

## **Application by Dhammakaya Europe International**

To the members of the EBU,

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

## **INTRODUCTION**

Dhammakaya Europe International submitted an application with supporting documents to become a member of the EBU on December 5, 2024. They gave a presentation to the Council on March 7, 2025.

## **AVAILABLE INFORMATION**

The first Buddhist Centre with the name Wat Phra Dhammakaya, founded by the Thai Buddhist Nun Khun Yai, was established in Thailand in 1978. The first teacher was the Thai Buddhist Abbot Luang Pu, the current teacher is the Thai Buddhist Abbot Luang Pho. The organization has more than 100 centers worldwide. As a Theravāda order and temple in Thailand, Wat Phra Dhammakaya is a significant institution. Luang Pu (regarded as an Arahant), the founder of Wat Pak Nam, is the spiritual forefather of the Dhammakaya tradition. Until recently, they were strongly represented in the National Sangha of Thailand. Due to the political situation in Thailand, this is no longer the case.

Dhammakaya has been active as a Buddhist organization in Europe for many years. In 1997, the first Dhammakaya meditation centre in Europe was established in Ieper, Belgium. Shortly after that France, England, and Germany followed. The Netherlands followed in 2014. Altogether they are present in 10 different countries in Europe. Their first delegate to EBU in Europe will be the Dutch monk Sander Oudenampsen (monastic name: Khemadhammo). Since 2017, the center in the Netherlands has been located in a former church and rectory in Afferden (Gelderland). Luang Pi ("Venerable Monk") Sander Khemadhammo received formal training as a monk in Thailand for 10 years and speaks the language fluently. He is authorized to teach the Dhamma and to provide meditation instruction. The European centers host a number of over 100 Thai monks. Further info: <https://dhammakaya.eu/about.php>

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

From the available information, and to the best of our knowledge, it appears that Dhammakaya Europe has been established in Europe for many years and is rooted in an old tradition. In different European countries they are already a member of the respective national buddhist unions. Dhammakaya Europe took the initiative to contact the EBU to become a member. Dhammakaya Europe meets the conditions for membership and has submitted the application in the correct manner.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The council advises the AGM:

- to approve the membership application of Dhammakaya Europe International;
- to instruct the council to welcome Dhammakaya Europe International as a member of the EBU and to take all necessary steps to formalize the membership.

9 April 2025