

Statutes of the Swiss Society for Crystallography

Note: This is a translation, the German and French versions of the statutes are legally binding.

- I. Name, purpose and registered office
- II Membership
- III Bodies of the Society
- IV. Management
- V. Amendments to the Statutes and dissolution of the Society

I. Name, purpose and registered office

Art. 1

The Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Kristallographie (SGK), Société Suisse de Cristallographie (SSCr), Società Svizzera di Cristallografia (SSCr), Societad Svizera per Cristallografia (SSCr), Swiss Society for Crystallography (SSCr), founded in 1968, is an association within the meaning of Art. 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code. Its mission is to promote crystallography in all its aspects and to maintain relations with related scientific fields and their societies. These include in particular the Swiss Chemical Society (SCS), Swiss Geological Society (SGS), Swiss Physical Society (SPS) as well as non-Swiss crystallographic societies and international associations such as the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr), the International Organisation for Crystal Growth (IOCG) and the European Crystallographic Association (ECA).

Therefore, at least one annual meeting with scientific lectures at changing locations in the country shall be organised. Particular emphasis shall be placed on bringing together the various crystallographic research disciplines in biology, chemistry, crystallography, materials science, earth sciences, physics and technology.

Art. 2

Members of the SSCr who wish to have a fixed organisational structure for the promotion of their special fields of interest may organise themselves into sections. Those members of the SSCr particularly interested in the problems of growth of crystals and epitaxial layers as well as crystal processing are united in a Sektion für Kristallwachstum und Kristalltechnologie (SKT), Section de Croissance et Technologie des Cristaux (SCT), Section for Crystal Growth and Crystal Technology (SCT).

Art. 3

The SSCr is a member organisation of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT).

The Board of the SSCr (including the Secretary for the IUCr) forms the Swiss national committee of the International Union of Crystallography. The SCT maintains relations with the IOCG and similar organisations.

Art. 4

The SSCr's registered office is in Bern. It has legal personality. The Society's liabilities are limited to its assets.

II Membership

Art. 5

SCCr members are individuals, legal entities as well as honorary members. Anyone interested in crystallography can apply for membership. The board of the Society decides on the admission of members.

Art. 6

Individual members pay an annual membership fee, which is determined by the General Assembly and is due at the beginning of every year. The association year corresponds to the calendar year. Members shall not be personally liable for the Society's debts and obligations.

Art. 7

Legal entities like institutes, departments of institutes, museums, libraries, societies, companies and associations can become members of the SSCr. They are admitted by the board of the SSCr. The membership fee is determined by the General Assembly. The board may appoint persons of merit to crystallography or the SCCr as honorary members. Honorary members do not pay membership fees.

Art. 8

Non-payment of the membership fees for two or more consecutive years may result in removal from the membership list. This will be decided by the board of the SSCr.

Art. 9

A member may resign from the SCCr at the end of a year by giving prior written notice to the President.

III Bodies of the Society

Art. 10

The bodies of the Society are the General Assembly and the Board.

Art. 11

All members shall be invited to the ordinary and extraordinary General Assemblies at least three weeks in advance, with notification of the agenda.

Art. 12

General Assemblies shall be chaired by the President or Vice-President of the SCCr or a deputy appointed by the President. The minutes are usually taken by the Secretary. A General Assembly is quorate if ten per cent of the members are present.

Art. 13

The following agenda items are dealt with at the ordinary General Assembly:

- a) Annual report
- b) Annual financial statements
- c) Budget for the coming year
- d) Determination of the annual membership fee
- e) Necessary elections (election of the Board in accordance with Art. 16, two auditors, the delegate to the SCNAT Senate and their deputy. All must be members of the SSCr).
- f) Possible amendments to the statutes
- g) Motions from members.

Art. 14

Each personal member has one vote at a General Assembly. Each legal member entity may appoint a delegate with one vote. The chairperson of the General Assembly has the casting vote.

Art. 15

In these Statutes, the term 'General Assembly' refers to both the actual meeting of members and the written consultation of the members.

IV. Management

Art. 16

The Executive Board shall consist of at least the President, the Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. Other members may be elected to the Board in active roles such as web manager and event manager. Wherever possible, the various areas of crystallography should be represented.

The President has a casting vote within the Board. The office of President may only be held by the same person without interruption for one term of office, i.e. for three years. Uninterrupted membership of the SCCr Board is limited to nine years. Exceptions can be made by the General Assembly with a two-thirds majority.

The Board elects a delegate to the section of the SCNAT to which the SCCr is affiliated.

Each section elects a section board for a period of three years, consisting of at least one section head who should be a member of the SCCr Board.

Art. 17

The Board is responsible for all association business. It represents the Society externally and, together with the Secretary for the IUCr, forms the Swiss national committee for the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr).

The Board elects from among its members the Secretary for the IUCr (if possible the Secretary of the SSCr), two delegates to every General Assembly of the IUCr (if possible President and Vice-President) as well as delegates to any other bodies (the latter do not need to be members of the Board; the Councillor for the ECA is, if possible, the Vice-President). The term of office of the Secretary for the IUCr shall be three years; they shall liaise with the IUCr. The SSCr President is also the chairperson of the Swiss national committee for the IUCr. The section head of the SCT is also a delegate to the IOCG.

If delegates are not members of the Board, they may be invited to attend Board meetings in an advisory role. The President and Secretary hold the legally binding signature for the SSCr; the President of the SSCr and the Section Head have the signature for the sections.

V. Amendments to the Statutes and Dissolution of the Society

Art. 18

Any proposal to amend the Statutes must be submitted to the Board in writing at least three months before the ordinary General Assembly and should be included in full in the agenda sent to the members. After a review by the Board, the General Assembly must pass a resolution on the matter. The motion is accepted if at least two thirds of the members present a vote in favour.

Art. 19

The Central Board of the SCNAT must be informed immediately of any amendments to the statutes and changes to the composition of the Board.

Art. 20

The dissolution of the Society may be decided by an ordinary or extraordinary General Assembly. Three quarters of the votes of the members present are required for the dissolution, and the number of votes must be at least half of all registered members.

Art. 21

In the event of dissolution, the assets of the Society shall be used to establish a foundation for the benefit of Swiss citizens or Swiss institutions for the promotion of crystallographic studies.

Statutes adopted at the constituent meeting on 9 November 1968 in Berne (amendment to Art. 3 adopted on 31 July 1969).

Amendments to the Statutes:

- 1) Geneva on 8 October 1976: Art. 5, 7, 13e and 16.
- 2) Brig on 6 October 1978: Art. 16 Section 2 and Art. 17 7th sentence.
- 3) Biel on 3 October 1985: Art. 2, 3, 5, 6, 16 and 17.
- 4) Geneva on 2 October 1997: Art. 3, 11, 13, 16, 18 and 20.
- 5) PSI on 6 October 2000: Art. 1, 2, 3, 6, 16 and 17.
- 6) Davos on 20 September 2002: Art. 1, 3, 11 and 17.
- 7) PSI on 13 September 2007: Art. 1, 2, 5, 6, 16 and 17.
- 8) Basel on 12 September 2024: All articles except 15.