



FEDERATED PARTY CONSTITUTION April 2012

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1 Name

The name of the federated party shall be Fís Nua hereinafter referred to as the Party.

2 Principles

In these principles we assert the interdependence of all life. We oppose any destructive processes which are destroying our planet. History has shown us that the irresponsible usage of our planet's resources causes the collapse of basic environmental systems and societies and creates a threat to the very continuation of life on the planet.

Enough Is enough and enough is plenty.

" We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. "

Economy driven by short-term profits for the benefit of a few people has to be replaced by an economy which works in a sustainable network for the common good of all life. We cannot accept that a third of the world's human population is starving while 2% own more than half of global household assets. We favour trade where everyone has a fair share in a society guided by self-reliance and co-operation at all levels. Conservation of resources is vital to a sustainable society. To this aim we support the macro-economic policy goal of a steady state economy that features sustainable scale, fair distribution of wealth, and efficient allocation of resources. The impact of society on the environment should not be ecologically disruptive.

" Only when the last tree has died, the last river has been poisoned and the last fish has been caught will we realize that we cannot eat money. "

We believe in the equality of every human, no matter what age, ancestry, gender, belief, sexual orientation or disability. We condemn war, violence, militarism, racism and fascism. The need for world peace and justice overrides national and commercial interests.

We want all political, social and economic decisions taken at the lowest effective level, reflecting the decisions reached at the Rio Conference in 1992, 'Local Agenda 21'. Decisions should as far as possible be on the basis of consensus and respect for the rights of minorities.

3 Membership

3.1 Single members

Membership of the Party is open to every citizen over 16 years of age who accepts the Principles of the Party and who is not a member of another party which stands candidates in national elections or of an organisation which is not acceptable to the Party.

3.2 Groups and Organisations

Groups or organisations can affiliate to the Party if confirmation of membership is recommended unanimously by the FPCC. The FPCC should then inform all members of the Party and the group or organisation affiliation will be confirmed if no more than 5% of the party members object to that affiliation. Confirmation of group affiliation may alternatively be sought at a Party Convention where it will require a 2/3 majority. The group applying for membership must lodge its constitution and policies with the Party Coordinating Committee (FPCC) at the time of application and also report on any changes to said constitution and policies to the FPCC. Groups may become affiliated to the Party if they accept the principals, aims and objectives of the Party and are not members of any other political organisation which stands candidates in national elections, or of an organisation which is not acceptable to the Party. Each affiliated group must have a group contact person, treasurer and spokesperson. Affiliated groups should have at least 4 meetings per year and consist of not less than 4 full members.

All members of such a Group or Organisation will be offered a single membership of the Party.

3.3 Membership Probation

Every member has a probation period of 3 months after joining the Party where s/he has no voting mandate. This probation can be skipped by a 2/3 majority of the Party Convention.

3.4 Membership Termination

Every member can terminate her/his membership her/himself with immediate effect.

The membership of a single member or an affiliated group / organisation can be suspended immediately by the FPCC if they have been shown to:

- a) Not have physically signed their membership form / application for membership
- b) Wilfully provided false information on their membership form / application for membership.
- c) Harassed, cyber stalked, disseminated false information or otherwise interfered with the rights of another Fís Nua member or member of the public or acted in any manner likely to bring major disrepute to the Party.

Such suspension will have immediate effect.

Any membership termination, or continued suspension, is subject to ratification by a 2/3 majority at the following Party Convention and should be presented as a motion (without normal notice for motions being required) from the FPCC to be considered at the beginning of the convention.

Should the motion for termination, or continued suspension, of membership fail at the convention then the member will be immediately reinstated.

3.5 Transparency

All members must register their full name and a method of contact (address, phone number or e-mail address) which is open to all members of the Party. The FPCC has to ensure that this list is up to date and available for all members

4 Party Convention

The Party Convention is the policy making and deciding organ of the Party.

4.1 Organisation

A Party Convention has to take place

- a) at least two times in a legal year
- b) when at least 15% of the Party members inform the FPCC in writing that they wish to hold a Convention or when at least 15% of the Party groups / organisations wish to hold a Convention. In that case the FPCC must call a Convention within 5 weeks.

Every single member out of probation is entitled to vote at the Party Convention.

All members of the Party with valid email or mobile phone contact details registered with the Party or who have paid for postal notifications will be given 4 weeks advance notice by the FPCC of when and where a Convention will take place. This also has to be published on the Party's website at the same time.

Any member can post forward motions to the FPCC for the forthcoming Convention. All motions posted 5 weeks in advance for the Convention will be posted online on the Party website by the FPCC. Motions brought in later will be tabled for the following Convention. Amendments to motions must be sent to the FPCC to arrive at least 3 weeks before the convention and these will be then be made available to all members at least 2 weeks prior to the convention.

A motion will be considered to be passed when it achieves a 2/3 majority.

The Convention decides where and approximately when the following Convention will take place. The FPCC decides the exact date and location for the Convention.

4.2 Extraordinary Motions and Amendments

4.2.1 Qualification

Extraordinary Motions and Amendments can be voted on by the members of the Party without holding a Convention when

- a) the FPCC decides;
- b) or at least 15% of the Party members inform the FPCC in writing;
- c) or at least 15% of the Party groups / organisations inform the FPCC in writing.

Extraordinary Motions and Amendments concerning this Federated Party Constitution must not be proceeded. FPCC members can only be elected at a convention.

4.2.2 Organisation of Extraordinary Motions and Amendments

Extraordinary Motions and Amendments are organised by the FPCC.

4.2.3 Procedure of Extraordinary Motions and Amendments

- a) Extraordinary Motions and Amendments are voted by email or by post.

- b) Extraordinary Motions and/or Amendments, as well as the proceeding structure and timetable, must be published on the Party's website at least 5 weeks prior to the deadline of the vote. At the same time all members of the Party with valid email or mobile phone contact details, registered with the Party, or who have paid for postal notifications, should be informed of the impending vote and referred to the Party's website for additional information.
- c) All members will be given time for amendments and for selection of their preferential method of voting, by email or postal, until 2 weeks prior the voting deadline. All amendments will then be published on the Party's website. At the same time all members of the Party with valid email or mobile phone contact details, registered with the Party, or who have paid for postal notifications, should be informed of the existence of the amendments and referred to the Party's website for additional information..
- d) Extraordinary Motions and Amendments have to suspend and are agenda of a convention When the FPCC decides or members decide according Article 4.1 b) until 2 weeks prior the deadline of the vote.
- e) Articles 6.1.3 and 6.2 apply. The FPCC decides and publishes location and time of the countings.
- f) Postal or email votes arriving at the FPCC after the given deadline of Extraordinary Motions and Amendments are not valid.

4.3 Emergency Conventions and Emergency Motion

All time limits, as specified throughout Section 4 of this constitution, and related sections of this constitution may be waived, by unanimous decision of the FPCC, in the case of a genuine emergency.

Time limits for receipt of any particular motion may be waived by the convention, so that it can be considered at the convention in progress, by a special vote receiving a 75% majority of those voting.

5 Federated Party Co-ordinating Committee (FPCC)

The Federated Party Co-ordinating Committee (FPCC) coordinates the Party between Conventions, plans the Conventions and represents the Party between the conventions. The FPCC is elected at least annually at a Party Convention using a preferential Single Transfer Voting.

The FPCC consists of the following officers:

- a) the Party Co-ordinator
- b) the Party Deputy Co-ordinator
- c) the Party Treasurer
- d) an even number of ordinary committee members

All Party members out of probation can be elected into these positions. The Party Co-ordinator, the Party Deputy Co-ordinator and the Party Treasurer have to be at least 18 years of age. A member wishes to stand for election must put forward their nomination to the FPCC at least 5 weeks in advance of the Party Convention. The list of the candidates has to be made available to all members with the notice of that Convention.

A Constructive Motion of No Confidence against any member of the FPCC can be held on a convention. The candidate for the Constructive Motion of No Confidence must put forward her/his nomination with the motion 5 weeks prior a convention and cannot be a (former) member of the FPCC in the same election period.

5.1 Frequency of FPCC Meetings

The FPCC shall meet at least every 3 months. Meetings shall be called by the Party Co-ordinator as previously agreed by the FPCC or on receipt of a request from at least 3 members groups / organisations of the Federation.

6 Voting Procedures

Elections are by paper ballot. Votes on motions and amendments are by show of hands, postal or online submissions. If A simple majority of a Convention wishes, a vote can be held by secret ballot.

6.1 Postal Votes, Online Voting

Members should be given the facility for postal or online voting for Convention motions and elections. The condition for postal/online voting is that the member must have attended at least one convention in person within the previous year.

Exceptions, to the requirement to attend a convention at least once a year for postal vote or online vote eligibility, can be made if there are cases of personal emergency (mourning, illness, disability) at the discretion of the Convention.

Any member who has voted by post or online must withdraw their postal or online vote if s/he decides to come to the Convention in person.

6.1.1 Postal Voting

Members wishing to vote by post must declare so at least 3 weeks prior to the Convention. This member will be sent an envelope for the voting papers and a confirmation document with his/her name and address which s/he has to sign. These papers have to be sent back by this member to the FPCC on time for the election. Postal votes arriving to the FPCC later than 12 hours prior the start of the Convention are invalid.

6.1.2 Online Voting

Online votes can never be anonymous. Members wishing to vote online have to register their e-mail address at the FPCC at least 3 weeks prior to the election. The name and e-mail address will be published to all members of the FPCC, and any Party member out of probation, upon request. An online vote has to include the full name and email address as well as the definite vote of the member.

Online votes arriving the FPCC later than 12 hours prior the start of the Convention are invalid.

6.1.3 Publication of Postal and Online Voting

Postal and online voting will be published by the FPCC to all members at Convention, or emailed upon request to any member out of probation.

6.2 Transparency in Voting

The counting of votes for elections has to be held openly. Every member has the right to peacefully observe any counting.

7 Finance

7.1 Party Bank Account

The Party will open a bank account in its name. The Treasurer and three other members of the FPCC should be appointed as signatories for the account and at least two signatures shall be required on any cheque or payment authorisation.

7.2 Party Treasurer

The Party's treasurer shall ensure that the finances are used in accordance with the constitution, the decisions of the Convention and the FPCC and maintain books of accounting. Accountancy books should be open to view by all members.

The treasurer should present statements of accounts to the Party Convention.

7.3 Sources of Finance

The Party will not take corporate donations. Donations over €635 in any one year will be published.

7.4 Membership Fees

There shall be no compulsory membership fees.

7.5 Distribution of Finance

The proportion and distribution of any state money received will be decided by a 2/3 majority of a convention.

7.6 Finance & Trustees

Only the Party nationally shall have the right to use a bank account in the name of Fís Nua. Other bank accounts held by member groups shall always be named explicitly with the name of the group to which it belongs.

7.6.1 Sources of funds

The primary sources of funds shall be:

- a) profits of fund-raising events;
- b) donations and bequests;
- c) contributions from the salaries of elected representatives;
- d) such funding as may be available from state or EU finances.

7.6.2 Proportional share

The proportional share of these sources to be allocated to member groups shall be laid down annually in the Fís Nua Budget resolution. The Budget shall be introduced in the form of a resolution to Convention by the Party Treasurer.

7.6.3 Account Auditor

The accounts of the Party shall be audited annually by an Auditor or firm of Auditors chosen by the Annual Convention for that purpose, and presented to Convention in a Financial Report, which should be available in advance to all members.

7.6.4 Trustees

- a) The Convention shall elect three Trustees who shall take up office upon such conditions as to tenure as may be determined by the FPCC.
- b) The property and assets of the Party shall vest in the Trustees on their appointment for the period of such appointment and, in the application of such property and assets, the Trustees shall be subject to, and comply with, directions of the FPCC. In the event of the Trustees or any of them refusing to comply with such directions the FPCC shall be entitled to remove said trustees or any of them from the office of trustee of the Party.

7.6.5 Trustees and FPCC

The Party Trustees shall receive agendas and minutes of the FPCC, and may attend meetings of the FPCC.

8 Public Representatives

A Selection Meeting for candidates for election shall be called by a member group of the Party if it covers the entire electoral area concerned. If more than one group exists within an electoral area or no group exists within an electoral area the FPCC shall call a meeting of any members within the electoral area.

The procedure, timetable and basis of representation for the selection and de-selection of Party candidates shall be subject to Rules and Procedures.

Election candidates standing for the Party must be members of the Party.

Public Representatives shall be accountable to the entire membership of the Party, and shall undertake to represent only those policies agreed by the party.

Public Representatives should where possible live in, work in, or have some other relevant connection with the Constituencies that they represent.

A public representative should demonstrate support for Party ideals by his / her style of life as well as by the spoken word.

A Party representative shall be required to remit whatever portion of his/her remuneration to Party funds as is decided beforehand by Convention in the Budget Resolution, subject to the principle of equity and opposition to careerism and political profiteering. A Pledge shall be

signed to this effect on adoption as candidate, as drafted by the National Coordinator and approved by the FPCC.

A Party public representative shall not accept any money, gifts or benefits in kind in connection with his/her political work without the knowledge and approval of the FPCC.

9 Definitions

9.1 Simple Majority

A simple majority is accomplished when more than half, of those entitled to vote and voting, vote in favour of a motion or amendment.

9.2 2/3 Majority

A 2/3 majority is accomplished when at least 2/3, of those entitled to vote and voting, vote in favour of a motion or amendment.

9.3 Constructive Motion of No Confidence

A Constructive Motion of No Confidence takes place when a new candidate stands against a member of the FPCC and is elected by the voting members at a Convention with a simple majority.

10 Revision & Interpretation of the Constitution and Standing Orders

This constitution shall be subject to amendment at a Convention by at least 75% of those entitled to vote and voting.

10.1 Standing Orders, Rules & Procedures

All bodies within the Party may initially adopt their own Standing Orders, Rules and Procedures, keeping the FPCC informed. A Convention may adopt and revise specific Rules, Procedures or Standing Orders.

10.2 Interpretation

The FPCC shall interpret the terms of this Constitution, all Standing Orders and Rules and Procedures in operation within the Party, and any interpretation given by the FPCC shall be final and binding on the membership unless and until that interpretation is overruled by a Convention.

11 Operative Date

This Constitution shall come into full force and effect on September 11th, 2010.