

# Trusted Consultants Worldwide



INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

EuropeFides

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# Introduction

EuropeFides is a multi-disciplinary association of small and medium-sized independent tax, audit, accounting and law firms. The association was created with the aim of providing a network of trusted professionals with high quality services and expertise in their local jurisdictions.

While initially focused on the European market, EuropeFides has now branched out to Asia, the Middle East, Africa and North America. Our association is currently made up of 43 member firms with more than 80 offices in 27 different countries and continues to grow.

EuropeFides is a French registered Société par actions simplifiée à capital variable (SAS). Each member firm holds one share of the SAS representing their vote in the General Assembly of shareholders.

Moreover, EuropeFides is headed by a Management Committee which meets regularly to discuss issues relating to the management of the association.

The Committee consists of up to nine members including the President who presides over the Committee and two Vice-Presidents. Committee members are elected yearly at the Annual General Meeting held at the beginning of the year.

The association holds two General Meetings per year – one in early spring and another one in summer – where members meet to discuss and vote on the most important issues of the association, as well as share professional knowledge.

The Meetings are hosted by a member firm that organizes a two-day conference including seminar sessions with speeches by members and keynote speakers from other professional organisations. The events also present the opportunity for members to meet and network with each other while visiting interesting places in the host country.

If you would like to form part of EuropeFides, please contact our Secretariat via [office@europefides.eu](mailto:office@europefides.eu) and we will be pleased to get in touch with you with further details.

For more information about EuropeFides and its members, please visit our website [www.europefides.eu](http://www.europefides.eu)

# Becoming a Member of EuropeFides

If your firm is considering joining EuropeFides, please contact our Secretariat via [office@europefides.eu](mailto:office@europefides.eu). We will get back to you with further information and to set up a phone call or meeting with one of our members to introduce each other.

As the membership talks advance, you will receive our application dossier with the application documents you need to fill in and sign as well as information on our statutes.

Once we receive the formal application, the Management Committee will review the documents and perform a due diligence exercise on the firm.

Prospective members are asked to attend at least one meeting in which they will have the opportunity to deliver a presentation about themselves and their firm. Members will then vote on the application for membership either at the next General Assembly or electronically. A majority of 2/3 of the valid votes cast is required for an application to be approved.

Once the application process is finalised, the new member, will subscribe to one share in EuropeFides SAS for a value of 100 Euro. This share will entitle the member to vote in the General Assembly.

Further practical steps after the membership admission include setting up a profile of the new firm on the EuropeFides website as well as adding the members to our contact lists and intranet.

## Membership fees:

With regard to the Membership fees, the following framework applies:

Members pay an annual flat rate fee that is determined by the size of the firm:

- » 1800 Euro for small member firms – i.e. firms with an annual turnover of 1 million Euro or less
- » 3500 Euro for large member firms – i.e. firms with annual turnover of more than 1 million Euro.

The fee also includes the participation in two General Meetings per year for one person per member firm.

There are no entry fees for new members. New members who are accepted as members during a calendar year, will be charged a pro rata fee.

# Benefits of forming part of EuropeFides

EuropeFides is an international association that promotes members' interests. It provides members with:

- » Various networking opportunities with other members coming from different countries including China and Singapore
  - » The possibility to attend seminars and presentations delivered by members of EuropeFides and other keynote speakers
  - » The opportunity to learn from and discuss issues with other members relating to their profession and areas of expertise
  - » The opportunity to enhance their knowledge and client portfolio
  - » The possibility to have their clients' cross-border needs serviced by experts in various other jurisdictions
- » The opportunity to form part of an ever growing multi-disciplinary organization mainly made up of lawyers, accountants, auditors, tax advisors and vat specialists
  - » The opportunity to publish and present their articles on the website of EuropeFides
  - » A growing group of experts who collaborate their knowledge and resources to provide clients with advice and solutions that best suit their business needs

At EuropeFides we are committed to leverage our membership to grow our members' client base.



# Meet the EuropeFides Management Team for 2020

## **HEINZ ZILGENS** First Vice-President, SERF EuropeFides SAS, France



Originally from Aachen, Germany, Heinz studied economic sciences in Aachen for 3 years and then specialized at the University and business School of Mannheim in business taxation, tax law and audit, completing his studies with a master's degree. For more than 25 years, Heinz has been living and working as a German Certified Tax Consultant in France. After 10 years of practice in audit and tax advice, he set up his own consulting firm SERF EuropeFides in 2000 in France, specializing in international tax advice and fiscal law. In 2008, he founded V&Z Audit et Conseil SAS, a French registered tax consultancy firm, offering accounting and consultancy services especially to foreign companies in France.

## **FOKKO JOLLES** First Vice-President, Jolles & Ko Accountants B.V., The Netherlands



Fokko graduated in 1992 as an accountant at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. He has been registered as a registered accountant (CPA) since 1993. In 2002, he founded Jolles & Ko Accountants, a company that serves both national and international clients with bookkeeping, payroll administration, annual accounts, tax advisory and and management consultancy. The company specialized in the support of the establishment and continuation of

foreign companies in the Netherlands and the provision of various related fiscal and financial services. In 2009, Fokko founded Vatko, a company that is specialized in representing companies from outside the EU which make use of regulations to defer VAT in import of goods into the EU.

## **DR. ERWIN HERRESTHAL** Second Vice-President, HCSM Steuerberatung GmbH, Germany



Dr. Erwin Herresthal is Senior Partner at HCSM Group, a tax advisory and auditing group in Wiesbaden, Germany. With more than 25 years of professional experience, Erwin's main areas of expertise are real estate and consulting for IT and software companies. After founding his own firm in 1990, it has since expanded to become the HCSM Group. As a medium-sized company, HCSM is familiar with the problems and concerns of SMEs and focuses on providing corporate solutions for them. Erwin holds a degree in Economics and later earned a PhD in Economics. He was certified as tax advisor in 1986 and as auditor in 1989. He has been actively involved in EuropeFides since 2009 and has been a Member of the Management Committee ever since the Board was first established.

Seven additional members will be appointed to the Management Committee at the Annual General Meeting at the beginning of 2020.



Annual General Meeting, Cyprus January 2015 & Half-Year General Meeting, Barcelona June 2015

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TAXES, LAW, AUDIT & ADVISORY IN EUROPE & BEYOND

# EuropeFides