

Registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus on October 20, 1995, Registration certificate No. 0553

Amendments and changes approved and registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus on February 5, 1998

Reregistered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus on July 14, 1999, Registration certificate No. 00204

Amendments and changes approved and registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus on August 10, 2000

Amendments and changes approved by the Ministry of justice of the Republic of Belarus on October 16, 2003

Approved by the foundation congress of the Belarusian Association of Journalists on September 16, 1995

Amendments and changes approved by the Second congress of the Belarusian Association of Journalists on December 20, 1997

Approved in the new edition by the Congress of the Belarusian Association of Journalists on May 29, 1999

Approved in the new edition by the Fourth Congress of the Belarusian Association of Journalists on July 1, 1999

Approved in the new edition by the Council of the Public Organisation "Belarusian Association of Journalists" on August 19, 2003

Approved in the new edition by the Council of the Public Organisation "Belarusian Association of Journalists" on July 2, 2006

CHARTER

of the Belarusian Association of Journalists

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1. The Belarusian Association of Journalists (hereinafter – BAJ) is a voluntary professional association of citizens who are engaged in journalistic activity or contributing to its development. BAJ has a status of a national public association and acts on the whole of the territory of the Republic of Belarus.

1.2. BAJ acts in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, the Law "On public associations", other legislation acts and this Charter, the principles of equality of its members, self-management and openness.

1.3. BAJ is a legal entity, it has its own balance, a settlement account and other accounts in banks, a stamp, a seal, blanks and other attributes. BAJ can conclude agreements from its own name, it can purchase ownership and non-ownership rights and carry responsibilities, enter into mutual relations with legal entities, act as a plaintiff and a defendant in courts.

1.4. BAJ is responsible for its liabilities in property, which can be subject to penalty. BAJ carries no responsibilities under obligations of its members, and the members carry no responsibility under obligations of BAJ.

1.5. BAJ may join international public organisations or take part in their creation, maintain direct international contacts and ties and conclude corresponding agreements which do not contradict to the international obligations of the Republic of Belarus

1.6. Full title of BAJ:

– in Belarusian: Грамадскае аб’яднанне «Беларуская асацыяцыя журналістаў»

– in Russian: Общественное объединение «Белорусская ассоциация журналистов»

– in English: Public organisation «Belarusian Association of Journalists»

– acronym: PO «BAJ»

1.7. Legal address of BAJ: 220030, Minsk, Kamsamolskaya street, 7/32

2. BASIC GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND METHODS OF ACTIVITY OF BAJ

2.1. The basic goal of the BAJ activity is:

2.1.1. Assistance to the realization of the public, economic, social, cultural and professional rights and legal interests of the association members, their creative self-determination and growth of professional skill, creation of the conditions for the providing freedom of discussion and press, of the right for free acquisition, keeping and distribution of information.

2.2. The basic objectives of the BAJ are:

2.2.1. The defence of rights and legal interest of journalists in governmental bodies and international organizations.

2.2.2. Assistance to the BAJ members in creation of material and technical, organizational and other necessary conditions for activity and growth of the proficiency level.

2.2.3. Working out of the civilized program of mass media development that has to create facilitating conditions for media activity in Belarus.

2.2.4. Development of the relations with journalist associations of other countries of the world.

BAJ can also solve other objectives that result from the goal of the Charter.

2.3. The subject of activities of BAJ is consolidation and coordination of its members' performance in order to increase their professional level.

2.4. For performing charter goal and objectives of the BAJ the latter uses following methods:

2.4.1. Performs advisory, scientific, educational, methodological, informational activities according to the legislation.

2.4.2. Engages in publishing and other activities not prohibited by the legislation.

2.4.3. Renders law assistance to the BAJ members, represents their interests in court and other governmental bodies.

2.4.4. Monitors violations of media-related legislation.

2.4.5. Establishes clubs, centers, creative studios and other corresponding structures, organizes conferences, seminars for journalists as well as probations for exchange of experience.

2.4.6. Exercise control for the observance of the Declaration of principles of professional ethics by the BAJ members and considers complaints for its violation.

2.4.7. Encourages its members for the achievement of high characteristics of professional activity or for fidelity to principles in protection of rights and legal interests of the BAJ members.

2.4.8. According to the current legislation establishes mass media, spreads information about its own activity.

2.4.9. For achievement of charter goal and objectives the BAJ can use other methods of activity not prohibited by the legislation.

3. THE BAJ MEMBERSHIP

3.1. The BAJ member can be any citizen of the Republic of Belarus, foreign citizen or the person without citizenship who achieved lawful age, performs journalist activity or assists its development in the Republic of Belarus, participates in realization of the BAJ goal and objectives, accepts and keeps this Charter and the Declaration of principles of journalist professional ethics approved by the BAJ Meeting.

3.2. The BAJ membership is fixed.

3.3. The admission for membership is carried out according to the decision of the BAJ branch on the basis of the personal application of the person entering and on presence of two written recommendations of the BAJ members.

In cases when there is no the BAJ branch on the territory of the administrative-territorial entity, the admission is performed by the Board subject to the same conditions.

The decision is accepted when not less than a half of members of a branch or the Board voted for it.

The branch decision has to be approved by the Board.

3.4. In case of negative decision of the branch the question about the BAJ membership can be considered by the BAJ Rada (Council) on the basis of the written application of the person entering or the BAJ members who given recommendations for him.

3.5. The certificate of standard form is issued to the BAJ members.

3.6. The BAJ member has the right to:

- participate in the BAJ events, in the work of management and control bodies with the right of advisory vote as well as to elect and to be elected into these bodies.
- acquire information from the competent BAJ persons, its elected bodies and offer proposals on matters of the BAJ activity.
- get assistance and protection from the BAJ, use services and property in the way stated by the Rada.
- withdraw from the BAJ freely.

3.7. The BAJ member is obliged to:

- fulfill requirements of this Charter and the Declaration of principles of journalist professional ethics.
- not to allow actions that injure the BAJ materially or morally.
- participate in achievement of the BAJ goal and objectives.
- pay membership fees at the rate set by the BAJ Council.

3.8. Withdrawal from the BAJ is realized according to the written or oral statement.

3.9. Expulsion from the BAJ members is made according to the decision of the branch or Administration when not more than 2/3 of members voted for this measure, in case of flagrant or repeated Charter violation.

3.10. On written request of expelled person the question about membership can be considered by the Rada which can recall a decision of the branch.

3.11. Persons that made a great contribution in strengthening of the freedom of the press in Belarus may be conferred a title of the BAJ honorary member and given appropriate diploma.

4. STRUCTURE, SUPERIOR AND ELECTIVE BAJ BODIES

4.1. The BAJ basis are district, city, regional (established in the territory of the city and district, two districts or cities or other territorial units) organizations — branches, or created on areas of activity or professional principle. Branches determine the type of their activity within the Charter independently. The BAJ Administration makes decision about branch opening.

4.2. Branches are created at presence of three or more the BAJ members who live at the same territory or association members who work in the same field of journalism, or representatives of the same profession and are registered in the BAJ Administration.

The branch can obtain status of the legal entity according to the BAJ Rada consent.

4.3. The supreme branch body is the general meeting that:

- defines structure, form and methods of activity of the elective bodies of the branch.
- elects the leader of the branch, other elective bodies and in the presence of five and more members — his deputy, treasurer and auditor,
- elects delegates for the BAJ General Meeting.
- admits to the BAJ, expels from the BAJ members.

4.4. Branch leader convenes and conducts general meetings, organizes activity of its members on implementing branch bodies and the BAJ supreme bodies decisions, represents the branch by power of attorney in the governmental bodies and public associations.

4.5. Treasurer (chairman, where absent) of the branch canvasses fees, keeps balance books.

4.6. The branch control body is the auditor who carries out his inspections not scarcer than once a year. The general meeting of the branch approves inspections results.

4.7. Decisions of the general meeting are approved by the simple majority of votes from its total number.

Branch decisions connected with the use of material resources passed to the branch according to the decision of the BAJ Rada must be approved by the Rada.

4.8. The supreme body of the BAJ is the General Meeting that is convened by the Rada at least once every three years. Extraordinary Meeting is convened on Rada requirement, auditing commission, or not less than 1/3 the BAJ members.

The date of carrying out, norms of representation and the way of the meeting work are determined by the Rada and declared not later than 20 days to the date set.

The General Meeting is empowered to make decisions when more than a half of delegates participates it. Decisions of the General Meeting are approved by the majority of votes of General Meeting participants, decisions connected with the Charter by not less than 2/3 votes of General Meeting, participants. The form of voting is defined by the General Meeting.

4.9. To the exclusive competence of the General Meeting are related:

- adoption of the BAJ Charter, introduction of alterations and addenda to it.
- definition of the basic areas and forms of activity of the BAJ.
- election of Rada, Board, Chairperson, Vice Chairpersons, Auditing Commission, Commission for ethics for the three-years term.
- hearing of reports of managing, control bodies and persons of the BAJ in charge.
- adoption of the report about the BAJ income and expenses.
- making decisions about termination of activity and reorganization of the BAJ. The Meeting can also consider other questions that result from charter goal and objectives.

4.10. The managing body of the BAJ is the BAJ Rada (Council).

Members of the BAJ Board as well as other members of the BAJ, that were elected at the General Meeting, are members of the BAJ Rada.

Rada is convened for sessions not scarcer than four times a year. Sessions of Rada are convened by the Administration or 1/3 members of Rada.

Decisions are approved by the majority of voices of Rada members.

4.11. Rada:

- organizes implementation of the General Meeting decisions.
- administers funds and property of the BAJ according to the legislation.
- elects the Board members from Rada members instead of those who withdrawn from it.

- recalls branches decisions that contradict to the Charter and principles of organization and activity of the BAJ.
- makes decisions about participation in creation or entering into international public association, non-commercial organizations, federations etc.
- determines the amount, periodicity of membership fee payment.
- decides other issues of the BAJ activity that are not related to the exclusive competence of the General Meeting.

4.12. The Board exercises current management of the BAJ in the period between Rada sessions for implementation of its decisions and decisions of the General Meeting.

The Board consists of the Chairperson, four Vice Chairpersons as well as the BAJ members elected at the General Meeting or by the Rada of the BAJ according to the point 4.11.

4.13. The Board of the BAJ:

- coordinates the work of branches, adopts their decisions about admission into the BAJ members as well as admits into the BAJ members in cases stipulated by the point 3.3 of the Charter.
- enters into cooperation with governmental, public and political organizations in the Republic of Belarus and abroad, prepares actions of the BAJ.
- organizes legal assistance for the BAJ members.
- appoints executive director.
- affirms samples of the seal, stamp, symbolic of the BAJ, certificate of membership in the BAJ, personnel list, other in-organization documents.
- decides other issues that are not related to the exclusive competence of the Meeting and Rada of the BAJ.

4.14. Meetings of the Board are carried out at least once a month and are convened on the initiative of the Chairman, Deputy chairmen of the BAJ or 1/3 of the Administration members.

Decisions of the Board are adopted by the simple majority and signed by the chairman of the session.

4.15. The Chairperson performs operative management of the Rada and the Board, represents the BAJ in relations with governmental and non-governmental. (including foreign) bodies, organizations, enterprises, establishments as well as with citizens. The Chairperson (and on his or Rada commission — Vice Chairpersons):

- performs operative management of the BAJ activity which result from its goal and objectives;
- organizes implementation of decisions of management bodies of the BAJ.
- affirms personnel list of the BAJ.
- makes decisions on current matters of the BAJ activity.
- decides other issues that are not related to the exclusive competence of the General Meeting and Rada of the BAJ.

4.16. Vice Chairpersons coordinate the work of the BAJ on defined areas of activity according to decisions of Rada.

4.17. On separation from the BAJ or failure to exercise functions of the Chairperson these functions according to the Rada decision pass to one of Vice Chairpersons until convocation of the BAJ Meeting.

4.18. The control body of the BAJ is the Auditing commission. Auditing commission elects a chairman of the commission from its membership.

Auditing commission convenes for sessions not scarcer than once a year. Decisions of the Auditing commission are adopted by the majority consisting 2/3 of its membership.

4.19. Auditing commission performs:

- management of performance of the Charter in the BAJ activity.
- control for the financial and economic activity, integrity of the property of the BAJ. Not scarcer than once a year carries out planned audit, in case of necessity apply for services of audit company.

- renders assistance to branch auditors.

4.20. Auditing commission members can not participate in Rada, Board, hold office of chiefs and main specialists of the economic patterns of the BAJ. Auditing commission members may participate in the work of sessions of management bodies of the BAJ with the right of advisory vote.

4.21. There is a Commission on Ethics works in the BAJ structure, which considers complaints on facts of voiding the Declaration of principles of professional ethics by the BAJ members. Organs of government, branches, newspaper editorial office, any the BAJ member as well as interested citizens have the right to apply with complaint.

On the Commission on ethics are the BAJ members who possess high professional and ethical qualities. Commission on ethics acts on the basis of the Regulations which is developed and adopted by Rada.

4.22. Seven BAJ members elected at the General Meeting enter into the Commission on ethics. Members of the Commission elect the Chairperson of the Commission on ethics.

4.23. By the open voting by a majority vote from its total membership Commission on ethics works out recommendations that are considered by the Rada. The decision of the Rada on recommendations of the Commission on ethics may be appealed against at the General Meeting.

4.24. Decisions of collegial bodies of the BAJ are fixed in the form of protocols.

5. SOURCES AND THE WAY OF FORMATION OF THE BAJ PROPERTY

5.1. Buildings, constructions, housing facilities, equipment, transport, inventory, cash, currency assets, shares, other securities and other property necessary for the implementation of activity stipulated by the Charter can belong to the BAJ.

5.2. BAJ is the owner of all the property of the public organization, including the property of its organizational structures. Organizational structures of BAJ have the right to be in charge of the organization property within the limits set by the Charter.

5.3. Organizational structures of BAJ that have a status of a legal entity have separate accounting balance, bank account and can have other bank accounts.

5.4. Cash assets of the BAJ are formed from:

- membership fees;
- target financing of the BAJ and particular projects on the part of citizens and organizations;
- charitable contributions;
- other revenues not prohibited by the legislation.

5.5. BAJ can undertake entrepreneurial activity at a scale necessary for the Charter activity. Such entrepreneurial activity can only be carried out by creation of a business or participating in one.

5.6. Assets and property of the BAJ are used for the realization of Charter activity, for the formation of funds and reserves of the BAJ in case of necessity.

5.7. The Rada executes all powers of the BAJ connected with the proprietorship, in particular, making decision about acquisition, disposal and disposition of property, or the Board in specified extent on commission of the Rada.

5.8. The BAJ can transfer for use by its branches the part of its property for implementation of charter goal and objectives of the BAJ.

5.9. The BAJ pays taxes and makes settlements in the way and at the rate set by the current legislation, bears responsibility for the completeness and promptitude of presentation of accounts.

6. THE WAY OF THE BAJ DISSOLUTION

6.1. The BAJ dissolution, its reorganization are performed according to the decision of the Meeting adopted by not less than 2/3 of votes of elected delegates as well as in other cases stipulated by the current legislation.

6.2. Assets and property remained after the BAJ dissolution, after the satisfaction of property claims, are used by the liquidation commission according to the goal and objectives of the BAJ.

6.3. According to the current legislation the documents of the BAJ after its dissolution are handed in the establishments keeping National Archive of the Republic of Belarus.

6.4. The decision on BAJ dissolution is sent to an appropriate state registration body and is published in a publication defined by the legislation for such purposes.

6.5. BAJ branches stop their activities upon the decision of the BAJ Board.

6.6. For dissolution of the branches that have the status of a legal entity the BAJ Rada creates a Liquidation Commission, which acts in accordance to the present legislation.

6.7. Means and property of a branch upon its dissolution and meeting possible property claims is added to the property of BAJ.