



JEF Europe Extraordinary Online Federal Committee 2025
27th of August | Online

27th of August	
18:30	<p>Official opening</p> <p>Robin Mudry, FC Presidium, JEF Europe</p> <p>Good evening to everybody. And welcome to this extraordinary Federal Committee meeting. It is not the first online FC session that we are having this summer with JEF Europe. So I hope you're not yet tired of this, but we are very happy to see you tonight, because it's a very important procedure that lies ahead of us, which means the introduction and hopefully also confirmation of our next Secretary General (SG). So welcome to you, Christos. Welcome also to everybody from the FC to the sections to the EB. We will first have a look at our agenda for tonight. As always, we are starting with a short presentation of the Code of Conduct. Then we are moving to the roll call, which is a decisive moment of the evening, because everybody who will later be able to cast a vote should be present during the roll call, and if you haven't arrived by then, unfortunately, you will not be able to vote after the roll call. We will have a look at the SG selection process, first with us, a little presentation by the Executive Board (EB), then our designated Secretary General will deliver a speech. Then there will be two rounds of Q&A, one with the designated SG, and then one with the EB without the designated SG. And after that, we will proceed to the voting procedure, and then hopefully be able to welcome the new SG. After that, we will have an AOB, as always, and we hope to close the session in less than three hours.</p>
18:35-18:40	<p>1. Code of Conduct</p> <p>Brigita Krasniqi, Secretary-General, JEF Europe presents the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>2. FC Roll call</p> <p>Present or proxy (31)</p> <p>EB:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christelle Savall 2. Xesc Mainzer 3. Alexiane Terrochaire-Barbançon 4. Aléxandros Apostolidis



5. Kati Systä
6. Nikos Chircop
7. Hanna Lein-Mathisen

Reinis Gils was also present but did not vote, as we ran into an interpretation question of the statutes (notably, article 21) regarding his voting rights in a Federal Committee meeting as our ratified/co-opted EB member.

The issue of interpretation arose from provision stipulating that co-opted members do not have voting right. The same provision also states that "four Executive Board members" have voting rights. Following resignation of a board member and co-optation/ratification of a new person, the situation arose where there could have been a contradiction within a provision of the Statutes or at least unclarity if the prevailing rule is co-opted/ratified members not having votes or if there should be four EB members voting in addition to the EB presidium and treasurer.

The EB recalled that during the mandate of Leonie (2021-2023), Christelle was ratified into the board as a co-opted member and had voting rights in FC meetings during the rest of said mandate. She had been previously elected as directly elected FC member but had resigned to join the EB.

As chairs of the meeting on 27th of August of 2025, the FC Presidium however chose the conservative approach to not let Reinis vote referring to co-opted members not having a vote according to the article of the Statutes referred to above.

As per the Arbitration Board opinion dated 30 September 2025, despite having been ratified into the Executive Board in June 2025, he should have been allowed to vote.

FC:

8. Robin Mudry
9. Gergana Blazheva
10. Jana Gleim
11. Anna van de Moosdijk
12. Melanie Thut



13. Mirko Ondras

14. Samuel Tammekann

National Sections:

15. JEF Belgium

16. JEF Czechia

17. JEF Finland

18. JEF France

19. JEF Germany

20. JEF Greece

21. JEF Hungary

22. JEF Ireland

23. JEF Kosovo

24. JEF Latvia

25. JEF Luxembourg

26. JEF Netherlands

27. JEF Norway

28. JEF Portugal

29. JEF Romania

30. JEF Slovenia

31. JEF Spain

Not present, no proxy (25)

EB:

-

FC:

Antoine Chabal

Elise Magne

Julianne Vella

María Martínez López

Mădălin-Cătălin Blidaru

Benedikte Svendsen

Sofie Rebekka Schlüter Knauer

Federico Tosi

Chiara Bertolli



National Sections:

JEF Albania
JEF Austria
JEF Bulgaria
JEF Croatia
JEF Denmark
JEF Estonia
JEF Italy
JEF Malta
JEF Montenegro
JEF North Macedonia
JEF Poland
JEF Serbia
JEF Slovakia
JEF Sweden
JEF Switzerland
JEF United Kingdom

3. Ratification of a new Secretary-General

Gergana Blazheva, FC Presidium

We will now have the presentation, the speech from the Executive Board presenting their choice for the Secretary General.

a. Speech of Executive Board's choice for SG

Christelle Savall, President, JEF Europe

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining us online this Wednesday of August for this very important transitional moment. With the operating grant framework recently secured, it provides stability for the next two years, but there's still always a lot to do to keep up and expand JEF finances activities and also prepare the transition to the next mandate in November. So that's why we need a strong SG to work with us on this. In the Executive Board and also with Robin, we believe we have the best candidate to help JEF do that. I'll first introduce a bit the process of selecting the SG, then I'll explain a bit why the EB nominated him, and then I let Christos introduce himself. As announced by email, Brigita,

18:40-19:15



our current Secretary General, had informed us of her will to conclude her contract with JEF Europe by the end of September. As described then, we recognise this decision comes after careful consideration, for both professional and personal reasons, for her to pursue her academic career. She also detailed more about why she took this decision in an email to you. So please refer to that if you need to. Following this, we opened a call on a rolling basis for SG, because that worked quite well for other positions and also, last time we hired a Secretary General. We received 31 applications, of which 12 sent a full application, which means a CV, motivation letter and also the project proposal. The other interesting candidates who had not sent a full application also received an email requesting to provide the missing documents, but chose not to submit. So on 18th of July, the EB held three interviews, together with Robin from the FC Presidium. We had them online because it was summer, and following this, we invited the top two candidates for a follow up informal chat to get to know each other better. So together with Robin, the board had a full assessment, and in the end the EB has decided to nominate Christos as our candidate for approval by the FC, and he has accepted to become our Secretary General-designate. Christos brings a solid background in leadership, project management, human resources and budget oversight. Over the years, he has taken key roles across a range of organisational structures, and that equips him with the experience necessary to handle budgets, some comparable in scale to JEF Europe's, and we were also interested in his political awareness and strategic thinking, because he mostly recently led one of the most dynamic and respected political think tank in Greece. So we appreciated his energy, quick thinking and strong motivation during the interviews and also afterwards. And that's all essential traits of managing demanding workload, and the diverse challenges faced by our secretary generals. During his two interviews, and also the few times we exchanged since then, his positive attitude and the proposal were very much in line with the values we have in JEF Europe. And just yesterday, he was telling me about the potential funding opportunity that JEF Europe could join in September. So I can say that we can already see its dedication, and it's making a strong impression. So we're therefore confident that he would be a valuable asset to JEF Europe and a great addition to the Executive Board and the Secretariat.

b. Q & A with SG choice

Gergana Blazheva, FC Presidium, JEF Europe

Thank you very much, Christelle, for presenting us your choice for the Secretary General, who will now proceed with the next steps of this point. And I



would like to first invite Christos to give his presentation and that, and then continue with a Q&A with him. And then we would ask him to leave for some time where we have a discussion and ask questions and answers with the board, and then we will proceed with the secret vote and the closing of this side.

Christos Papagiannis, Secretary General-designate, JEF Europe

Dear sections, dear directly elected federal committee members, dear JEFers, I want to express my sincere gratitude for dedicating the last Wednesday of your summer to this process. I have been preparing for this day with great enthusiasm, but also with a strong sense of duty towards every member of this remarkable organization. Over the past month, I had the chance to speak with many JEFers. It's already been an enriching experience full of diverse perspectives, but most importantly, of constructive and honest engagement regarding the organisation. This passion is admirable and in center, and it creates a deep sense of moral responsibility. From my end, I first encountered federalism during my university days at Pantheon in Athens, while studying political science, learning about Kant, Rousseau, Spinelli and Rossi was both inspiring and enlightening. It was the first time I came to understand federalism after speaking with many of you, I recently revisited the Ventotene manifesto and was reminded of its forward looking vision and its timeless intellectual and political value. It was also during my Bachelor studies that I first cared about JEF. Since then, I have been following your mission until today, and I'm privileged to stand here with a chance to support with my work such a historic and impactful organisation. That's why I stand before you, not just as a candidate for education as Secretary General, but that's someone who truly believes that more than ever, Europe needs JEF, and everyone who shares the belief of a more democratic, united and just union, and I want to help progress that vision forward. Over the past years, I've worked at both grassroots and institutional levels, from CO founding Greece's largest youth media platform to direct together on a think tank that joined Feb family. Under my leadership, I've raised over 100,000 in European funding, scaled media platforms from scratch, and led research collaborations with institutions like Kings College London and the London School of Economics. I've also advised political leaders such as as Fofi Gennimata and Nikos Androulakis on how to communicate clearly in the digital age and their digital communications at the German Press Agency, I covered the elections and policy updates the EU and the Balkans having the privilege to observe how different institutions function and also where they fall short. My experience in budgeting, fundraising, advocacy, research and strategy is what I want to bring to JEF supporter work and decisions, and ideally, we will build a collaborative relationship in which the office not only handles execution and project management, but also proactively develops tailored proposals and communications, funding and evidence to support your political priorities. How I



envison this working through six main pillars, first of all, support the board and JEF Europe's activities, not only by carrying the execution and project implementation load, but also by producing evidence based reports, briefs and updates where needed work, proactively recognising that many of you have other commitments. Second, cultivate the culture of transparency and autonomy within the office, creating the space where every employee feels trusted and respected. We boost efficiency and creativity, and we strengthen the organisation's reputation, which is essential for attracting talented people. Will do this through regular check ins, co design, key performance indicators and the environment where every voice matters. Third, expand our strategic alliances with youth, academic and civil society organisations to support projects and attract funding. These synergies will help us participate in EU funded projects and expand the office's capacity. Or a main goal is to develop a multi year finance plan that combines EU programs, foundations and partnerships with civil society organisations. Diversifying funding streams is essential for long term stability and impact. Fifth, prepare statutory events together with a membership officer and the executive board, starting also with the upcoming Congress in the stars book. This is the first milestone, and my inspiration is that the office will run everything with the utmost professional six and the last but not least, set clear, measurable key performance indicators and provide frequent feedback through open access reports so anyone can monitor our progress and activities. Jefs volunteer sections and alumni have built something remarkable over the decades. If I entrust this role, I would be honored to contribute to that legacy, working with you, serving your political objectives and being part of the organisation's consistency in growth. I don't like making empty promises. I come from a country that nearly lost its European path because of them, but there's one thing I can promise in full committee, I will work tirelessly and patiently with you, for you to help spread the message of democracy, Peace and Justice across Europe. Thank you for the opportunity to present my vision for this role, and I'm sure that all together, we can achieve great things. Thank you very much.

Gergana Blazheva, FC Presidium

Thank you very much, Christos for your presentation, and we will now have a round of questions with you, we will keep a speakers list, and I would like to give just a few reminders before we start. For the sake of time, we will have 15 minutes for questions and answers with the designated candidate, and then we'll have 15 minutes with the board only without Christos. So then we will redo the roll call as required, as requested, and then we'll proceed with the secret vote. So ideally, we can also finish in time with that being said, I will open the raised hands first on my list, I have Moritz, and then I have Nea. So please feel free to ask your questions.

Moritz Hergl, National Delegate JEF Germany

Hello, everyone. Thanks for the introductions and the comments and the selection process by everyone. I went through your CV and everything that you're doing, it looks very impressive. My question is regarding your PhD position in Maastricht, how you plan to basically follow up with that while at the same time having the full time job in JEF. Maybe just some thoughts on how you want to combine it, because I suppose it might be a bit of a challenge.

Christos Papagiannis, candidate Secretary General

Okay, good. Thank you for the question. This is an interesting one. Since I was studying for my bachelor degrees, due to the financial situation in Greece, I had to also work and continue my studies, which was always challenging. And at some point, this became my second scheme, let's say, and I have been doing my master's degrees while working, etc, while also building a startup. And recently I also finished my second master degrees while also working and finishing a transition of the acquisition of the startup we built, which was very challenging. And of course, doing a PhD is always very challenging intellectually. But there are besides the element of being used to doing this process, this educational process, alongside professional activities, this specific program is part time and built exactly for professionals from Maastricht University, it has doubled the time of the most PhDs, and also it doesn't have any obligations regarding physical presence and teaching activities. So this makes it easy to combine with someone's professional life. I am already in the second year, so I think that this is progressing well alongside my other activities. Thanks.

Nea-Maria Törmänen, co-opted FC member JEF Europe

Thank you so much, Christos, for your introduction and also the motivational letter and the other materials that we had a chance to read. A little background for my question. I think that we all know that it's a tricky time to potentially start as Secretary General in the organisation, just like this is not the typical time to

switch seats so to say. We are approaching a new mandate and a change in the board and so on. So I just wanted to ask you how you see your potential, first six months, in the organisation, what are the key priorities that you would want to achieve in your position or highlight in the beginning of your employment in JEF.

Christos Papagiannis, candidate Secretary General

Great. Thank you very much for the question. Of course, the first months are always months that you get to know the organisation better. And this transition, it is indeed challenging, always in many ways. The first thing that I would like to make sure is that the Office runs in the most professional way to support all the activities regarding this transition, which is, I think, the basis to begin. Secondly, I would really like to start working proactively before everything happens, so we have proposals and material ready to be reviewed by anyone that gets elected, and that can be also flexible to the circumstances that are changing. And of course, one more priority for me is that every organisation's biggest priority is always to be financially stable. So during this period, I will provide suggestions regarding projects that we could apply for or consortia's that we could build, etc, and I will try to do that in the most transparent and open way. So this has the legitimisation of everyone and also does not create any conflict if something changes during this transition. So this is going to happen in a very careful way, but also trying not to lose potentially very important time that we have in our hands. Because at least in my understanding, it's always better to be proactive than reactive. So these are going to be my top priorities.

c. Q & A with the Executive Board

Gergana Blazheva, FC Presidium

Thank you very much. Nea and Christos, do we have other questions? Now is the moment to ask our candidate, because if there are not any urgent questions that we want to ask now, we will have to ask him to go and return in a couple of minutes.

Okay, so if I see correctly, Christos left, so now is the time where we have a short question and answer session with the executive board. So if you have some clarifying questions that you didn't want to ask Christos. You can ask them to the board. It's the same procedure that we will follow. Please have clear

questions so you have concise answers and be respectful of time.

Nea-Maria Törmänen, FC co-opted FC member JEF Europe

Thank you. I wanted to ask from the EB, you said that there were two candidates at the end that you talked to in more detail. So I was just curious to know, what were the qualities with Christos that made you think that he's the best choice compared to the other candidates that were in the top two?

Christelle Savall, President, JEF Europe

Thank you for your question, Nea. I can't share too much because then we get into confidentiality, but I think it would be a bit of a role package, more than one or the other thing. Then we also had a good rapport together. This ability to work together seemed very much there, which is also something that is important. Also to sum up some of the follow up questions we had about leadership styles, how he envisioned for his role as SG, I would say would be a bit what tipped the scale.

Anna van de Moosdijk, directly elected FC member JEF Europe

Thank you very much for the previous answers as well. I have a question regarding the onboarding process. So in the situation, we approve Christos today, how has the EB and also the outgoing Secretary General foreseen the onboarding process? Can you guide us a bit through the steps and how any other body might be involved in this process?

Christelle Savall, President, JEF Europe

Yes, of course. So the idea is that Christos would start on Monday next week, and we'll have two weeks of a transition with Brigitta, who I think will explain a bit the plan what she had prepared, also based on the learnings of her own transition into the SG role from the board, the ideas that we would have. So first on Monday, I'll be there to welcome him as well in the morning, and then he will meet the team for a bit of a hands on hand over the first week. We already discussed with the Presidium of the FC that we would meet all together the second week of September. So he also understand, the role of the SG towards the Presidium and know how we operate all together, also thinking of on the road to Congress, who also have, dedicated calls on this, also with their team that works on the Congress preparation logistics from JEF France, JEF Strasbourg, so a bit to get Christos to be slowly integrated in all the different



work streams that we're working on. And the idea would be that after the two weeks our transitions are done, he can also meet the directly elected FC members in an online session. Or also talk with some people, and already a bit by text. But you know that there's also a possibility for Section to meet him. There will be the capacity building training at some point also before November. That's a good way to get to know members in the flesh before we get to Congress. So also get to know people a bit. That would be the idea to focus on the transition plan for the first two weeks to get the most out of it. Have also the board meeting online. We will also meet individually as board members with him, to explain a bit how we work, what our portfolios are, and then I will have specific meetings with him to decide and to discuss how we work together. Hear from him about his plans etc. So it should all go smoothly, I hope. And I'm sure everyone here is very happy to work towards making that a very smooth and enjoyable ride.

Brigita Krasniqi, Secretary-General, JEF Europe

Thank you, Christelle, I think you explained it quite well. I will just add that I made a handover plan based on what I thought that I would have also wanted to know when I started. So I made a handover plan based on, what are the things that one should like to know 100% but also some things that I personally thought that I did not get fully answers in the beginning. So it's kind of also based on my experience as well. But then I also left room in the end for him to also during the handover session, to make a list of questions of something that he thinks that he did not get answers, or something that he thinks that I did not speak enough in the handover. So then we also have a couple of days for him to just ask me questions on topics that we did not cover, in his opinion, enough in the handover. And also the handover was structured together with the board. So I made a draft together, and I wrote what I think it's important, and then also the board wrote what they think it's important. And then I also discussed with Secretariat members what they think it's important. And I also cooperated with the handovers of previous Secretariat members, part of this handover so that Christos can also read other people's handovers, so that he can also try to understand, what do other people work in here? And then, as mentioned, I'm leaving. So the handover session period is going to be two weeks. But we also discussed with Christelle that, since I also have some recoup days, I won't be officially leaving on the 15th so I will be still on the payroll for a couple of days, which means that I'm reachable and I will be able to help if something is needed, etc. And of



course, even when I leave, I'm not going to disappear, I'm going to be here. You can always message me. You can always call me. I did that to the previous members of the Secretariat, and I really hope that you also reach out to me whenever you need something. I'm in Brussels, so I can come to the office and help so I will be here and help him if needed. I also had people supporting me when I needed some help. For example, here the previous finance officer came to help me in January with some taxes, etc. So I'm happy to give back the good karma as well for this team.

4. Secret vote

Online voting takes place

Announcement of votes (30/31) by the Presidium:

23 yes

4 Abstain

3 No

Christos comes back

Gergana Blazheva, FC Presidium

Christos, we would like to inform you that you have been voted in as and ratified as our new Secretary General. So congratulations. We would like to really, really welcome you, make you feel that you belong here, and experience JEF through your own self, you will meet great individuals. You will have great opportunities and challenges, and hopefully you do have the resilience to go through them, but you're in a Federalist organisation, so I would assume you know that it is not easy, but it is worth the fight, so congratulations.

Christos Papagiannis, Secretary-General, JEF Europe

Thank you very much. I want to thank everyone that voted and of course the Federal committee and everyone that put their trust in me for this role, and I'm sure that we are going to do some great work together. I will do my best to fit your expectations and help the organisation continue doing the excellent work that it has been doing all those decades, and also grow as much as possible. Thank you once again.

19:15

5. AOB

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6. Current SG goodbye



Jana Gleim, FC Presidium

Of course, we also want to thank Brigitta again, also officially. So thank you really for your one and a half years of hard work, of working together with the sections of the EB, with the FC as well. So thank you very much. Yeah, so we know you, of course, you have your reasons as well for leaving. So we're wishing you all the best from the whole of JEF Europe for your future as well. And we of course hope that you always stay part of JEF, and have the JEF spirit with you. So thank you very much for all your work. I cannot do reactions while I'm sharing. But yeah, I don't know if anybody wants to say something.

Christelle Savall, President, JEF Europe

I was thinking maybe after her speech, but we can do it before. So she has the last word. I mean, it's not easy, but it's time to say goodbye to you officially and thank you on behalf of the board and the whole network. We thank you for your dedication, your commitment to JEF, to federalism, and all the work we've done together in those months, and the work you did in front of everyone, but mostly all the hard work done behind the scenes. Good mood, good laugh, great travels together, the JEF spirit you brought to the function or meetings, also lots of memes and I have to say, quite some Balkan spirit. And the day of your interview, it was raining, it was a bit everything was a bit chaotic, but we were extremely happy to have you on board in our team for a little more than a year, and when we had some difficult weather sometimes to get there, we also had rays of sun, and I was very happy to see operating grant framework rainbow last week. It cut short our time, and we would have liked to spend a bit more time, but we respect your decision, and we thank you for making it with transparency care and also for your generous offer to support a smooth transition. It shows your dedication, and we're grateful for it. So thank you for all your work, as you move to the next part of your life. We wish you the best for your academic career beyond and as I said, when we discuss this for the first time, you always have a home in JEF.

Brigita Krasniqi, Secretary-General, JEF Europe

Thank you, Christelle, and thank you very much to everyone else as well. For your kind words, I will want to keep this short because I also don't want to take too much time from Christos' shining light for today. But first of all, Christos, congratulations, and I'm sure that you are going to do great and you're going to be a great SG for JEF Europe. And I'm looking forward to working with you together during the handover period, and I will be here for your support also after the handover period. You know, always message me and ask for help. I'm



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happy to be here. It's been a pleasure being the SG of JEF Europe now for over a year, in this one year and three months, a lot has happened. A lot of the things that I did not see coming at all happened, and a lot of the fears and doubts that I did have in the beginning did not happen, or even if they did, we or I survived them. So this has been a very big lesson for me to be able to trust the process, as Gen Z says. So I am really happy that I learned and grew as a human to be able to trust that life will carry on, and there's always the next day that you can look forward to as I came outside of the organisation. Of course, I was not fully understanding of the organisational culture and tradition and history, but I became part of the organisation quite fast, and I felt like I was taking part of this organisation in its cultures and traditions quite quickly. And actually, I sometimes even forget that, yeah, I was not in JEF before this and I was not part of JEF before this position, because that's how calm you made me feel in JEF. I want to thank you for trusting me of being part of this organisation, its ideology, history, traditions, everything. And it has been an honor for me to know to be part of this and to know that I've left my mark in this organisation as well. And I know for sure that our paths will cross again in the future as well, especially since the world of youth organisations and politics is, at the end of the day, quite small. When I started working at JEF, which was last year, in June, and I'm really touched by the picture that you chose. It's really sweet of you. Thank you. I had certain goals when I started. I wanted to achieve those goals, and even though I'm leaving in the midst of the mandate, I truly feel that I was able to achieve a lot of those goals. And I'm really thankful that this was a place where I got to work on those goals. I'm really proud of the work that we have done with different bodies in JEF, with the Secretariat, with the board, with the FC, with task forces, with the National sections and with our network as well. And the topics that we worked on created a clear structure for financial monitoring, together with the treasurer and previous and current finance officer, making a profitable year for JEF after many negative years. That was something that I was really proud and thankful for. For the whole work of the previous finance officer and treasurer, they were smart enough to make sustainable choices in the financial topics of JEF. And of course, the previous Secretary General, who did as well I want to thank her for this as well. We also created a stable Secretariat for JEF with more open and fair working conditions and work environment, of course, as we are a youth organisation, people always come and leave, as I am right now, but I'm also happy that we managed to create a new Secretariat from scratch together with the board. So thank you so much for that. And of course, on a more project and political level, we achieved a lot together. I'm proud that we got the European Youth



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Foundation (EYF) study session that will fund the capacity building seminar for next year. That's super amazing. And EYF was super happy that we applied for it. So it shows that even though we are applying, funders also want us to apply for things, because we are a legitimate youth organisation that does a lot of important work. And of course, I'm super happy about my baby, which is the work plan, because it's on the topic that was very personal and important to me, climate change. And actually, I think that I have mentioned this quite a lot, but I managed to put something super personal in the work plan, which is that one of the activities will be in the city where my father went to army back then in Yugoslavia, Zadar, now Croatia, Zadar. So this is the work plan that is my baby, and I'm super happy that we got it, and I'm super happy that you will be working on this next year. And during my mandate in JEF, we worked a lot on projects, and only just during this spring, we applied for more than 10 projects, which is quite a big amount, and it's amazing. And I will not be here when you get most of the answers, but we already now got some positive answers, and I'm hopeful that you will get more positive answers by the end of the year or in the beginning of next year, and then I will be watching from further away the projects and the work flourishing in JEF, and knowing that I had the privilege and opportunity to contribute to it and to co create together with amazing people in JEF. And the latest amazing news is our operating grant for Erasmus Plus this was something that we the board and the Secretariat put a lot effort into, and it showed in the evaluation we got a lot of good feedback in the evaluation form, we got high points in almost all of the parts of the application, and it showed that it was appreciated by the evaluators. I'm happy, and I'm also relieved that we have managed to secure this operating grant for JEF, because it will help in the next years, especially after losing their CERV operating grants, which will end this year. During this one year and approximately three months, the Secretariat and the board has worked a lot to secure funding for future years. I'm really happy that the results are now showing, and they will most likely, hopefully show in the coming months. And I'm happy that we managed to do this through many crises and create sustainability through crises that sometimes were not they're just coming out of nowhere. For example, the theft that we had during this summer at the office. This is something that came out of nowhere, and we just had to kind of say that, okay, now we're going to deal with this crisis, and then let's see after that. So I'm really happy that we managed to diversify our financial structure and to create new amazing things for JEF in the midst of the political crisis in the world, political crisis in Europe, and a lot of things happening in our sector as well. In July, we had the training in Poland with our work plan. And it was my

last and final big educational event in JEF that I was organising. Xesc was there as well with me, and it was such an amazing experience, because I was reminded that when you are running an office in Brussels, it's super easy to fall into this toxic Brussel hustle culture that maybe makes you forget a bit the most meaningful and important topics of your work. This training was something that truly healed a lot in me. It healed my inner child. It healed a lot of traumas, because it was super wholesome in many ways. For example, the people, all of them became friends. Now we have a meme chat and a whatsapp chat from that training and the participants have been getting to know each other outside of the training. Some of them met in Paris, Italy, etc. So it really showed me what is important, the human connections, the meaningful learning experiences, the ability to connect with another human being, to say that, okay, we share this ideology together. What do we want to work for? What do we want to do together? And this was such an amazing experience to have as my final big educational event, because it truly reminded me of what is important in youth organisations. For me, it has been super important to stay true to myself and to stay humane during my mandate. A big lesson that I learned from this year is that if we want to be a movement that advocates for peace, we need to be able to start it within ourselves, how we speak to each other, how we treat each other, how we give each other the benefit of the doubt. All of these are important and something that creates meaningful human connections and creates a space where you can pursue that ideology, where you can fight for federalism, it's, I think it's sometimes easier to believe and expect the worst, then first to stop for a second and to try to see the other person as who they are, a human that maybe sometimes makes mistakes. Maybe it's not having the best day of their lives, then maybe you can give them the benefit of the doubt. This is something that I learned a lot in this position and its role, and I hope that this is something that we can also carry in the future, within our own daily lives. Additionally, this experience has taught me that it is okay to make mistakes and to learn from them. And something that I will take with me from here is that when mistakes happen, there are people there who will take care of you, who will say that, okay, this happened. They committed to breathe. And then let's see what happens next. There are people who will carry you through these mistakes. There are people who will carry you with love. There are people who will carry you without judgment. And this is something that I hope that I managed to bring to other people in JEF, and I'm really thankful that this was something that I was given in JEF, and it's something that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I'm sorry. I promised myself I'm not gonna cry, but here I am. I am thankful for all the beautiful



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connections that I have made and created during my time here. I'm leaving this position with many meaningful new friendships, experiences and a lot of new things. Learned a lot of new love towards the manifesto of ventotene. And I'm also living here proudly, knowing that I worked tirelessly for the cause of federalism and peace, and knowing that I left some work on this organisation and the beautiful ideology of federalism. Now I will finish. I want to thank you all the national sections and all of our members for giving me the trust to be the secretary general of this organisation. It has been a pleasure working with you, even though most of you I have met only in our FC or some of our biggest events, but I truly always felt your presence, and you have no idea how much even a small message of "hey, you're doing great" means. So really, thank you very much for all of your support as well, and also thank you very much for the honest, hard discussions that we have had. It's been something that I will also carry with myself for the rest of my life, to be able to also have hard conversations and to agree to disagree as well. Also massive thank you to the FC, especially to the Presidium. Since we started working, we immediately, in my opinion, clicked quite well, and it's been a pleasure to get to know you as well. And I always felt that I had the support of the FC and the Presidium in my work, and it was something that was very valuable to me as well. Then I want to thank the previous Secretariat members who were working here when I started. Thank you for supporting me when I started with the handover and everything. And thank you for giving me an amazing first few months, in JEF. And I especially want to thank the previous Secretary General, who helped me a lot with the handover, and who has become a great friend of mine as well in the past year. And then I also want to thank Pierre, the previous finance officer who is now in the auditors committee. So I want to thank you a lot for your constant support, for your ability to first of all, answer very complex questions about Belgian HR and admin and taxation systems and laws, and also for your ability to be empathetic and always be very humane. I'm really thankful that you're still part of the organisation, even though in a different role. And I also want to thank the current Secretariat. I want to thank you for the work that we have done together. It's been truly a pleasure, and it's been amazing to be part of this team and to be a manager in a team that is honestly one of the best reasons to come to work. We always have so much fun here, even when we are working with very hard topics, or even when we are struggling with some of the issues that we've had, we still maintain respect and love and joy towards each other, and that's something that really shows in our work. And I wish you all the best, and I'm not leaving yet, but even when I do leave, I'm still here, so you can still reach out to me, and I won't be disappearing and special. Thanks also to



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people who are started just yesterday, I understand that it's not maybe the best situation to start since now you're also going to be having a new Secretary General, but as I mentioned, there's couple of weeks where I'm still here, so I hope that we will manage to also include you in the handover period, so you can also take this as an opportunity to learn as well, while having the change in the secretariat. Then at least, but not last. I want to thank the board. Christelle, Xesc, Aléxandros, Nikos, Kati, Alexiane, Reinis, Martin, Hanna, am I forgetting someone? I hope not. The whole board, I want to thank it's been a pleasure. You took me part of this organisation, and board super fast, and I always felt like a part of a family, and I always felt welcomed, and I always felt that there was space for disagreements, for hard conversation, there was space for respect, there was space for working together towards a common goal. And I'm really happy and thankful that you also accepted my wish to leave and to pursue the next chapters in my life. And that's something that I appreciate, because there are many ways of leaving, but I hope that this way is something that we can also remember as a good way of leaving an organisation and something that we can create for future people that okay, this is how you do a handover, and this is how you get new people started at JEF. And especially, I want to thank Aléxandros, the Treasurer, for working with me on many topics, such as the finances. It's been a pleasure also, because you're super fun to work with, so it's something that I really enjoy. I want to thank Xesc, who has become a super close friend of mine, a super good friend, for your constant, unconditional support. You are truly a really good friend. You're truly someone that you can count on, and it's been a pleasure working with you, and I wish the best for you, and I hope that you don't disappear from my life, even though we're not going to be working together daily. And then lastly, I want to thank you, Christelle, my partner in crime. I remember the first day that we met, which was my interview. It was a very chaotic day, as you mentioned, because it was raining and I could not find the right door and everything. But I remember something that you told me in the elevator when I was panicking from being super wet from the rain that it's okay, breathe, it's okay, just take a moment to breathe. This is a youth organisation, we're all chaotic, so it's fine. I think that this was something that truly shows a lot of character from you. We're always ready to see the good in people. You're always ready to respond with kindness, even if it's not responded back. And that's something that is a really beautiful trait in a human being, and I hope that you can keep this even if times are hard and even if you feel like it could not be an easy choice. I really admire your work ethic. I admire your political values. I admire that you're always ready to change your opinion and your mind, and that it's also super easy to disagree with you, because you

never put others down, and you're always ready to hear someone else's opinion. And of course, thank you for all of your support and everything that we have been doing together. It's going to be super weird not having our calls on Mondays. So I think it's going to take a while for me to kind of get used to not hearing your voice or seeing your face each Monday especially. But I truly wish the best for you and I, I'm really thankful that we shared this chapter together. So thank you to everyone, and yeah, I'll see you even for a few weeks now.

7. Closing

Moritz Hergl, National Delegate, JEF Germany

Not to bring down the mood, but I would like to get an update on the robbery in the office, the damage and the insurance.

Brigita Krasniqi, Secretary-General, JEF Europe

We have made a list of all of what was stolen, together with the other tenants to give to the police and to our insurance. As there is an embassy in our building they are taking it seriously. The insurance company will have to review the list and will request more paperwork, which the Secretariat will work on. We are also in contact with the landlords for the other steps (new lock etc).

Presidium thanks everyone and closes the meeting

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