

EB skype Minutes

March 1, 2020, 7pm CET

Present: Leonie Martin, Emma Farrugia, Diletta Alese, Moritz Schleicher, Hanna Kivimäki, Andreas Hostgaard Poulsen, Chris Powers (Minutes), Sebastiano Putoto, Milosh Ristovski

1. Adoption of minutes of February 17, 2020

- Minutes adopted

2. Preparing the Federal Committee (FC) ([draft agenda](#))

- Leonie ran through main points on the agenda, both usual business, e.g. EB report, and items specific to this meeting, e.g. voting on Milosh's reappointment as Secretary General, reformation of Monitoring Committee.
 - a. Preparing reports (**these are due 3 weeks in advance, statutory deadline Friday 13 March, internal EB deadline Monday 9 March**)
 - Full-time President report (Leonie)
 - Treasurer Report (Chris)
 - Advocacy update (Sebastiano, supported by Diletta, with support from Alejandra (Policy Officer, Secretariat)).
 - Action Plan (Emma, Andreas)
 - Projects - part of the Secretariat update (Moritz)
 - Leonie to let Milosh & Michał know that Moritz is their point person.
 - b. pre-FC -webinars
 - **Nota bene:** the webinars are recorded so people can also listen to them on their way to the FC.
 - Milosh explained briefly how these work: a member of the EB present, along with the SG, and members of the Presidium. It is essentially a beginners' guide to the FC, and tends to take place on a Wednesday at 7pm CET. Milosh prepares content with the Presidium.
 - Question raised of how much Political Commission (PC) Chairs should be involved in the pre-FC preparation. To do so could boost engagement and awareness of the different proposed topics for resolutions, but risks entering into political debate rather than logistical information. EB agreed to try and make a change as a pilot.
 - Approach: Hanna & Milosh to prepare guidelines for the call, send to Leonie, and she will liaise with the Presidium to organise and run, and get engagement from the PC Chairs.
 - It was agreed that the Action Plan 2019-21 does not need a webinar discussion of its own but agreed it ought to be mentioned in the pre-FC webinar so people are aware it exists.
 - There will be two preparatory calls: (1) FC for Beginners (25 March, 7pm CET), (2) Resolutions coming to Hamburg (1 April, 7pm CET).
- Last EB call pre-Hamburg will cover allocation of PC and Task Force (TF) work, along with preparation to help facilitate the smooth running of the FC meeting.

- TFs requiring a room will make that request in advance so only the meetings that need to happen, will happen.

3. Democracy under Pressure

- Infokit has now been sent, including background material. It will run 16-22 March! Thanks recorded to Diletta, Hanna, Karoliina, and Leonie for their work preparing this. There is also a [Facebook Group](#).
 - a. Closing article TNF
 - TNF has issued a call for content on this theme, and will also be recycling some of their more useful content from the past.
 - TNF has asked for an EB member to write a piece to conclude the week's content. It was agreed this should be more explicitly Federalist and the Rule of Law hobbyists in the EB will discuss post-call.

4. May 9 action

- Last call it was agreed to convert the document into a one-pager. Information to be disseminated first week of April, which means a first draft ought to be ready internal to the EB by mid-March, which then gives time to secure buy-in from UEF at its open board meeting on 21 March.
- In the meantime, we can continue to pile on social media pressure about the lack of progress in preparing the Conference, and person to person in *the bubble* (e.g. Leonie is raising it in meetings where she can).

5. Chinese Wall & MFF

- Sebastiano informs the EB that, due to a professional change, he wishes to install a "Chinese wall" between himself and all MFF-related work by JEF. This means, in practice, that he will not contribute to policy positions, discussions, or other matters. He will leave the room/Skype when the topic of the MFF arises and this will be reflected in the minutes.

6. Potential Schengen Press Release

- There are essentially two problems: (1) Member States can too easily impose border checks and controls which is against the spirit of Schengen; (2) countries trying to prove their readiness to be part of Schengen, e.g. Croatia, are taking a brutal approach to external border protection which raises tough human rights questions. Speak against this. JEF should perhaps address both in a Press Release.
- Agreement to monitor for now, comment/post/pressure on social media, and be ready to pounce if there are any big disruptions in the near future. Leonie will set up a Don't Touch my Schengen channel in EB-Slack to collect relevant info/alerts.

7. AOB

- Future minutes: next meeting (Andreas), meeting after (Moritz).
- Chris: please all remind your sections to submit membership statements! Deadline is March 31. If sections experience difficulties they can contact Chris.
- Hanna: Portfolio presentations to be checked. All EB members have been sent these individually, approved by 6pm CET on Monday 2 March.
- Leonie: Going to Budapest for the first proper meeting of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe (AC for short). Hungary has a JEF section on paper, and a small but growing UEF section. Leonie is going to try and organise a small

discussion there at the end of this month, and hopefully revitalise the section. If anyone knows anyone in Budapest, send their names to Leonie.

- Moritz: attending a conference on digitalisation with members of JEF Germany's task force on Europe@School: <https://digi-konferenz.de/> (5 to 7 march)

Next EB skype: 11 March