoint one member of the Council.

3.4 Local consumer groups that do not meet the conditions of 3.3, but which have existed for at least one year and have at least 30 members, may be admitted and be members of the Danish Consumer Council with the right to appoint one member of the Council with the right to speak, but with no right to vote.

3.5 Criteria for the admission of individual members are determined by the Council on the recommendation of the Board.

3.6 The Council may decide to appoint individuals who have made an extraordinary effort for the Danish Consumer Council as honorary members. Honorary members are entitled to attend Council meetings with the right to speak, but with no right to vote.

3.7 The resignation of member organisations shall be made in writing at one year's notice to 31 December. The membership fee is payable for the entire period.

3.8 The resignation of local consumer groups shall be made in writing at one month's notice to the first of a month.

3.9 The resignation of individual members may be made without notice, and in case membership conditions are not met, membership ceases.

3.10 Members pay a fee. The fee model is determined by the Council on the recommendation of the Board and after consultation with member organisations and local consumer groups.

3.11 Members of the Danish Consumer Council may, in case of clear opposition to the Danish Consumer Council's purpose and activities, be excluded from the Danish Consumer Council. A decision to this effect shall be taken by the Council by at least four fifths of the votes cast.

Article 4 The Council

4.1 The Council is the Danish Consumer Council's highest decision-making body.

4.2 The Council is composed of:

- a) the President;
- b) two members appointed by each member organisation;
- c) one member appointed by each of the local consumer groups;
- d) two members elected from among the individual members;
- e) honorary members.

4.3 The Council shall determine the rules governing the election of two representatives of the individual members and two alternates.

4.4 One of the Council meetings has the status of an annual meeting. The annual meeting is held before the end of April and is called with at least one month's notice.

The agenda of the annual meeting shall as a minimum include the following items:

- a) Election of the chairman
- b) Report
- c) Accounts
- d) Budget
- e) Proposals
- f) Election
- g) Any other business

4.5 Motivated proposals from members of the Council for inclusion on the agenda shall be received by the Danish Consumer Council's secretariat no later than three weeks before the annual meeting.

4.6 The final agenda and meeting documents are submitted to the Council no later than two weeks before the annual meeting.

4.7 The annual meeting has a quorum when the President or Vice-President and minimum half of the members, cf. 3.1 a) and b), and one Council representative of the individual members are present.

4.8 An extraordinary Council meeting may be called with at least one week's notice and shall be called where one third of the Council members so require in writing (indicating a motivated agenda).

4.9 The Danish Consumer Council's policies are determined at Council meetings.

4.10 All decisions and elections, except matters regarding amendment of the statutes and dissolution, are taken by simple majority. Blank votes are not counted.

4.11 The Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure, which shall include specific rules on election.

Article 5 The Board

5.1 The Council elects a Board consisting of and from among Council members at the annual meeting. The Board is the decision-making body between Council meetings.

5.2 The Board is composed of a President, Vice-President and seven members. All are elected for 2 years at a time.

- In even years the President and three Board members.
- In odd years the Vice-President and four Board members.
- Each year also three alternates are elected for one year.

5.3 The Board is responsible for policy decisions between Council meetings and for the preparation of budget proposals, accounts, business decisions, secretariat operations etc. *

5.4 The Board appoints and dismisses the Executive Director. The Board appoints and dismisses members of the management on the recommendation of the Executive Director.

5.5 The President and the Executive Director have the authority to jointly sign and commit the Danish Consumer Council. In their absence this authorisation may be delegated upon Board approval.

5.6 The Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article 6 The President

6.1 The President shall be elected from among the Danish Consumer Council's membership, either from among members entitled to attend meetings or from among the individual members.

Article 7 The secretariat

7.1 The Executive Director heads the secretariat and is accountable to the Board.

Article 8 Annual accounts

8.1 The financial year is the calendar year.

8.2 The annual accounts are audited by a state-authorized public accountant or a registered public accountant, who is elected by the Council.

Article 9 Revenue base

9.1 The Danish Consumer Council's revenues consist of:

- membership fees;
- grants from public authorities, foundations, projects etc.;
- revenue from own activities and business;
- revenue from donations, inheritance etc.

9.2 The Danish Consumer Council's members are solely liable for their membership fee.

Article 10 Statutes

10.1 The Danish Consumer Council's statutes may be amended at the annual meeting, provided that two thirds of the members present vote in favour thereof, cf. 4.7. Blank votes are not counted.

10.2 The proposed new statutes are submitted for consultation with the Danish Consumer Council's member organisations and local consumer groups no later than four weeks before the annual meeting.

Article 11 Dissolution

11.1 In the event of dissolution an extraordinary Council meeting with this agenda item is called.

11.2 A decision to dissolve requires that five sixths of the Council members present vote in favour thereof. Blank votes are not counted.

11.3 In the event of dissolution the surplus is used in accordance with the grant requirements of grants given. Other surplus is used for promoting the Danish Consumer Council's purpose.

11.4 The Board is responsible for the winding-up.

11.5 Records are submitted to the Danish State Archives.

Adopted at the Council meeting on 28 October 2010.

Article 12 Transitional provision

12.1 The statutes come into force on 28 October 2010.

12.2 Persons who, at the time indicated in 12.1, were elected President, Vice-President and Executive Committee member will continue for the rest of their election period as President, Vice-President and Board member respectively, except that the function as Treasurer will cease. The elected Treasurer continues however as an ordinary Board member for the rest of the election period.

12.3 Local consumer groups that, at the time indicated in 12.1, were members of the Danish Consumer Council with voting rights retain their membership with voting rights at Council meetings until 31 December 2012, after which their continued membership, cf. 3.3 or 3.4, will depend on whether they meet the conditions laid down in 3.3 or 3.4 respectively.

** On adoption the Council pointed out that the Board will always be accountable to the Council for all decisions.*