

CONSTITUTION OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF FLANDRENSIS

THE LAND OF THE FIVE WHITE ISLANDS



*"THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD THAT
DOESN'T WANT ITS LAND INHABITED
BY PEOPLE"*

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The Constitution is the most important state document and highest national law of Flandrensis. It sets out the rules for our government and the fundamental rights of citizens. The text and format of the current Constitution mostly originated in 2008. Since then, the Constitution has changed 19 times. This is the official English version of the present text.

The Flandrensisian State retains the copyright to this Constitution. Micronations which adapt this document should indicate their adaptation by providing the annotation "*Based on the Constitution of the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis*" upon obtaining permission from the Flandrensisian State.

According to Art. 1.1 § 1 Flandrensis is a non-profit organization. This Constitution should be regarded as its internal regulations in addition to the official bylaws (published in the Belgian Official Journal").

1. THE GRAND DUCHY OF FLANDRENSIS: STATE STRUCTURE AND TERRITORY

State Structure

Art 1.1 Flandrensis is a constitutional monarchy in the form of a Grand Duchy

Art. 1.1 § 1 The "vzw Groothertogdom Flandrensis" is an environmental nonprofit organization, registered on August 12, 2021 in the "Belgian Official Journal" with number 0772.515.027.

Territory

Art 1.2 Flandrensis is made up of five West Antarctic islands: Siple Island (73 ° 39'S, 125 ° 12'W), Carney Island (73 ° 57'S 121 ° 00'W), Maher Island (72 ° 58'S 126 ° 22 'W), Cherry Island (73 ° 45'S 123 ° 32'W) and Pranke Island (73 ° 14'S 124 ° 55'W).

Art 1.3 The boundaries of Flandrensis shall only be modified by the approval of the Grand Ducal Cabinet and should be established by constitutional amendment.

Art 1.4 Flandrensisian ecological sanctuaries will have the status of Overseas territories, but are separated temporally from the official claimed territory as mentioned in art. 1.2.

2. ENVIRONMENT

Our mission

Art 2.1 We believe that Antarctica is one of the few places on this planet to remain relatively untouched by humans and we strongly believe that it should be one huge protected nature reserve only available for scientific research, well beyond the expiration of the Antarctic Treaty in 2048.

Art. 2.1 § 1 The ecological pillars in the Flandrensisian community are: reducing energy consumption and CO2 emissions (carbon dioxide), reducing water

consumption, recycling, local food, climate-friendly gardening, climate change awareness and the promotion of ecological micronationalism.

Nature in Antarctica

Art. 2.2 Antarctica is a “nature reserve, devoted to peace and science.” All living resources, from mammals to birds and their eggs, terrestrial or aquatic invertebrates and plants, are protected at every stage of their life cycle.

Art. 2.3 With the claim to be “*The only country in the world that doesn't want its land inhabited by people*” Flandrensis wants to make a statement to the international community.

Art. 2.3 § 1 Tourists are not allowed to enter the Flandrensian Antarctic territory.

Art. 2.3 § 2 Only scientists that seek research which positively impacts humankind are allowed to enter the Flandrensian Antarctic territory.

Art. 2.3 § 3 Everyone who enters the Antarctic territory shall take into account and show concern for the Antarctic environment.

Art. 2.4 It is prohibited in the Flandrensian Antarctic territory:

- to discard hazardous and other solid non-flammable wastes;
- to dispose of flammable materials which the owner cannot dispose of outside the Antarctic by any means other than combustion in a low-emission incinerator;
- to dispose of other wastes through: 1) deposition in freshwater systems, or 2) deposition in an area that is free from ice during the Antarctic summer, or on or in the soil;
- to perform a nuclear detonation or the disposal of radioactive waste;
- to damage or remove historical sites or monuments;
- to import dead plants or animals not of an indigenous species for any purpose other than food;
- to import live animals not of an indigenous species;
- to explore or exploit mineral resources.

Art. 2.5 It is also prohibited in the Flandrensian Antarctic territory:

- to prospect for the presence of minerals;
- to cause harm to living resources or act against their populations;
- to bring the deceased remains of a living resource outside the Antarctic;
- to remove animals or plants belonging to an indigenous species;
- to import pesticides, polychloroprene, non-sterile soil, polystyrene beads or similar packing materials;
- to deposit waste water on inland on ice or snow;
- to emit sewage into the sea.

Flandrensisan ecological sanctuaries

Art. 2.6 According to Art. 1.4. Flandrensis citizens have the right to establish ecological sanctuaries with the status of Overseas Territories. Those territories have the status of: Ecological County, Ecological Crown Dependency, Ecological Province or Ecological Colony

Art 2.6 § 1 Flandrensisan sanctuaries have the right to have their own flag and coat of arms.

Art. 2.7 The requirements for citizens establishing an ecological sanctuary are:

- Being the owner, or having the permission from the owner, of the land.
- A request has been submitted to the Sovereign explaining the mission of the project and how one intends to respect the ecological pillars as mentioned in article Art. 2.1 § 1. The minimum requirements would be; having an insect friendly environment and carrying out composting.
- Create at least 5 events centered around topics related to the ecological pillars every year, posting and sharing it on the Flandrensisan social media platform.

3. FOREIGN POLICY OF FLANDRENSIS

Diplomatic relations (micronation)

Art 3.1 The Sovereign represents Flandrensis abroad. He is free to appoint a member of the Grand Ducal Cabinet or the Diplomatic Corps to carry out this responsibility.

Art 3.2 Flandrensis informally acknowledges all micronations: this means that Flandrensis will be friendly toward all other micronations, large and small, and we pledge our assistance and friendship in helping any new nation develop. Flandrensis will only sign treaties on special occasions, with other micronations who are in total alignment with Flandrensis' foreign policy, climate policy, individual freedom policy and related activities. Requesting diplomatic relations is an invitation for close cooperation, for communal projects and association and not merely for recognition.

Art 3.2 § 1 Flandrensis is the legal successor of the Flandrensisan Commonwealth (24 October 2011-30 April 2016). According to the Treaty of Ghent, Flandrensis preserves all rights on (the territories of) the former member states.

Art 3.3 When a micronation offers diplomatic relations to the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis, they must demonstrate that their state has existed actively for at least three years, and has not drastically changed their form of governance in the last year from date of application. The micronation must renounce "micronational war" as an instrument of foreign policy and prove that the micronation is active outside the internet.

Art 3.3 § 1 Micronations which apply for diplomatic relations must complete truthfully a fact sheet on the Flandrensisan website. This will be the basis for the assessment of their request. The Grand Duchy might request informal correspondence between any minister of the Grand Ducal Cabinet, or the Sovereign himself.

Art 3.3 § 2 Micronations which sign a treaty of friendship & mutual recognition with the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis are recognized until they inform the Grand Duchy of the dissolution of their nation, violations of the treaty, or the micronation itself withdraws from the accord.

Art 3.3 § 3 The Grand Duchy of Flandrensis holds the right to review existing relations. If a micronation that Flandrensis wishes to review its relations with, has not responded within a month of making contact, the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis will consider them to be either defunct, or not wishing to continue a relationship. A grace period of one year will exist, so that if the micronation makes contact after the one-month expiration date - the micronation will be restored to its former status, unless the micronation dissolves itself.

Art 3.4 When a recognized micronation negatively interferes with the government of The Grand Duchy of Flandrensis, their recognized status will come under review. Depending the seriousness of the situation. In the worst cases, diplomatic recognition will be withdrawn.

Art 3.5 The Grand Duchy of Flandrensis does not recognize micronations or countries who claim Flandrensian territory.

Art 3.6 The Grand Duchy of Flandrensis does not recognize micronations or countries who deny climate change, or deny that the main contributor of carbon emissions are humans.

Art 3.7 The Grand Duchy of Flandrensis does not recognize micronations that claim territory pertaining to a micronation already recognized by the Grand Duchy.

Art 3.8 Micronations requesting diplomatic relations with Flandrensis must respect the dignity of all humans. Especially with regards to religion, political affiliations and sexual orientation.

Art 3.9 The Grand Duchy of Flandrensis is neutral in all conflicts and will not be coerced by any other government to enter a conflict. Flandrensis rejects war, as an instrument of foreign policy.

Art 3.10 If a recognized state is found to have infringed upon the basic human rights of an individual or a group of people. Including, but not limited to racism, religious discrimination, and sexual discrimination. The Grand Duchy of Flandrensis may withdraw recognition.

Art 3.11 The Grand Duchy of Flandrensis shall withdraw all recognition of micronations shown to have committed cybercrime against other micronations, internet trolling in micronational communities and create fake profiles on social media.

Art. 3.12 The Grand Duchy of Flandrensis will only recognize micronations with Antarctic claims who have ecologic and realistic projects, that have sensible, respectful and inclusive viewpoints for the benefit of their citizens, land, waters and animals.

Art. 3.13 The Sovereign may withdraw from any treaty at any time after consultation with the Grand Ducal Cabinet and Diplomatic Cops.

Diplomatic Relations regarding macronations

Art 3.14 Flandrensis acknowledges all member countries (macronations) of the United Nations. This does not change the recognition status of micronations within the borders of these countries.

Art 3.15 Flandrensis acknowledges the territorial claims on Antarctica of Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom. This does not change the recognition status of micronations within the borders of these claims.

The Diplomatic Corps

Art. 3.15 Members of the Flandrensiian Diplomatic Corps are diplomats who represents the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis in another sovereign state (micronation). Ambassadors and Consuls enlarge the Flandrensiian community and assist the development of our national identity. They have contacts with local authorities and organizations, organize occasional meetings with citizens or other micronationalists and raise awareness about Flandrensis and climate change in their local community.

Art. 3.15 § 1 Members of the Diplomatic Corps are required to organize minimum two events each year and to share pictures of it. One event is mandatory: a clean-up action. The other events can be participating a Climate protest march, representing Flandrensiian on a sport event, organizing a meeting with other Flandrensiians, making efforts to recycle or carrying other measures in daily life to help the climate.

Art. 3.16 There are two categories in the Diplomatic Corps. Ambassadors are the single point of contact for the Sovereign for matters related to the entire country. In precise regions with large group of Flandrensiian the Sovereign can appoint Consuls who are active or smaller regional level.

Art. 3.17 All Flandrensiians who have a minimum age of 16 years old, who have been a citizen of Flandrensis for at least 2 months and have no other citizenships in other micronations can apply for the position of ambassador or consul.

Art. 3.17 § 1 According to article 5.6 ambassadors and consuls are appointed by the Sovereign for a period of two years. Only the Sovereign can allow exceptions on the required criteria. Members who disappear or ignore e-mails after their appointment or the six-month evaluation will be dismissed.

Art. 3.17 § 2 Applicants need to complete an application form on the website (incl. a curriculum vitae), passes an official exam of Flandrensis and proves their commitment to Flandrensis with a picture in the Flandrensiian Facebook group.

Art. 3.17 § 3 After a long-time career in the diplomatic corps, the Sovereign can appoint senior diplomats as Honourary Consuls.

Art. 3.18. Membership of the Flandrensiian Diplomatic Corps does not confer land grants, pensions, or payments of any kind, or rights of settlement, diplomatic immunity, privileges or extraordinary treatment by the state of Flandrensis.

4. THE FLANDRENSIAN PEOPLE

The Flandrensiians and their rights

Art 4.1 All Flandrensiians are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act toward one another in a spirit of respect and equality.

Art 4.2 Each Flandrensisian is entitled to the rights and freedoms set forth in this Constitution, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, sexuality, gender, socioeconomic status, disability status or other status.

Art 4.3 Each Flandrensisian has the right to life, liberty, and the security of their person.

Art 4.4 No one shall be held in slavery or involuntary servitude. Slavery and the slave trade in all their forms are abolished.

Art 4.5 No one shall be subjected to torture, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment.

Art 4.6 Every Flandrensisian has, wherever they are, the right to be recognized as a person before the law.

Art 4.7 Every Flandrensisian is equally entitled to a fair and public hearing by an impartial tribunal in the determination of their rights and obligations and to determine the merits of a criminal charge against them.

Art. 4.7 § 1 Because the Grand Duchy is not legally recognized internationally, the law of the country of origin of the Flandrensisian holds precedence over Flandrensisian law.

Art 4.8 No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon their honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to protection by the law against such interference or attacks.

Art 4.9 Without any restriction due to race, nationality, or religion, men, women and those who identify as a third or different gender of marriageable age have the right to marry and to start a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage, and at its dissolution.

Art 4.10 Marriage shall be entered into with the free and full consent of both spouses.

Art 4.11 The family, regardless of makeup or quantity of members, is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and by the State.

Art 4.12 Every Flandrensisian has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

Art 4.13 No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of their property.

Art 4.14 Every Flandrensisian has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, provided it does not infringe upon the rights and freedoms of others. This right includes freedom to change one's religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest their religion or to confess belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance of religious commandments and regulations.

Art 4.15 Every Flandrensisian has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, provided it does not infringe upon the rights and freedoms of others.

Art 4.16 Every Flandrensisian has the right to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to participate in scientific advancement and its benefits.

Art 4.17 Every Flandrensiian is entitled to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which they are the creator.

Art 4.18 In the exercise of their rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and to meet the just requirements of morality, public order, and the general welfare in a democratic society.

Art 4.18 § 1 Because the Grand Duchy is not legally recognized internationally, the law of the country of origin of the Flandrensiian holds precedence over Flandrensiian law.

Application for citizenship

Art 4.19 Because the Grand Duchy is not legally recognized internationally, the candidate for citizenship accepts that Flandrensiian citizenship does not supersede their present nationality.

Art 4.20 Because the Grand Duchy is not recognized in international law, it cannot be held accountable in relation to citizenship or documents of the country of origin.

Art 4.21 The candidate for citizenship accepts that they may at any time renounce their citizenship, provided they notify by letter to the sovereign.

Art 4.22 The candidate for citizenship shall provide through the Flandrensiian website a document in which the candidate promises that all provided information is accurate and that they agree to the following conditions:

- Flandrensiian citizenship is subject to the laws of the country of origin and international law. Flandrensiian citizenship is not to be used in any way on official travel documents.
- Flandrensiian citizenship is held with pride. Intolerant behavior, such as racism, and illegal activities that may harm the image of Flandrensis shall result in the revocation of Flandrensiian citizenship by the sovereign.
- To pledge to protect the earth and respect the environment and all living things.
- To understand the legal difference between a micronation and an official recognized country.

Art 4.22 § 1 The candidate must be at least 13 years of age. If the candidate is younger, then the permission of their parent or legal guardian is necessary.

Art 4.23 Only Flandrensiian identity cards or certificates issued by the Flandrensiian state are valid. All third-party documents regarding Flandrensiian citizenship are illegal.

Freedom of religion

Art 4.24 The separation of church and state is guaranteed and shall never be violated.

Art 4.25 The Grand Duchy of Flandrensis recognizes all religions. Religion is defined as "any specific system of belief about deity, often involving rituals, a code of ethics, a philosophy of life, and a worldview."

Art 4.25 § 1 Flandrensis opposes all forms of fundamentalism and religious groups that discriminate against others.

Citizen participation

Art 4.26 Every Flandrensiian can apply for a position in the Grand Ducal Cabinet in accordance with Art. 6.3.

Art 4.27 Every Flandrensiian can apply for a position in the Diplomatic Corps in accordance with Art. 3.17.

5. THE HEAD OF STATE

Rights and obligations

Art 5.1 The Grand Duke (hereinafter: the Sovereign) is the official head of state.

Art 5.1 § 1 The founder of the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis is Niels Vermeersch and is known by the title and regnal name of *His Royal Highness Grand Duke Nicholas de Mersch d'Oyenberghe*.

Art 5.1 § 2 By virtue of civil and religious marriage in accordance with Art. 4.7 §1, Delphine Soenen is the Grand Duchess of Flandrensis and is known by the title and regnal name of *Her Royal Highness Grand Duchess Delphine de Mersch d'Oyenberghe*.

Art 5.1 § 3 The Grand Ducal House and Family shall be styled and known as the House and Family of *(de) Mersch d'Oyenberghe*, and that all the descendants in the male and female line of Niels Vermeersch shall bear the said Name of *(de) Mersch d'Oyenberghe*.

Art 5.2 The sovereign is inviolable, he cannot be forced to resign the throne.

Art 5.3 The sovereign, or his appointed representative, is empowered to sign treaties with other nations.

Art 5.3.1 Due to Art. 3.6 and Art 4.7, the sovereign may appoint and dismiss a Minister of Foreign Affairs

Art 5.4 The Sovereign appoints and dismisses his ministers and counsellors.

Art 5.5 The Sovereign is the commander-in-chief and bestows military ranks.

Art 5.6 The Sovereign appoints and dismisses members of the Diplomatic Corps.

Art 5.7 The Sovereign has the right to implement and produce currency.

Art 5.8 The Sovereign has the right to bestow titles of nobility in corporation with the Flandrensiian Institute for Nobility & Heraldry.

Art 5.9 The Sovereign and members of the royal family have no right to financial provisions from the Government.

Art 5.10 For a piece of legislation to become law, it is required that the sovereign gives his Royal Assent, which can be given by his person verbally, in writing, or through the affixing of his seal, or by his signature.

The throne

Art 5.12 The constitutional powers of the Sovereign are through the natural and legitimate offspring of the direct line of Grand Duke Nicholas and Grand Duchess Delphine de Mersch d'Oyenberghe.

Art 5.13 After the death of the Sovereign the successor will be elected by a special royal college that consists of all the members of the royal family, the Grand Ducal Cabinet and the House of Lords. The elections will be organized by a senior Minister who belongs to the House of Lords.

Art 5.13 § 1 The heirs of the House of (de) Mersch d'Oyenberghe are the first entitled to the throne, after which are the descendants of the House of Le Grand.

Art 5.13 § 2 In the case that the whole lineage of de Mersch d'Oyenberghe and Le Grand refuse the throne, the Royal College will elect a candidate who belongs to the Peerage of Flandrensis.

Art 5.14 The Sovereign is of full age at sixteen years. If they accede prior to this age, a member of the Grand Ducal family and the Chancellor of Flandrensis both serve as their regent.

Art 5.14 § 1 The Chancellor will manage the Flandrensian government as Prince-Regent with all powers of the Sovereign according to this Constitution. The other regent who represents the Grand Ducal family holds the right to use a veto against decisions of the Grand Ducal Cabinet.

Art 5.15 If, after the death of the Sovereign, no successor has been officially appointed; the Throne remains vacant until the House of Lords appoints a successor according to Art. 5.13 § 1.

Art 5.16 If the ruling Sovereign is unable to reign, the Grand Ducal Cabinet, immediately after the declaration of his or her inability, shall appoint a Prince-Regent for a set amount of time for a maximum period of 3 months. Only one Prince-Regent may be appointed.

Art. 5.17 All members of the House of *de Mersch d'Oyenberghe* and the *House of Le Grand* have the right to the title Prince / Princess of Flandrensis.

Art 5.18 The Sovereign carries no crown or other royal regalia. The Sovereign and members of the royal family have the right to wear a ribbon in the national colors of Flandrensis.

Art 5.19 The Sovereign takes possession of the Throne after swearing the following oath before the resigning Prince-Regent of Flandrensis:

"I swear to observe the customs and laws of the Flandrensian people, to defend the Constitution, to maintain our country's independence and territorial integrity, to protect the earth and respect the environment and all living things. To be the protector and defender of the white continent."

6. THE GRAND DUCAL CABINET

Art 6.1 The Sovereign is responsible for the legislation in all Flandrensian territories. The Sovereign is supported and advised by a Cabinet. The Cabinet consists of Ministers who are appointed by the Sovereign.

Art 6.2 The Cabinet shall ensure the immediate civilian, democratic, transparent, and efficient exercise of its powers.

Art 6.3 The Cabinet consists of a number of members who are active Flandrensiens and are willing to spend time in consultation together. They are appointed by the Sovereign according to Art. 5.13

Art 6.3 § 1 Flandrensiens can apply for positions in the Grand Ducal Cabinet. The Chancellor will interview every candidate and will present their final decisions to the Sovereign.

Art 6.4 The Cabinet is the executive power in Flandrensis. The Cabinet is above all a chamber of reflection, where important social problems are examined.

Art 6.5 A Minister who wishes to resign their mandate shall inform the Chancellor in writing. The resignation is final as soon as the Sovereign is informed of it.

Ministers

Art 6.6 The Grand Ducal Cabinet can consist of Flandrensiens with an official function: the "Chancellor", the "Vice-Chancellor", the "Chief Herald", the "Chamberlain" and the Non-portfolio Minister. On advice of the Chancellor the Sovereign can grant specific portfolios like "Foreign Affairs, "Climate & environment", etc. if required. The Sovereign may appoint any minister as he sees fit, for any determined period.

Art 6.7 Ministers advise the Sovereign and implement decisions of the Grand Ducal Cabinet according to their portfolio and in accordance with the Grand Duke's will. Ministers are individually accountable to the Sovereign.

Functioning of the Cabinet

Art 6.8 The Sovereign is the Chairman of the Cabinet and has the right to delegate this office to the Chancellor.

Art. 6.9 The Chairman of the Cabinet determines when to convene the Cabinet and what the agenda of the meeting shall be. Ministers may add business to the agenda at least two days before the meeting. To this end, they deliver their proposal to the Chairman.

Art 6.10 The announcement of a meeting of the Cabinet shall state at least the place, date, time and agenda of the meeting and include and list the proposals to be presented. The agenda must be sufficiently clear. Each item on the agenda shall be made available to all Ministers.

Art 6.11 The Chairman of the Cabinet chairs its meetings and declares them open and closed.

Art 6.12 Each meeting of the Cabinet shall be public except when:

- It discusses matters that affect privacy. When such an issue arises, the Chairman shall recommend a closed session.
- The Cabinet by two-thirds majority decides to treat a matter in a closed session in the interest of public order or because of serious public objections.
- It discusses matters of national security.

Art 6.13 The Chairman of the Cabinet is responsible for maintaining order at meetings. He or she may, after giving prior warning, remove any spectator who openly expresses approval or disapproval of proposals or causes disorder in any way.

Art. 6.14 The Cabinet shall meet as often as needed within its jurisdiction.

The House of Lords

Art. 6.15 The House of Lords exists out of Flandrenian nobles. The Sovereign may appoint noblemen's in accordance to art 10.1.

Art 6.16 The House of Lords is a consultative body of Flandrenian peers who share their experience and provide advice or support to the Chancellor, Grand Ducal Cabinet or the Sovereign.

7. CULTURE

National symbols

Art 7.1 The national colors of Flandrensis are red, white, black, and yellow.

Art 7.2 The Flandrenian flag consists of three horizontal stripes: red, white, and black. The white field contains the Flandrenian arms.

Art. 7.2 § 1 On 24 July 2010, a patent was taken on the national flag of the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis. Commercialization or reuse of the flag without the consent of the patent holder (the Flandrenian State) is prohibited.

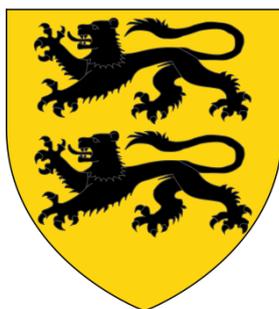
On 14 August 2012, permission was granted to publish the national flag on Wikimedia Commons. This is archived in the Wikimedia OTRS system as ticket # 2012081410007411 and meets the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 Belgium license.



Art 7. 3 The Flandrenian coat of arms consists of two reclining lions sable on a gold field.

Art. 7.3 § 1 On 24 July 2010, a patent was taken on the national coat of arms of the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis. Commercialization or reuse of the coat of arms without the consent of the patent holder (the Flandrenian State) is prohibited.

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Art 7.4 The penguin is the national animal of Flandrensis.

Language

Art 7.5 The national languages are Dutch / Flemish and English.

National anthem

Art 7.6 The national anthem of Flandrensis is *Long Live Flandrensis* and is composed by Anil Altinsoy of the Conservatorium of Izmir (2015).

Holidays

Art 7.7 The national holiday of Flandrensis takes place on the 4th of September and is called Flandrensis Day.

Art 7.8 Flandrensis has 2 holidays to celebrate micronationalism: Emperor Norton Day (8 January) and MacGregor Day (4 December).

Art 7.9 Flandrensis has 7 environmental holidays: Penguin Awareness Day (20 January), World Forestry Day (21 March), World Earth Day (22 April), World Penguin Day (25 April), Endangered species Day (15 May), World Environment Day (5 June) and World Ocean Day (8 June)

Art 7.10 The 1st of April is national LGBT-Day in Flandrensis.

Art 7.11 All the holidays of the Roman Catholic Church are recognized by Flandrensis.

Art 7.12 Labor Day on the 1st of May is a national holiday in Flandrensis.

Art 7.13 As part of its historical heritage Flandrensis has 2 cultural holidays: Saint Polycarpus Day (23 February) and World Heraldry Day (10 June).

Events

Art 7.13 The Grand Duchy cannot be held responsible for any accidents or damage caused by civilians during official activities.

8. JUSTICE

Court

Art. 8.1 When a Flandrensian breaches the law of Flandrensis, the Chancellor, on advice of the Cabinet, selects five non-politically active Flandrensians to constitute a Grand Jury.

Art. 8.1 § 1 The Sovereign must approve of the chosen panel and has the right to reject any or all of the chosen members of the jury for any reason. In that case, the Chancellor must select new members of the jury until the Sovereign approves of all five.

Art. 8.1 § 2 The Grand Jury gets to hear the case and issues a recommendation to the Sovereign who announces the final judgement.

Art. 8.1 § 3 If unsatisfied, the defendant can appeal to the Chancellor (in accordance to art 8.5), in which case he must appoint five new members of the jury, who need not to be approved by the Sovereign this time, and their verdict is final and unappealable.

Art. 8.2 Everyone charged with a crime is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a public trial at which they have been granted all that is necessary for a good defense.

Art. 8.3 Only that which is prohibited by law is punishable.

Art. 8.4 The highest punishment is the revoking of citizenship, which may be temporary or permanent. The punishment is pronounced by the Grand Ducal Cabinet.

Art. 8.5 Flandrensiens have the right to appeal to the Chancellor.

Art. 8.6 Only the Sovereign may grant amnesty.

Art. 8.6 § 1 Grants of amnesty can only be granted to citizens who have committed crimes against the Flandrensiens State and Constitution.

Penal code

Art. 8.7 Flandrensiens who deliberately cause psychological or physiological damage to their fellow citizens shall be revoked their citizenship.

Art. 8.8 All forms of cybercrime are prohibited in Flandrensis.

Art. 8.9 The freedom of expression is limited by law with regard to scornful language, inciting hatred, insulting officials, and spreading lies.

Art. 8.10 Under Art. 2.2, Flandrensis prohibits discrimination on the basis of the following criteria: age, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, religion or belief, marital status, birth, wealth, political convictions, language, current or future state of health, physical or genetic characteristics, and social origin.

Art. 8.11 The distribution of state secrets outside of Flandrensis is prohibited. The Sovereign has the power to declare what is a state secret.

9. NATIONAL SECURITY

Art 9.1 The Flandrensiens defense contains two subdivisions: the F.S.I.S. (Flandrensiens Secret Intelligence Service) and the Grand Ducal Guard.

Grand Ducal Guard

Art. 9.2 Due to Art. 9.4 concerning permanent neutrality, the Flandrensiens military is purely symbolic in nature.

Art. 9.3 The Grand Ducal Guard consists entirely of volunteers, with ranks given by the Sovereign. The ranks are: Lieutenant general, Colonel, Captain and Lieutenant.

Art. 9.4 Flandrensis is a neutral country and preserves its neutrality in any conflict between other nations.

Art. 9.5 Flandrensis condemns micronational wars and refuses to participate in them. The only exception to Flandrensianness is when another country seeks to cause physical and psychological damage to the Flandrensianness and State.

Art. 9.6 Flandrensis condemns the use of illegal Internet activities for the purposes of espionage or conflict. If these practices are used to inflict harm, Flandrensis will notify the competent authorities of the country of origin.

Secret Service

Art. 9.7 The F.S.I.S. is responsible for the national security of the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis. The Secret Service has the sole purpose of collecting information on regarding possible threats and foreign opinion of Flandrensis.

Art. 9.8 The identities of the agents are completely secret from each other. Only the Sovereign and Chancellor know who is working in the F.S.I.S. . This secret service is active on the intermicronational level and is separate from the Grand Ducal Guard.

10. NOBILITY AND TITLES

Art 10.1 Due to Art. 5.8 and Art 5.9, the Sovereign has the right to bestow titles of nobility and awards.

Art 10.1 § 1 Noble titles and awards are granted on Flandrensis Day, the 4th of September. The Sovereign can give titles to everybody who contributes to the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis or the Antarctic environment. This contribution can exist of actions of words. The Grand Duchy of Flandrensis doesn't sell any title.

Art 10.1 § 2 Due to Art. 4.22 new citizens pledge to protect the Earth, respect the environment and all living things and to wear the Flandrensianness citizenship with pride. Therefore every Flandrensianness citizen holds the title "Knight in the Order of the Melting Mountain", a worldwide initiative of the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis to create awareness for global warming and its impact on our world and lives.

Art 10.1 § 3 Following titles can be granted to Flandrensianness citizens or foreign micronationalists:

- Knight in the *Order of the Melting Mountain*: for all citizens of Flandrensis.
- Knight Grand Cross in the *Order of the Melting Mountain*: for Flandrensianness citizens, foreign micronationalists, scientists and everyone who contributes to Flandrensis, micronationalism or the protection of Antarctica.
- Knight Grand Cross in the *Order of Flandrensis*: this order is awarded by the Grand Ducal family for appreciation towards the citizens and the government of Flandrensis, especially for meritorious service in public employment.
- Knight, Knight Commander, Knight Grand Cross in the *Order of Saint-Polycarpus*: this order is reserved for armigerous peers of Flandrensis, who have shown commitment to Flandrensianness values, and are active, or

have previously been active for several consecutive years, in Flandrensisan politics of civil service.

- Baron/ Count or Marquis: the highest award for Flandrensisans for those who have been active for a long time or extraordinary achievement. Due to Art. 5.13 they are member of the House of Lords to elect the successor of the Sovereign. Flandrensisans who decide to allocate private properties to the cause of Flandrensis as an ecological sanctuary have automatic the right on the title of Count.

Art 10.2 All Flandrensisan titles are juridically unrecognized by international laws. Therefore titles cannot be used on official documents of the country of origin. The Flandrensisan titles are only legitimate in Flandrensis and the micronational community.

Art 10.3 Flandrensisan titles of nobility, honors and ranks do not confer land grants, pensions or payments of any kind, nor rights of settlement, privileges or extraordinary treatment by the Crown or State of Flandrensis.

Art 10.4 All Flandrensisans have the right to wear a personal coat of arms. These coat of arms need to be registered in the Roll of arms of Flandrensisan Institute of Nobility & Heraldry.

Art 10.4 § 1 Armorial bearings such as coats of arms, coronets and crowns etc. may be carried and used by the beneficiary of a fully registered grant of arms and all his name-bearing descendants in any way or form these see fit. Armorial bearings issued by the Flandrensisan Institute of Nobility and Heraldry are only recognized within the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis and the wider micronational community.

11. NATIONAL BANK OF FLANDRENSIS

Art 11.1 The National Bank of Flandrensis is dedicated to providing diverse investment solutions to meet the evolving needs of the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis. The National Bank is only a partner from the government and cannot deliver services to citizens. The Sovereign or an appointed Minister are responsible for the management of the National Bank.

Art 11.2 The National Bank of Flandrensis will publish an annual report with a complete summary of all costs and expenses of the past year.

Art 11.3 The National Bank of Flandrensis can only make financial transactions after a positive advice from the Grand Ducal Cabinet.

12. PRIVACY AND PERSONAL DATA

Art 12.1 The Grand Duchy of Flandrensis respects the privacy of every citizen according to the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation.

Art 12.1 § 1 A privacy policy must be published on the Flandrensisan website. This policy must contain: personal data collected by Flandrensis, the use of this personal data and the rights of every Flandrensisan about their personal data.

13. COPYRIGHT AND INTELLECTUAL PROTECTION

Art 13.1 On 24 July 2010, a patent was taken on the name, the national symbols and the intellectual concept of the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis.

Art 13.2 Commercialization or reuse without the consent of the patent holder (the Flandrensisian State) is prohibited.

Art 13.3 Flandrensis owns the copyright on most Flandrensisian national symbols, but respects the work of others. For the Certificate of Citizenship Flandrensis uses the work of Brian Abshier and have the permission to use it (permission date: 03 January 2021). It is not allowed to reproduce the Flandrensisian knight or to claim it is your own work.

Art 13.4 Any appropriation of the identity of the micronation Flandrensis is forbidden.

14. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

Art 14.1 After the Grand Ducal Cabinet reaches a consensus, the draft of the new constitution will be published in the official Facebook group for a period of 7 days. Flandrensisians can express their opposition or criticism. After the 7 day period, if no valid impediment to the new Constitution is raised, the Cabinet will give the Constitution to the Sovereign for royal assent and promulgation.

15. FINAL PROVISIONS

This Constitution is in force from the date of its entry into force until its repeal.

This Constitution shall enter into force on the day after the signing of this law. The signature shall be submitted to the Grand Ducal Cabinet for inspection and approval.

All articles of this Constitution are equal in importance. There is no hierarchy of importance among the articles. The Constitution stands above all other law in Flandrensis.

This law may be cited as the Constitution.

I order and command that this Constitution be published on the website of the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis, and that all ministries, authorities, bodies, and officials whom it may concern implement it precisely.

Done at the Flandrensiian Embassy in in the Kingdom of Belgium,
16 July 2022.

H.R.H. Grand Duke Nicholas de Mersch d'Oyenberghe

Nicholas de Mersch d'Oyenberghe

