

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE No. 234/1989 (A' 110) "Amendment and Addendum of the Statute of the Jewish Community of Athens"

STATUTE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ATHENS

CHAPTER A: PURPOSE

Article 1

The Jewish Community of Athens exists as a Legal Entity under Public Law, pursuant to Law 2456/1920 (A' 173) and Law 4837/1930 (A' 252). Its purpose is, in general, to serve, in accordance with the above laws, its religious, educational, and charitable objectives; to support any beneficial initiative serving national needs; to promote the moral, intellectual, and social advancement of its members; to foster unity among them; and to provide for the advancement of Jewish letters and learning.

Article 2

The Jewish Community of Athens shall maintain a circular seal bearing the words "Hellenic Republic- Jewish Community of Athens" inscribed circumferentially, with the Star of David (Magen David) at its center, and shall have its seat in the city of Athens.

CHAPTER B: MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Article 3

1. Members of the "Jewish Community of Athens" shall, by operation of law, be all Jews, irrespective of gender or age, who reside within the Prefectures of Attica and Boeotia, whether alone or with their families, for a period of at least six (6) months.
2. All members of the "Jewish Community of Athens" shall be under an obligation to contribute, morally and materially, to the extent of their respective means, toward the support of the institutions, other legal entities, and charitable organizations of the Community.

CHAPTER C: HONORARY MEMBERS

Article 4

1. Upon proposal of the Community Council and by resolution of the Community Assembly, Jews or non-Jews who have rendered notable services may be proclaimed honorary members of the Jewish Community of Athens.
2. By resolution of the Community Council, individuals who have rendered notable services or made significant donations to one or more community institutions may be designated as honorary members of such institution(s).
3. The relevant resolution shall be communicated to the person honored by means of a document issued by the Community Council and bearing the signatures of the members present at the meeting at which the resolution was adopted. Honorary members shall be recorded in a book of honor maintained by the Community. The Community Council shall

likewise designate as donors, benefactors, or major benefactors such natural or legal persons who have contributed monetary sums or goods, the value of which shall be determined annually by resolution of the Community Assembly. Their names shall be inscribed on a special plaque, corresponding to each respective category, at the Synagogue or at the relevant Institution, provided that the latter maintains separate premises, and such designation shall be announced at the immediately following meeting of the Community Assembly.

CHAPTER D: REVENUES OF THE COMMUNITY

Article 5

1. All members of the Community who have attained the age of eighteen (18) years shall be obliged to pay to the Community an annual contribution (petsia), as determined pursuant to the provisions of article 26 of the present statute. Students, those fulfilling their military service obligations, and destitutes shall be exempt from such contribution. Members having many children shall pay one-half (1/2) of the contribution corresponding to their assessed category.
2. Additional revenues of the Community shall consist of the following:
 - a. The special levy (gabella) imposed on wine, cheese, sugar, meat, and other goods;
 - b. The contribution on unleavened bread for Passover;
 - c. Proceeds derived from contribution boxes (kuppot) and from the sale of citrons and palm branches (etrogim and lulavim);
 - d. Fees collected in respect of religious ceremonies, including engagements, marriages, divorces, circumcisions, naming ceremonies for female children, funerals, memorial services, the erection of monuments, allocation of seats in Synagogues, marriage contracts (ketubah), as well as festivals and other events organized by the Community;
 - e. Fees for certificates and other documents issued by the community;
 - f. Donations collected within and outside the Synagogues;
 - g. Income derived from the movable and immovable property of the Community;
 - h. Grants or subsidies provided by Jewish or non-Jewish organizations or by the State in favor of the Community for the maintenance of its educational, religious, and charitable institutions.
3. The revenues of the Community shall be allocated to the operation of the Community and, in general, to the fulfillment of its purposes.

CHAPTER E: COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

Article 6

1. The supreme authority of the Community shall be the Community Assembly, which shall consist of fifty (50) members and shall be elected every three (3) years in accordance with the provisions of articles 27–37 of the present statute.
2. The Community Assembly shall have the following competences:
 - a. To decide, with sovereign authority, on any matter concerning the Community within the limits of the Law and the present statute;
 - b. To supervise and oversee the governing bodies of the Community;
 - c. To approve the Community's annual budget and financial statement, as well as any extraordinary expenditures incurred in excess of the approved budget. For this purpose, concurrently with the approval of the annual budget, it shall elect a three-member Committee to conduct an audit of the financial management of the fiscal year and to submit its report to the Community Assembly at the session convened for the approval of the financial statement;

- d. To elect the Community Council;
 - e. To elect the Rabbinical Council;
 - f. To elect the Chief Rabbi;
 - g. To approve its Internal Rules of Procedure and to propose amendments to the present Statute;
 - h. To elect from among its members representatives to the Congress of the Jewish Communities of Greece, in accordance with Law 1657/1951 (Government Gazette 20) and the Royal Decree of 26.5.1951 (Government Gazette 186).
3. The Community Assembly shall convene in ordinary session twice each year; One session shall mandatorily be held in November and no later than 20 December, for the approval of the annual budget, and the other in April, for the approval of the Community's financial statement. The Assembly shall convene in extraordinary session whenever requested by the Community Council or by at least six (6) of its members.
 4. Notices convening meetings of the Community Assembly shall be sent at least eight (8) days in advance to all its members as well as to the Community Council and shall specify the date, place, and items on the agenda.
 5. The Community Assembly shall be deemed to be in quorum when at least twenty-six (26) members are present. If a quorum is not achieved, a new meeting shall be convened at the same place, on the same day and time of the following week, without the issuance of new notices, at which meeting a quorum shall be constituted by the presence of at least twenty (20) members. Failing this, the Assembly shall be cancelled.
 6. The resolutions of the Assembly shall be adopted by the absolute majority of the members present. In the event of a tie, the vote shall be repeated; if a tie occurs again, the proposal shall be deemed rejected and the matter may not be reintroduced for discussion except upon written request of at least twenty (20) members or after two (2) months from the second vote.
 7. Any member who is absent from three (3) meetings and, upon invitation by the President of the Assembly, fails to provide sufficient justification for such absence, shall be replaced by decision of the Community Assembly by the first alternate candidate in order of election.

Article 7

Following an invitation issued by the Administrator of the Election Committee referred to in article 27 of the present statute, and within fifteen (15) days from the official announcement of the Community's election results, the Community Assembly shall convene in its inaugural session and shall constitute itself as a body through the election of a President, A' and B Vice Presidents, and two (2) General Secretaries, and shall proceed to elect the Community Council, which shall consist of nine (9) regular members and four (4) alternate members.

Article 8

1. The President of the Community Assembly shall convene the meetings of the Assembly, direct the deliberations, ensure order and compliance with the present statute, co-sign the minutes together with the General Secretaries, and declare the adjournment of the meetings. In the event that both General Secretaries are absent or impeded, the President shall appoint one of the members of the Assembly as temporary Secretary for the purpose of drafting the minutes.
2. In the event of absence, impediment, or vacancy of the President, the A' Vice President or, in his/her absence, the B' Vice President, in that order, shall substitute the President in all

his/her duties. In the same circumstances, a Vice President shall be substituted by the most senior member of the Assembly.

3. The General Secretaries shall draft the minutes of the meetings of the Assembly and all official documents, either jointly or each separately.
4. The minutes and archives of the Community Assembly shall be kept at the offices of the Jewish Community of Athens.

Article 9

1. During the meetings of the Assembly, the submission of questions concerning the Community Council or proposals on specific matters shall be permitted. Any member wishing to submit a question or proposal must notify it in writing to the President of the Community Assembly or of the Community Council at least four (4) full days prior to the meeting.
2. Any question or proposal submitted to the Assembly without adherence to this procedure shall not be discussed, and its consideration shall be postponed to the next meeting of the Assembly. Upon proposal of the President or of any member of the Assembly, and with the consent of three-quarters (3/4) of the members present, the addition of an item to the agenda for decision may be permitted.

Article 10

The Community Assembly may dissolve itself prior to the completion of three (3) years from the commencement of its term, provided that such decision is adopted at a special meeting attended by at least twenty (20) members and approved by a majority of at least twenty (20) votes. In such case, the Community Council shall proclaim and conduct elections.

CHAPTER F: COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Article 11

1. The affairs of the Community shall be managed and administered by a Community Council consisting of nine (9) regular members and four (4) alternate members, elected for a three-year term by the Community Assembly at its inaugural session.
2. Only members of Greek nationality of the "Jewish Community of Athens" who have attained the age of twenty-five (25) years shall be eligible for election as members of the Community Council (article 6 of Law 2456/1920 and article 2 of Law 4837/1930).
3. Any person who has been deprived of his/her civil rights as a result of a criminal conviction, where such deprivation has been expressly imposed by a court, or who has been convicted of a felony or of an offence provided for in paragraph 2 of article 18 of Law 1811/1951 "On the Code of Status of Public Administrative Civil Servants," shall be ineligible for election as a member of the Community Council or of the Community Assembly (and, if already elected, shall forfeit such office). Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the same article shall likewise apply.
4. Spouses or relatives by blood or marriage up to and including the second degree may not serve simultaneously as members of the Community Council. In such case, preference shall be given to the candidate who has received the greater number of votes, and in the event of a tie, to the younger in age, unless he/she waives his/her right in favor of the elder.
5. Any person who has served as a member of the Community Council for five (5) consecutive terms shall not be eligible for re-election for the immediately following Election term only.

6. The duties of the members of the Community Council and of the presidium of the Community Assembly shall be honorary and performed without remuneration. Only by decision of the Community Council, ratified by the Community Assembly, may representation expenses be granted, on a case-by-case basis, to the President and the General Secretary of the Community Council, up to a maximum of ten thousand (10,000) drachmas per month for each. Such representation expenses may, depending on prevailing circumstances, be increased following the same procedure and subject to the approval of the Ministers of National Education and Religious Affairs and of Finance.
7. In the event of the resignation of the Community Council, the Community Assembly shall convene in extraordinary session and elect a new Community Council. The outgoing Council shall remain in office until the new Council is elected. Councilors who have resigned shall be eligible for re-election. The newly elected Council shall continue the remainder of the term of the Council that resigned.
8. Within five (5) days of its election, the Community Council shall be convened by the President of the Community Assembly and shall constitute itself as a body through the election of a President, Vice President, General Secretary, and Treasurer.

Article 12

1. The Community Council shall convene in regular session once every month and in extraordinary session whenever necessary. It shall be convened either on the initiative of the President or upon the request of at least two (2) of its members.
2. Notices convening meetings of the Community Council shall specify the date, place, and items on the agenda and shall be sent to the members at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance, except in cases of extraordinary meetings, in which case they may be sent at a later time, provided that this occurs within a reasonable period.
3. Any member of the Community Council who, in the judgment of the President, is unjustifiably absent from several meetings shall be called upon to fulfil his or her duties. Should such absences continue, the member shall be replaced, by decision of the Community Council, by the first alternate Councilor
4. The Community Council shall be deemed to have a quorum when at least five (5) of its members are present. In the event that members are absent outside the seat of the Community, the presence of four (4) members shall suffice for a quorum. If such absence outside the seat exceeds three months, the members concerned shall be temporarily replaced by alternate members. Decisions shall be taken by a majority of those present. In the event of a tie, the President shall have the casting vote.

Article 13

1. The President of the Community Council shall represent the Community before the Courts and, jointly with the Chief Rabbi, before the Administrative Authorities. The President shall attend official ceremonies together with the Chief Rabbi. The President shall convene the meetings of the Community Council, preside and maintain order during deliberations. The President shall sign, together with the General Secretary, the minutes and all documents relating to the affairs of the Community. The President shall implement the decisions of the Community Assembly and of the Community Council and shall sign all legal acts executed pursuant to such decisions, as well as all other documents of the Community. The President shall sign, together with the Treasurer, warrants for the payment of expenditures provided for in the budget, as well as warrants for any extraordinary expenditures, which, however, may not exceed ten per cent (10%) of the regular expenditures approved by the Community Council. The President shall sign loan agreements under the terms determined by the

Community Council for the execution of works or expenditures of the Community provided for in the budget. The President shall sign, together with the Treasurer, receipts for grants from the State, Municipalities, etc. In general, the President of the Community Council shall manage the current and ordinary affairs of the Community. By decision of the Community Council, the Director of the Jewish Community of Athens may be authorized to sign certain documents.

2. Whenever it is necessary to confer with the Authorities on any matter, the President shall act only following the consent of the Community Council, which shall be recorded in the minutes.

Article 14

For the fulfilment of the Community's purposes, the Community Council shall recruit the necessary personnel under private law employment contracts of fixed or indefinite duration.

Article 15

In the absence, incapacity, or vacancy of the President, the Vice-President shall substitute the President in all his or her duties. The Vice-President shall in turn be substituted by another member appointed by the Council, other than the Treasurer.

Article 16

1. The General Secretary shall draw up, co-sign with the President, and keep in the Community's archives the minutes of the meetings of the Community Council. In the event of the General Secretary's absence, the President shall temporarily assign such duties to one of the members of the Council present, other than the Treasurer.
2. The minutes shall be drafted, under the supervision of the General Secretary, by one of the employees engaged by the Community Council to serve the needs of the Community.

Article 17

1. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining the Community's Treasury. The amount of cash retained in the Treasury shall not exceed three hundred thousand (300,000) drachmas. Any surplus amount shall be deposited in a bank designated by the Community Council. Any movement of funds, including the collection, payment, or withdrawal of money from bank deposits, shall require the signature of the President and the Treasurer or their respective substitutes.
2. The Treasurer shall also ensure the maintenance of the accounting books required by law.

CHAPTER G: CHIEF RABBI

Article 18

1. The Chief Rabbi constitutes the supreme religious authority and represents the Community in religious matters.
2. The Chief Rabbi shall ensure the performance of religious services in accordance with the traditions and laws of the Jewish Religion; shall supervise the observance of Kashrut with respect to foodstuffs and beverages; and shall oversee the proper collection of the meat levy (gabella), if such responsibility has been assigned to him, in the absence of another duly appointed ritual slaughterer (Shohet). The Chief Rabbi shall exercise the highest religious supervision over the Community, as well as over its Associations, Societies, Organizations, Institutions, etc.

The Chief Rabbi shall maintain a distinct official seal and separate registers of incoming and outgoing correspondence, marriage contracts (ketubbot), certificates, and related documents, with the assistance of the Community's Secretary. The Chief Rabbi shall propose to the Community Council the appointment or dismissal of shochetim (ritual slaughterers), mohalim (circumcisers), and, generally, all religious functionaries. The Chief Rabbi shall provide assistance to the Community Council on matters falling within his competence, whenever so requested. The signature of the Chief Rabbi must be validated by the President of the Community Council.

3. The Chief Rabbi must be a graduate of a Rabbinical School, possess recognized religious education, be of irreproachable moral character, be over thirty-five (35) years of age, have completed five (5) years of service in the position of Rabbi of Athens, and hold Greek citizenship.
4. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chief Rabbi, the Community Assembly, convened in special session with the presence of at least two-thirds (2/3) of its members, shall elect the Chief Rabbi from among the candidates proposed by the Community Council, by a majority of at least three-quarters (3/4) of the members present.
5. The elected candidate shall be proposed by the President of the Community for appointment to the competent Ministry within thirty (30) days from the date of the Assembly's decision. For as long as the office remains vacant and until it is filled in accordance with the foregoing provisions, the Community Council may appoint a Locum Tenens to temporarily perform the duties of the Chief Rabbi.
6. The Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs, upon submission of the proposal provided for in the preceding paragraph, shall notify the Community Council in writing of its approval or disapproval. In the event of approval, the Community Council shall be obliged to invite the Chief Rabbi to sign the relevant contract.
7. The Chief Rabbi shall be appointed for a term of five (5) years.
8. The Chief Rabbi may be dismissed, prior to the expiry of his term, only for a grave and specific offence, by decision of the Community Assembly adopted by a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at the session, at which he shall have been invited to submit a written defense before the Community Assembly. The dismissal shall be effected by Presidential Decree issued upon proposal of the competent Minister, to whom the above decision shall be duly communicated. The relevant submission shall be accompanied by the Chief Rabbi's written defense, the report of the Community Council, and a copy of the minutes of the Community Assembly.
9. In the event of disagreement on serious matters between the Chief Rabbi and the Community Council, the Community Assembly shall be convened for the purpose of resolving the dispute and shall decide by the same majority as specified in the preceding paragraph.

Chapter H: ACTIVITY COMMITTEES

Article 19

1. At its initial meetings, the Community Council shall elect the Activity Committees, some of which shall include the following:
 - a. Education Committee,
 - b. Meat Gabella Committee,
 - c. Burial Committee (Hevra Kedosha),
 - d. Charitable Purposes Committee,
 - e. Synagogues Committee (Parnasim),

- f. Public Relations Committee,
- g. Cultural Centre and Youth Committee,
- h. Petsia Contribution Committee.

Each Committee shall consist of no fewer than five (5) and no more than nine (9) members.

2. The scope of activity of the Committees shall be determined by the Community Council, which shall supervise and monitor their operation and to which the Committees shall be accountable. Within the scope of its competence, each Committee may submit recommendations and proposals to the Community Council.
3. The term of office of each Committee shall expire simultaneously with the term of office of the Community Council; however, its members shall continue to perform their duties until the newly elected Committee assumes office. Members of the Committees may be convened and replaced whenever the Community Council deems it necessary.
4. During the month of October of each year, the Committees shall submit to the Community Council a budget for the activities of the following year, and by the end of February they shall submit a report of activities for the preceding year. Their expenditures must be duly justified and shall not exceed the corresponding appropriations of the Budget. Any extraordinary expenditure must be approved by the Community Council. Such expenditures shall be entered in the Budget to be adopted for the following year under the heading "Accrued expenses"
5. Extraordinary expenditures not provided for in the budget approved by the Assembly shall not exceed ten per cent (10%) of the total amount of the Budget for the current fiscal year.
6. The Community Council shall consolidate the budgets of the Committees, prepare the General Budget of the Community, and submit it for approval to the Ordinary Community Assembly convened in November.

CHAPTER I: OPERATION OF THE COMMITTEES

Article 20

1. Within eight (8) days from the appointment of each Committee, the President or the General Secretary of the Community Council shall convene its members in order to constitute the Committee as a body through the election of a President, Vice-President, General Secretary, and Treasurer. Subsequent meetings of each Committee shall be convened by its President.
2. Each Committee shall convene in regular sessions and in extraordinary sessions whenever deemed necessary by its President or upon the request of the majority of its members.

Article 21

The President of the Committee shall direct the deliberations, maintain order, ensure the strict implementation of the present statute, and sign the relevant acts and documents pertaining to its proceedings. All members are obliged to attend the Committee's meetings regularly. Should any member be absent from several meetings, in the judgment of the President, he or she shall be called upon to participate. In the event of continued absence, the member shall be replaced by decision of the Community Council. In the event of a vacancy in any Committee for any reason whatsoever, such vacancy shall be filled by decision of the Community Council.

Article 22

1. The decisions of the Committee shall be recorded in its special Minutes book. Meetings shall be validly held in the presence of more than half of its members. Decisions shall be taken by at least three (3) votes, and in the event of a tie, the President shall have the casting vote.
2. In the event that one or more members of a Committee are absent from the seat of the Community for a period exceeding two (2) months, the Community Council shall, upon request of the Committee, proceed to their replacement.
3. The minutes and the archives of the Committee shall at all times be at the disposal of the Community Council. The minutes of each previous meeting shall be read for ratification as the first item on the agenda. Decisions may be implemented prior to the ratification of the minutes, under the responsibility of the President.

Article 23

1. In the absence, incapacity, or vacancy of the President of the Committee, the Vice-President shall substitute him or her in all duties.
2. The General Secretary shall draw up the minutes and all documents of the Committee and shall sign them jointly with the President, as well as payment warrants. In the absence of the General Secretary, he or she shall be replaced by a member designated by the President.
3. The Treasurer shall safeguard the Committee's funds and record its income and expenditures in a special register. The Treasurer shall collect all sums due, sign the relevant receipts, and execute payments by means of warrants signed by the President and the General Secretary of the Committee. The Treasurer may not hold a cash balance exceeding ten thousand (10,000) drachmas. Any surplus funds must be deposited to the Treasury of the Community.

Article 24

1. Each Committee shall propose to the Community Council the recruitment of the persons required for the performance of its functions.
2. The Committee shall confine its activities strictly to the functions assigned to it. It shall have no authority to interfere with the functions of another Committee or to use its resources for purposes unrelated to its mandate.
3. In the event of a dispute among the members of a Committee, its President shall be obliged to refer the matter to the Community Council, which shall resolve the dispute at its discretion.
4. In the event of a conflict among different Committees, the Community Council shall intervene, either upon request of one of them or on its own initiative, and shall definitively resolve the dispute. In all cases, the Committees shall comply, without objection, with the decisions of the Community Council.

Article 25

Any member of any Committee who commits a criminal offence or causes discord among its members shall be dismissed and replaced by decision of the Community Council. Such decision shall be adopted after the person concerned has been heard.

CHAPTER J: PROCEDURE FOR THE IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION OF THE “PETSIA” CONTRIBUTION

Article 26

1. The assessment of the mandatory “Petsia” contribution shall be carried out by the competent Committee referred to in article 19 of the present statute, which shall classify liable persons into contribution categories according to their financial standing.
2. The amount of the contributions per category shall be determined annually by the Community Assembly at its meeting convened for the approval of the Budget and the assessment shall be effected each year during the month of May by the Petsia Committee.
3. The assessed amount of the contribution shall be notified to the liable person, who shall have the right, within twenty (20) days from such notification, to lodge an objection before the Objections Committee, appointed by the Community Council and composed of five (5) members. The decisions of the Objections Committee shall be final and irrevocable. The principal elements taken into consideration by the Objections Committee shall be: (a) a personal interview with the liable person; and (b) the tax assessment notice issued by the competent Tax Authority in the name of the liable person, on the basis of his or her tax return for the previous or current fiscal year.
4. In the event that no objection is lodged within the prescribed time limit, the decision of the Petsia Committee shall be binding upon both the liable person and the Community Council.
5. If the liable person is justifiably absent from the seat of the Community, the time limit for lodging an objection shall commence on the date of his or her return. Such date shall be evidenced by adequate supporting documentation submitted by the liable person.
6. The Community Council may refuse to provide any service or assistance to members who fail to fulfil their obligations.
7. If a liable person changes his or her place of permanent residence for a period not exceeding two (2) years and wishes to be removed from the Jewish Community of Athens, he or she shall submit the relevant declaration and shall be exempted from the “Petsia” contribution as from the date of such removal.

CHAPTER K: ELECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

Article 27

1. The Community Council, within forty-five (45) days from the expiration of the term of the Community Assembly or from the date on which the Assembly adopted a decision for its self-dissolution pursuant to article 10 of the present statute, shall set the date on which elections shall be held for the formation of a new Community Assembly. The Council shall also appoint the Election committee, composed of at least five (5) members, which shall conduct the elections within thirty (30) days.
2. The elections shall be prepared and conducted at the premises of the Community by the Election Committee, which shall also be competent to resolve any issue relating to the elections from the date of dissolution of the Assembly until the newly elected Assembly is formally constituted in accordance with article 7.
3. The new Assembly shall be convened by the Administrator of the Election Committee.
4. The Election Committee shall be convened by its Administrator, who shall be elected at its first meeting. This meeting shall be scheduled by the Community Council.

5. The Election Committee shall keep minutes of its meetings, shall be in quorum when a majority of its members are present, and shall adopt decisions by majority vote. In the event of a tie, the Administrator shall have the casting vote.
6. The Election Committee shall prepare the electoral roll based on the Community's Membership Register, shall supervise the counting of votes, and shall generally ensure the smooth conduct of the elections. The Committee shall also have the authority to hire additional auxiliary personnel at its own responsibility to facilitate the execution of its duties.
7. The Election Committee shall designate one or more polling stations and appoint an equal number of Election Polling station committees, each composed of three (3) regular members and three (3) alternates, chosen impartially at its discretion, as well as one community employee to act as Secretary.
8. The Election Polling station committees at the polling stations shall temporarily resolve any issue arising during the elections with reasoned decisions, which shall be recorded in the minutes. Oral objections to these decisions may be submitted to the Election Committee, whose decision shall be final and irrevocable.
9. The Election Committee shall take any measures deemed appropriate to ensure the regular and lawful conduct of the elections. The members of the Election Committee are required to abstain from any Election action and to act with the highest impartiality.

Article 28

1. Elections shall be conducted under a proportional representation system.
2. Every member of the Community, regardless of nationality, who has reached the legal voting age and has not been deprived of their civil and political rights, shall have the right to vote.
3. The exercise of the right to vote requires presentation of the Election booklet, which is issued by the Secretariat of the Community to each member who meets the qualifications of an elector and has submitted the corresponding application. The booklet shall be issued within fifteen (15) days from the submission of the application.
4. Every elector who possesses Greek nationality shall be eligible for election. Personnel of the Community offices are excluded from eligibility.

Article 29

1. Nominations for candidates in the elections shall be submitted to the Election Committee either individually or in groups, at least twenty (20) days prior to the election, and shall include the full name and father's name of each candidate. The Election Committee shall record the date and time of submission for each nomination.
2. Group ballots shall bear the emblem of the group and shall list the names of the candidates in the order of priority as determined by the group.
3. The right to propose candidates belongs to at least ten (10) electors.
4. Those who propose candidates may themselves also be candidates.
5. Candidates included in one nomination cannot appear on another. In such a case, the Election Committee shall call the candidates to declare, no later than seventeen (17) days before the election, which nomination they prefer. The call shall be made in writing with proof of receipt indicating the date and time of delivery. If no declaration is made, the Election Committee shall assign the candidates to the nomination that was submitted first, based on the precise time of submission. Should vacancies occur on a ballot, it may be supplemented up to the day

before the official proclamation of the candidates, following submission of additional nominations in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article.

Article 30

1. Fifteen (15) days prior to the election, the Election Committee shall officially declare the candidates of each group separately. If the Committee excludes a candidate because they do not meet the eligibility requirements or for any other reason, the decision must be justified and well-founded. If a nominated candidate declines their candidacy, they must submit a written declaration to the Election Committee before the official proclamation of candidates. Votes cast for a candidate who has been excluded or has declined their candidacy shall not be counted, and any election of such candidate shall be deemed null and void. The Election Committee shall notify the electorate of the list of candidates for each group separately by publication in the press and by posting the list outside the Community premises and the Synagogues at least eight (8) days prior to the election.
2. Ballots shall be printed by the Community and shall be uniform in format.

Article 31

Voting shall commence at 7:00 a.m. and continue until sunset.

Each elector shall vote using a single ballot.

Article 32

1. Electors shall vote in person in a private compartment within the polling station. Electors shall enter the polling station in groups of five and submit their election booklet to the polling station committee.
2. The polling station committee, upon verifying the identity of the elector, shall record their attendance next to their name in the electoral roll and its chairman shall provide the elector with an opaque envelope and all ballots. The elector shall enter the private compartment alone and enclose their chosen ballot in the envelope. The elector may indicate their preference for one (1) to ten (10) candidates by placing a cross next to the name(s) in pencil of ink.
3. The elector shall return to the polling station committee, and the chairman shall record in the election booklet that the vote has been cast, seal it with the Committee's stamp, and call upon the elector to personally deposit the sealed envelope into the ballot box.
4. Each group is entitled to appoint one (1) representative and one (1) alternate in each polling station. These representatives shall have the right to be present at the polling stations throughout the voting period and during the counting of votes.

Article 33

1. If, after sunset, there remain electors outside the polling station, voting shall continue until they have exercised their Election right, at which point the polling station committee shall declare the closure of voting.
2. The Election Committee shall immediately open the ballot boxes and proceed with the counting of the ballots. Prior to opening, the envelopes shall be numbered to verify that their total corresponds to the number of electors who voted in the respective polling station. If the number of envelopes exceeds the number of electors, the surplus envelopes shall be removed at random, without being opened or counted.

3. Each ballot shall be initialed by the Administrator of the Election Committee. After the counting is completed, the initialed ballots shall be kept under the responsibility of the Election Committee until the election results are officially validated.
4. If more than one ballot of the same group is found in a single envelope, all such ballots shall count as a single vote for that group. If the ballots belong to different groups, they shall not be counted.
5. Any ballot containing deletions or additions shall be deemed invalid.
6. If a ballot contains more than ten (10) preference crosses, only the first ten shall be considered valid.

Article 34

1. The envelopes from all ballot boxes shall be collected separately. The valid ballots for each group shall be numbered, and the results of the count shall be recorded in the minutes of the Election Committee.
2. The Election Committee shall then allocate seats as follows: the total number of valid ballots shall be divided by fifty (50), which is the number of members of the Assembly. The quotient, ignoring fractions, shall constitute the Election coefficient. The total votes each group received shall then be divided by the Election coefficient, and the quotient shall determine the number of seats each group is entitled to.
3. An individual candidate shall be elected if they receive a number of votes at least equal to the Election coefficient.
4. If the number of candidates in a group equals the number of seats allocated to the group, all candidates shall be deemed elected. If the number of candidates exceeds the allocated seats, those candidates receiving preference votes shall be elected first, followed by the remaining candidates according to the order of listing on the ballot. The remaining candidates shall be considered alternates in the same order. If the number of candidates in a group is fewer than the seats allocated, the group shall receive only as many seats as there are candidates.
5. After this allocation, any remaining unfilled seats shall be awarded to the group with the largest remainder from the division used to calculate the Election coefficient. To be represented in the Community Assembly, a group must have received at least a number of votes equal to the Election coefficient.

Article 35

1. The minutes of the elections shall be prepared by the Election Committee and recorded in a special book of the Community.
2. The result of the vote shall be immediately communicated by posting on the Synagogues and published in a local newspaper.

Article 36

Within five (5) days from the publication of the election results, the groups have the right to submit objections to the Secretariat of the Community concerning the results of the counting regarding a group or a specific candidate. The objections shall be immediately forwarded to the Adjudication Committee once it is formed.

Article 37

1. In its first session, if objections have been submitted, the Community Assembly shall elect by lot from its members a five-member Adjudication Committee. The Adjudication Committee

convenes, elects its President from among its members, and decides on the objections no later than twenty (20) days after its election.

The procedure of the sessions, quorum, etc., shall be governed in accordance with the provisions applicable to the meetings of the Community Council.

2. If the Adjudication Committee determines that errors occurred in the counting of ballots, in recording preference marks, in classifying ballots as valid or invalid, in the calculation of seats for a group, or in determining elected members, or that any other violation of the provisions of articles 30–36 occurred, it shall, by reasoned decision, correct the results of the Election Committee. The Adjudication Committee does not have the authority to rule on the validity or invalidity of the elections themselves.
3. After the expiration of the twenty-day period, the Community Assembly shall be constituted based on the results communicated by the Adjudication Committee.
4. Each voter is permitted to file an objection against the validity of the elections, which must be submitted no later than fifteen (15) days after the expiration of the twenty-day period referred to in paragraph 1 of this article. These objections shall be submitted to the Single-Member Court of First Instance of Athens, which adjudicates them under the procedure of interim measures.

Article 38

1. The provisions of the present statute shall take effect from its publication in the Government Gazette.
2. Presidential Decree No. 182/4.3.78 “Regarding the Statute of the Jewish Community of Athens” (Government Gazette, Part A, No. 40/22.3.78) is hereby repealed.

The Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs is entrusted with the publication of this Decree.