

Expressis-Verbis Charter

Vision:

Expressis Verbis is a non-profit association under the law of 21 April 1928, whose objectives are:

- ◆ to defend and promote the right to information of citizens and the media, and the disclosure requirements applying to all administrations and national and international authorities;
- ◆ to defend and promote the freedom of the media and of persons publishing information, ideas or opinions;
- ◆ to explore, gain insight into and analyze published information of general interest in a pluralistic democratic society;
- ◆ to publish and disseminate information and ideas, with due regard for freedom of opinion and expression;
- ◆ to promote, organize and publish free debate and discussion in relation to the opinions of others on social, political, economic, scientific, legal, psychological and ethical issues;
- ◆ to promote transparency in the decision-making processes of national executive bodies and supranational bodies that develop international rules;
- ◆ to identify, analyze and evaluate the encroachment of economic, legal (judicial) and political power into citizens' lives and daily communications;
- ◆ to analyze the phenomena of emerging authoritarianism.

Values

Transparency, quality, objectivity, integrity, respect, trust, openness, authenticity, responsibility, freedom, appreciation, dialogue, and discretion.

We are not affiliated with any political party and strictly adhere to the netiquette rules published by us on the "Impressum" page. Any racist, anti-Semitic, commercially motivated, discriminatory, sexist, lewd, ad hominem, insulting, denunciatory, or prejudiced statement, or expressions of hatred, intolerance or similar will lead to immediate exclusion from the team.

Quality criteria

Our main task is to work as an information medium, sharing carefully reviewed additional information with the public, be it in written form, be it through videos/podcasts or conferences with selected experts.

Since this task is very energy and time consuming for our dedicated volunteers, any information, in particular that shared within Expressis-Verbis, is always carefully reviewed before sharing.

Careful examination

Information does not serve to confirm existing opinions, but always provides concrete added value;

- ◆ Before sharing information, we will verify that the originators of the external information really exist as the people they claim to be. (This is especially true for testimonials or "calls" from people we have never seen before);
- ◆ In such cases, we will perform checks for credibility and reputation. Authors may well make correct claims, but if their reputation is in question for any reason, it can reflect negatively on Expressis-Verbis;
- ◆ We eliminate "fake news";
- ◆ We always provide the essence of this information: 1 sentence, or a short and easy-to-understand summary/explanation;
- ◆ Each time we share a new piece of information, we also provide a concrete proposal of what the authors, implementers, website managers... of Expressis-Verbis can/should do with this information and how this idea can be implemented within Expressis-Verbis in the context of our communication media (article, video, podcast, conference);

- ◆ If we cannot categorize a piece of information as: “reviewed” and “useful”, we refrain from sharing it with the team, thus contributing to the best possible conservation of our team members' time and energy.
- ◆ We try to accept the world as it presents itself today and report on it neutrally. We merely do this from a different perspective than mainstream media are currently doing, in the hope that a constructive dialogue will result from this differentiated perspective.
- ◆ We absolutely respect the discretion needs of members who cannot reveal their identity. Their discretion needs are expressed by a “nom de plume”, or ideally published by a “visible” member.
- ◆ We avoid conflicts of interest at all costs and always remain neutral and objective.

What do we categorically exclude?

- ◆ We are neither anti-vaccination nor do we deny the existence of viruses.
- ◆ We do not organize actions such as demonstrations or manifestations, nor do we call for the mobilization of people to demonstrate against the current situation.
- ◆ We do not offer any medical, legal, or other professional advice, nor do we promote doctors, lawyers, or other experts of our team or outside experts who share our opinions.
- ◆ We do not argue. Neither with our critics nor internally. Any controversial debate is welcome; less than constructive or impertinent emails/letters/comments, on the other hand, will be ignored or deleted following our netiquette rules. If we are attacked and it strikes us “emotionally”, we discuss this internally and do not fight an emotional battle in public.
- ◆ We do not organize a “club”. Expressis-Verbis merely participates mediatically in current events that for some time have not been reported integrally and neutrally in the mainstream media. Expressis-Verbis thus tries to make an important contribution to complete information, which enables readers to make responsible and intelligent decisions for themselves based on a broader base of information.
- ◆ Expressis-Verbis expressly refrains from influence, manipulation, moralizing and propaganda. Expressis-Verbis also refrains from instructing or judging its readers.

The interconnectedness to which Expressis-Verbis may contribute is a natural consequence of our existence, as well as of the quality we deliver. We are not afraid and do not put any extra pressure or stress on ourselves to “save the world”. If we continue our work as we have done so far, then for those readers who have been open to our approach of “back to freedom and self-responsibility”, this will come about naturally, but not as a forced process. We are not liable for the personal attitude of our subscribers.

Communication:

OUR MEANS OF COMMUNICATION:

- ◆ Our website with written content, videos, and podcasts.
- ◆ Email Newsletter
- ◆ Email replies/exchange with our readers
- ◆ Social media and the mail/chat functions there
- ◆ Eventually, at the appropriate time and if the necessary resources are available: Online conferences with external experts
- ◆ Membership cards, greeting cards, postcards, and letters

WHO COMMUNICATES TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD?

- ◆ Authors, after appropriate review of articles by the editorial team;
- ◆ Directors, after appropriate checking/review of new video material/podcasts by the editorial team;
- ◆ Communications manager: mails, newsletters, correspondence, interviews, and cards
 - The newsletter is always checked by the editorial team before dispatch;
 - Each correspondence must contain at least 2 signatures, regardless of board role;

- For the sake of maximum transparency within the team, outgoing mails are always copied to contact@expressis-verbis.lu;
- All interviews, discussions, or conferences, etc. must be documented by us in the form of video recordings in order to prevent any misunderstandings and to allow processing of potential room for interpretation jointly and constructively.

Areas of responsibility

Our team consists primarily of:

Information providers

As a rule, these are our experts: they have access to information, studies, reports, conferences, books, papers, and applicable experience from their own practice ...

After careful review and following the relevant professional discretion rules, the information providers share this information with the information processors. They also provide a specific "intended use" for this as inspiration, but without restricting the authors in their style.

Information processors

Authors, directors, website managers, and newsletter writers

The information processors use the information to create articles, essays, newsletters, open letters, videos, podcasts, and conferences, and place them on the website. Before each publication, the editorial team reviews the output for content and form. In case of disagreement within the editorial team, which cannot be resolved amicably through sound arguments, the editor-in-chief decides on the publication.

Collaboration with operational tasks

These employees ensure the proper functioning of the team:

- ◆ Executive Board
- ◆ Legal department: lawyers, compliance...
- ◆ Human resources
- ◆ Editorial team: currently the Executive Board + Legal Department
- ◆ Finances

- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Archive and Operational.

Due to the still small structure of Expressis-Verbis, overlaps may exist; however, no member should be assigned to more than 3 areas of responsibility. Conflicts are ideally resolved immediately and personally; if two people disagree, a third person can be a valuable support (tipping the scales).

Success

We are successful every time we reach (one or more) people and convince (not persuade!) them that one can always approach things on one's own responsibility and from a different perspective, and that freedom, democracy and physical integrity are inviolable values and discrimination of any kind is unacceptable.

Indirectly measurable by the number of subscribers and emails. Every single person who deals openly, without prejudice and intelligently, with our content, discusses it with us or even shares will count as a success. We will also celebrate a constructive exchange or cooperation with the media as a joint success.

The team is also successful every time it has successfully resolved an internal and/or external conflict and contributed to a fruitful discussion.

A successful performance by a collaborator/contributor will be given the deserved recognition.

Setbacks will be analyzed after taking appropriate distance and will be used constructively. Every setback and every controversial discussion will make us more far-sighted in the long run and will deepen our understanding of the issues discussed.