



YOUNG  
EUROPEAN  
FEDERALISTS

## STATUTES

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EUROPEAN  
FEDERALISTS

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# I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

## Article 1: Name of the Association

- a. The international non-profit youth association, regulated by the provisions of the “Code des Sociétés et des Associations” under the Belgian law of 23 March 2019 is called "Jeunes Européens Fédéralistes" in French, “Young European Federalists” in English and its literal translation into other languages
- b. It is abbreviated to the short name JEF while the common name JEF Europe may also be used.

## Article 2: Registered Office of the Association

- a. The office of the association is registered in the Brussels-Capital Region (Région de Bruxelles-Capitale) under the following address: Aarlenstraat/Rue d’Arlon 53, 1040 Brussel/Bruxelles, BELGIUM.
- b. It can be transferred to any other location in the Brussels-Capital Region by a simple decision of the Executive Board, to be published in the “Belgisch Staatsblad/Moniteur Belge”.

## Article 3: Objectives of the Association

- a. The goal of JEF is the creation of a democratic European federation. JEF will promote true European citizenship, work for the widening and deepening of the EU and strive for a more just and integrated society on the European continent. These are crucial ingredients for peace and a first step towards a world federation.
- b. The ideals and aims of JEF are defined by the Manifesto of Ventotene, the Political Platform and JEF policies approved by the European Congress or the Federal Committee.
- c. JEF is independent from all political parties and ideologies and pursues its objectives autonomously.

## Article 4: Means to Realise the Objectives

- a. To achieve its goal and pursue its ideals and aims, JEF may have recourse to all appropriate means.
- b. These means include in particular:
  - i. the coordination of its local, regional, national and European bodies and the inclusion of its members in the work of the association;
  - ii. the development of the contacts and exchanges between European youth;
  - iii. the organisation of campaigns, projects, study-seminars, trainings using especially non-formal education methods;
  - iv. the issuing of press releases and the publication of magazines, on-line or in paper version, in order to voice the opinion of the European youth;
  - v. the organisation of meetings, activities and street actions to raise awareness of political and European affairs among the general public;
  - vi. The advocacy of its objectives towards both public and private organisations in particular in relation to the European institutions and politicians in the European states.

## Article 5: Affiliations

- a. JEF is the youth movement of the Union of European Federalists (Unie van Europese Federalisten, registered in Den Haag, Netherlands) - UEF. Relations between JEF and UEF are governed by an agreement ratified by the statutory bodies of the two associations.
- b. Relations between JEF and UEF or the European Movement International (Mouvement Européen, number: 0408310216, registered in Ixelles, Belgium) - EMI are governed by an agreement ratified by the statutory bodies of the aforementioned associations.

## Article 6: Structure of JEF

- a. JEF's statutory bodies are: the European Congress, the Federal Committee, the Executive Board, the Arbitration Board and the Auditors Committee. Their composition, powers and functioning are established by the present Statutes.

b. In addition, the European Congress may set out general Rules of Procedure for JEF, and each statutory body may draw up its own internal Rules of Procedure under simple majority.

## II. MEMBERS

### Article 7: Criteria of Membership

a. Members of JEF are physical persons who join the association through a section. A JEF section is a chapter of JEF, organised at local, regional or national level. Members of a candidate section or individuals in an area where no candidate section or officially recognised JEF section is present may join by yearly sending their membership fee to the Treasurer of JEF.

b. All persons who accept the Statutes and objectives of JEF can become members of a JEF section.

### Article 8: Membership Age

JEF members lose their active and passive voting right in all JEF bodies at the age of 35. Further regulations fall under the respective internal regulations of the member's national sections.

### Article 9: Membership Fees

The membership fees of a JEF national section are collected by the Sections according to their respective internal regulations. For all paying members, Sections transfer an annual membership fee to JEF Europe. The annual membership fee to be transferred for each individual member to JEF is decided by the European Congress.

### Article 10: Cessation of Membership

a. Individual members leave the association by resignation, by death, by non-payment of the membership fee or by expulsion. Members who cease to take part in the association have no right to use the association's name or assets.

b. An individual member can resign from the organisation by voluntary suspension of membership. The member will have to notify their section according to the statutes of the respective section or the Secretary General of JEF Europe by registered letter where the membership is direct.

c. Expulsion of members:

- i. A member can be expelled from JEF only for non-observance of the Statutes or Code of Conduct or the objectives of the association or for non-payment of membership fees for three consecutive years. For these reasons, a member of JEF can be excluded by decision of the Federal Committee requiring a majority of two thirds on the proposal of the Executive Board and after a favourable opinion from the Arbitration Board.
- ii. Any decision of expulsion must be preceded by a notice announced by email or letter, from the Executive Board to the member concerned, at least three months in advance. Before a decision is taken, the member concerned will be able to ask for a hearing before the Federal Committee and the Arbitration Board to present their defence.

## III. Sections

### Article 11: Criteria of membership

a. A group of individual members of JEF may organise themselves into local, regional and national Sections in accordance with the present Statutes of JEF, especially article 3 of the Statutes.

b. Membership of JEF is open to Sections in countries eligible for membership of the Council of Europe.

c. Sections of JEF must comply with the following criteria:

- i. There does not already exist a functioning JEF group in the same area.

- ii. They accept the Statutes and objectives of JEF and are willing to contribute to the realisation of its ideals and aims.
  - iii. They pay the European membership fee for their members.
  - iv. They show an active commitment in the organisation for at least one year.
  - v. They adhere to high standards of democracy in their internal working.
  - vi. Their membership is open to all young people who accept the Statutes and objectives of JEF.
- d. National Sections must return an annual membership statement for each year by the end of March of the following year to the Secretariat. This statement must include a declaration on the number of members signed by the legal representative of the section, who is committed to submit supporting documents upon request by any FC member, such as an updated version of the Statutes or the minutes of the last meeting of the highest statutory body (e.g. National Congress or General Assembly).
- e. National Sections must also transfer the relevant membership fee by the same deadline as the annual membership statement. The Federal Committee can elaborate policy on dealing with Sections who fail to fulfil these requirements on time.

## Article 12: Candidate Sections

- a. A national contact group may be accepted as a candidate section by the Federal Committee and may be accepted as a Section by the European Congress after at least one year as a candidate section.
- b. Sections applying to the Federal Committee to become a candidate section, and candidate Sections applying to the European Congress to become a full section, shall provide the following to the Federal Committee/European Congress:
- i. Their Statutes or constitutive documents;
  - ii. A list of current Board members;
  - iii. A membership list;
  - iv. A list of recent activities;
  - v. Relevant working documents, policies or publicity.
- c. In case of failure to become a section, the following rules shall apply:
- i. A candidate section whose application for full membership is rejected, may reapply for full membership at the first or second subsequent Federal Committee. If the second application should be rejected or no second application is made, the section's status as a candidate section shall lapse automatically.
  - ii. If a candidate section does not apply for full membership within the second European Congress at which it could be accepted, the section's status as a candidate section shall lapse automatically.

## Article 13: Cessation of Membership for Sections

- a. Sections can cease to be part of JEF through resignation, cessation of their status as organisations recognised by law, non-payment of membership fees, or expulsion. Sections that cease to be part of the association have no rights over the association, including but not limited to the use of its name and logo.
- b. A section may decide voluntarily to leave the association by resignation. The section shall notify the European Congress of its decision, by recorded delivery to the Secretariat, at least one year before the next meeting of the European Congress.
- c. Expulsion of Sections:
- i. National Sections or candidate Sections of JEF can only be expelled for reasons of their non-adherence to the present Statutes and to the objectives of the association, or of non-payment of membership fees or non-submission of a member section report for at least two consecutive years. The Federal Committee of JEF shall have the power to investigate a monitoring process on Sections, the rules of which are stipulated in the Rules of Procedure. Subject to this provision, Sections of JEF could be excluded by a decision initiated and taken by the Federal Committee after a favourable opinion from the Arbitration Board.
  - ii. All decisions on exclusion must be preceded by a notice, sent by recorded delivery at least six months in advance from the Federal Committee to the section concerned. Before it will be enacted, the section concerned can ask for a hearing before the Federal Committee and the Arbitration Board to present their defence.

- iii. The European Congress may recognise, by a qualified majority and on the recommendation of the Federal Committee that a section has ceased to exist.

## IV. THE EUROPEAN CONGRESS (GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

### Article 14: Composition

a. The European Congress (General Assembly) is the highest decision-making body composed of 100 delegates, representing the members of the association.

b. The proportional distribution of delegates is made on the basis of the registered members of each national section for the two years preceding the year of the European Congress, whose corresponding fees were paid before the 1st of June preceding the Congress. Each national section shall receive at least two delegates unless its membership is lower than 50. In this case, it shall receive one delegate.

c. The delegates to the European Congress from the national Sections are elected democratically by them, ensuring fair and proportional representation of their members.

d. No national section can receive more than one fourth of all delegates.

### Article 15: Powers of the European Congress

a. The European Congress is the highest decision-making body of JEF and has full powers to accomplish the objectives of the association.

b. Its powers include in particular:

- i. The election for a mandate of two years of: the President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, the four members of the Executive Board, the direct members of the Federal Committee, the Arbitration Board, and the Auditors Committee;
- ii. The determination of the general political orientation of JEF, by definition of the ideals and aims of the organisation via the Political Platform and JEF Policies;
- iii. The approval of the annual accounts and annual budget;
- iv. The approval of the administration of the outgoing Executive Board and Federal Committee and their discharge;
- v. The modification of the Statutes;
- vi. The dissolution of the association;
- vii. The decision on the amount of the member subscription to be transferred to JEF;
- viii. The appointment of honorary members of JEF.

### Article 16: Calling of meetings

a. The European Congress meets at least once every year in person or online by convening of the Executive Board communicated by e-mail and by publication on the website of the organisation. Notice of the European Congress is to be given to the Sections of JEF at least eight weeks in advance, communicated by e-mail and by publication on the website of the organisation.

b. An extraordinary European Congress may be called at the request of, at least, one third of the members of the Federal Committee or one third of the Presidents or acting Presidents of the national Sections.

### Article 17: Proxies

a. A delegate elected but unable to take part in the European Congress may give to another delegate a written permission to use their vote (a proxy vote). A delegate receiving a proxy vote may transfer it to another delegate, unless explicitly forbidden by the person giving of the proxy.

b. Each delegate may only be allowed one proxy vote, except with a previous agreement of the Federal Committee. This decision of the Federal Committee must be considered and passed by a qualified majority at the outgoing Federal Committee meeting.

### Article 18: Quorum

At least half of the total number of delegates must be present or represented for the European Congress to act validly.

## **Article 19: Voting**

a. Decisions of the European Congress concerning the amount of the individual membership fee, modification of the Statutes, dissolution of the association and modification of the Political Platform have to be approved by the statutory majority of delegates as set out in Article 19 of the present Statutes and by a majority of all national Sections present and voting. Details of such proposals must be included on the agenda of the European Congress and sent out at least six weeks before the European Congress.

b. The decisions of the European Congress must be stored in a register held at the registered office of JEF Europe.

c. Decisions of the European Congress will be made available to members by publication on the website of JEF Europe and will be sent by e-mail, through the intermediary of the national Sections if necessary.

## **Article 19bis: Remote procedure**

In accordance with the provisions, conditions and obligations foreseen in Article 10:7/1 of the Belgian Code des Sociétés et des Associations, the members can participate remotely in the European Congress, through electronic means of communication.

## **Article 20: Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the European Congress**

### **a. Introduction**

i) The calling notice of the European Congress, together with a draft agenda, shall be sent by the Executive Board of JEF at least six weeks in advance to all national and regional sections. The draft agenda shall include notably: a report of the Secretariat on the activities carried by the organisation; discussion on the activity reports submitted at every FC by all Executive Board and Federal Committee mandate holders; finances; elections; proposed amendments to the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure; items proposed for inclusion by a previous European Congress; proposals to exclude a member of JEF; application of candidate sections for membership.

ii) Any section or delegate may request the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda. Such request must reach the Secretariat at least 15 days in advance of the opening of the European Congress.

### **b. Number of delegates**

i) The Secretary General shall inform the Federal Committee about the allocation of delegates to each section at least four months before the date of the European Congress. The proportional distribution of delegates is made on the basis of the registered members of each national section for the two years preceding the year of the European Congress, whose relevant membership fees were paid until the 1st of June preceding the meeting of the European Congress. Each national section shall receive at least two delegates unless its membership is lower than 50. In this case, it shall receive one delegate.

ii) Sections that fail to pay the membership dues to JEF for both years preceding the European Congress are not entitled to any delegate.

iii) Sections that fail to pay their dues of either year or to submit the declaration of membership as described in article 12 of the statutes shall only be entitled to one delegate without voting rights who will not be reimbursed for his/her travel expenses, regardless of the level of any membership fees that have been paid.

iv) Any organisation that applies to become a national section of JEF between European Congresses, has fulfilled its financial obligations towards JEF for the coming European Congress and has been provisionally accepted by the Federal Committee as candidate section, will be entitled to one delegate if the application is confirmed by the European Congress as a full member section.

v) The distribution of the delegates per section shall take place according to the corrected Sainte-Laguë system as detailed in the annex to the Rules of Procedure. For this purpose, the average membership of each section, as previously defined, shall be divided by the integer odd numbers and the result of each division will be placed in the decreasing order till the number of 100 delegates is exhausted. Delegates of sections recognised as full members during the Congress are provisionally added to the total number of delegates for the duration of the meeting of the European Congress.

### **c. Credentials Committee**

The Credential's Committee shall consist of three members appointed by the Federal Committee, the Auditors Committee and the Arbitration Board respectively. The Committee shall verify that the distribution of the delegates has been done in conformity with the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of JEF and if the delegates were elected in fulfilment of the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of JEF. For this purpose, it will have the right to modify the decisions of the Arbitration Board on the abovementioned field. The Committee shall report to the European Congress.

### **d. Opening of the European Congress**

i) The President of JEF shall take the Chair at the beginning of the European Congress and announce the number of delegates present and entitled to vote, as well as the number of the proxy votes, based on the decisions of the Credential's Committee.

ii) The European Congress shall then elect four members of JEF who shall not be candidates for any other office subject to election at the European Congress to count the votes during the European Congress.

iii) The European Congress then nominates five persons who are not candidates for any other office subject to election, proposed by the outgoing Federal Committee, to chair the European Congress sittings. These persons shall constitute the European Congress Presidium. The Presidium shall be solely responsible for the functioning of the European Congress. It shall decide by simple majority on all matters arising during the European Congress.

iv) The European Congress may then nominate a maximum of five persons, proposed by the outgoing Federal Committee to take part in the Resolutions' Committee. The task of this Committee will be to prepare, discuss and modify, if need be, all the resolutions proposed to the European Congress as well as to submit the final version of the newly approved Statutes and Sections I and II of the Rules of Procedure.

v) The European Congress shall then adopt by simple majority its agenda and timetable upon the proposal of the outgoing Executive Board. Any subsequent change of agenda or the timetable will require a majority of two thirds of the votes cast in favour of the change.

### **e. Elections**

i) The elections must be conducted by a Returning Officer, who shall not be a candidate, be nominated by the Executive Board and ratified by the European Congress.

ii) If any delegate objects to a decision of the Returning Officer, s/he may appeal to the Presidium of the European Congress.

iii) The European Congress shall then proceed successively to the elections of: the President; two Vice-Presidents; the Treasurer; the four members of the Executive Board; the members of the Federal Committee to be directly elected by the European Congress; five members of the Arbitration Board; and two or three members of the Auditors Committee.

### **f. Quotas**

i) At least 40% of the directly elected members of the Federal Committee shall be of the least represented gender, the point of reference being the number of positions to be filled.

- ii) The same applies to the members of the Executive Board except for the Secretary General.
- iii) The European Congress shall aim to elect at least one of the three positions of President and the two Vice-Presidents of the other relevant gender.
- iv) There shall always be a common list for elections.
- v) Sections should aim for their delegations to the European Congress to be gender balanced.

## V. THE FEDERAL COMMITTEE

### Article 21: Composition

- a. The Federal Committee is composed of:
  - i. The representative of each national section designated according to each section rules.
  - ii. A maximum number of members (physical persons) directly elected by the European Congress calculated inversely proportional to the number of national Sections as follows:
    - up to 22 or less Sections = 19 direct members
    - 23 Sections = 18 direct members
    - 24 Sections = 17 direct members
    - 25 or more Sections = 16 direct members
  - iii. The President, two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, four members of the Executive Board, and non-voting members as follows:
    - (a) co-opted members;
    - (b) the Secretary General.
- b. The Federal Committee can elect co-opted individual members with consultative votes.
- c. Should a directly-elected member of the Federal Committee resign, they will be replaced by the non-elected candidate who obtained most votes in the election to the Federal Committee at the last European Congress.
- d. The direct members of the Federal Committee are elected for two years. Their mandate is renewable.

### Article 22: Powers

- a. The Federal Committee is entrusted with the on-going political and organisational work of the association between European Congresses. All the powers are at its disposal, except those which the present Statutes and the Belgian Code des Sociétés et des Associations of 23 March 2019 reserve specifically to the Congress as the highest decision-making body of the association.
- b. Its powers are in particular:
  - i. The election of the Presidium which consists of three persons to chair the Federal Committee and coordinate and steer its proceedings during and in-between the FC sessions. At least one of them should be elected from among the directly elected members of the Federal Committee;
  - ii. The control over the decisions and policies of the Executive Board and the administration of the Secretariat;
  - iii. The formulation of JEF Policies and priorities of the association in specific fields;
  - iv. The coordination of activities between the Sections;
  - v. The approval of the Financial Guidelines;
  - vi. The appointment of the Secretary General with a mandate of two years on recommendation of the Executive Board;
  - vii. The preparations of the meetings of the European Congress;
  - viii. The dismissal of any elected or appointed officer for serious misconduct before the end of their mandate, taken by a qualified majority vote, after a formal warning at the previous FC and a fair hearing.

### Article 23: Calling of Meetings

- a. The meetings of the Federal Committee take place at least twice a year on convening of the Executive Board and must be communicated by e-mail and by publication on the website of JEF Europe at least thirty days in advance.

b. On the request of one third of its members or half of the Presidents of the national Sections, it must be called within six weeks. Notice of the Federal Committee meetings must be given at least three weeks in advance.

### **Article 24: Proxies**

a. Representatives of the national Sections may give permission (proxy vote) to another member of the Federal Committee with full voting rights, to represent them at all times, through a written notification to the Secretary General.

b. Members elected by the European Congress may give permission (proxy vote) to another member elected by the European Congress with full voting rights to represent them at all times, through a written notification to the Secretary General.

c. Each member with full voting rights can be allowed only one proxy vote.

### **Article 25: Quorum**

In order to have a valid discussion in the Federal Committee meetings, at least half of its members must be present or represented.

## **VI. EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **Article 26: Composition**

a. The Executive Board is composed of the President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, four other members elected by the European Congress and the Secretary General for a mandate of 2 years.

b. Should the President of JEF resign before the end of their term, they will be replaced by the senior Vice-President, who received the highest number of votes in the vice-presidential election at the European Congress.

c. Should a Vice-President, the Treasurer or a member of the Executive Board resign or be dismissed, the Executive Board will appoint a replacement to be ratified by the next available Federal Committee meeting to serve for the remainder of the outgoing officer's term of office. Should a Vice-President become President after their resignation, the same procedure will apply.

d. The President can be elected only for two consecutive terms (two years each) and cannot be re-elected consecutively for a third term.

e. The Treasurer keeps the accounts and prepares the budget. They are accountable to the Executive Board and the Federal Committee. The Treasurer is responsible for the collection and processing of membership fees. The Treasurer is responsible for convening the Credentials Committee.

f. No member of the Executive Board shall hold an executive position at national, regional or local level of a section.

### **Article 27: Powers, Representation and Accountability**

a. The Executive Board is responsible for the overall management of the association.

b. The Executive Board is responsible for the management of the organisation and carries into effect the decisions taken by the Federal Committee. It carries out its functions subject to the control of the Federal Committee, to which it is accountable.

c. The preparation of the meetings of the Federal Committee and ensuring their follow-up;

d. The initiating and defence of legal actions are undertaken in the name of the association by the Executive Board. This could in addition include all administrative deeds or financial acts.

e. For all legal matters excepting those of simple administration, the organisation shall be validly represented towards third persons by the President or a Vice-President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer acting jointly.

f. The Executive Board is accountable towards JEF Europe, for any faults or misconduct in the performance of their duties, as stated in Article 2:56 of the Belgian Code des Sociétés et des Associations of 23 March 2019.

## **Article 28: Calling of Meetings**

The President of JEF shall convene at least four meetings of the Executive Board each year. S/he shall also convene an Executive Board meeting if requested to do so by at least one third of its voting members.

## **Article 29: Quorum**

In order to constitute a valid meeting of the Executive Board, at least half of the members with a right to vote must be present.

## **Article 30: Chair**

The meetings of the Executive Board are chaired by the President or the next most senior officer. In case of a parity of votes the President (or officer in the chair) has a casting vote. All meetings of the Executive Board are open to members of the Federal Committee, the Arbitration Board or the Auditors Committee, but they do not have the right to speak. The Executive Board may decide to close parts or all of a specific meeting.

## **Article 31: Expenses**

Members of the Executive Board who incur expenses as a result of carrying out missions entrusted to them by the Federal Committee, the European Congress or the Executive Board, shall be, partly or totally, indemnified by JEF Europe.

## **Article 32: The Secretary General**

a. The Secretary General is in charge of the European Secretariat of the association. They are in charge of the daily management of the organization under the supervision and by delegation of the Executive board. They are responsible for relations with the Sections of JEF Europe and the coordination of their activities. They are accountable to the Executive Board and the Federal Committee.

b. The Secretary General has the right to be present and to speak at all statutory meetings of the association.

c. The Secretary General may attend (without a vote) the meetings of the European Congress, of the Federal Committee and of the Executive Board.

d. If the Secretary General does not complete their term of office, the Executive Board will appoint a replacement to be ratified by the next available Federal Committee meeting to serve for the remainder of the outgoing officer's term of office.

# **VII. ARBITRATION BOARD**

## **Article 33: Composition**

The Arbitration Board has five members elected by the European Congress. They elect a chairperson from among their members. The office of member of the Arbitration Board is incompatible with any other elected or appointed office in JEF as well as with the office of member of the board of a national section or representative of a national section to the Federal Committee.

## **Article 34: Powers**

The Arbitration Board's function is to settle statutory conflicts between members, JEF Sections and statutory bodies of JEF. Any question on the interpretation of the Statutes, Rules of Procedure or Code of Conduct can also be referred, a priori, to the Arbitration Board. No dissenting opinion shall be delivered in public by any

member of the Arbitration Board. All the decisions of the Arbitration Board are final. The Arbitration Board takes its decisions by simple majority. All Arbitration Board rulings and opinions are communicated to the Federal Committee.

## VIII. AUDITORS COMMITTEE

### Article 35: Composition

The Auditors Committee is composed of at least two members and maximum three, elected by the European Congress. The office of member of the Auditors Committee is incompatible with any other elected or appointed office in JEF as well as with the office of Treasurer of a national section.

### Article 36: Powers

The Auditors Committee verifies at least once a year the accounts and finances of the association, as well as its governance, procedures, and the risks to which it might be exposed.

To this end, it can:

- Request any document from the Secretariat and/or Executive Board which are obligated to provide them.
- Interview any member of the Executive Board or Federal Committee.

It is accountable to the Federal Committee, to which it has to report at least once a year. An annual written report about the result of the audit, governance, procedures and risks should be communicated to the Federal Committee.

## IX. JEF POLICIES

### Article 37: JEF Policies

a. JEF Policy is made by its members through resolutions passed by their elected representatives at meetings of the European Congress or Federal Committee. Internal JEF Policies pertain to organisational matters while external JEF Policies determine the ideals and aims of the organisation.

b. JEF Policies are public and will be made available on-line to ensure transparency. The Secretariat will hold all JEF Policies in the JEF Policy Book.

c. The Executive Board and its Secretariat implement the JEF Policies according to their respective mandates.

d. The Executive Board is entitled to make decisions in the name of JEF on urgent matters for which a response cannot be delayed and where there is no JEF Policy or where JEF Policy is no longer appropriate in changing circumstances, and on matters which are related to the implementation of policy. The Executive Board will be held accountable for its decisions at the following Federal Committee meeting.

### Article 38: Duration of Validity

a. JEF Policies will lapse exactly two years and six months after they are adopted unless re approved by a European Congress or Federal Committee;

b. JEF Policies due to lapse as stated in (a) can be re-approved with changes in-so-far as these consist of amendments to the language of the text or updates due to political developments;

c. The Secretary General will ensure that all policies due to lapse are put before the European Congress or Federal Committee for their consideration three months before the relevant statutory meeting.<sup>59</sup>

d. Should significant developments occur which would render a JEF Policy obsolete or materially outdated and should there be a substantial political need for revision, the JEF Europe Executive Board may request a revision of the JEF Policy prior to its lapse date. This request must be communicated two months prior to the statutory meeting to the European Congress or Federal Committee and relevant Political Commission, if applicable. The re-adoption of the revised JEF Policy shall require the re-approval by a European Congress

or Federal Committee at the relevant statutory meeting. Its new lapse date shall be two years and six months from its re-adoption.

## **X. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

### **Article 39: Voting majorities**

a. Unless otherwise required by the Statutes or the law, a decision by the bodies of the association shall require a simple majority.

b. The election of the Vice-Presidents of JEF shall take place according to the Single Transferable vote system. The delegates shall give a priority preference to all candidates. All other elections shall be held according to the list system. For this purpose, the delegates shall give a non-priority preference to a number of candidates not exceeding the first integer number above the two thirds of the seats available.

### **Article 40: Minutes of meetings**

a. The decisions of the European Congress, the Federal Committee and the Executive Board are recorded in the minutes made by the Secretary General and have to be distributed to the Federal Committee within one month after the meeting.

b. All the decisions relating to the nomination, the revocation and the suspension of functions of the administrators established in accordance with Belgian law and in compliance with the Code des Sociétés et des Associations of 23 March 2019, are to be communicated to the Federal Public Justice Service (Federale Overheidsdienst Justitie/Service public fédéral Justice) and are to be published, at the expenses of the association, in the appendices of the Belgisch Staatsblad/Moniteur belge.

### **Article 41: Finances**

a. The financial year begins on the 1st of January and ends on the 31st of December of each year. The accounts and the budget are submitted yearly to the European Congress.

b. In accordance with Article 3:47 §1 of the Belgian Code des Sociétés et des Associations, the annual accounts, and the budget of the fiscal year following the fiscal year of the annual accounts, must be submitted for approval to the Congress (General Assembly) within the six months after the end of the fiscal year.

c. The annual accounts will be sent, in accordance with Article 3:47 §7 of the Belgian Code des Sociétés et des Associations, to the Banque nationale de Belgique.

### **Article 42: Removal from Office**

All elected and appointed officers, including the Secretary General, and members of the statutory bodies listed in article 6 can, after a fair hearing, be dismissed before the end of term of their mandate for serious misconduct, after a reasoned decision of the body which has appointed them, taken by an extended qualified majority vote.

### **Article 43: Modification of the Statutes**

a. The Statutes can only be modified by the European Congress by a decision to be taken with an extended qualified majority of the present or represented delegates. All proposed amendments to the Statutes must be communicated at the last Federal Committee meeting before the convocation of an ordinary or extraordinary European Congress. The proposed amendments must appear in the calling note.

b. In order for the European Congress to debate validly on proposed amendments to the Statutes, there must be at least two thirds of the delegates present or represented. If the quorum is not reached, a new European Congress can be summoned immediately, with the power to make amendments under a standard quorum of one half of the delegates present.

c. The modifications of the Statutes must be submitted to the Ministry of Justice (Federale Overheidsdienst Justitie/Service Public Fédéral Justice), only for the precise description of the non-profit aim of the AISBL and for its activities, and will have effect only after approval by the proper authority and after publication in the appendices of the “Belgisch Staatsblad/Moniteur belge”.

## Article 44: Dissolution of the Association

a. The association can be dissolved by a decision of the European Congress, acting in accordance with herein before mentioned conditions concerning the modification of the Statutes.

b. The European Congress will determine the method of dissolution and liquidation of the association, in accordance with the provisions of the Belgian Code des Sociétés et des Associations of 23 March 2019. It will decide upon the distribution of the assets of the dissolved association. In default of such a decision, they will be transferred to the international non-profit association under German law, FRIENDS OF JEF, whose registered seat is in Berlin, or successively to the international non-profit association under Dutch law, UNION OF EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS, whose registered seat is in The Hague, or successively to the international non-profit association under Belgian law EUROPEAN MOVEMENT who is registered in the Brussels-Capital Region (Région de Bruxelles Capitale).

## Article 45: Omissions

All provisions that may not be foreseen in the present Statutes will be regulated according to Belgian law and the Code des Sociétés et des Associations of 23 March 2019.

## Article 46: Political Commissions

a. JEF Policy is defined by its members through resolutions passed by their elected representatives at meetings of the European Congress or Federal Committee. Internal JEF Policies pertain to organisational matters while external JEF Policies determine the ideals and aims of the organisation.

b. Ordinarily, Political Commissions may draft resolutions and may oversee, work on and suggest a comprehensive version of the resolutions handed in by members of the national Sections as well as from elected JEF members according to article 16.i). The internal work of the Political Commission shall follow democratic and inclusive principles.

c. Political Commissions have to be put in place, which are led by a chair and a co-chair as part of the Federal Committee elected by the incoming Federal Committee meeting after the European Congress.

d. In case of no or low commitment of a PC chair, the co-chair of the PC should inform the presidium by email first.

- i. Subsequently, the presidium will remind by email the concerned chair to increase his/her engagement in the respective PC.
- ii. The PC chair is entitled to react to the claims expressed in the request.
- iii. The FC may at any meeting choose new chairs for the Political Commissions.

## Article 47: Task Forces

a. Task Forces (TFs) support the Executive Board in developing tools and activities for the Sections as well as in enhancing the organisational capacity of the overall organisation and is composed members.

b. Task Forces can be put into place, which are led at least by one chair as the member of the Federal Committee elected by the incoming Federal Committee meeting after the European Congress and by a co-chair that may be an individual JEF member.

c. If needed and if necessity arises, TFs can be built ad-hoc according to prior agreement with the Executive Board of JEF. The Federal Committee has to be informed as soon as a new TF is founded via mail.

d. Task Forces give an update about the current status of their respective work during each Federal Committee Meeting throughout the mandate. The update may be in digital or written form.

e. If the need of a Task Force ceases, the Federal Committee in prior agreement with the Executive Board may decide to dissolve the respective Task Force before the end of the mandate, approved by a simple majority of the directly elected members of the FC.

f. In case of no or low commitment of a TF chair, the co-chair of the TF should inform the Presidium by email first.

- i. Subsequently, the presidium will remind by email the concerned chair to increase his/her engagement in the respective TF.
- ii. The TF chair is entitled to react to the claims expressed in the request.
- iii. The FC may at any meeting choose new chairs for the Task Force.