



**HOW WE
IMAGINE
EARTH**



NAME

EARTH

**European Alliance for Responsible
Tourism and Hospitality**



LEGAL STATUS

- The association is an international non-profit association governed by the Belgian law of twenty seventh of June, Nineteen Twenty One.
- “Association internationale sans but lucratif” [International non-profit association] or “AISBL” for short;



SITE

- The registered office of the association is located at Square de Meeûs n°18, 1050 Brussels, (Belgium), nearby **DIESIS**.



MISSION

EARTH believes that the concepts of Responsible Tourism and Hospitality, are two good starting points from which to promote a sustainable local development, even as by means to combat poverty.

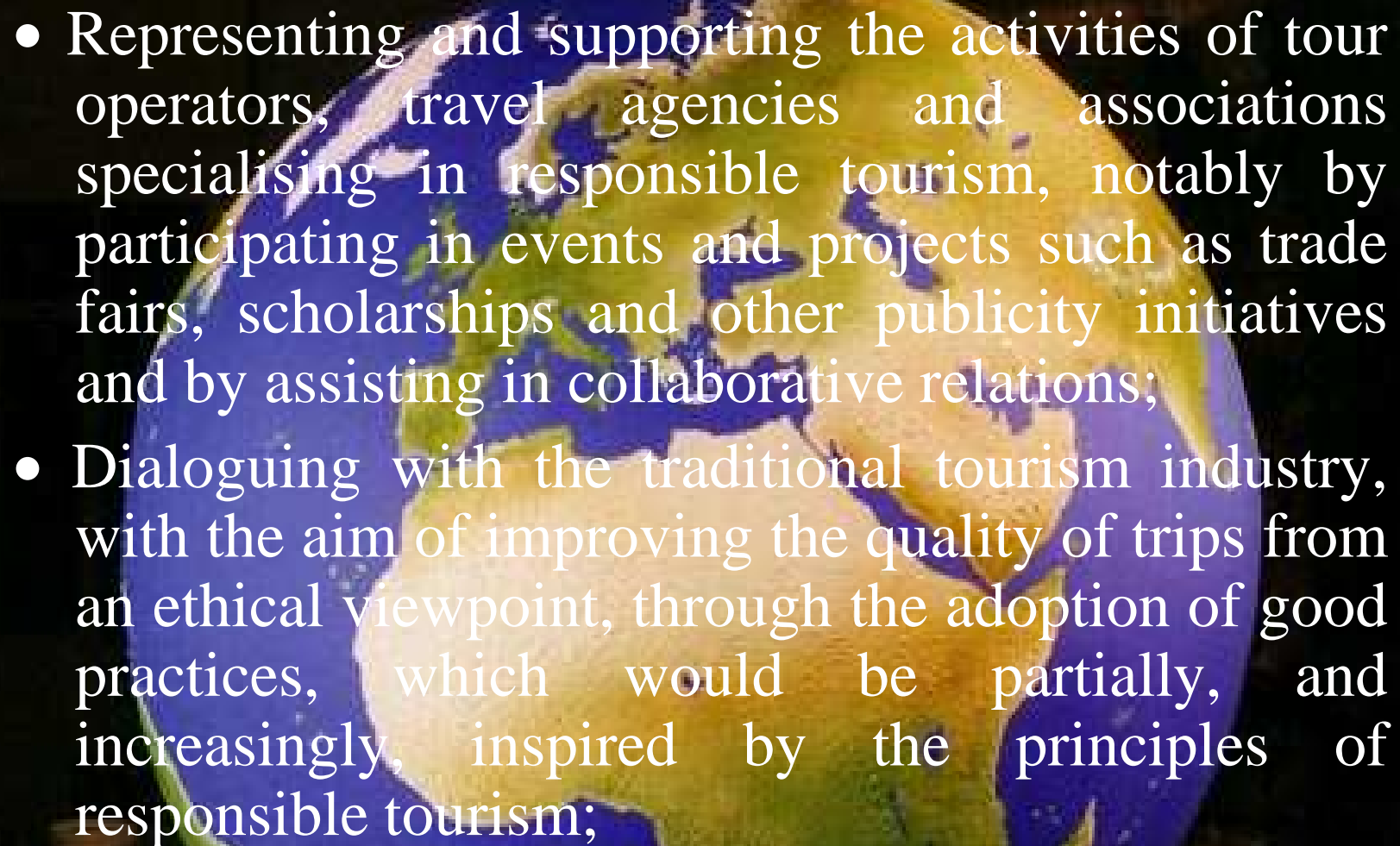
EARTH also believes that values such as communication, cooperation and exchange of best practices are essential elements to operate effectively in the resolution of this issues.

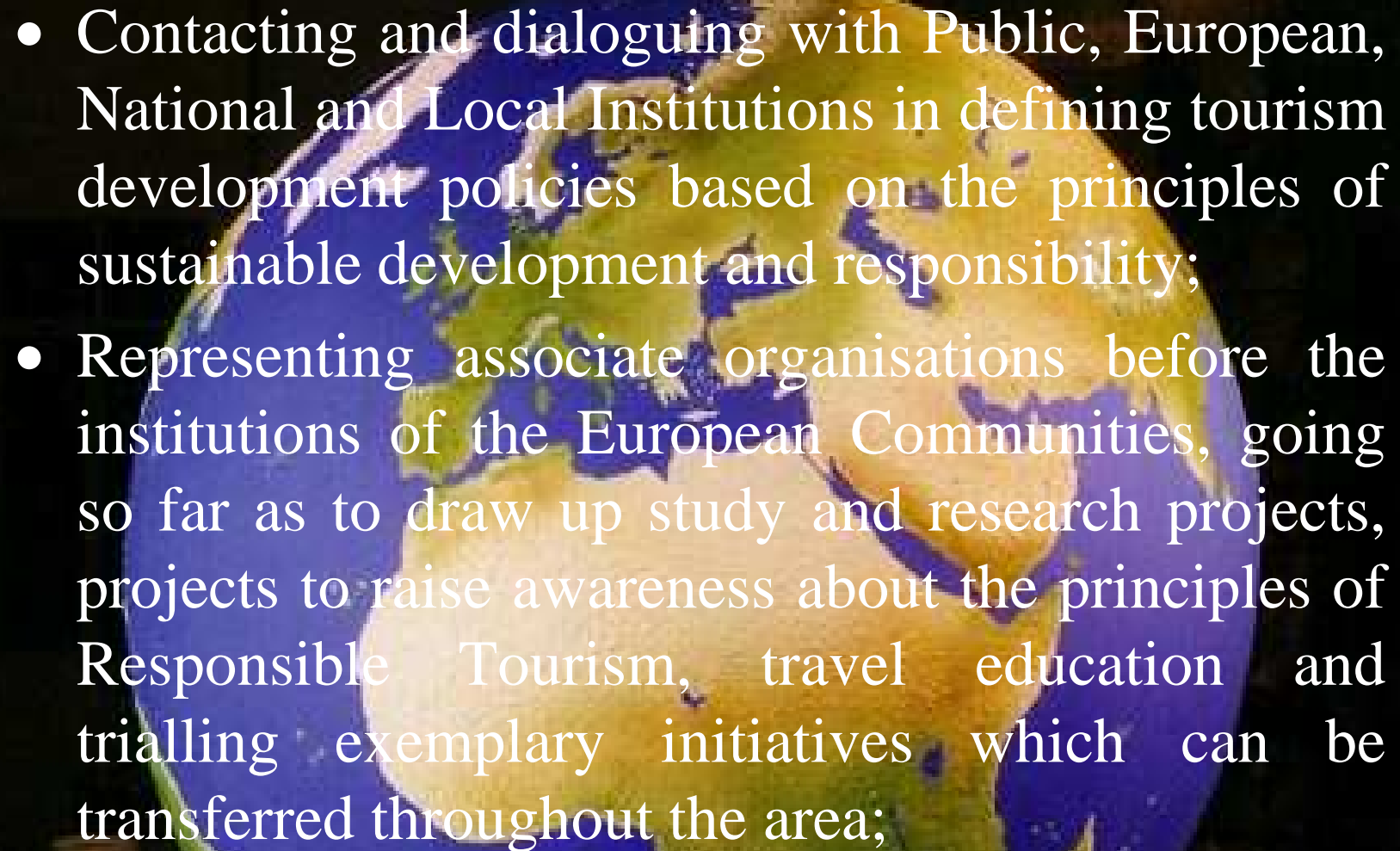
For those reasons we decide to build an international network, to be an active tool of solidarity, using the means of dialogue and work in partnership.

AIMS & ACTIVITIES



- Promoting the concept of Responsible Tourism and the principles and rules stemming from it, through publications, information and awareness-raising campaigns, meetings and conferences and by participating in the international debate on tourism policies;
- Training tourism operators, following the principles of Responsible Tourism, through the organisation of courses and seminars, through the organisation of training in universities and schools and through hosting placement periods;

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- Representing and supporting the activities of tour operators, travel agencies and associations specialising in responsible tourism, notably by participating in events and projects such as trade fairs, scholarships and other publicity initiatives and by assisting in collaborative relations;
 - Dialoguing with the traditional tourism industry, with the aim of improving the quality of trips from an ethical viewpoint, through the adoption of good practices, which would be partially, and increasingly, inspired by the principles of responsible tourism;

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- Contacting and dialoguing with Public, European, National and Local Institutions in defining tourism development policies based on the principles of sustainable development and responsibility;
 - Representing associate organisations before the institutions of the European Communities, going so far as to draw up study and research projects, projects to raise awareness about the principles of Responsible Tourism, travel education and trialling exemplary initiatives which can be transferred throughout the area;

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- Carrying out studies and research into responsible tourism and themes related to it;
 - Ensuring collaboration between responsible tourism operators and communities in the Southern part of the world and their organisations;
 - Drawing up and managing tourism, economic, social and cultural projects, some in collaboration with other bodies;

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- Participating in projects involving international cooperation;
 - Adhering to European and international networks and partnerships with other international organisations;
 - Distributing services to associated organisations;



FIRST STEPS

The following list includes the main decisions and procedures reached at the Meeting, which took place in Bologna on 17th and 18th of April, through the discussion among all the participants:

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- The participants at the meeting in Bologna 17th and 18th April are the promoters for the constitution of EARTH;
 - Each participant is authorised to invite others to join EARTH; such other parties must be considered as having pertinent interest and be known to the participant for whom it shall be answerable;
 - Each promoter is authorised to speak on behalf of the founding group at events in which it takes part;
 - The core group of founding members EARTH shall be formed before the official date of constitution of EARTH (16th October);
 - The network shall be named EARTH;
 - It shall take the form of an AISBL (international no-profit association), under Belgian law;

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- Formal constitution of EARTH shall take place in the notary's offices on 16th October – the day before the opening of the Tourisme Autrement show where it shall be presented for the first time;
 - In September there shall be an informal general meeting which shall cover such decisions as the statute, mission, activities, membership fees, positions of responsibility, etc.; the location has yet to be decided;
 - Diesis shall oversee the constitution;
 - EARTH's registered address shall be at the Diesis offices in Brussels;
 - Each organisation may invite the other organisations to their own initiatives in order to get to know one another better and encourage business relations;

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- A mailing list of founding participants shall be created and on-line dialogue established; Citoyens de la Terre shall be responsible for setting up on-line documentation;
 - AITR shall undertake the role of Secretariat until EARTH is formally constituted;
 - EARTH shall be a lightweight organisation incurring minimum costs;
 - Such structure will allow for low membership fees that will be accessible for all;
 - Membership of EARTH shall be restricted to national and regional networks, single associations, co-operatives and other corporate bodies; natural persons may not join;

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- Membership for parties from outside the Europe may be possible but is subject to consultation with EU authorities;
 - As soon as EARTH is constituted it shall be presented to EU authorities and the WTO;
 - At the same time links shall be established with other European and international networks starting with the network being set up by the regional authorities of Tuscany, Catalonia, PACA and with BITS;
 - A meeting shall be held in order for the membership to get to know one another and to create an environment of encouraging business relations, common projects and networking;

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- The membership regulations to be adopted by EARTH shall be based on the AITR regulations currently in force; the regulations shall be mentioned in the statute but shall not be itemised;
 - Presentation documentation for EARTH shall be prepared outlining its goals, nature and principles, etc.;
 - Priority initiatives include the adoption of evaluation forms for trips common to all members; the analysis and definition of relations between the organisers and NGOs; identifying shared indicators (financial, environmental, cultural, social) both for trips and projects.

PROMOTING PARTNERS



Besides the participants at the meeting, other subjects interested at the development of the organisation are enlisted:

- ACSUD_Spain
- AITES _France
- AITR_Italy
- CADR _France
- Alter Nativas_Spain
- CiC Batà _Spain
- ANTREC_Romania
- CISS_Italy
- Archimede _France
- CISV_Italy
- ARCI_Italy

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- Citoyens de la Terre _ France
 - COSPE _ Italy
 - CTS _ Italy
 - Diesis _ Belgium
 - Echoway _ France
 - Fondation Ecoagroturismo _ Spain
 - GATE _ Germany
 - ICEA _ Italy
 - ICEI _ Italy
 - Ismalar _ Spain
 - ItalAsia _ Italy
 - KATE _ Germany

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- Le Mat_Italy
 - Legacoop_Italy
 - Lo Spirito del Pianeta Viaggi_Italy
 - Marco Polo Echanger Autrement_France
 - Progetto Mondo MLAL_Italy
 - RAM_Italy
 - Regione Toscana_Italy
 - SETEM _Spain
 - Sociedad Española de Ecoturismo _Spain
 - Tourisme Autrement _Belgium
 - Tourismforhelp _Switzerland
 - UCODEP_Italy
 - Viaggi e Miraggi_Italy
 - Viaggi Solidali_Italy