

# Invitation to the Annual General Meeting 2025

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## **Date**

Friday, 29 August 2025, 10:00 A.M.

## **Place**

eco - Association of the Internet Industry

Kubus

Lichtstr. 43 i

50825 Cologne

## **Agenda of the meeting**

1. Designation of Keeper of the Minutes
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Report from the Management Board
4. Report from the Management
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Discharge of the Management Board
7. Discharge of the Management and the Treasurer
8. Amendments of the Statutes
9. Election of the Treasurer
10. Elections to the Management Board
11. Miscellaneous

## Appendices

**The appendices are part of the agenda.**

### **Agenda items 3, 4**

For details, please refer to the eco Annual Report 2024.

This will be available for download at <https://gb24.eco.de/en/>.

### **Agenda item 5**

For details, please refer to the Treasurer's Report.

This is available for download at: <https://www.eco.de/event/eco-annual-general-meeting-2025/>

### **Agenda item 6 - Discharge of the Management Board**

Individual ballot for each board member, each requiring a simple majority of valid votes.

### **Agenda item 7 - Discharge of the Management and the Treasurer**

Mr. Oliver Süme will put forward a motion to discharge the Managing Director, Mr. Alexander Rabe.

(a simple majority of valid votes is required)

Mr. Oliver Süme will put forward a motion to discharge the Managing Director, Mr. Andreas Weiss.

(a simple majority of valid votes is required)

Mr. Oliver Süme will put forward a motion to discharge the Treasurer, Mr. Thomas Rickert.

(a simple majority of valid votes is required)

### **Agenda item 8 - Amendments to the Statutes**

#### **1. Amendment of the Schedule for Membership Fees (Fees Schedule)**

1. A new point 4 is added to regulate the amount of the contribution for new members. This stipulates that new members shall pay the annual membership fee pro rata from the beginning of the month following the month in which they join the association until the end of the membership fee year for the first membership fee year.

For example, if a member is admitted on 15 March, the contribution for the first contribution year must be paid from 1 April. The contribution is calculated pro rata for the period from 1 April to 31 December.

## 2. Justification

Currently, new members pay the membership fee in full, regardless of whether they join the association at the beginning or end of the year. The new regulation that new members pay the annual membership fee pro rata from the beginning of the following month for the first membership year is necessary to ensure a fair and transparent membership fee structure.

This adjustment takes into account the fact that new members join during the course of the year and therefore only utilise part of the annual membership period. The pro rata rule prevents new members from paying the full annual membership fee even though they are only a member for a fraction of the year. This promotes fairness within the association and ensures a clear and comprehensible membership fee system for all members.

## 3. Proposed amendment

Against the background of the explanations under point 2 above, the General Assembly may adopt the following amendments to the Fees Schedule:

The Fees Schedule shall be amended as follows:

Old:	New:
<p><b>4 Entry into force</b></p> <p><b>These membership fee regulations come into force on 23 June 2022 and replace the current regulations.</b></p>	<p><b>4 New members</b></p> <p>The membership fee obligation for new members begins on the first day of the month following the month of joining. The membership fee is calculated pro rata for the first year of membership. The period from the beginning of the month in which the membership fee is payable to the end of the current membership fee year is decisive. The amount to be paid corresponds to the corresponding share of the annual membership fee.</p> <p><b>5 Entry into force</b></p> <p><b>These contribution regulations enter into force on 29 August 2025 and replace the currently valid regulations.</b></p>

A  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the valid votes cast is required.

## B. Amendment of the Articles of Association

1. § 10 (1) of the Articles of Association shall be amended to the effect that the Management Board shall in future consist of a Chair, a Vice Chair and up to three other members.
2. Justification

The current version of the Articles of Association stipulates that the Management Board consists of a total of four members. An amendment to the Articles of Association is intended to enable the formation of an additional Board department 'Software-as-a-Service and Corporate Culture'.

Germany is the largest Software-as-a-Service market in Europe with growth rates of up to 20%. Due to its close links with forward-looking technologies such as AI, cloud computing and automation, this sector is characterised by a particularly high level of innovation. Accordingly, the importance and number of SaaS providers in Germany and Europe is growing steadily. However, eco has not yet offered this industry segment and its companies any content and has hardly any members in this growth market. This is to be strategically countered with a separate board department and further membership growth is to be generated.

At the same time, the department is to be given responsibility within the Management Board for corporate culture, including diversity. eco would like to drive these topics forward in a much stronger and more coordinated manner and reorganise familiar formats such as the New Work Competence Group and the Ladies in Tech initiative. With only 17% of women in the German IT sector, there is still a lot of catching up to do in this area, among others.

The planned expansion of the Board of Directors is therefore in line with further growth in membership and support for eco members and the industry as a whole in terms of sustainable organisational development.

3. Proposed amendment

Against the backdrop of the explanations under point 2 above, the General Assembly shall adopt the following amendments to the Articles of Association:

The Articles of Association shall be amended as follows:

Old	New
<b>§ 10 Management Board</b> (1) The Management Board consists of the first chair, the deputy chair and two other members. Two members of the Management Board jointly represent the association in and out of court.	<b>§ 10 Management Board</b> (1) The Management Board consists of the 1st Chair, the deputy chair and up to <b>three</b> other members. Two members of the Management Board jointly represent the Association in and out of court.

A  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the valid votes cast is required.

### **Agenda item 9 - Election of the Treasurer**

Mr Thomas Rickert, lawyer, is standing for election.

A simple majority of the valid votes cast is required for election/re-election.

### **Agenda item 10 - Elections to the Management Board**

**The following candidates are available for election for the respective function:**

Oliver J. Süme	Chair of the Management Board
Klaus Landefeld	Vice Chair of the Management Board (Infrastructure and Networks)
Felix Höger	Member of the Management Board (Online Services / Cloud Computing division)
Prof. Dr. Norbert Pohlmann	Member of the Management Board (IT Security division)
Silke Kanes <sup>1</sup>	Member of the Management Board (SaaS and corporate culture)

The General Meeting is not bound by election proposals.

**A simple majority of valid votes is required for election/re-election.**

**End of the General Meeting approx. 1:00 P.M.**

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<sup>1</sup> Please also note the attached letter of introduction from Silke Kanes