

Application by Tovana

To the members of the EBU,

Council recommendation to the AGM, pursuant to article 4.c of the EBU Constitution

INTRODUCTION

Tovana submitted an application with supporting documents to become a member of the EBU on February 12th, 2026. Their application is endorsed by the Italian Buddhist Union. They gave a presentation to the Council on May 8th, 2025.

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

Tovana is a lay association in Israel. Their objective is to offer study and practice of insight meditation. In Israel they cannot register as a religious organisation. They have provided to us their Articles of Association in English. From their website it is clear they offer a comprehensive range of authentic Buddhist teachings and practices, aligned with the Theravada lineage, with an emphasis on mindfulness, calm and insight (Vipassana). They have established an [ethical code](#). Their ethical code does not refer to a complaint procedure, this is a point of follow-up with them. Tovana sees itself as part of this wider European sphere of practice and cooperation, and they are interconnected with European Dharma Networks. They organise approximately 45 retreats per year. They have grown to be the largest Buddhist community in Israel with over 12.000 participants over the years. They try to be open to everyone, including people with a Palestinian background. Tovana maintains active relationships with European teachers, practitioners, and organizations. Tovana's president is dr. Stephen Fulder, a senior Dharma teacher with international standing and decades of dedication to the Buddhist path. Their proposed delegate to EBU is Michal Junh, miciyon@gmail.com, together with Tamar Zekback.

All of our questions to them have been answered sincerely and satisfactorily.

For further info see: <https://tovana.org.il/en>.

CONSIDERATIONS

From the available information, and to the best of our knowledge, it appears that Tovana has been established in Israel for a number of years and is rooted in an old tradition. Tovana took the initiative to contact the EBU to become a member. Tovana meets the conditions for membership and has submitted the application in the correct manner. However, as they are located outside of Europe, they do not qualify for full membership.

RECOMMENDATION

The council advises the AGM:

- to approve the membership application of Tovana as an associated member;
- to instruct the council to welcome Tovana as an associated member of the EBU and to take all necessary steps to formalize the membership.

8 May 2026