



State of Sandus  
Office of the Sôgmô  
Palace of State, Kremlum Sandus

Salutations,

The Council of the State of Sandus has authorised the Central People's Government of the State of Sandus and the Ministry of Diplomatic Affairs to apply for observer membership in the Grand Unified Micronational, an organisation with which we are rather familiar. Sandus first joined the GUM in June 2009, then under the chairmanship of Robert Lethler, as the Grand Lamate of Sandefreistikhan. Our history with the organisation includes the entirety of the early Sandum regimes (the People's State, the first Barony, the Democratic People's Republic) and, after the first hiatus, the State of Sandus from 2012 to 2015. Our Sôgmô, Gaius Soergel Publicola, and our Minister of Diplomatic Affairs, Jacob Barnet Σαρχιαστικός, have both led the organisation in various capacities over the years. During our time as full members of the GUM, the State of Sandus has sought to develop an intermicronational community based on mutual respect, diplomatic and professional decorum, and common progress. Today, we seek to develop further partnerships and to renew friendships with the members of the GUM, albeit in a restricted capacity as an observer state.

Sandum foreign policy in the past few years, since 2014, has sought to reorient the State of Sandus toward more isolationism. In Sandus, we strive to adhere to the principles of self-reliance and stern independence under our *Libera* policy, while seeking diplomatic friendships and strategic partnerships under the principle of *Realism*. This is how and why we aspire to observer membership in the GUM. Moreover, Sandus is known around the world for its academic and cultural development, elements and perspectives of our national policies which would be of benefit to the GUM and its members. To recount the extensive list of our cultural and intellectual developments would be too long, though we encourage you to learn more at [our website](#). Along with other prominent micronationalists, the Sôgmô has more recently sought to inspire a new wave of intellectualism through press creation and editorship of *Micropatriological Notes*, the first academic journal which aims to study micronationalism as a historical and social phenomenon. This is only one recent example, from the past month, of Sandum initiatives which are aimed at achieving the mission of the State of Sandus: to be a beacon of hope and compassion in a world of suffering.

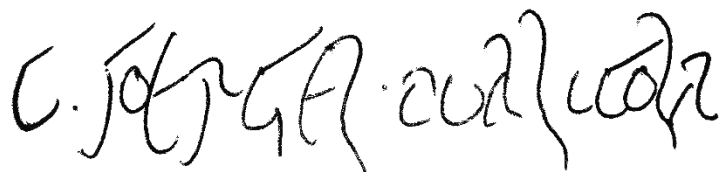
And the work of the State of Sandus does indeed fulfil this mission. In the past administrative year, Sandum citizens donated more than \$2,423.72 (USD) to charity and volunteered an average of 80 hours per season of their time to social and philanthropic deeds. Sandum citizens take part in a variety of philanthropic causes, from social justice to support for their fellow humans.

Although policies like *Libera* mean that Sandus is quick to defend and to advance its national interests and policies, we have a long history of working across cultural, political, and religious divisions in the diplomatic arena. *Exempli gratia*, since 2014, Sandus has sought to develop strategic partnerships with countries with which we have been historically opposed or hostile, for whatever reason. Despite the major diplomatic setback of July 2016, Sandus has reaffirmed its long-term foreign policy in achieving diplomatic peace with high-level diplomatic discussions and negotiations with countries like Wyvern, Zealandia, and Austenasia. In the new Gregorian year, we hope to continue this effort toward peaceful coexistence and mutual development—and current indications and overtures from other states appear to be favourable to this immediate goal of ours. The Sôgmô will travel to Reykjavík, for example, this Sunday to meet with Mercian Lord Richard Hytholoday and to conduct a mutual cross-cultural religious rite. Observer membership in the GUM would be further indicative assurance that these diplomatic overtures are successful and will continue to be.

Finally, we are aware that the controversy surrounding our application in July 2016 and the reason for its rejection are topics which concern the GUM Quorum of Delegates. As a result of our failed full membership of the previous year, Sandus is no longer signatory to the Denton Protocol. Instead, Sandum foreign policy authorises only the Sôgmô, acting upon the advice of the Minister of Diplomatic Affairs, to execute provisions similar to those in the protocol strategically in an effort to protect the privacy, security, and welfare of transgender micronationalists. This is not an issue for our involvement in the GUM, however, especially as observers. As we asserted in July and August 2016, the GUM Charter possesses articles which perform similar functions to the provisions of the Denton Protocol and, thus, of Sandum foreign policy. Article III, Chapter II, section b of the Charter explains that “delegates and diplomatic staff have the right to be addressed in a form of their choosing that appropriately reflects their station and formal preferences.”<sup>1</sup> In our interpretation of the Charter and of diplomatic conventions on decorum, this means that individual Sandum foreign policy is subsidiary to and reflected by intermicronational conventions—the chief one in this case being the GUM Charter. In other words, to vote against Sandus’s application because of its foreign policies designed to protect LGBTQ+ micronationalists would be to vote against the expectations and provisions set out in the organisation’s own founding document.<sup>2</sup>

We encourage you to make inquiries to [KremlumSandus@gmail.com](mailto:KremlumSandus@gmail.com) or any other form of diplomatic communication with the State of Sandus. We are glad and eager to answer questions.

*Spero nos Civitas Sandus affirmari,*



**the Honourable Sôgmô Gaius Sörgel Publicola**

---

<sup>1</sup> [GUM Charter, Article III, Chapter II – On Decorum in the Quorum, section b.](#)

<sup>2</sup> Cf. with the provisions protecting domestic policies, see [GUM Charter, Article II, section b.](#)