



Motions to the AGM 2025

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MOTION 1. Purpose and Vision Alignment (Article 4.11: Objects)

- **Current Issue:** The objects are broad and include activities that may not align with the association's focus or modern priorities in the hemp and cannabis sector.
- **Potential Change:** Update the objects to reflect the current vision, such as:
 - Promoting sustainable practices in hemp and medicinal cannabis cultivation.
 - Advocating for regulatory reforms specific to the entire cannabis industry.
 - Supporting innovation and market development in related sectors.

Currently reads:

4.1.1 to promote the interests of companies involved in the cultivation, processing and distribution of Hemp and Hemp products;"

Suggested change:

... cultivation, processing and distribution of: Hemp, Cannabis, products from Hemp and Cannabis; and natural products

MOTION 2. Electronic General Meetings (Article 29)

- **Current Issue:** The Articles allow for electronic meetings, but the rules for conducting hybrid meetings (a mix of physical and electronic attendance) lack detail.
- **Potential Change:** Specify:
 - *How quorum will be established for hybrid meetings.*
 - **A process to verify attendees' identity and ensure voting integrity during electronic participation.**
 - **Procedures for resolving technical difficulties during such meetings.**

Currently reads:

29. General meetings

29.1 The Directors may call a general meeting at any time, and at such times and places (including electronic platforms) as it shall determine. In the case of **electronic general meetings**, the electronic platform may vary from time to time and from meeting to meeting as the Board, in its sole discretion, sees fit.

29.3 The Board shall determine whether a general meeting is to be held as a physical general meeting, or an electronic general meeting, or a combination of the two. *(insert)*

29.4 The Board may resolve to enable persons entitled to attend a general meeting hosted on an electronic platform (such meeting being an **electronic general meeting**) to do so by simultaneous attendance by electronic means with no member necessarily in physical attendance at the electronic general meeting. The members or their proxies present shall be counted in the quorum for, and entitled to vote at, the **electronic general meeting** in question, and that meeting shall be duly constituted and its proceedings valid if the chair of the general meeting is satisfied that adequate facilities are available throughout the **electronic general meeting** to ensure that members attending the **electronic general meeting** who are not present together at the same place, may, by electronic means, attend, speak and vote at it.

Suggested changes:

29.1 insert: ...electronic or hybrid general meetings

29.3 insert: ...or a combination of the two, called a hybrid.

29.4 insert: ...electronic or hybrid general meeting

29.5 Proxy validation – SEE Article 42.

MOTION 3. Written Resolutions (Article 45.7)

- **Current Issue:** Written resolutions lapse after **28 days**, which may not always align with the decision-making timeline of the association or its members.
- **Potential Change:** Allow flexibility by:
 - Extending the time limit for written resolutions to **60 days** if agreed upon by a simple majority.
 - Including provisions for electronic reminders to members about pending resolutions to increase engagement.

Currently reads:

45.7 A proposed written resolution lapses if it is not passed within **28 days** beginning with the Circulation Date.

Suggested changes:

45.7 A proposed written resolution lapses if it is not passed within **60 days** beginning with the Circulation Date.

MOTION 4. Code of Conduct for Members (New Clause)

- **Current Issue:** The Articles do not specify expectations for member behaviour beyond termination criteria.
- **Potential Change:** Introduce a Code of Conduct requiring members to:
 - Uphold ethical practices in their business operations.
 - Support the association's goals and reputation.
 - Adhere to all regulatory requirements.

Currently reads: none

Suggested:

Professional Integrity

1. Members must conduct their business with honesty, integrity, and transparency.
2. Misleading advertising, false claims, and deceptive practices are strictly prohibited.
3. Members must ensure that all marketing and promotional materials comply with UK laws and regulations

Compliance with Laws and Regulations

1. Members must comply with all relevant UK laws, regulations, and guidelines pertaining to the cannabis industry.
2. Members must ensure that all products meet the legal standards for safety, quality, and efficacy.

Consumer Protection

1. Members must prioritise the health and safety of consumers.
2. Clear, accurate, and comprehensive information must be provided to consumers regarding product usage, benefits, and potential risks.
3. Members must handle consumer complaints and queries promptly and fairly.

Product Quality and Safety

1. Members must implement rigorous quality control measures to ensure product safety and consistency.
2. Products must be tested by accredited laboratories for contaminants and potency, with results made available to consumers.

Environmental Responsibility

1. Members must strive to minimise their environmental impact through sustainable practices.
2. Waste management and recycling protocols should be in place to reduce the environmental footprint.

Ethical Sourcing and Fair Trade

1. Members must ensure that all raw materials and products are sourced ethically and sustainably.
2. Fair trade principles must be adhered to, ensuring fair compensation and working conditions for all workers involved in the supply chain.

Confidentiality and Data Protection

1. Members must respect the confidentiality of sensitive information related to consumers, clients, and business partners.

2. All data must be handled in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Training and Education

Members must ensure that all employees and stakeholders receive appropriate training on compliance, product knowledge, and industry best practices.

Basic training programmes provided by the CTA must be completed by all members, covering the following key areas:

- i. Overview of UK cannabis laws and regulations
- ii. Ethical business practices and professional integrity
- iii. Quality control and product safety
- iv. Consumer protection and handling complaints
- v. Environmental sustainability in the cannabis industry

Disciplinary Procedures

1. Any member found to be in breach of this Code of Conduct will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or termination of membership.
2. Complaints and concerns regarding member conduct should be reported to the CTA for investigation to: complaints@cannabistrades.org

Confidentiality and Data Protection

1. Members must respect the confidentiality of sensitive information related to consumers, clients, and business partners.
2. All data must be handled in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Review and Amendments

This Code of Conduct will be reviewed annually and amended as necessary to reflect changes in legislation and industry standards.

Members will be notified of any changes and are expected to comply with the updated Code of Conduct.

MOTION 5. Diversity and Inclusion Statement (New Clause)

- **Current Issue:** The Articles do not include any statement or commitment to diversity and inclusion.
- **Potential Change:** Introduce a clause affirming the association's commitment to diversity and inclusion in its board, membership, and operations. Include measurable goals and periodic reporting.

Currently reads: None

Suggested:

The Cannabis Trades Association is committed to fostering an inclusive and diverse environment where all voices are valued and respected. We believe that diversity drives innovation and collaboration, and we strive to represent the varied perspectives of our members and the wider community.

By championing equality, embracing cultural differences, and promoting accessibility across all our initiatives, we aim to build, foster, and support a cannabis and hemp industry that thrives on fairness and mutual respect.

At the CTA, we are dedicated to creating opportunities for everyone to contribute to and benefit from a sustainable and inclusive future.

MOTION 6. ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) Alignment (New Clause)

- **Current Issue:** The Articles do not explicitly reference sustainability or governance standards.
- **Potential Change:** Add an ESG clause committing the association to sustainable practices, ethical operations, and high governance standards. Include annual reporting on ESG compliance.

Currently reads: None

Suggested:

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Alignment

The Cannabis Trades Association is committed to fostering sustainable growth and promoting the highest standards of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices within the cannabis and hemp industries. This commitment is embedded in our organisational objectives and operational principles as follows:

Environmental Responsibility:

The CTA supports initiatives and practices that reduce environmental impact across the hemp and cannabis sectors, including promoting sustainable cultivation methods, encouraging renewable energy use, and advocating for environmentally friendly policies and innovations.

Social Commitment:

The CTA values inclusivity, equality, and social responsibility. We strive to create opportunities within the industry for diverse stakeholders, uphold human rights, and contribute positively to the communities we serve through education, collaboration, and advocacy.

Governance Excellence:

The CTA upholds integrity, transparency, and accountability in all its activities. We are dedicated to ensuring ethical governance, fostering collaboration among members, and maintaining compliance with applicable legal and regulatory frameworks.

MOTION 7. Ethics in Marketing and Advertising (New Clause)

- **Current Issue:** The Articles do not guide members on ethical marketing practices, which are critical in this heavily regulated industry.
- **Potential Change:** Add provisions requiring:
 - Compliance with UK advertising laws and ethical standards.
 - An advisory committee to review complaints or breaches in member marketing practices.

Currently reads: None

Suggested:

1. Compliance with Advertising Laws and Ethical Standards

All members shall ensure that their advertising, marketing, and promotional materials comply with applicable UK laws and regulatory guidance, including but not limited to:

1. Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008
2. The Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (Part 14 - Advertising)
3. Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and associated regulations
4. UK Code of Non-broadcast Advertising, Sales Promotion, and Direct Marketing (CAP Code)
5. MHRA Guidance Note 8
6. Cancer Act 1939

Members shall also adhere to the highest ethical standards by ensuring that advertisements:

1. Are not misleading, deceptive, or unfair.
2. Clearly distinguish between factual claims and opinions.
3. Are substantiated by verifiable evidence, particularly for health and wellness products.
4. Avoid any exaggerated or unsubstantiated claims about efficacy, safety, or benefits.

2. Establishment of an Ethics in Advertising Advisory Committee

The Association shall establish an Ethics in Advertising Advisory Committee tasked with:

1. Reviewing complaints or allegations of breaches in advertising, marketing, or promotional practices.
2. Providing recommendations for compliance with The Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (Part 14 - Advertising) and MHRA Guidance Note 8.
3. Supporting members in aligning their marketing practices with both legal requirements and industry best practices.

3. Complaint Review Process

The Ethics in Advertising Advisory Committee shall follow a clear, impartial, and transparent process to address complaints, including:

1. Accepting complaints from stakeholders, including members, regulatory authorities, or the public.
2. Investigating complaints with reference to applicable legislation and standards, including The Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (Part 14 - Advertising) and MHRA Guidance Note 8.
3. Preparing a written report of findings and issuing recommendations for corrective actions where necessary.

4. Sanctions for Breaches

In cases where a breach is confirmed, the Advisory Committee may recommend actions such as:

1. Issuing written warnings or requiring amendments to offending materials.
2. Requiring public retractions or corrections.
3. Suspension or termination of membership for repeated or egregious breaches.

5. Commitment to Member Support and Education

The Association shall provide ongoing education and resources to members, including:

1. Training on the requirements of The Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (Part 14 - Advertising) and MHRA Guidance Note 8.
2. Workshops or webinars to ensure members are fully informed about advertising compliance.
3. Best practice guidelines to align marketing strategies with legal and ethical standards.

6. Periodic Review and Updates

The Ethics in Advertising Advisory Committee shall periodically review and update the Association's advertising compliance standards to reflect changes in legislation, regulatory guidance, and industry practices.

MOTION 8. Digital Security and Data Protection (New Clause)

- **Current Issue:** The Articles lack specific provisions for digital security and compliance with data protection laws.
- **Potential Change:** Add clauses to:
 - Commit to GDPR compliance.
 - Mandate regular audits of digital platforms and member data protection protocols.

Currently reads: None

Suggested:

1. Purpose

The Cannabis Trades Association (CTA) is committed to ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of digital assets and the personal data of its members, employees, and stakeholders. This clause outlines the Association's obligations and practices to safeguard digital security and comply with relevant data protection laws, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018, and any other applicable regulations.

2. Scope

This clause applies to all directors, officers, employees, and contractors of the CTA. It also governs the use, processing, storage, and transmission of all data under the CTA's control, including member data, financial records, and any other sensitive information.

3. Data Protection Principles

The CTA commits to processing personal data lawfully, fairly, and transparently, adhering to the following principles:

1. **Lawfulness, fairness, and transparency:** Data will only be processed in compliance with applicable laws and in a manner that is clear and transparent to data subjects.
2. **Purpose limitation:** Data will be collected for specified, explicit, and legitimate purposes and not processed in ways incompatible with those purposes.
3. **Data minimisation:** Only the data necessary for the purposes outlined will be collected and processed.
4. **Accuracy:** Personal data will be accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date.
5. **Storage limitation:** Data will be retained only as long as necessary for the purposes for which it is processed, in line with the CTA's retention schedule.
6. **Integrity and confidentiality:** Appropriate security measures will be implemented to protect data against unauthorised or unlawful processing and accidental loss, destruction, or damage.

4. Digital Security Obligations

To ensure the security of its digital assets, the CTA will:

1. **Adopt robust cybersecurity measures:** Implement firewalls, encryption, two-factor authentication, and regular vulnerability assessments to safeguard digital systems.
2. **Access controls:** Limit access to data and systems based on the principles of least privilege and role-based permissions.
3. **Incident response:** Maintain a documented incident response plan for managing data breaches and cybersecurity incidents, in compliance with legal reporting obligations.
4. **Regular audits:** Conduct regular audits of digital security practices and data protection compliance.
5. **Training:** Provide mandatory training to directors, employees, and contractors on digital security and data protection policies.

5. Data Subject Rights

The CTA recognises the rights of individuals under the UK GDPR, including:

1. The right to access their personal data.
2. The right to rectification of inaccurate or incomplete data.
3. The right to erasure ("right to be forgotten").
4. The right to restrict processing.
5. The right to data portability.
6. The right to object to processing.
7. The right not to be subject to automated decision-making, including profiling.
8. Requests to exercise these rights will be handled promptly and in accordance with statutory timeframes.

6. Third-Party Data Sharing

The CTA will not share personal data with third parties except where:

1. It is necessary for legitimate purposes and in accordance with contractual or legal obligations.
2. Explicit consent has been obtained from the data subject.
3. Sharing is required by law or regulation.

All third-party service providers handling CTA data must sign a Data Processing Agreement (DPA) to ensure compliance with this clause.

7. Governance and Oversight

The CTA Board of Directors will appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO) or equivalent responsible for overseeing data protection compliance and digital security practices. The DPO will:

1. Monitor compliance with this clause and applicable laws.
2. Act as a point of contact for data subjects and supervisory authorities.
3. Conduct regular reviews and updates of data protection and security policies.

8. Enforcement and Penalties

Any breach of this clause will be investigated promptly and may result in disciplinary action, including termination of membership, employment or association with the CTA. Where applicable, the CTA will report data breaches to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and affected data subjects within statutory timeframes.

9. Amendments

This clause will be reviewed annually or as required to reflect changes in legislation, best practices, or organisational needs.