



Division of General Surgery, UEMS: Statutes 2026

STATUTES

Division of General Surgery

Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes

Document: version 2, 14th October 2026; post consultation at the AGM, 4th September 2026 and cooling off period as requested at AGM

Status: accepted and published

Review: for mention at AGM 2027, formal review at AGM 2030

This document constitutes the Statutes of the Division of General Surgery of the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes drafted in a UEMS statutes style and intended to be used in conjunction with the UEMS Statutes and Internal Rules.

Article 1. Name and Legal Framework

- 1.1 The Division of General Surgery is a constituent body of the Section of Surgery of the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS), hereinafter referred to as UEMS.
- 1.2 The Division shall operate in accordance with the UEMS Statutes, UEMS Internal Rules, and decisions of the UEMS Council and the Section of Surgery.
- 1.3 These Statutes define the mission, structure, governance, functions, and operating procedures of the Division of General Surgery.



Division of General Surgery, UEMS: Statutes 2026

Article 2. Mission and Objectives

The Division of General Surgery shall:

- 2.1 Represent General Surgery within UEMS and contribute to UEMS policy and professional standards relevant to the specialty.
- 2.2 Promote and safeguard high standards of surgical training, assessment, professionalism, and clinical practice across Europe.
- 2.3 Develop, maintain, and periodically update European Training Requirements (ETR) in General Surgery and related documents adopted by UEMS bodies.
- 2.4 Support international standard setting at the nodal point of transition to autonomous surgical practice (Consultant or Attending level), including alignment of competency frameworks and assessment standards.
- 2.5 Oversee, under the European Board of Surgery and its structures, specialty assessment and certification in General Surgery, including the European Board of Surgery Qualification (EBSQ).
- 2.6 Act as the originating Division for the European Surgical Fellows Network (ESFN) and support its mission in professional development, education, and representation, while adhering to the UEMS Statutes and Rules of Procedure.
- 2.7 Promote cooperation with national, European, and international stakeholders in education, training, quality improvement, patient safety, and professional standards.

Article 3. Composition of the Division

- 3.1 The Division shall be composed of delegates nominated by National Medical Associations (NMAs) recognised by UEMS, in accordance with UEMS rules.
- 3.2 The Division may, by decision of the General Surgical Bureau, invite observers or experts to attend meetings for defined purposes. Such invitees shall not hold electoral voting rights unless they are NMA-nominated delegates as defined in these Statutes.
- 3.3 NMA-nominated delegates hold voting rights as defined in Article 6.



Division of General Surgery, UEMS: Statutes 2026

Article 4. The Board of General Surgery

- 4.1 The UEMS Board of General Surgery operates under the authority of the Division of General Surgery and under the governance framework of the Section of Surgery of UEMS and the President of the European Board of Surgery.
- 4.2 The Board of General Surgery contributes to specialty standards of assessment, training, and professional development in General Surgery.
- 4.3 Officers of the Board of General Surgery must be Fellows of the European Board of Surgery (General Surgery). Officers include, but are not limited to: Chair of the Board of General Surgery, Chair of the Examination committee, Vice Chair of the Examination Committee, Chair of Eligibility Committee, Vice Chair of the Eligibility Committee and Chair of the Continuing Medical Education (CME) Committee.
- 4.4 The Board of General Surgery officers do not require NMA endorsement unless standing for an elected Divisional office (Chair of the Board of General Surgery) subject to electoral voting under Article 6.1.

Article 5. General Surgical Bureau

5.1 Composition: The General Surgical Bureau (GSB) shall consist of Elected and Appointed Officers. Members may hold more than one office. For elections, candidates should not submit for election/ appointment to more than 2 offices.

5.2 Elected Officers (subject to UEMS election rules highlighted in Article 6.1):

- President of the Division
- Vice President of the Division
- Chair of the Board of General Surgery
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Member at Large/ of the Extended General Surgery Bureau

5.3 Appointed Officers (appointed by the GSB by majority decision, for a four-year term and sit on the GSB. Expressions of interest can be voted on at the AGM):

- Chair of The Examination Committee
- Chair of the Eligibility Committee
- Vice Chair of the Examination Committee
- Chair of the Continuing Medical Education Committee



Division of General Surgery, UEMS: Statutes 2026

- Director of Communications and Digital Media
- Head of Assessment

5.4 GSB Functions:

The General Surgical Bureau shall:

- 5.4.1 Direct and coordinate the work of the Division between Annual General Meetings.
- 5.4.2 Establish and oversee committees required for the effective functioning of the Division and the European Board of General Surgery, including the Examination Committee, Eligibility Committee, and CME Committee.
- 5.4.3 Ensure proper governance, transparency, and documentation of decisions.
- 5.4.4 Ensure that the Division discharges its reporting obligations to the Section of Surgery of UEMS.
- 5.4.5 Maintain official communication channels and publications of the Division, including examination information and frequently asked questions.
- 5.4.6 Hold General Surgical Divisional Bureau (GSB) meetings at appropriate periodicities, but not fewer than 4 per year.

Article 6. Voting Rights and Election Process

- 6.1 Strategic and Electoral Voting: Voting rights for election of officers of the Division are restricted to NMA-nominated delegates as per UEMS rules. Each NMA delegation shall exercise said voting rights in accordance with UEMS rules and any further procedural rules adopted by the Division consistent with UEMS governance frameworks.
- 6.2 Operational Voting: Fellows of the European Board of Surgery (General Surgery) may vote on operational, educational, and examination-related matters as defined by the General Surgical Bureau and recorded in the agenda and minutes of the relevant meeting. Operational voting is advisory only in elections for non-elected (appointed) Divisional officers.
- 6.3 As per UEMS rules, Electoral voting will be conducted by secret paper ballot supervised by the Secretary of the Division at the AGM. Ideally, two weeks' notice is



Division of General Surgery, UEMS: Statutes 2026

given to the Secretary of the Division of the intention to stand along with evidence of endorsement by the relevant NMA.

Candidates may make a statement to the AGM. Candidates must leave the room during the electoral discussion/ vote. No additional candidates can be admitted once the voting has commenced. For a candidate to succeed, a majority is required where there are more than 2 candidates, and therefore multiple ballots may be employed. Where there is still no majority with only 2 candidates balloted, the length of registration of the individual candidate's national competent authority or NMA is considered to break the deadlock.

The Secretary then notifies the candidates of the result and communicates the successful candidates' names to the Section of Surgery.

Article 7. Terms of Office

- 7.1 The term of office for all elected positions shall be four years.
- 7.2 Terms of office are renewable once.
- 7.3 Exceptionally, a third term may be permitted where there is written justification and where such exception is approved by a simple majority vote at the Annual General Meeting.
- 7.4 Vacancies arising mid-term may be filled in accordance with procedures adopted by the General Surgical Bureau consistent with UEMS governance. These terms may run for four years after appointment.
- 7.5 GSB Appointed Officers (Article 5.1) are appointed/reappointed by each new GSB and as such, may have multiple consecutive terms.
- 7.6 The term of office starts on January 1st of the following Calendar year, allowing time for a handover to the incoming Officers, termed 'Designate' until they assume office.

Article 8. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- 8.1 The Annual General Meeting is the supreme decision-making body of the Division of General Surgery.
- 8.2 The AGM shall meet at least once annually.
- 8.3 It will be chaired by the President of the Division.



Division of General Surgery, UEMS: Statutes 2026

8.4 Where there is no consensus, a simple majority of voters is required for adopting actions. Any Strategic or Electoral decisions may only be voted on by the NMA sponsored/ endorsed delegates.

8.5 The Secretary of the Division will be in charge of the record and administer any voting during the course of the meeting.

8.6 The AGM shall at minimum:

- Elect Officers of the Division in accordance with these Statutes and any applicable UEMS rules.
- Review and approve annual reports, financial accounts, and strategic priorities. Each member of the GSB will provide a report at the AGM.
- Ratify policies, standards, and formal positions of the Division.
- Suggest or Approve amendments to these Statutes.
- Generally contribute to the direction and working priorities of the Division for the subsequent year.

8.7 Decisions taken at the Annual General Meeting shall be binding on the General Surgical Bureau and its committees.

Article 9. European Board of Surgery Qualification (EBSQ)

9.1 The Division of General Surgery oversees the European Board of Surgery Qualification (EBSQ) in General Surgery.

9.2 An Examination Committee shall be established under the authority of the President of the Division and the Chair of the European Board of General Surgery.

9.3 The Examination Committee shall be chaired by the appointed Chair of Examination who retains overall responsibility and authority for the administration and content of each EBSQ element. The Examination Committee Chair will also Chair the Court of Examiners.

9.4 The term of membership on the Examination Committee shall be four years for any individual appointment, without prejudice to reappointment by subsequent Examination Committees.

9.5 Membership of the Committee shall be drawn from a Court of Examiners and can be agreed on a multi-year basis, less than a standard term.

9.6 The Court of Examiners comprises all valid EBSQ examiners in General Surgery.



Division of General Surgery, UEMS: Statutes 2026

9.7 Award of Fellowship of the European Board of Surgery (General Surgery) is contingent on reaching the standards set at an EBSQ and confirmed by the Court of Examiners.

9.8 From time to time, the Chair of the Examination Committee will invite Senior Surgeons (with at least 4 years' Consultant experience or equivalent) to attend the EBSQ as an observer. If invited back a subsequent year, the examiner will be offered an honorary Fellowship (FEBS) on completion of 1 exam diet as an examiner. This is the only way to obtain an honorary Fellowship.

9.9 The Examination Committee shall be responsible for:

- Examination blueprinting, format, and standard setting for each diet.
- Appointment, training, calibration, and quality assurance of examiners, including governance of the Court of Examiners.
- Accreditation, review, and periodic monitoring of examination centres.
- Oversight of examination delivery, security, integrity, and candidate fairness.
- Management of examination-related appeals and complaints in accordance with published regulations and applicable UEMS rules.
- Eligibility will be conducted as per standards and under the direction of the Chair of the Eligibility Committee, who will also sit on the Exam Committee.

9.9 The Eligibility Committee:

- Will meet an appropriate number of times before the exam, but most work will be conducted by correspondence.
- Officers of the Eligibility Committee must be Fellows of the European Board of Surgery (General Surgery) and are overseen by the Chair of the Eligibility Committee.
- NMA sponsorship is required only for positions subject to Election to the Division under Article 5.2. It is desirable but not essential for the Chair of Eligibility Committee to have NMA endorsement (Article 5.3).
- Where a role is filled by appointment or designation, eligibility requirements shall be applied as set out in these Statutes and any applicable UEMS rules.

9.10 Reporting

- The Examination Committee shall report to the General Surgical Bureau and the Chair of the European Board of General Surgery.



Division of General Surgery, UEMS: Statutes 2026

- The General Surgical Bureau shall ensure appropriate reporting to the Section of Surgery of UEMS as provided in Article 12.

Article 10. Candidate Information and Frequently Asked Questions

The Division shall ensure that EBSQ-related candidate information and frequently asked questions (FAQs) are maintained and published through official Division channels. While aspects of the exam may have GSB agreed changes year to year, these will have to be published in good time before the examination date. The Director of Communications and Digital Media will have responsibility for same. This, as appropriate, includes but are not limited to:

- Eligibility criteria for candidates and required documentary evidence.
- Examination structure, format, and assessment domains.
- Examination centres, schedules, and operational arrangements.
- Rules on conduct, integrity, and candidate responsibilities.
- Appeals and complaints processes and associated timelines.
- Recognition, scope, and professional value of the EBSQ qualification, consistent with UEMS policy.

Article 11. Education, CME, and Training Standards

11.1 The Division shall develop and maintain European Training Requirements (ETR) in General Surgery and support their implementation and periodic review.

11.2 The Division shall support and promote CME standards, including collaboration with relevant UEMS bodies and the UEMS CME frameworks where applicable. This will be overseen by the Director of CME the Chair of the CME committee, with the Chair of the European Board of General Surgery as Vice Chair.

11.3 The CME Committee shall report annually to the General Surgical Bureau and contribute to the twice-yearly reporting to the Section of Surgery.

Article 12. Relationship with the Section of Surgery

12.1 The Division of General Surgery reports formally to the UEMS Section and Board of Surgery Bureau. Reporting shall occur at least twice per year.



Division of General Surgery, UEMS: Statutes 2026

12.2 Reports shall include, as appropriate:

12.2.1 Educational and training activity, including ETR progress and updates.

12.2.2 Examination and assessment outcomes, quality assurance, and centre accreditation activity.

12.2.3 Governance and committee activity, including eligibility and CME.

12.2.4 Financial summaries and material risks.

12.2.5 Strategic and policy developments relevant to UEMS and the specialty.

Article 13. Finance

13.1 The Treasurer is responsible for financial oversight of the Division in accordance with UEMS financial rules and procedures.

13.2 Annual accounts shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting.

13.3 The Treasurer shall provide quarterly financial updates to the General Surgical Bureau.

13.4 Financial records shall be maintained to a standard sufficient for review in accordance with UEMS requirements.

Article 14. Amendments

14.1 Amendments to these Statutes may be proposed by the General Surgical Bureau or by NMA-nominated delegates in accordance with procedures adopted by the Division and consistent with UEMS governance.

14.2 Amendments require approval by the AGM and should be submitted two weeks before the date of the AGM to the Secretary.

14.3 All amendments must be consistent with UEMS Statutes and subject to any required review or approval by the UEMS Section and Board of Surgery Bureau following acceptance at the AGM.

Article 15. Dissolution

15.1 Dissolution of the Division may occur only in accordance with UEMS Statutes and applicable UEMS procedures.



Division of General Surgery, UEMS: Statutes 2026

- 15.2 Upon dissolution, any assets shall be dealt with in accordance with UEMS rules and decisions of the competent UEMS bodies.

Signed as accepted on behalf of the Division of General Surgery after agreement at the AGM of 4th September 2026 plus the 4-week consultation process.

Prof Paul Ridgway, President of the Division of General Surgery

Date: 10th October 2026



Division of General Surgery, UEMS: Statutes 2026

Annex A. EBSQ (General Surgery) Candidate FAQ Headings (Minimum Set)

This Annex lists the minimum headings to be maintained as part of the published EBSQ (General Surgery) FAQs. The detailed text is maintained on official Division channels and shall be reviewed periodically by the General Surgical Bureau and Examination Committee.

- Eligibility and documentary requirements
- Training status and recognition of training pathways
- Application process and deadlines
- Examination format and marking principles
- Examination centres, logistics, and candidate conduct
- Reasonable accommodations and candidate support
- Appeals and complaints process
- Certification, recognition, and post-examination processes



Division of General Surgery, UEMS: Statutes 2026

Annex B. Relationship with the European Surgical Fellows Network (ESFN)

- The Division of General Surgery is the home Division of the European Surgical Fellows Network (ESFN) and supports its mission in professional development, education, and representation, while adhering to the UEMS Statutes and Rules of Procedure. Governance and liaison arrangements shall be maintained by the General Surgical Bureau and reported to the Section of Surgery at least twice per year.