

# CONSTITUTION OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF FLANDRENSIS

CREATING A COUNTRY TO SAVE THE WORLD



***"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 17 times. This is the official English version of the present text.

The Flandrensiian 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 Flandrensiian State.

According to Art. 1.1 § 1 Flandrensis is also a non-profit organization. This Constitution should be regarded as its internal regulations in addition to the official bylaws (see Annex A of this Constitution).

## **1. 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 1.2 § 1* Other geographical locations within these boundaries are: Mount Siple, Thurston Glacier, Cape Darte, Cape Leahy, Cape Gates, Duncan Peninsula and Russel Bay.

*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* Flandrensiian 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* Flandrensis believes 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 Flandrensis 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 Flandrensis Antarctic territory.

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

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

*Art. 2.4* It is prohibited in the Flandrensis 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 Flandrensis 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.

## **Flandrensis 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* Flandrensis sanctuaries have the right to have their own flag and coat of arms.

*Art 2.6 § 2* Founders automatically hold the title of Governor and Count and are members of the House of Lords as long as their sanctuary exists.

If a sanctuary is dissolved within three years, membership in the House of Lords and titles expires.

*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 3 events centered around topics related to the ecological pillars every year, posting and sharing it on the Flandrensis 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 Flandrensis 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: Dean Island, Vollmer Island, Moody Island, Kizer Island, Cronenwett Island and Przybyszewski Island.

*Art 3.3* When a micronation offers diplomatic relations to 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 Flandrensisian website. This will be the basis for the assessment of their request.

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

**Art 3.3 § 3** 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, 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 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** Flandrensis does not recognize micronations or countries who claim Flandrensisian territory.

**Art 3.6** 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** Flandrensis does not recognize micronations that claim territory pertaining to a micronation already recognized by Flandrensis.

**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** 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. Flandrensis may withdraw recognition.

**Art 3.11** 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** 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 Corps.

## **Diplomatic Relations regarding micronations**

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

*Art. 3.14 § 1* Flandrensis has received on October 28, 2022 accreditation as an observer to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

*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 Flandrensian Diplomatic Corps are diplomats who represents the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis in another sovereign state (micronation). Ambassadors and Consuls enlarge the Flandrensian 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. Events can be organizing a clean-up action, participating a Climate protest march, representing Flandrensian on a sport event, organizing a meeting with other Flandrensians, 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 Flandrensian the Sovereign can appoint Consuls who are active or smaller regional level.

*Art. 3.17* All Flandrensians 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 Flandrensian Facebook group.

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

*Art. 3.18.* Membership of the Flandrensian 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 Flandrensian State.



## **4. THE FLANDRENSIAN PEOPLE**

### **The Flandrensiens and their rights**

*Art 4.1* All Flandrensiens 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 Flandrensian 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 Flandrensian 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 Flandrensian has, wherever they are, the right to be recognized as a person before the law.

*Art 4.7* Every Flandrensian 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 Flandrensian holds precedence over Flandrensian 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 Flandrensian 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 Flandrensian 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 Flandrensisian 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 Flandrensis is not legally recognized internationally, the law of the country of origin of the Flandrensisian holds precedence over Flandrensisian law.

## **Application for citizenship**

**Art 4.19** Because Flandrensis is not legally recognized internationally, the candidate for citizenship accepts that Flandrensisian citizenship does not supersede their present nationality.

**Art 4.20** Because Flandrensis 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 Flandrensisian website a document in which the candidate promises that all provided information is accurate and that they agree to the following conditions:

- Flandrensisian citizenship is subject to the laws of the country of origin and international law. Flandrensisian citizenship is not to be used in any way on official travel documents.
- Flandrensisian 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 Flandrensisian 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 Flandrensisian identity cards or certificates issued by the Flandrensisian State are valid. All third-party documents regarding Flandrensisian 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* 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 Flandrensian can apply for a position in the Grand Ducal Cabinet in accordance with Art. 6.3.

*Art 4.27* Every Flandrensian 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 in the Grand Ducal Guard.

*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 Flandrensian 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 Flandrensiian 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 three 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 Flandrensiian 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 Flandrensis 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 Flandrensis and are willing to spend time in consultation together. They are appointed by the Sovereign according to Art. 5.13.

*Art 6.3 § 1* Flandrensis 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 Grand Ducal 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 Flandrensis with an official function: the "Chancellor", the "Vice-Chancellor", the "Chief Herald", the "Chamberlain" and the 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 Sovereign'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 Flandrensians 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 Flandrensians 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 Flandrensians flag consists of three horizontal stripes: red, white, and black. The white field contains the Flandrensians 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 Flandrensians 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 Flandrensians 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 Flandrensians 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 Flandriaans, Dutch and English.

*Art. 7.5 § 1* The development of the language falls under the management of the "Komjesi vor Åna ov Flandriaans Langåfrega (KÅFL).

## **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 one holiday to celebrate micronationalism: Emperor Norton Day (8 January).

*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* Flandrensis cannot be held responsible for any accidents or damage caused by civilians during official activities.

## **Flandrensis National Football Association**

*Art 7.14* The "National Football Association of Flandrensis" (NFAF) was official founded on 04 September 2023. The goal of the NFAF is to play football caps on behalf of the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis.

*Art 7.15* The NFAF has the status of an unincorporated association in Belgium.

*Art 7.15 § 1* The management of the NFAF is separated from “vzw Groothertogdom Flandrensis”. The NFAF cannot make any official agreements with other parties on behalf of “vzw Groothertogdom Flandrensis”.

*Art 7.15 § 2* According to Art 13.2 the Board of Directors of “vzw Groothertogdom Flandrensis” granted permission on March 30, 2023 to Thijs Huysmans, founder of the NFAF to use the name and all national symbols of Flandrensis. This permission is reviewed and re-granted each year.

*Art 7.15 § 3* The financial management of the NFAF is separated from “vzw Groothertogdom Flandrensis”, but all financial support or donations to the NFAF are within the scope of the official bylaws.

## **8. JUSTICE**

*Art. 8.1* Only that which is prohibited by the Flandrensian Constitution is punishable.

*Art. 8.2* Everyone charged with a crime is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

*Art. 8.2 § 1* Evidence must be properly obtained to be admissible and must prove guilt beyond doubt.

*Art. 8.3* The highest punishment is the revoking of citizenship, which may be temporary or permanent. The punishment is pronounced by the Sovereign.

*Art. 8.4* Flandrensians who deliberately cause psychological or physiological damage to their fellow citizens shall be revoked their citizenship.

*Art. 8.5* 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. 8.5 § 1* Under Art 4.15 every Flandrensian has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. The freedom of expression is limited by law with regard to scornful language, inciting hatred, insulting officials, and spreading fake news. The freedom of opinion is limited with regard to climate change denial.

*Art. 8.5 § 2* The Constitution defines climate denial the deny that there is a change and that human activity like burning fossils and deforestation have an influence on the current climate situation, include the deny that there is scientific prove that humans must take measures).

*Art. 8.6* The distribution of state secrets outside of Flandrensis is prohibited. The Sovereign has the power to declare what is a state secret.

*Art. 8.7* Only the Sovereign may grant amnesty.

*Art. 8.7 § 1* Grants of amnesty can only be granted to citizens who have committed crimes against the Flandrensian State and Constitution.



## **9. NATIONAL SECURITY**

*Art 9.1* The Flandrensisan defense contains two subdivisions: the FSIS (Flandrensis Secret Intelligence Service) and the Grand Ducal Guard.

### **Grand Ducal Guard**

*Art. 9.2* Due to Art. 9.4 concerning permanent neutrality, the Flandrensisan 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 Flandrensisan neutrality is when another country seeks to cause physical and psychological damage to the Flandrensisan people 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 FSIS 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 FSIS. 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, 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 titles.

*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 Flandrensisan citizenship with pride. Therefore every Flandrensisan 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 Flandrensisan 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 Flandrensis 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 Flandrensis values, and are active, or have previously been active for several consecutive years, in Flandrensis politics of civil service.
- Baron, Count or Marquis: the highest award for Flandrensis 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 and elect the successor of the Sovereign. Flandrensis 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 Flandrensis titles are juridically unrecognized by international laws. Therefore titles cannot be used on official documents of the country of origin. The Flandrensis titles are only legitimate in Flandrensis and the micronational community.

**Art 10.3** Flandrensis 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** To achieve her ecological goals, Flandrensis relies on donations. In exchange for financial support, Flandrensis may offer medals or honors. A portion of these specific donations will be allocated to an ecological project.

- Grand Ducal Antarctic Preservation Medal

Unlike Article 10.1 § 3, these medals or honors do not grant entry to the House of Lords and are not part of the chivalric orders of Flandrensis. Since they are associated with voluntary donations, citizenship is not a requirement.

**Art 10.5** All Flandrensis have the right to wear a personal coat of arms. These coat of arms need to be registered in the Roll of arms of Flandrensis Institute of Nobility & Heraldry.

**Art 10.5 § 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 Flandrensis 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 Flandrensis. The National Bank is only a partner from the government and cannot deliver services to citizens.

*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.

*Art 11.3 § 1* According the bylaws (see Annex A) the Board of Directors is responsible for all finances.

## **12. PRIVACY AND PERSONAL DATA**

*Art 12.1* 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 Flandrensian website. This policy must contain: personal data collected by Flandrensis, the use of this personal data and the rights of every Flandrensian 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* According to the official bylaws the Board of Directors of “vzw Groothertogdom Flandrensis” holds the intellectual property of the micronation.

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

*Art 13.3* Flandrensis owns the copyright on most Flandrensian national symbols, but respects the work of others.

- For some certificates 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 Flandrensian knight or to claim it is your own work.
- The heraldic ornaments (crown, insignia, etc.) on the coat of arms are inspired on the work of designer Sodacan, licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license.
- The heraldic ornaments (crown, insignia, etc.) on the coat of arms were edited by George Lapshynov d' Annenkov, Oscar von Goëtzën, Danny Racovolis and Dominic Desaintes-Bellemare.

*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. Flandrensiens 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.

*Art 14.1 § 1* Earlier changes were approved on 04 September 2008, 06 January 2009, 28 July 2009, 01 Januari 2010, 09 February 2011, 03 October 2011, 15 May 2012, 23 February 2013, 29 December 2013, 29 January 2014, 14 May 2016, 14 May 2017, 08 August 2017, 12 January 2018, 03 January 2019, 16 July 2022.

## 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.

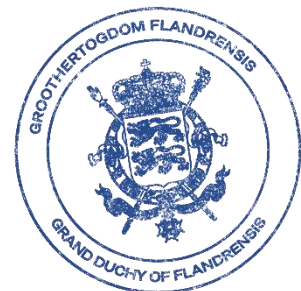
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I order and command that this Constitution be published on the website of the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis, and that all ministries, authorities, bodies, and officials whom it may concern implement it precisely.

Done at the Flandrensiens Embassy in in the Kingdom of Belgium,  
31 December 2025.

*Nicholas de Mersch d'Oyenberghe*

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



# **ANNEX A: THE OFFICIAL BYLAWS OF THE VZW GROOTHERTOOGDOM FLANDRENSIS**

This Annex is an English translation of the official bylaws as published in the Belgian Official Journal (Dutch translation: Belgisch Staatsblad) under registration 21349150. These bylaws were approved by the General Assembly on August 12, 2021.

## **TITLE I: PREAMBLE**

The "Groothertogdom Flandrensis" was founded on September 04, 2008. Through these bylaws, on August 12, 2021, the Board wishes to transform Flandrensis from a unincorporated association with non-profit activities into a non-profit organization.

## **TITLE II: NAME, SEAT, PURPOSE AND DURATION.**

### **Art. 1** Designation:

The non-profit organization is called "Groothertogdom Flandrensis," abbreviated "Flandrensis. Given the international scope of Flandrensis, the name may appear - albeit informally - in other countries in the usual national language.

### **Art. 2** Registered office:

The seat of the non-profit organization is located at Prinsenhofstraat 9, at 8920 Langemark-Poelkapelle, located in the Flemish Region.

### **Art. 3** Purpose of the non-profit organization:

The non-profit organization sets itself a disinterested goal: Flandrensis is a non-profit organization that focuses on climate change and unites people worldwide who are concerned about global warming. Flandrensis is committed to informing, sensitizing and mobilizing citizens on climate issues and encourages them to implement climate-friendly and sustainable measures in their daily lives. A major area of focus is Antarctica. Flandrensis is working to mobilize policymakers worldwide to take strong climate action and to have the entire Antarctic - within the spirit of the Antarctic Treaty - recognized as an internationally protected nature reserve in order to protect and restore its fauna and flora.

To achieve this objective, Flandrensis uses the concept of a "micronation." I.e., the non-profit organization exhibits the characteristics of a "state" but is not recognized as such under international law. The concept of micronationalism is applied to creatively draw attention to climate and in no way seeks territorial recognition from the international community.

As part of the micronational concept, Flandrensis has developed cultural symbols and characteristics that help promote the organization's cohesion and the achievement of its goals. In addition, the micronation also aims to allow young people and adults to develop their talents in a creative way in areas of governance, media, artistic design, communication, etc. and organizing local (cultural and-or ecological) activities. The practical implementation of the micronation is written out in internal regulations. In addition, the non-profit may engage in all activities that directly or indirectly contribute to the realization of its purpose, including ancillary commercial and profit-making activities, the proceeds of which will always be fully allocated to the realization of its purpose (website management, printed matter, promotional material, practical organization of activities, organizing or supporting climate-friendly projects,

participation in conventions or conferences promoting ecological micronationalism, etc.).

**Art. 4** Duration:

The non-profit organization is established for an indefinite period of time.

### **TITLE III: MEMBERS**

**Art. 5** Regular members and joined members:

The non-profit organization consists of regular members (hereinafter "members") and joined members. The non-profit organization has a minimum of 2 members. All members are part of the General Assembly.

- Niels Vermeersch
- Delphine Soenen

To apply for membership you must:

- have assumed responsibility in at least one major activity in the organization
- and are min. 18 year, minor candidates need an authorization from their parent(s) or guardian

The Board reviews the terms and accepts prospective members. The founders of the non-profit organization are the first members. Any natural person who supports the objectives of the non-profit organization may apply to become a joined member. Joined members have only the rights and obligations defined in these statutes.

**Art. 6** Membership fees:

There is no charge to members.

**Art. 7** Termination of membership:

A membership comes to an end:

- a) When the member offers his/her resignation, this should be done in writing to the Chairman;
- b) When it is put on the agenda at the general meeting where 2/3rd of the members must be present or represented, and where at least 2/3rd of the votes cast agree to exclude the member;
- (c) In case of legal incapacity;
- (d) On death.

**Art. 8** Powers The general meeting has the following powers:

- (a) the amendment of the articles of non-profit organization;
- (b) the appointment and removal of directors and the determination of their remuneration in the event that remuneration is granted;
- (c) the discharge to the directors, as well as, where appropriate, the bringing of the non-profit organization action against the directors;
- (d) approval of the annual accounts and budget;
- (e) the dissolution of the non-profit organization;
- (f) the exclusion of a member;

(g) the conversion of the non-profit organization into a cooperative society recognized as a social enterprise or into a recognized cooperative society social enterprise;

(h) an input not to make or accept from a general;

(i) any other cases where required by law or the bylaws.

**Art. 9 Meeting:**

The annual general meeting will take place during the first 6 months after the close of the financial year. The approved financial statements will be filed with the Clerk of the Corporate Court within the month after approval. An extraordinary general meeting may be called whenever the Board deems it necessary or when at least one-fifth of the members request it.

**Art. 10 Convening** Notice of the meeting shall be given at least 15 days before the day of the meeting and shall be sent electronically, unless the member specifically requests to receive it by mail. This notice shall include the date, place and agenda of the meeting. Any proposal signed by 1/20th of the members shall be placed on the agenda. Agenda items proposed by members must be submitted to the Chairman at least 8 days before the general meeting. Directors who are not members are also invited -without voting rights- to the general meeting. Additional agenda items can only be added during the general meeting under the following two conditions: all members must be present or represented and all present must agree.

**Art. 11 Chairmanship:**

The general meeting shall be presided over by the chairman of the Board and, if the chairman is unable to attend, by the vice-chairman and then by the oldest director present.

**Art. 12 Proxies:**

Any member unable to attend the general meeting may be represented by another member. A member present can only represent one absent member.

**Art. 13 Voting:**

The general meeting is validly constituted regardless of the number of members present or represented, except in the case of changing the statutes or the purpose of the non-profit organization, excluding a member or dissolving the non-profit organization.

a) An amendment of the statutes can only be approved if at least 2/3rd of the members are present or represented and at least 2/3rd of the votes cast agree, abstentions being counted neither in the numerator nor in the denominator. If this number is not reached, a second meeting can validly decide to amend the statutes regardless of the number of members present and represented. The same voting quorum as for the first meeting remains valid. This meeting cannot take place within the first fifteen days following the first general meeting;

b) The purpose of the non-profit organization can only be changed when at least 2/3rd of the members are present or represented and at least 4/5th of the votes cast agree, abstentions are not counted in either the numerator or the denominator;

c) All other ordinary decisions are taken by a simple majority of votes cast regardless of the number of people present. Abstentions and invalid votes therefore do not count. In the event of a tie, the chairman's vote shall be

decisive. If the Board consists of only 2 members, the chairman's casting vote shall lapse and the proposal shall be deemed rejected in the event of a tie.

**Art. 14** Presence of third parties:

Externals may be invited to the general meeting as observers by the Board if it is in the interest of the non-profit organization.

**Art. 15** Minutes:

The decisions of the general meeting are recorded in minutes. These minutes of the general meeting are sent to all members by e-mail. The minutes are always available for inspection at the registered office of the non-profit organization.

## **TITLE IV: THE BOARD**

**Art. 16** Mandate:

The Board shall have all powers not assigned by law or by the Articles of non-profit organization to any other body of the non-profit organization. The Board's powers include establishing working groups, accepting donations and instituting legal actions.

**Art. 17** Composition:

The Board consists of a minimum of 2 directors.

- Niels Vermeersch, chairman
- Delphine Soenen, vice chairman

The Board is appointed for a term of indefinite duration by the general meeting by a simple majority vote. Candidates for the Board submit their candidacy to the chairman at least the day before the general meeting. Directors who obtain at least half of the votes represented are elected. The directorship is not remunerated.

**Art. 18** Functions:

The Board shall elect a chairman from among its members. The Board shall be presided over by the chairman or in his absence by the oldest director present.

**Art. 19** Termination of mandate Director's term of office ends:

- a) When the director resigns, this must be in writing to the chairman and the resignation will subsequently have to be ratified by the next general meeting;
- b) When a director is dismissed by the general meeting, which decides by a simple majority;
- (c) In the event of legal incapacity;
- (d) On death.

When the number of directors falls below the legal or statutory minimum due to voluntary resignation, the director remains in office until his replacement is found. The director is then expected to continue in office, according to the "prudent man" principle, until he is replaced. If there is no replacement within a period of 3 months, the director can assume that his resignation has been accepted.

**Art. 20** Convening:

The chairman or a director who replaces the chairman provides the invitation with agenda. At least 2 directors may convene the Board. The call is made at least 5 days before the meeting of the Board, in case of urgency this may be deviated from.

**Art. 21** Deliberation:

The Board meets as a college and can deliberate validly only when at least half of the



directors are present. Decisions are taken by a simple majority of votes. In the event of a tie vote, the proposal shall be deemed rejected. Abstentions are not counted in calculating the result. Each director has the opportunity to dissociate himself or herself from a decision through the minutes. If all directors are present and unanimously agree additional agenda items can be discussed. When discussing an agenda item in which a director present may have a pecuniary advantage, that director may not participate in the discussion.

**Art. 22** Minutes:

The decisions of the Board are recorded in minutes signed by the chairman and the directors who request them. These minutes are available for inspection by the members at the registered office of the non-profit organization in the internal association file.

**Art. 23** Representation:

In judicial acts, the association is represented by a director appointed by the Board. In extrajudicial acts, the non-profit organization is validly represented by the signature of the chairman or another director.

## **TITLE V: ACCOUNTING**

**Art. 24** Capital:

At the time of incorporation, the non-profit organization has no real estate and an initial capital of EUR 585.72.

**Art. 25** Fiscal year:

The fiscal year runs from January 1 to December 31 of the same year.

**Art. 26** Accounting:

The accounts are kept in accordance with the provisions of the WWV and the relevant implementing decrees. The Board submits the annual accounts for the previous fiscal year and the budget to the Annual General Meeting for approval. The financial statements are filed in the file at the Registry of the Corporate Court within thirty days of their approval by the General Assembly.

## **TITLE VI: DISSOLUTION**

**Art. 27** Asset allocation:

In case of dissolution, the net remaining assets shall be transferred to a non-profit organization designated by the general meeting, which pursues a similar goal.

**Art. 28** Designation of liquidators:

In the case of voluntary dissolution, the general meeting appoints one or two liquidators and determines their powers.

## **TITLE VII: CONCLUSION**

**Art. 29** Final provision:

For anything not provided for in these bylaws, reference is made to the Companies & Associations Code and its (future) implementing decrees.

## **ANNEX B: THE OFFICIAL LOGO OF THE VZW GROOTHERTOGDOM FLANDRENSIS**

Since the foundation of the Belgian non-profit organization “vzw Groothertogdom Flandrensis”, Flandrensis used a logo for all official communication with local authorities and environmental organizations. For all micronational affairs and events, Flandrensis always uses her national symbols.

This logo was approved by the General Assembly on February 05, 2022.

