1. Purpose of the Federation
The Federation exists to promote the science of connective tissue research, and in particular to encourage closer contacts between European connective tissue researchers by arranging meetings, exchanging information, and promoting contacts between the members of the Constituent Societies.

2. Administration and Membership
a) The Federation shall consist of connective tissue Societies in the European area. All members of the Constituent Societies are *ipso facto* members of the Federation with equal privileges.
b) The Affairs of the Federation shall be conducted by a Council.
c) Each Constituent Society shall nominate one delegate or a deputy to the Council of the Federation. The delegate shall be reappointed biannually by the Society.
d) The Administration of the Federation shall be vested in turn in the Constituent (Host) Society which has charge of the arrangements for the next General Meeting of the Federation. It shall be the duty of this Administration to keep all the Constituent Societies fully informed on any matter involving the Federation. The Host Society shall be appointed by a simple majority vote of the Council at the previous General Meeting subject to ratification at the Business Meeting.
e) The Council shall meet at each General Meeting of the Federation and at such other times as may be necessary. The Council shall be given the opportunity to agree the detailed programme of the Meeting at least six months before the Meeting is to be held.
f) The Chairman of the Council shall be the delegate of the Host Society, and his Society shall nominate up to two *ex officio* members of the Council to serve as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Such *ex officio* members shall be without voting powers.
9) Any Constituent Society is free to withdraw from the Federation at a meeting of the Council provided notice of such a withdrawal has been communicated to the Chairman at least one month before the Council Meeting.

3. Meetings of the Federation
a) A General Meeting of the Federation shall be held at least every two years at a place chosen by the Host Society. In principio the meetings will rotate through the countries of the European scientific community.
b) A General Meeting of the Federation shall provide opportunities for the presentation of original communications, demonstrations, and symposia. There shall be a Business Meeting at every Federation Meeting. Every member of a Constituent Society will be allowed to attend, and vote. The Federation Meetings shall be organised to a pattern described in annex 1.
c) A registration fee shall be charged equally to all members attending the Federation Meeting. The meeting will also be open to non-members. Fees shall be kept to a minimum to encourage maximum participation by young scientists. Priority shall be given to members of the Constituent Societies.
d) Any profits accruing from the Federation Meeting shall be the property of the Host Society, to defray the expenses incurred in administering the Federation.

4. Exchange of information
a) Each Constituent Society shall send to a nominated officer of all other Constituent Societies the same circulars that it sends.
to its own members.
b) It shall be the duty of each Constituent Society to publicise
the activities of the other Constituent Societies so as to
encourage contacts between biochemists in the different European
countries, and on request to circulate to its members information
of the next Federation Meeting.

Attendance at Domestic Meetings
Any members of the Federation may, on making proper application,
be admitted to an open meeting of a Constituent Society other than
his own, on the same terms as if he were a member of that Society,
although permission to present a paper shall be at the discretion of
the Society holding the meeting.

6. Date of Inception of the Federation
These Statutes shall come into being not later than 1 January 1981

7. Dissolution of the Federation
The Federation and its statutes may be dissolved at any time at a
meeting of the Council at which two-thirds of the delegates are
present and at which a two-thirds majority of the delegates vote in
favour of the proposal. The proposal must be notified to the
Constituent Societies at least one month before the Council meetings
and shall be signed by at least one-third of the delegates.

8. Statutes of the Federation
The statutes of the Federation may be amended, deleted, or aug-
mented at any Council meeting by a two-thirds majority vote,
provided that at least two-thirds of the delegates are present.

9. Address of the Federation
The official address of the Federation shall be that of the
Secretary of the Federation.

These statutes were confirmed during the VII European Symposium on
the Connective Tissue Research, Prague, 9 September 1980.

Annex 1

GUIDELINES FOR THE ORGANISATION OF THE FEDERATION MEETINGS

A meeting should be organised at least once every two years
with the purpose of bringing together the maximum number of
young European scientists.

It should be borne in mind that the Federation is a get-together of
Constituent Societies, and, therefore, European scientists should be
chosen whenever possible as main speakers, chairmen, and workshop
leaders.

The number of formal presentations should be kept relatively low. One
half day should be kept for invited reports on new developments and for
last minute 'highlights' to be organised ad hoc. Particular attention
should be given to organised poster sessions and to workshops
(organised and spontaneous).

Notice of the date and place of the meeting, the main topics, and
preferably also the names of the main 'invited speakers' should be sent
out, in accordance with Statute 2e. Abstracts of applicants should be
received four months before the meeting. Applicants should be notified
of decisions three months before the meeting.
The registration and living expenses should be kept to a minimum. In principle a registration fee should cover the major part of the necessary costs. Each meeting must be self-financing.

The accommodation of the participants should be within a close vicinity, if possible within one site (e.g. University campus, student hostel, hotel). Large tourist centres should be avoided and there should be no expensive social activities.

The Council will meet at an early stage of each meeting to prepare the Business Meeting. Committee members who cannot attend should send a deputy.

The main committee shall approve and may suggest main topics and invited speakers for the next symposium, but after that the management of the meeting is left to the national organising committee. The latter should however circulate their proposals to the Council before sending them out.

The national organising committee of each symposium should be formed by consensus among workers in the country concerned who should choose their own Chairman, subject to approval by the participants at the preceding symposium.

Selection of the papers and posters should be made by the national organising committee as a whole.