



PRINCIPLES OF THE ACADEMY OF EUROPEAN CULTURE AND ITS FOUNDATION

History and background

The FUNDACION DE FOMENTO EUROPEO – AEFE (FOUNDATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF EUROPE) came into existence in 1991, inspired by “Charter of Paris for a New Europe”, signed on 21 November 1990 at the OSCE.

Since then, the AEFE has fully devoted itself to achieving its aim to unite peoples in a new era of democracy, peace and unity, promoting freedom, consolidating human rights, promoting solidarity and concerning itself with culture as universal and fundamental values.

AEFE is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation aimed at achieving a more cultured, open, secure European society showing greater solidarity and mutual support, and with more extensive, better quality of life.

To achieve its aims, AEFE organises conferences, concerts, symposiums, debates, cultural visits and twinning visits and presents awards to those who make efforts and apply themselves to achieve these aims.

AEFE takes up the baton from the pioneering intellectuals who forged the Europe we know and want to unite, such as Victor Hugo: "Et de l'union des libertés dans la fraternité des peuples naîtra la sympathie des âmes, germe de cet immense avenir où commencera pour le genre humain la vie universelle et que l'on appellera la paix de l'Europe" (A sympathy of spirits will spring from the union of liberties in the brotherhood of peoples to become the seed of this tremendous future in which universal life and what we will come to call peace in Europe will begin for humankind).

Core values of the Academy of European Culture and its Foundation

The Academy and its Foundation fully accept the principles of the AEFE and capitalises on the 25 years of experience it has accumulated, focusing on promoting, protecting and implementing culture and taking it into the future.

Bringing together likeminded people to make joint efforts is the task of the Academy of European Culture and the Foundation of the Academy of European Culture wishes to support this. Our contribution is intended to be useful and aimed at contributing to the common good. It arises from the coming together of our intentions and the contributions we can modestly make, knowing that the mightiest rivers begin at simple springs – "fontibus ex modicis concrescit maximus amnis", as the medieval saying has it.

The importance of culture cannot be stressed enough. The essayist Ángel Ganivet summarises it this way: "A cultured people is a free people; a savage people is a slave people; and a people educated casually, without effort, is an ungovernable people. The freedoms we have are not gracious concessions of the law." (Cartas Finlandesas, IV, ed. 1915, p. 38). Meanwhile, half a century later on the other side of the Atlantic, H.G. Wells declared that "Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe".

Firstly, it is a matter of protecting the cultural and spiritual heritage of Europe – its origins and evolution – preserving the works of the past (visual and dramatic arts, literary works, etc.) and respecting their richness and diversity.

Secondly, we must promote everything that constitutes the basis and foundation of the different and diverse aspects of Western civilisation all over the world.

And, thirdly, looking to the future, we agree with the Paris Charter, mentioned above, in these terms: "In order to promote greater familiarity amongst our peoples, we favour the establishment of cultural centres in cities of other participating States as well as increased cooperation in the audio-visual field and wider exchange in music, theatre, literature and the arts. We resolve to make special efforts in our national policies to promote

better understanding, in particular among young people, through cultural exchanges... through teaching and training in the languages of other participating States..."

Lessons from the last few years lead us to conclude that the policies of States are not managing to fill the gaps emerging with the digital revolution in the information age. Mutual enrichment through cultural exchange does not arise spontaneously, it is due to multiple individual and collective efforts. And we cannot and must not leave all cultural initiatives exclusively in the hands of the political authorities. For this reason, civil society must organise itself to help achieve the objectives on which our civilisation depends, agreed at supranational level.

We recall the words of a speech by André Malraux, a writer and Minister of Culture in the cross-party government that followed the liberation of France in 1945: "La culture ne s'hérite pas, elle se conquiert" (Culture is not inherited, it is conquered).

As this is a huge task, ambitious in terms of content and extensive concerning material, an Academy is required in order to focus the activities and, at the same time, a Foundation is needed to provide the Academy with legal security and economic independence.

Project of the Academy of European Culture and its Foundation

We take the responsibilities incumbent on us concerning all areas of culture and the integration of new technologies, the proper use of electronic devices and the respectful handling of information received and sent. We intend to safeguard the common cultural heritage and its diversity in the fullest and most authentic way possible.

We are aware of the imperative need to establish ethical codes ensuring liberty, privacy and equality of treatment based on the essential freedom of expression and creation.

We postulate the need to promote culture tending to respect principles that are free of closed, dogmatic doctrines and ideologies and ensuring the preservation of the principles agreed in the Paris Charter.

Taking note of the opportunities offered by cooperation with public and private institutions, we base ourselves on people, following the illustrious

vision of Jean Monnet, “father” of the European Union, when he declared: "Nous ne coalisons pas des États, nous unissons des hommes." (We are not linking States: we are uniting human beings).

Because of this, in order to achieve our aims we will avoid any involvement with political and/or economic interests that might disturb the core values of the Academy of European Culture and its Foundation. We will carry out various activities which we will list here, although we make no attempt to be exhaustive.

Activities

- To provide perspective and forward thinking in the whole field of the roots of European culture down to our time.
- To spread and promote, on a not-for-profit basis, the European cultural dimension (all disciplines of arts, sciences, literature and technology), supporting research, analysis and publication in all areas, expressed chronologically.
- To promote an organisational profile, as far as possible and appropriate, in relation to other cultural, artistic and scientific institutions.
- To encourage student exchanges and contribute to aid for all kinds of studies and research (registration fees, grants, etc.) on cultural, artistic and scientific problems throughout Europe, publishing the results of the studies and research.
- Congresses, seminars, competitions, lectures, round tables, exhibitions events and other forms of cultural exchange.
- Publication of printed and electronic books, journals and documents.
- To build, promote and manage museums and cultural institutions, as well as exhibition halls, archives, libraries and/or facilities.
- To issue honours, accolades and awards to people and official or private institutions, associations and organisations.

- To organise and manage humanitarian, philanthropic and cultural work.
- To make in-depth studies of advanced technologies. To analyse and forecast the future.
- To promote, stimulate and protect cultural, sporting and aid organisations trying to integrate and bring together the cultures of all peoples and ethnic groups in Europe.

Nature, structure and operation

The territorial field in which the Academy of European Culture as well as the Foundation will carry out its activities corresponds to all territories of all European States.

The Academy will work with any institutions sharing its objectives, always orientated towards increasing cooperation. "There is not a more accurate test of the progress of civilisation than the progress of the power of cooperation") (John Stuart Mill in *Civilisation*).

All European languages, including Latin, will be respected, but the vehicular languages will be Spanish, English and French.

Biannual conferences will be held where the works, studies, publications, reports, events, competitions, etc. from the intervening period will be debated and explained with academic rigour. At the closing gala dinner, awards will be made to individuals, official or private institutions and European organisations that have made an outstanding contribution in the arts, sciences, literature and technology. These biannual meetings will take place in the capitals of different European countries, always interspersed with the headquarters of the Central Governing Council.

There will also be a headquarters at least in each European State, preferably in their capital cities.

The name of the Academy of European Culture is protected for the whole European Community with entries in the corresponding sections of the Property Register.

The Academy of European Culture began in 2018, "European Year of Cultural Heritage".

The Academy and its Foundation began when it was declared to be of public utility and general interest by the Spanish Ministry of Culture. This allows it to enjoy tax exemptions and benefits under the terms and conditions established in the current regulations, particularly the Legal System for Non-Profit Organisations and Sponsorship Incentives Act 49/2002. This allows tax exemptions and credits for organisations, the Academy and the Foundation. It also means those who make financial contributions to the institution can enjoy deductions of 35% (on income tax) for individuals and 40% (on company tax) for organisations.

The head office is in Barcelona, at Plaça Francesc Macià, 8-9, 6-B, 08029.

At stake is the future of the old-new continent and the protection of culture and the values of democracy as a sign of Western civilisation: culture, competition and solidarity.

Culture is the symbol of freedom, prosperity and peaceful co-existence.
“More battles are won with the pen than with the sword” (attributed to Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra)