



**Greek Politics Specialist Group (GPSG)
of the UK's Political Studies Association (PSA)**

REVISED CONSTITUTION

1. MISSION STATEMENT AND AIMS

1.1 The Greek Politics Specialist Group (GPSG) of the UK's Political Studies Association (PSA) is an international, non-profit network of leading experts on Greek politics. Its **mission** is to support research on Greek political and social affairs, organise scholarly events and provide a link between academic experts, practitioners and the media.

1.2 The four **primary aims** of the Group are:

- to promote the understanding of Greek government and politics via the encouragement of systematic research and teaching.
- to strengthen the ties between the UK and Greek academic communities and facilitate the exchange of research and expertise between the two countries.
- to support comparative and interdisciplinary political analysis, by collaborating with other PSA Specialist Groups and academic research centres, and by highlighting an expanding body of work on public administration, international affairs, psephology, political communication, political marketing, political theory etc.
- to provide UK-based scholars of (and from) Greece with a much-needed forum for the free exchange of ideas and to facilitate networking within the academic community.

2. BANK ACCOUNT

2.1 National Westminster Bank are the bankers of the Organisation.

2.2 Meanings of words used in this Authority: "Account" means an account or accounts held with the Bank in the name of the Organisation. "Bank" means National Westminster Bank Plc.

2.3 Authority:

2.3.a The Bank is requested to open or continue an Account in the name of the Organisation and is authorised to accept instructions [subject to section 2.3.b. below in respect of instructions not in writing] (i) for operations on the Account and (ii) to release items held in security or safe custody in the name of the Organisation from the Convenor on behalf of the Organisation, even if the account becomes overdrawn as a result of the Instructions.

2.3.b Where Instructions to the Bank are given in any form that is not in writing [‘writing’ means for this purpose a document bearing an original written authorised signature(s)] the Bank is entitled to accept them if satisfied that the instruction is genuine. The Organisation accepts that the Bank may require them to enter into a separate agreement(s) with the Bank and/or comply with any further conditions covering any means of providing Instructions that are not in writing;

2.3.c The Bank should send statements of account to the Convenor of the organisation of the following Address: Roman Gerodimos, Room W338, The Media School, Bournemouth University, Fern Barrow, Poole BH12 5BB

2.4 The Bank is to be

- (i) given a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Organisation and any amendments made thereafter, certified as correct by the Secretary
- (ii) given authorised signatories sheet(s) (certified as correct by the Chairperson and Secretary).

2.5 The Secretary shall notify the Bank of resignations and retirements of those authorised to give Instructions.

2.6 This Authority shall continue notwithstanding any change in the constitution or membership of the Organisation and until receipt by the Bank of a certified copy of a later Resolution amending or rescinding this Resolution.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Membership to the GPSG is open to all PSA members, as well as to the broader international scholarly community of academics, researchers, students and practitioners.

3.2 There are two **types of membership**: full and affiliate.

3.2.a Full Members pay an annual membership fee to be determined and reviewed periodically by the GPSG Executive Committee. There shall be a discount for members of the PSA. Full members are entitled to all benefits and are eligible for all offices of the Group [subject to the restrictions of 4.2.a below regarding the office of the Convenor(s)].

3.2.b Affiliate Membership is free. Affiliate Members do not have voting rights or decision-making powers. Also, they shall not be eligible for funding or other benefits as determined by the Executive Committee.

3.3 The Group is committed to **equal opportunities** and academic merit in all aspects of its organisation and work. No member shall be refused access to the Group’s resources on the basis of race, ethnic origin, gender, sexuality or disability.

3.4 The Executive Committee has the right to decline membership applications or expel members from the Group if there is evidence that the individual applicant or member has engaged in activities or behaviour that goes against the Group’s principles and aims. The Executive Committee shall notify the affected individual of its decision and rationale in writing.

3.5 A **List of Members** shall be kept by the Convenor(s) including contact details, affiliation, date of membership commencement, renewal and review as well as areas of research interest.

3.6 **Data Protection**: The Group shall do its best to protect members’ personal data and will not disclose contact details to anyone outside of the Group or the PSA, unless it has been explicitly authorised to do so by the member.

4. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

4.1 The principal **decision-making bodies** of the Group are its Convenor(s), the Executive Committee and the General Meeting of the Full Members. An Advisory Committee may be appointed in an auxiliary role.

4.2 Governance:

4.2.a All officers and committee members of the Group shall be Full Members of the GPSG at the time of the election or reshuffle. The Convenor(s) of the GPSG shall have been a Full Member for at least two years prior to election or appointment.

4.2.b The **Executive Committee** shall consist of the Convenor(s), a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other officers as the group deems necessary. These may indicatively include one or more of the following: Panel Convenor(s), Publications Officer, Events Officer, Membership Officer and Newsletter Editor.

4.2.c The principal **appointment and decision-making mechanism** of the GPSG is consensus. Therefore, officers and committee members shall aim to reach an agreement about appointments, decisions and changes to the composition of the committees. The Convenor(s) are ultimately responsible for the assignment of roles and offices amongst members of the Executive Committee.

4.2.d If a disagreement arises within the Executive Committee then a vote shall be held. In the event of a tie, the Convenor(s) shall cast the decisive vote.

4.2.e The Membership of the Executive Committee shall generally be reviewed every two years. If the number of nominations for the Executive Committee is greater than the number of available offices, then an **election** shall be held amongst all Full Members. The election may take place *in situ*, online or by post, as long as reasonable notice has been given to all members. The Secretary shall normally be responsible for the preparation and conduct of any elections, unless there is a conflict of interest.

4.2.f Members to the **Advisory Committee** are appointed by the Convenor(s) and the Executive Committee.

4.3 An **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of all members shall be held once per annum. Notice of at least 10 working days shall be given. The Convenor(s) and Executive Committee shall present a review of the Group's activities.

4.4 Any Full Member of the Group can propose **motions** for the AGM. Any motions to be discussed and voted on shall be submitted in writing to the Convenor(s) or Secretary at least one week before the AGM.

4.5 The Convenor(s) and Executive Committee shall draft an annual **Action Plan** outlining the Group's priorities and planned activities for the coming year, which should be approved by the AGM. The Action Plan should be made available to all members.

4.6 Quorum:

4.6.a In order for the Executive Committee to convene, the following shall be present as a minimum: the Convenor(s), the Secretary or Treasurer and at least one other member of the Committee.

4.6.b In order for the AGM to convene, the following shall be present in person or by proxy as a minimum: the Convenor(s), two members of the Committee and at least five (5) other members of the Group.

4.7 In the absence of quorum or if the Executive Committee wishes to consult with the Group's members, a **Virtual General Meeting (VGM)** can be held, including an election or vote by email or other electronic means. Two weeks' notice shall be given to Full Members for a VGM. The process shall be overseen collectively by the Executive Committee. In order for a VGM decision or vote to stand, at least 1/5 of all Full Members should take part, unless tacit approval is explicitly sought. A General Meeting can also be called at the written request of no less than twenty (20) Full Members.

5. FUNDING, BUDGET AND ANNUAL REPORT

5.1 The Group shall produce an **Annual Report**, which shall be submitted to the PSA Executive Committee and presented at the GPSG AGM. The Annual Report should list the Group's aims, recent activities, review of finances (income/expenses) for the previous year, budget for the coming year, membership, group governance and Action Plan as detailed above (4.5).

5.2 Applications by the Group to the PSA or other prospective sponsors for **grants of money** shall be made at the discretion of the Executive Committee by the Convenor(s) or the Treasurer.

5.3 The Convenor(s) and Executive Committee are responsible for the **allocation of funds**. Invoices and receipts shall be collected for expenses where possible. Signed declarations may be accepted when awarding prizes, grants or incurring other expenses for which it is not possible to produce a receipt.

6. CONSTITUTION

6.1 This constitution may be amended or altered only by a resolution supported by a simple majority of Full Members voting at a general meeting (Annual or Virtual), provided that no alteration shall contravene any part of the PSA's Constitution.

6.2 The group shall be governed by the appropriate clauses of the PSA's Constitution with regard to any matter not covered by this Constitution.

6.3 This Constitution shall be made available to current and prospective Members online and on request.

London, 06 April 2010

R. Gerodimos

Convenor

A. Liaropoulos

Secretary