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1. **Nature:** R = Report, P = Prototype, D = Demonstrator, O = Other

2. **Dissemination level:**

PU	PP	RE	CO
Public	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Service)	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (excluding the Commission Services)

Executive Summary / Abstract:

The Europlanet 2024 Research Infrastructure (RI) project is the latest in a series of Europlanet projects funded under the European Commission (EC) Multiannual Financial Framework programmes. The projects have the following common objectives:

- (i) To create a strong infrastructure to support the pan-European planetary science community.
- (ii) To foster internationally leading research through the provision of access to state-of-the-art laboratories and field sites, and access to online databases, tools and services.
- (iii) To promote European planetary science and build collaboration within the international space research and industrial communities.
- (iv) To foster a sense of community and inclusion amongst planetary scientists in Europe (and around the world) and support early career professionals and researchers in under-represented groups and nations in the academic and industrial sectors.
- (v) To raise the profile of planetary science and exploration in Europe and its socioeconomic impacts to a range of audiences including policy makers and the public
- (vi) To engage the next generation with science and technology to secure a strong workforce in the European Research Area, especially in the sectors of planetary and space sciences.

A prerequisite for the delivery of these objectives is to create a long-term structure for the sustainability of the European planetary science community. In 2018, the Europlanet Society was established to promote the advancement of European planetary science and related fields for the benefit of the community. The Society is open to both individual and organisational members, and anyone with an active interest in planetary science (whether academic or industrial, professional or amateur) is welcome to join. The Society is also the parent body of the annual Europlanet Science Congress (EPSC), the largest annual meeting on planetary science in Europe. Since 2018 the Europlanet Society has been hosted by the European Science Foundation (ESF) in Strasbourg, which has acted as its Executive Office.

However, although the Society has a written constitution and around 400 members, it currently has no independent legal structure. In recent years, it has become increasingly apparent that a legal entity is required that can both directly host grants and enter into legal arrangements with national and international partners. Accordingly, in 2022 Europlanet has established an Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif (AISBL), an international non-profit association under Belgian law headquartered at the Royal Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy (BIRA-IASB). The Europlanet AISBL will become a shareholder in the FTP-Europlanet gUG, a not-for-profit entity (gemeinnützige Unternehmergeellschaft (haftungsbeschränkt)) established in Germany in 2021 to provide a sustainable EU base to carry out the educational, outreach and media activities developed by Europlanet.

These structures will enable Europlanet to sustain its community and maintain 'assets' created over the past 20 years, such as EPSC and online tools and services (VESPA, SPIDER etc). The AISBL will play a leading role in determining mechanisms for future access to planetary (and space) research infrastructures, be it through direct European funding, or through a hybrid model of national, Agency and European strategic funding.

This report presents details of the AISBL and the sustainability strategy for the Europlanet research infrastructure activities following the end of the Europlanet 2024 RI funded project.

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1. Explanation of Sustainability Work & Overview of Progress

a) Objectives

The overarching objective of the sustainability task of Europlanet 2024 RI is to create a structure that will maintain the work of the project (and previous Europlanet EC funded programmes) and ensure the European planetary science community has continued access to infrastructure to deliver its (recognised) internationally-leading research programme and retain its pan-European identity.

Table 1: Objectives identified as core to Europlanet 2024 RI and listed in WP1 (Management) that pertain to long-term sustainability.

Objective
1. WP1 Objective 1. To consolidate Europe's position at the forefront of international planetary science.
2. WP1 Objective 2. To provide an exemplar of a widely-distributed research infrastructure.
3. WP1 Objective 9: to connect providers of a comprehensive range of planetary facilities with a diverse user base.
4. WP 1 Objective 10: to expand the capacity of the European Research Area (ERA) by widening participation from users in Under-Represented States (URS).
5. WP1 Objective 11: to develop innovation strategies for planetary data and instrumentation through academic-industry partnerships and exploit NewSpace opportunities through closer links with the commercial sector.
6. WP1 Objective 12: to develop and consolidate networks and collaborations around the world, with a particular focus on China, Korea, Africa and South America
7. WP1 Objective 13: to foster the next generation of RI leaders and users through equitable access to facilities, training, early career support and education
8. WP1 Objective 14: to expand Europlanet's mature outreach activities to raise the profile of European expertise in planetary science and recognition of the impact of Europlanet 2024 RI amongst European citizens and policy makers.

The Europlanet 2024 RI Grant Agreement set out a series of core objectives for the long-term sustainability of the project (Table 1). These were supplemented at the first Europlanet 2024 RI Council meeting on 13 October 2020 with the agreement of the following objectives specifically directed towards sustainability:

Objective

- (i) To create a legal entity for Europlanet, including the Europlanet Society, that would be able to directly apply for and operate grants from national and international funding agencies.
- (ii) To create a legal entity that can sign partnership agreements necessary for the operation of Europlanet activities including the operation of an Executive office.

- (iii) To support establishment of a legal entity that can provide a sustainable EU base to carry out the educational, outreach and media activities developed by Europlanet.

b) Explanation of the work carried in WP

(i) Establishment of a legal entity for the sustainability of Europlanet

The Europlanet 2024 RI project is the latest in a series of planetary science projects funded under the EC's Multiannual Financial Framework programmes.

Europlanet emerged from the collaboration between scientists involved in the Cassini-Huygens mission, the first ESA planetary mission to deploy a truly pan-European effort. Europe boasts one of the largest international communities of planetary scientists, with an estimated 1000 tenured academics and around five times that number of early-career researchers and postgraduate students in more than 200 research groups/institutions, spread across nearly all Europe's national states.

Unlike other space agencies, which have responsibility for both space missions and the supporting the scientific communities, the European Space Agency is only responsible for building and operating the missions. Europe's scientific community is supported by the national states and individual institutions, each with their own funding regimes and requirements. Fragmentation is, thus, a particular challenge in Europe, and Europlanet's primary aim has been to overcome fragmentation and to share resources across Europe's planetary science community. For details of the conception of Europlanet and initial strategy, see the article '[Memories of Europlanet's Birth](#)' by Prof Michel Blanc, the first coordinator of Europlanet consortium.

The European Planetology Network (EuroPlaNet) Coordination Action (2005-2008) received €2 million under Framework 6 for networking activities. The project's objectives were to build a strong community for European planetary science through meetings and workshops, identify science goals, develop synergies between space missions and ground-based observations and lay the foundations for a Virtual Planetary Observatory.

EuroPlaNet resulted in two key strategic activities. The first was the inauguration of the European Planetary Science Congress (EPSC) as an annual forum for the European planetary science community to meet independently from the larger astronomy/space/earth sciences communities. EPSC (renamed the Europlanet Science Congress in 2020) is now well established as the largest annual meeting on planetary science in Europe. It regularly attracts over 1000 international participants and co-hosts meetings every three years with the American Astronomical Society's Division of Planetary Sciences for even larger events.

The second key strategic action was that Europlanet applied for and received €6 million under Framework 7's Integrated Infrastructure Initiative programme to develop a distributed Research Infrastructure (RI) for planetary science. The Europlanet RI project (2009-2012) enabled European researchers to access state-of-the-art laboratory simulation facilities, analytical laboratories for the study of extra-

terrestrial samples (e.g. meteorites), and planetary analogue field sites (a core necessity for the development of space mission instrumentation and understanding life in extreme environments). The RI's Virtual Access (VA) portfolio continued to develop a Virtual Planetary Observatory and provided open access to online data services tailored to the planning and analysis of data from planetary space missions, as well as providing valuable standardisation of data formats. The RI supported the development of new tools and infrastructure, and consolidated the community through meetings, workshops and the sharing of resources, ideas, data and personnel.

The success of this first RI project led to planetary science being named as a theme in the 2014-2015 call for RI proposals within the Horizon 2020 programme. Europlanet again applied for and received €9.95 million for an expanded programme, Europlanet 2020 RI (2015-2019), which was led by the Open University, UK, with 33 beneficiary institutions from 19 European countries.

A further successful proposal for Horizon 2020 funding resulted in the current Europlanet 2024 RI project, which runs from February 2020 to July 2024. The Europlanet 2024 RI consortium is led by the University of Kent, UK, and has over 50 beneficiary institutions from 24 countries in Europe and around the world, with a further 44 affiliated partners. The project draws on the resources of the Europlanet Society to disseminate activities and outcomes and develop a more diverse community of users.

Europlanet 2024 RI provides:

- Free Transnational Access (TA) to 24 laboratories in Europe and six field sites, as well as additional facilities in South Korea and China.
- Virtual Access to over 50 services and tools.
- Networking activities to support the community, develop links with industry, support early careers professionals and researchers in under-represented nation states, and engage with research communities around the world, as well as citizens and policy makers.
- A telescope network to provide rapid response observations to support planetary missions.

Since its foundation, Europlanet has forged a considerable degree of cohesion and unity of purpose amongst Europe's planetary scientists. It has also sought to engage and work with other communities, including European space industry (a high-growth area that includes the exploitation of space) and the amateur astronomy community, which provides valuable observations of planetary objects and is amongst the strongest citizen scientist communities contributing to research.

All the EC funded projects have had a common series of objectives:

- (i) To create a strong infrastructure to support the pan-European planetary science community.
- (ii) To foster internationally leading research through provision of access to state-of-the-art laboratories and field sites, and access to online databases, tools and services.

- (iii) To promote European planetary science and build collaboration within the international space research and industrial communities.
- (iv) To foster a sense of community and inclusion amongst planetary scientists in Europe (and around the world) and support early career professionals and researchers in under-represented groups and nations in the academic and industrial sectors.
- (v) To raise the profile of planetary science and exploration in Europe and its socioeconomic impacts to a range of audiences including policy makers and the public
- (vi) To engage the next generation with science and technology to secure a strong workforce in the ERA, especially in the sectors of planetary and space sciences.

A prerequisite for the delivery of these objectives is the creation of a long-term structure to support the sustainability of the European planetary science community. In 2018, the [Europlanet Society](#) was established to promote the advancement of European planetary science and related fields for the benefit of the community. The Society is open to both individual and organisational members and anyone with an active interest in planetary science (whether academic or industrial, professional or amateur) is welcome to join. The Society has a particularly strong early career (up to seven years from last degree) membership which is organised through the [Europlanet Early Career \(EPEC\) Network](#). The Society is also structured around ten [regional hubs](#) to provide a more local community engagement.

The Europlanet Society is committed to building a diverse, inclusive planetary science community in Europe and to ensuring that individuals within that community experience equal opportunity, regardless of gender, disability, ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marital status, age, nationality or socioeconomic background. The Europlanet Diversity Committee acts as a strategic task force to advise, coordinate and champion activities across the Europlanet Society that further the Society's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusivity.

However, while the Society currently has around 400 members, it has no independent legal structure. In recent years, it has become increasingly apparent that a legal entity is required that can both directly host grants and enter into legal arrangements with national and international partners. Accordingly, one action of the Europlanet 2024 RI has been to establish such a legal entity.

(ii) Europlanet AISBL

The Europlanet 2024 RI Council, at its [first meeting in October 2020](#), authorised the RI's Executive Committee, the Project Management Committee (PMC) and the Europlanet Society Board to develop a sustainable legal entity for Europlanet.

Various legal options were reviewed for a not-for-profit scientific entity with the capacity for membership by individuals and organisations, including a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). ERICs were designed by the EC as a legal instrument to establish and operate large-scale infrastructure within Member States.

However, the “top down” ERIC structure (which requires the membership of countries) is not compatible with the research needs of the planetary community, which require a distributed research infrastructure with a widespread (50+) suite of facilities that can change over time to underpin studies related to the targets of planetary missions, which can have radically different characteristics.

Europlanet will, therefore, be formally established as an Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif (AISBL), an international non-profit association under Belgian law. This model was also adopted recently by the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) as a legal structure. The benefits of an AISBL are:

- An AISBL by its nature has an international character.
- The AISBL is recognised by a Belgian Royal Decree, which strengthens its image in the minds of third parties.
- An AISBL has wide potential for founders who require a non-profit association with a flexible structure in international matters i.e. the founders have a greater liberty in setting up the content of the articles of association.
- The membership rights and obligations are defined for the AISBL.
- If an AISBL wants to change its registered office, it may, if provided by the articles of association, proceed by decision of the management and is not required to convene the general assembly. On the other hand, the ASBL has to convene the general assembly and amend its articles of association.

An AISBL must be established by notarial deed, whereby the notary submits the purpose of the association to the Belgian Ministry of Justice for approval. The approval procedure and the publication of the Royal Decree may take some time. From a practical point of view, this can take up to three months. The legal personality of an AISBL is granted on the day of publication of the Royal Decree.

The AISBL will be hosted by the Royal Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy (BIRA-IASB) and integrated within its own infrastructure (See Figure 1 and <http://planetary.aeronomie.be/en/home.htm>). Through the auspices of Dr Didier Moreau (Europlanet Society Treasurer) and Dr Ann Carine Vandaele (Vice-President of the Europlanet Society and member of Europlanet 2024 RI) a notary was appointed and the process for an application for association of the AISBL was started on 22 August 2022. The articles of the AISBL submitted to the notary are included in Annex 1 (an English translation of the French text). The formal email address of the Europlanet AISBL will be europlanet@aeronomie.be.

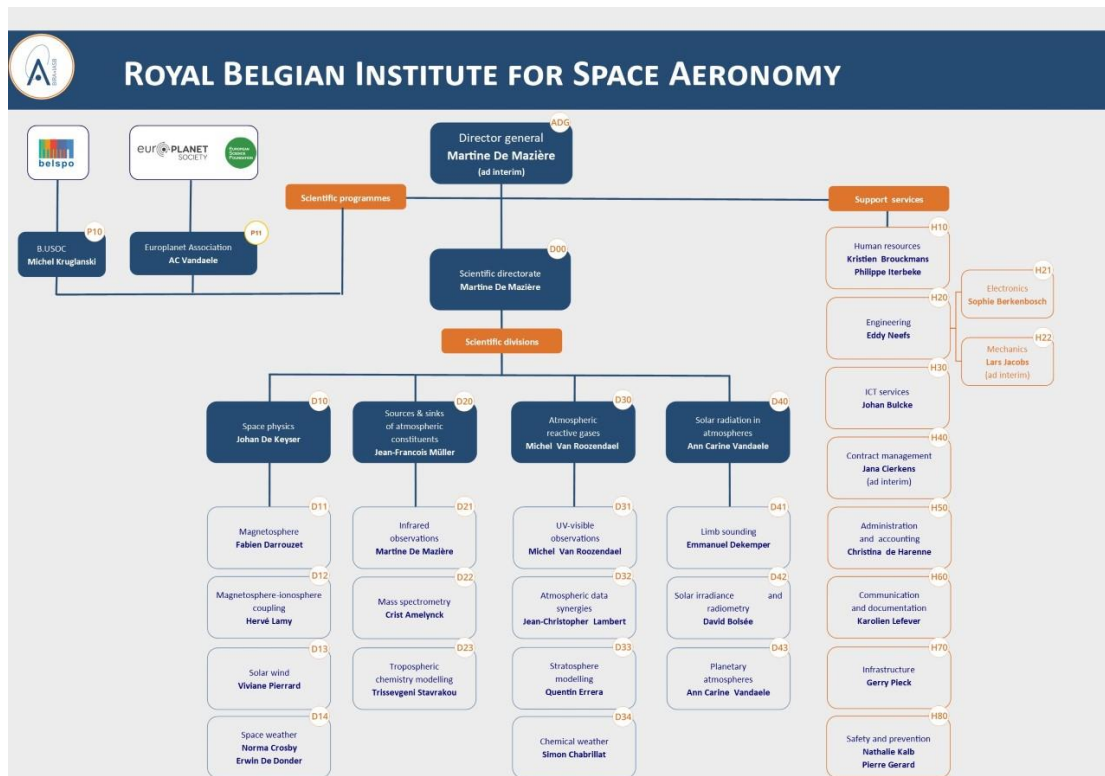


Figure 1: Organigram showing inclusion of Europlanet AISBL within the Royal Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy (BIRA-IASB)

The integration of the AISBL with the Europlanet Society membership and other Europlanet entities is detailed in Figure 2 including:

- The annual conference, EPSC, which operates on a commercial basis through registrations for the meeting, exhibition fees and sponsorship. All new profits of the EPSC are placed as disposal of the Europlanet Society.
- The Europlanet AISBL will become a shareholder in FTP-Europlanet gUG, the not-for-profit entity (gemeinnützige Unternehmergeellschaft (haftungsbeschränkt)) established in Germany to provide a sustainable EU base to carry out the educational, outreach and media activities developed by Europlanet.

The AISBL will draw up administrative protocols with the host organisation (BIRA-IASB), a license agreement with the EPSC conference organiser (currently Copernicus) and a contact with the Executive Office, which is responsible for the coordination of day-to-day activities of the Europlanet Society, including management of membership and oversight of EPSC. The European Science Foundation (ESF) has hosted the Executive Office of the Europlanet Society since November 2018.

Strategic partnerships and reciprocal arrangements for conferences and meetings are planned between the AISBL and organisations including:

- The American Astronomical Society’s Division of Planetary Sciences (DPS)
- The European Astronomical Society (EAS)
- The European Geophysical Union (EGU)

The AISBL will apply for associate status to EOSC (currently implemented through the ESF) in order to promote and develop its work on open source tools and databases as part of the Virtual Planetary Observatory.

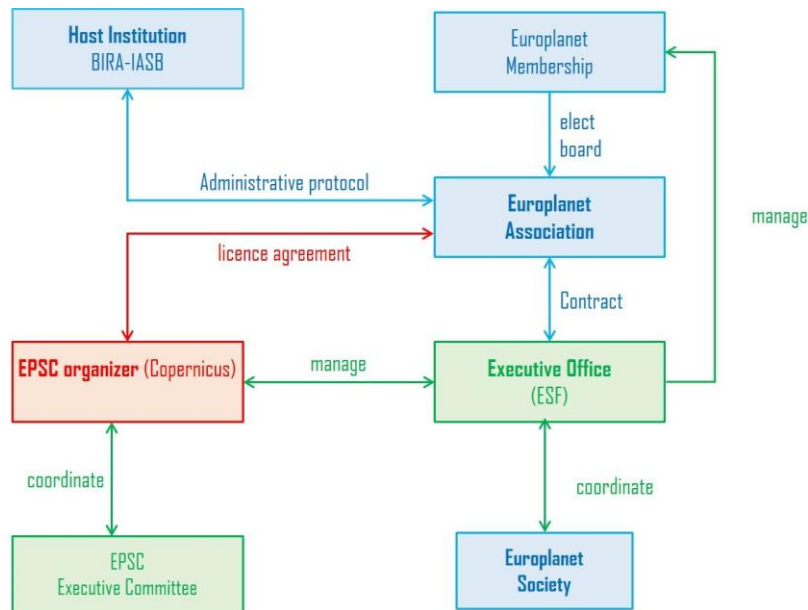


Figure 2. Showing the structure of the Europlanet entities and the Europlanet Association (AISBL).

(iii) Developing a format for a pan European Space RI

The EC published its proposals for the next generation of Research Infrastructures in spring of 2022. Under *Research infrastructures services advancing frontier knowledge (HORIZON-INFRA-2023-SERV-01-02)*, there is a proposal for an RI for a scientific domain entitled Astronomy and Astroparticle Physics. This title is derived from the taxonomy used in the recent European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Roadmap, which states in its description of the Astronomy and Astroparticle theme under the Physical Sciences and Engineering (PSE) domain:

The main science questions addressed by the RIs can be summarized as follows:

- *understand the origin of the universe, its main constituents;*
- *understand the extreme conditions the Universe hosts;*
- *understand the formation of galaxies and their evolution;*
- *understand the formation of stars and planets;*
- *search for planetary systems in our galaxy, study the Solar System and extrasolar planets, search for life and understand the conditions enabling life.*

However, the RIs identified in the ESFRI Roadmap do not cover the entirety of this research and, indeed, the last two topics are within the remit of the Europlanet Research Infrastructure. Accordingly, the Europlanet community is eager to engage with this call, although there are some concerns as to the possible structure of such a 'Space RI'. Meetings have been held with the potential key partners foreseen in such a possible programme, in particular:

- The Opticon RadioNet Pilot (ORP).
- The ChETEC starting research infrastructure.
- Members of Astronet.

- Members of Europlanet Astrobiology Network Association and European Astrobiology Institute.
- Members of European Astrochemistry community and JWST ices working group.
- Members of the European lunar community.
- Members of the European origins of life community.
- Members of European space utilisation community.

Discussions have also been held within the ESA Human and Robotics Exploration Strategy Group, and with the Chair of ESFRI and the Chair of its PSE Board.

Work is progressing to explore how a ‘Space RI’ covering astroparticle physics, astrophysics, astrochemistry, astrobiology and planetary sciences could be developed within the stated budget of €14.5 million for a TA-driven programme. This would require a limited set of facilities, often with one institution covering several different aspects of the programme (e.g. providing accelerators that can be used for astrophysics, astrochemistry and planetary research activities). A combined telescope programme bringing together ORP, ChETEC and Europlanet observatories is being explored but it is noted that there is wide variation in the size of the facility and observation times (seconds to weeks) in the different programmes.

Sessions to discuss the potential structure and options for the ‘Space RI’ are planned at EPSC 2022 in Granada in September 2022. Europlanet will also attend the International Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI) 2022 in Brno, Czech Republic from 19-21 October, where it is co-organising a ‘side event’ on 19 October entitled [‘Long-term Sustainability of Small and Mid-scale Distributed RI Projects’](#) together with other RIs.

The future of the VA programme is also being considered, recognising that this will be part of the EOSC strategy and noting that the European Science Cluster of Astronomy & Particle physics ESFRI research infrastructures (ESCAPE) project has recently concluded and its future is also under review.

The planetary community is adamant that there is a need to continue the RI structure it has developed in last 14 years. The development of a unique, pan-European planetary RI has been central to Europe emerging as a recognised leader in the planetary science domain. The existence of the RI underpins the ESA space exploration programme – indeed it is no coincidence that such an RI has developed alongside ESA’s ability to mount paradigm-changing missions (e.g. the Rosetta mission to a comet, the ExoMars programme, the BepiColombo mission to Mercury), and its existence is core to forthcoming missions such as JUICE (to Jovian moons), EnVision (to Venus) and Comet Interceptor. The strong laboratory network in Europe united through an RI is seen as a major strength of the EU community, and will enable it to play a pivotal role in analysis and interpretation of the astrochemistry that JWST will provide. The existence of such a RI is also a precondition for a successful European role in future lunar and space station programmes, which will ensure permanent human habitations in space and open opportunities for new space-based technologies to be developed across the ERA.

The RI concept has provided Europe with a clear advantage and is now being used as an exemplar by NASA, which is seeking to mobilise its academic and industrial community through a call for an RI that widens participation beyond NASA laboratories. Smaller initiatives to create national ‘Space RIs’ based on the EU model are being explored in India and China.

The development and upgrade of the individual facilities are mainly supported through national funding activities, but the TA programme is not sustainable at this time without EC funding. A complex series of bilateral programmes would take time to organise and undoubtedly restrict the participation of less-represented states. Nevertheless, Europlanet is exploring the potential for a co-funding TA programme as part of its future strategy to ensure that the vital resource offered by the RI is maintained.

2. Summary of plans for Year 3

In the coming year (M30 – 42) of the Europlanet 2024 RI project, the AISBL will be legally established and become fully operational. Once this is in place, immediate actions will be:

- To draw up administrative protocols with the host organisation (BIRA-IASB).
- To sign a license agreement with the EPSC conference organiser (currently Copernicus).
- To revise and sign a contact with the European Science Foundation (ESF).
- To become a shareholder in the FTP-Europlanet gUG.
- To agree strategic partnerships and reciprocal arrangements for conferences and meetings between the AISBL and:
 - The US Division of Planetary Sciences (DPS).
 - The European Astronomical Society (EAS).
 - The European Geophysical Union (EGU).
 - The AISBL will apply for associate status within EOSC (currently organised through ESF).

Annex 1: Europlanet AISBL Statutes

Annex 1: Europlanet AISBL Statutes

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EUROPLANET ASSOCIATION STATUTES

Name (in full): "Europlanet Association"

Name (abbreviated): Europlanet

Legal form: International non-profit association

Full address of the head office: Institut royal d'Aéronomie Spatiale de Belgique ,
Avenue Circulaire 3, 1180 Brussels, Belgium

ARTICLE 1. PURPOSE OF THE DEED: CONSTITUTION -- STATUS – APPOINTMENT

It results from a deed received dated, in the presence of XXXXXXX, Notary in Brussels,
which contains at the end the following registration statement:

"reference"

that:

- **Anita Rachel HEWARD:**
residing at XXX
- **Nigel MASON:**
residing at XXX
- **Ann Carine VANDAELE:**
residing at XXX
- **Angelo Pio ROSSI:**
residing at XXX
- **Didier MOREAU:**
residing at XXX

constituted the international non-profit association (aisbl) whose statutes are as
follows:

ARTICLE 2. NAME - HEAD OFFICE - PURPOSE - ACTIVITIES – DURATION

3. Name

The international non-profit association (inpa) was created under the name "Europlanet Association". The association is governed by the Companies and Associations Code as introduced by the law of March 23, 2019 (hereinafter referred to as the "Code").

All deeds, invoices, announcements, notices, letters, orders, websites and other documents, in electronic form or not, emanating from this legal entity must mention, in addition to the name, the word "aisbl" and the indication of the address of the head office, the following information:

1. the company number;
2. the word "register of legal persons" or the abbreviation "RPM", followed by the indication of the court of the registered office of the legal person;
3. where applicable, the e-mail address and website of the legal entity;
4. where applicable, the fact that the legal entity is in liquidation.

4. Head office

The head office of the association is established in the Brussels Region. The administrative body may transfer the head office to any other place in Belgium, and register this change in the statutes of the association, provided that such a move does not require a change in the language of the association's statutes. If due to the moving of the head office, the language of the statutes must be modified, only the general assembly has the power to take this decision. The association, after agreement by the general assembly, may establish offices, operating centers, establishments or any other form of representation, in any country or place.

5. Purpose and activities

The purpose of the association is to promote planetary sciences, planetary exploration and any other related field for the benefit of the community, by encouraging the creation of new knowledge, by promoting education, by stimulating innovation and enhancing accessibility and transparency.

The purpose of international utility of the association is:

1. to allow the community of Europlanet stakeholders to speak with one voice to defend and represent its interests,
2. to promote coherence between policy and the research priorities of the European Union and the activities coordinated by the association.

The association achieves its goal by pursuing a series of activities, including:

- 1) By supporting the planetary science community through the activities of the Europlanet Society and its structures, including the EPSC conference;
- 2) Establishing strategic collaborations to support planetary science;

- 3) By developing and maintaining infrastructures to support planetary sciences.

6. Duration

The association is established for an indefinite period

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERS

Membership of the Company is open to:

7. Adhering Members:

Individuals over the age of 18 who are interested in continuing the work of the Society whose application has been accepted and who have paid their annual dues, who have an interest in planetary science or who are, or have at any time been engaged in planetary science research, planetary science education, or otherwise attached to the study or advancement of planetary science, or who are amateur astronomers with a serious interest in research and planetary exploration.

Associate members are entitled to one vote at the general assembly. Adherent members are free to withdraw from the association at any time by not renewing their subscription.

8. Board members

The Board consists of the five officers of the Europlanet Society (President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer) and six other members. The Board Members are responsible for oversight of the following remits, providing an added liaison point at Board level for the relevant Europlanet Society Committees and Working Groups and Europlanet 2020 RI Tasks.

1. Communication:
2. Outreach and Education:
3. Early Career:
4. Diversity:
5. Inclusion and Widening Participation
6. Industry Relations:
7. Amateur Collaboration:
8. Infrastructure Development:
9. Global Collaboration :
10. Policy Engagement:
11. External Funding Opportunities:

New board members must be admitted by the general assembly. In order for board member to be elected, it must have been put on the agenda of the general assembly. The admission of a new effective member takes place by a majority of 2/3 of the members present or validly represented.

The mandate of board members is four years. Outgoing members are eligible for re-election once.

9. Student members:

Individuals fulfilling the same conditions as for adhering members, but who are, in addition, engaged in full-time or part-time studies in a higher education establishment. Student members are entitled to one vote at the General Assembly.

10. Honorary members:

Any person so designated by the Board; in general, these are eminent personalities who have contributed to the advancement of planetary sciences. Honorary members are not required to pay a membership fee. They are entitled to one vote at the general assembly with the consent of the person concerned, the association may propose that a full board member keep the honorary title of his functions at the end of his last mandate.

11. Organizations:

Any legal person or association without legal personality whose candidacy has been accepted, which is interested in continuing the work of the Society and which has paid the annual subscription. Each member organization appoints a person to represent it and vote on its behalf at meetings of the Society. Representatives of member organizations have the right to attend and participate in all activities of the Society on the same basis as any individual member. The number of votes of the members of the organization in the General Assembly will be defined in the institutional memorandum of understanding.

12. Rights and obligations of members

Members (adhering, board, honorary, student and organizational) have the following rights:

1. Attend meetings of the general assembly;
2. Voting at the general meeting;
3. Participate in the activities of the association;
4. Propose candidates to the board of the association.
5. In addition, board members have the following rights:
 - To present their defense in person before the general assembly, before being expelled;
 - Resign from the association;

13. Members have the following obligations:

1. Pay the annual subscription;
2. Adhere to the statutes, internal rules and decisions of the administrative body;
3. Notify the Secretary of any change in their membership status that affects compliance with membership requirements.

14. Admission of board member

Applications for admission as a board member must be submitted in writing to the president, who then presents them to the next general assembly. Admission is granted by the general assembly. Due to the long period that can elapse between two general assemblies, the administrative body or the president may accept candidates as members on a provisional basis pending the final decision of the general assembly. The general assembly ensures the follow-up of the association and takes the necessary measures so that its composition and its functioning remain adapted to its mission.

15. Resignation and loss of full membership

Full members may resign or lose their membership. In addition, the quality of member automatically ends and with immediate effect, when the member no longer fulfills the conditions of admission. The resignation is notified to the Secretary.

The exclusion of a member is within the competence of the general assembly ruling by a majority of 2/3 of the members present or validly represented. Two thirds (2/3) of the members must be present or validly represented at the general meeting. The sanction of exclusion taken with regard to a member is notified to him by letter or e-mail duly motivated. The member has the right to be heard by the general assembly. The administrative body may suspend the members referred to until the decision of the general assembly.

Members may submit their resignation by registered letter or by e-mail at any time. If the resignation occurs less than six (6) months before the end of the financial year, the full contribution for the following financial year is due despite the resignation. The contribution for the remaining part of the financial year during which they resign is not reimbursed.

The general assembly may terminate the status of member, after having heard the defense of the person concerned:

1. For any serious violation of the articles of association, of the internal rules or of any decision of the general meeting or of the administrative body, in the event that the member has not remedied this violation within a period three (3) months from notification of the breach.
2. For having acted in a manner which seriously damages the reputation of the association.
3. For non-payment of the annual membership fee, after an official reminder remains without action for more than ninety (90) calendar days from the reminder.
4. For any other serious reason that it deems justified if the member has not remedied this violation within three (3) months after sending a formal notice to cease the behavior. The general meeting gives reasons for its decision to terminate membership.
5. If a full member is absent, without the permission of the administrative body, from all its meetings held within a period of thirteen months.

The member who loses his quality due to a resignation, dissolution, liquidation, because he no longer fulfills the conditions of admission or for other reasons, cannot

claim the assets of the association and cannot claim reimbursement of the contributions he has paid. Any dues due that are not already paid must be paid in full for the year in which membership ends.

16. Contributions

In the same way as for the determination of the budget, the general assembly sets the amount of the annual contributions paid by each member for the following financial year, on the proposal of the administrative body.

17. Limited Liability

The members do not assume, in this quality, any personal responsibility for the commitments contracted by the association.

18. Register of members

The administrative body keeps a register of board members in accordance with the Code of Companies and Associations. This register is kept at the head office where all members can read it but without moving the register.

ARTICLE 4. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19. Composition and powers

The general assembly constitutes the supreme authority of the association and is composed of all the members in order of contribution. It is chaired by the president of the administrative body or, if he is absent, by the vice-president. In the absence of them, it is the oldest board member who directs the debates.

The general assembly has the powers that are expressly granted to it by the Code of Companies and Associations or these statutes.

In particular, it is solely competent to deliberate on the following points:

1. Any modification of the statutes;
2. Appointment and discharge of administrators;
3. The determination of the remuneration, if any, of a president;
4. Appointment and dismissal of the auditor and fixing of his remuneration;
5. Approval of the budget and annual accounts submitted annually;
6. Voluntary dissolution of the association;
7. Admission of members and loss of effective membership;
8. The discharge of the board members and the auditors, as well as, where applicable, the opening of association procedure against the directors and the auditors;
9. The transformation of the aisbl into a cooperative society recognized as a social enterprise
10. Make or accept a contribution without counterpart of a universality;
11. Where required by law or the articles of association.

20. Convocation and representation

The board shall convene the general assembly at least once a year and more if necessary. It must be convened when a fifth of the members so request. The auditor also has the right to convene the general assembly.

Members can propose topics to the agenda up to thirty (30) days prior to the holding of the general meeting. The secretary shall send out notices of meetings, including the agenda, the date, time and place of the meeting of the general assembly, as well as all the relevant documents, at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting. In cases of exceptional urgency duly substantiated, the period of notice of the meeting of the general assembly, and the sending of the order of the day and of the relevant documents is reduced to seven (7) days. Any member may waive this notice and, in any case, the meeting is deemed to have been duly convened if the member is present or represented at the meeting of the general assembly. Members may offer some of the experts who attend the meetings of the general assembly without voting rights.

21. Quorum

The general assembly deliberates validly if at least half of the members are present or represented. Concerning the decisions mentioned in the following article and which require a double majority, the general assembly deliberates validly if at least half of the members are present.

When the quorum is not reached, the administrative body convenes a second meeting of the general assembly no earlier than twenty (20) calendar days after the first. The second general assembly can, during this second meeting, validly make decisions, regardless of the number of members present or represented.

22. Voting

The General Assembly strives to adopt its decisions by consensus. If a vote proves necessary, the general meeting makes its decisions as follows.

The general assembly can only deliberate on the points appearing on the agenda, except in the case where at least two thirds (2/3) of the members are present or represented and decide unanimously to add additional points. on today's agenda.

The general assembly makes its decisions, insofar as the law or the articles of association do not provide otherwise, when the simple majority of the members is present or represented at the general assembly.

Resolutions are taken by a simple majority of votes present or represented, except in cases where it is decided otherwise by law or these statutes.

Voting can be done by a show of hands, by paper ballot or electronically. Each full member has one vote. Any member may give a procuration to another member to vote in his place, provided that this proxy is given to him before the vote. A member cannot be entrusted with more than two (2) procuration. In the event of a tie vote, that of the president or of the board member who replaces him is decisive.

The general assembly can only validly deliberate on the dissolution of the association, on the modification of the statutes in accordance with the prescriptions of the Code of Companies and Associations.

23. Meetings

A meeting of the general assembly duly convened is validly held in person, by electronic means, or by any means that allows members to hear and speak to each other directly and instantaneously. In this case, the members are deemed to be present at the meeting of the general assembly.

Decisions taken by telephone, video or web conference are deemed to take effect on the day following that of the general meeting.

24. Written procedure

With the exception of decisions which must be taken by notarial deed, the general meeting may take decisions in writing.

To this end, the Secretary, at the request of the administrative body, informs all members by ordinary mail or by any other means of written communication (including electronic mail). The communication mentions the agenda, the proposals for decisions, a deadline within which the decisions must be taken as well as an address for the replies.

A decision is deemed to have been taken if less than half of the members disapprove of it in writing. In the event of a tie vote, the decisions are deemed not to have been adopted.

Decisions taken by means of the written procedure are deemed to take effect on the date mentioned in the letter addressed to the members.

25. Minutes

The decisions taken by the general assembly are recorded in minutes, which are communicated to each member by ordinary mail, by e-mail or on the association's website within fifteen (15) calendar days following the meeting. Thereafter, members have fifteen (15) calendar days to propose amendments, followed by an additional round of fifteen (15) calendar days for the President and the Secretary to vote on the amendments and followed by a another period of fifteen (15) calendar days for the approval of the members.

Once approved, the minutes are signed by the chairman and recorded in a register available to members.

ARTICLE 5. EXECUTIVE BOARD

The executive boards made up of the five leaders of the Europlanet Company (President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer, referred to as the executive committee)

26. Composition and powers

The administrative body is composed of administrators, who are appointed in a personal capacity, among the board members of the association.

Nominations of board members are filed and published in accordance with the provisions of the Code.

The president chairs the meetings of the general assembly and of the board. If he is absent, one of the two vice-presidents replaces him. In the absence of these, it is the oldest member who directs the debates.

The President, Vice-Presidents and other members of the executive committee are elected on a rotational basis on a four (4) year cycle to ensure continuity.

The president-elect serves one year as a member of the board before assuming the presidency.

The term of board members is four years. Outgoing members are eligible for re-election once. Members of the executive committee may also be re-elected to another position. The general meeting announces the number of vacancies and mandates so that appointments can be staggered.

The board is chaired by the president assisted by the two vice-presidents as well as the secretary and the treasurer. The association has at least three (3) administrators (president, secretary and treasurer). The general assembly determines the number and term of mandate of the administrators.

The administrators are elected by the general assembly. The administrators continue to fulfill their functions until their re-election or until new administrator take office.

The board is in charge of realizing the object and the aims of the association and directs the activities by implementing the decisions, instructions and recommendations adopted by the general assembly.

The board has the most extensive powers for the administration and management of the association. Are only excluded from its competence, the acts reserved by the law or the present statutes to the competence of the general assembly.

The treasurer is responsible for:

1. The preparation of a provisional budget
2. Participate in the development of a document in the event of a grant application for the association
3. Take care of the bank account of the association.
4. Track expenses and establish a classification of supporting documents

The board may delegate, by a decision taken by simple majority, the day-to-day management of the association, with the use of the signature relating to this management, to one or more administrators that it will choose from among its board members.

The day-to-day management includes both acts and decisions which do not exceed the needs of the daily life of the association and acts and decisions which, either because of the minor interest they represent, or because of their urgent nature, do not justify the intervention of the board.

If there are several, they act jointly. They will not have to justify their powers vis-à-vis third parties.

The acts relating to the appointment or the termination of the functions of the persons delegated to the day-to-day management are filed with the registry of the Company Court for publication in the Belgian Official Journal.

27. End of mandate

An administrator may resign by notifying the President.

If an administrator retires (or is elected to another position) before the end of his term, he is replaced by the executive committee by a person appointed on a temporary basis who will exercise his functions until the next annual assembly.

28. Conflict of interest

The administrators are required to inform the other directors of any direct or indirect financial interest prior to the adoption by the administrative body of a decision, and they may not in any case take part in the deliberation of the administrative body on this decision, nor vote on this subject.

29. Board Meetings

The board meets at least two (2) times a year. A special meeting may be called at any time by the president or by two board members of subject to at least two weeks' notice to the other members of the board concerning the matters to be discussed.

The board meets when convened by its president or the secretary or by at least two (2) administrators. The convocation contains the place, date, time and agenda of the meeting. It is sent to all directors at least eight (8) calendar days before the date of the meeting, or three (3) calendar days in the event of an emergency. The administrators can propose topics on the agenda up to ten (10) days before the meeting of the executive committee.

Administrators may attend or be represented in person, by telephone or electronically at any meeting of the executive board

Each administrator has the right to give procuration to another administrator to be represented at a meeting of the executive committee .

Administrator can hold only one procuration.

The procurations are reviewed by the president at least two (2) Calendar Days before the date of the board meeting.

The president may invite third parties, who do not have the right to vote, to attend a meeting or part of a meeting of the board.

30. Decisions

The board deliberates validly if at least one third of the administrators are present or validly represented.

When this quorum is not reached, a new board meeting is convened at the earliest seven (7) calendar days after the first meeting.

The board may, during this second meeting, validly make decisions, regardless of the number of administrators present or validly represented.

The board can only deliberate on the items appearing on the agenda, unless at least one third of the administrators are present or represented and decide unanimously to add additional items to the agenda. day.

The board strives to adopt its decisions by consensus. If a vote is necessary, each administrator has one (1) vote.

The board takes its decisions by simple majority of the votes cast by the administrators present or validly represented. Abstentions, blank votes and invalid votes are not counted in the total votes cast by the administrators present or represented. In the event of a tie vote, the president's vote is decisive.

Voting can be done by a show of hands, by paper ballot or electronically. Voting will be transparent unless at least two (2) administrators request a secret ballot. The administrators can take decisions, provided they are unanimous, in writing or by e-mail, when the board is unable to meet.

31. Minutes

The decisions taken by the board are recorded in minutes, which are sent by e-mail to each administrators within fifteen (15) calendar days following the meeting of the board. Thereafter, the administrators have fifteen (15) calendar days to propose amendments, followed by an additional period of fifteen (15) calendar days for the President to rule on the amendments and followed by another fifteen (15) calendar days. (15) calendar days for the approval of the administrators.

Once approved, the minutes are signed by the president and are recorded in a register which is made available to the administrators.

Members of the association can request access to the minutes, which can be provided in redacted form (for example when they contain personal data).

32. Representation

The association is validly represented in court and vis-à-vis third parties, including vis-à-vis public officials:

- (1) Either by the president or one of the vice-presidents acting alone;
- (2) Either by an ad hoc agent appointed by the general meeting;
- (3) Either by the secretary.

33. Limited liability

The administrators do not contract any personal obligation relating to the commitments of the association. They are only responsible for the execution of their mandate, including faults committed within the framework of their competences and their missions.

ARTICLE 6. FUNDING - FISCAL YEAR - BUDGET - AUDITOR

34. Funding

The reference currency of the association is the euro for the annual accounts as well as all other official accounting, fiscal and legal documents.

The association is financed by:

1. Subsidies or donations from members or other organizations or legal persons, subject to the acceptance of the administrative body;

2. Gifts or bequests of financial property or other assets exempt from any legal encumbrance, subject to review and acceptance by the governing body and the commissioner, and in accordance with the Code.
3. Products related to own productions, for example: Europlanet Science Congress profits, sale of publications / objects / travel...
4. The income and property of the association are allocated solely to the objectives of the association as defined in these statutes and no part of this income and property is paid or transferred directly in the form of dividends, bonuses or any other form of benefit to any member of the Association, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the good faith payment of reasonable and adequate remuneration to any employee of the Association or the reimbursement of reasonable expenses to a member, director or employee of the association.

35. Financial year

The financial year corresponds to the calendar year.

36. Budget

The annual budget of the association forecasts the income and expenditure for the next financial year, depending on the activities and resources of the association. The treasurer prepares and submits the budget to the executive committee twenty (20) days before the holding of the annual general assembly.

37. Auditor

The general assembly appoints an auditor if required by law, from among the members of the “Institut des réviseurs d'entreprise / Instituut der Bedrijfsrevisoren”. The role of the auditor is to:

1. Advise and verify the implementation and monitoring of the financial rules applicable to the association, including the conservation of financial documents;
2. Control the annual accounts of the association in accordance with the Code.

ARTICLE 7. RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS

All financial documents relating to income and expenditure, as well as the auditor's reports, whether in printed or electronic form, are retained by the association for a period of ten (10) years.

ARTICLE 8. MODIFICATION OF THE STATUTES – DISSOLUTION

38. Modification of the statutes

The administrative body submits to the general assembly the proposals for modifying the statutes. Any proposal to modify the statutes is brought to the attention of the members at least four (4) weeks before the date of the general meeting which makes a decision on this subject.

39. Dissolution and liquidation

The general assembly, on the proposal of the executive committee, may decide to dissolve and liquidate the association, and define the powers and fees of the liquidator(s).

The liquidators distribute, where appropriate, the net assets of the association to a European non-profit association with objectives similar or closely linked to those of the association.

ARTICLE 9. INTERNAL REGULATIONS

Internal regulations may be drawn up by the administration council, which presents them to the general meeting for approval and for any modifications.

The rules of procedure implement and specify the provisions of these statutes and govern the daily activities of the association. These regulations can be consulted by any person at the head office of the association.

In case of discrepancy between the rules of procedure and the statutes, the latter prevail.

ARTICLE 10. GENERAL DISPOSITIONS

40. Applicable law

The statutes of association, the internal rules and/or any decision of the general assembly and of the administrative council are governed by Belgian law. Everything that is not covered by these statutes or by the internal regulations is governed by the Code.

41. Resolution of disputes

In the event of a dispute between the members and the association concerning the interpretation and application of these statutes, the internal rules or any decision of the general assembly or the executive committee, the members and/or the association submit the dispute to mediation in accordance with the CEPANI mediation rules. The place of mediation is Brussels. The language used for mediation is English. To the extent that such a dispute has not been settled by mediation within a period of two (2) months from the start thereof, the dispute is, upon presentation of a request for arbitration by the one of the parties (a member or the association), submitted and settled by arbitration, in accordance with the CEPANI arbitration rules. If, before the expiry of this period of two (2) months, one of the parties does not participate or no longer participates in the mediation, the dispute is, upon presentation of a request for

arbitration by the other party, submitted and settled by arbitration in accordance with the CEPANI arbitration rules. The arbitration tribunal is made up of three arbitrators appointed in accordance with the CEPANI arbitration rules. The place of arbitration is Brussels. The language used in the arbitration proceedings is English.

42. Language

The working language is English, without prejudice to applicable legal obligations.

ARTICLE 11. FINAL AND TRANSITIONAL DISPOSITIONS

43. Head office

The headquarter of the international non-profit association is established at the Royal Institute for Space Aeronomy of Belgium, 3 Avenue Circulaire, B-1180 Brussels.

44. APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following have been appointed as non-statutory directors, and this until the next general assembly:

1. Mr. Nigel MASON; President
2. Mrs. Anita HEWARD; Secretary
3. Mr. Angelo Pio ROSSI; Vice-President
4. Mrs. Ann Carine VANDAELE; Vice President
5. Mr. Didier MOREAU. Treasurer

Their mandate is unpaid, unless decided otherwise by the general assembly
The appointment of the above-named administrators will only take effect from the moment the association has obtained legal personality.

45. FIRST FISCAL YEAR

The association's first financial year will begin on the date on which the association acquires legal personality and will end on 31 December.

46. PROCURATION FOR FORMALITIES

All powers have been granted to XXX as well as to their employees, agents and representatives, with the right of substitution, in order to carry out the formalities with the register of legal persons and, where applicable, with the Administration of the Added Value Tax, as well as a business counter to ensure the registration of data in the Crossroads Bank for Businesses.

47. FOR COMPLIANT ANALYTICAL EXTRACT.

(Submitted at the same time as the extract: a copy of the deed, four proxies, the text coordinates the statutes, a copy of the AR dated XXX granting legal personality to the aisbl "Europlanet Association").

Name of Notary

Notary