

EB minutes

6-8 May 2022

Present: Christelle, Antonio, Juuso, Flavia, Gergana, Judit, Milosh, Robin, Helena, Knut

Excused: Knut (Sunday), Helena (Sunday afternoon)

Minutes: Milosh / Helena

Thursday 5th May 2022	
	Arrival
Self organised	Dinner
Friday 6 May 2022 - <i>hostel unless otherwise indicated</i>	
09:30 - 10:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening and round of updates 2. Code of of Conduct (contact persons Milosh & Christelle) 3. Adoption of agenda 4. Adoption of minutes (04/05) 5. Federalist inspirations (Robin)
10:30 - 11:35	6. Feedback with Milosh on SG role
11:35-11:45	Break
11:45-12:50	7. Priorities for the second half of the year
12:50 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 16:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Working with our new SG: brainstorming on how to effectively work together (and with the Secretariat) <p>Flavia starts moving to Villa Schützenberger (Ciarus to Schützenberger = 26min walk/15min public transport)</p>
16:00 - 18:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Campaigns brainstorming and calendar including Democracy campaign (summer 2022) <p>One person to attend YFJ's +++ (Villa Schützenberger, 76 Allée de la Robertsau, 16:00 - 17:30 + → Flavia</p>
18:00-18:30	<p><i>going to Aubette</i> → Ciarus to Salle Aubette = 11min walk</p>
18:30 - 20:30	<p>Solidarity with Ukraine testimonies of the conflict <i>Aubette - place Kléber</i></p>

20:30 - 21:00	Dinner
21:00 - 22:00	Charity concert for Ukraine <i>Aubette - place Kléber</i>
Saturday 7 May 2022 - Strasbourg Summit	
09:00 - 12:30	European civil society assembly (or Next Chapter Europe event) Discussion and round-tables with representatives of European civil society organisations. → Robin goes to Next Chapter (CIARUS), others go to Aubette
12:30 - 14:30	Lunch (at Aubette - Robin at the hostel)
14:30-15:30	Next chapter Europe demonstration (Flavia, Robin, Gergana) / European civil society's joint declaration / Antonio, Milosh, Christelle, Juuso)
16:00 - 18:30	March for Europe <i>Place Kléber</i>
18:30 - 20:00	Dinner (18:45-19:00)+ 50y preparations
20:00 -	50y anniversary celebrations (schedule of the party). <i>Clean up afterwards</i>
Sunday 8 May	
10:00 - 12:30	10. 2022 EB Action Plan
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-16:00	11. Secretariat updates + Financial update 12. Political Commission structure/organisation discussion 13. TaskForces updates
16:00-18:00	EB Video (Robin & Flavia) 14. AoB and Conclusions a. Reopening PC3 resolutions on Russia and Ukraine b. Feedback round
18:00	Drinks and dinner
Monday 9 May	
	Departure

Minutes:

1. **Opening and round of updates**
2. **Code of of Conduct (contact persons Milosh & Christelle)**
3. **Adoption of agenda**

Decision: Agenda adopted.

4. **Adoption of minutes (04/05)**

Decision: Postponed to the next online EB meeting

5. **Federalist inspirations (Robin)**

Reflections on the nature of (European) democracy and the etymological as well as historical interconnections between “elections” and “elites” with David van Reybrouck’s Letter to President Juncker. With Hannah Arendt furthermore the related question why the American Revolution was more successful than the French one an on the seeming paradox of the freedom to be free. Finally, an anticipation of the question of the European crisis (of culture, the sciences and the spirit with Valéry, Husserl and Heidegger respectively).

6. **Feedback with Milosh on SG role**

Minutes not shared, personal reflection.

7. **Priorities for the second half of the year (July-December 2022)**

1. **CoFoE¹/Convention:** We have been working on it since its start. Now:
(1) follow political developments on the promised Convention and treaty changes;
(2) ensure the participatory process (both from institutions and within JEF actions)
2. **Focus on non/not yet-EU countries** and the various approaches to Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership and Switzerland/Norway/Iceland/UK.
 - Focus on **enlargement**. Highlight the institutional/bureaucratic obstacles preventing accession. Linked to Ukraine. Campaigning for accession means campaigning for reform. Enlargement has to become bigger than Western Balkans. Focus on Eastern Partnership as well, as we have the [EU-Kraine petition](#).
 - **Capacity-building:** *Pimp my JEF* can be used to support smaller sections, but it can also be used for engaging externals (i.e. emerging/potential JEF sections).
 - Following political developments and public opinion on EU accession/politics. Perceptions of (European) identity.

3. **Strategy for European Parliament elections 2024**

¹ Conference on the Future of Europe

- Need a strategy by November 2022 (to be presented at the FC in Prague).
- An ad-hoc Task Force (TF) on elections will be formed and start working on the strategy from there. Define clear roles for TF members and structure.

4. Federalist Academy:

- Workshop in Prague and follow-up (what we expect after the first year).
- Keep working on the 'keep the conversation on federalism going' goal. Federalism is being used in political discourses, we should use this momentum to express our views more strongly.
- Perceptions of (European) identity could also be included here.

Other topics discussed:

- Democracy
 - Democracy under Pressure follow-up
 - 2022 Work Plan on Human Rights
 - Priority can be given to other topics until next year's campaign, although democracy remains central to any other priority (e.g. EP elections and participatory processes).
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- Climate and social emergencies, building collective, European resilience
 - Linked to socioeconomic crisis (inflation rising across the continent) and EU-Ukraine-Russia context (e.g. gas exports).
 - Connects to further developments on the European Green Deal (and Social Deal?), Multiannual financial Framework (NextGen EU, CAP, Cohesion Funds...). Cost of living crisis affects countries beyond the EU member states.
 - Linked to our demands for a common fiscal policy and EMU. Can be linked to treaty change for CoFoE demands. Emphasise why this is a federalist concern. It can be linked to European peripheral regions (i.e. islands).
- Ukraine:
 - Human-centred approach, especially on refugees (and Internally Displaced People in Ukraine).
 - Relates to a common (federalist) European Refugee Policy.
 - Related to our Work Plan on Human Rights.
- World federalism and global partnership.
 - Work will continue on Africa-EU cooperation. Work could be expanded to further continents and regions.
 - Expand partnerships (e.g. global student forum).
 - Pending (especially for funding): COP-27 in Egypt - Generation Climate Europe, Youth Africa Summit in Rwanda
- Security and peace and stability
 - should be included in enlargement/Ukraine/other.

Decisions:

- **Priorities are Conference follow-up/convention, 2024 elections, not(yet) EU countries and Federalist academy.**
- **No summer campaign on resilient democracies, waiting to build partnership on the topic with Western Balkans organisations.**

8. Working with our new SG: brainstorming on how to effectively work together (and with the Secretariat)

Secretary General's role

- a. Managing the Secretariat
 - HR decisions will have to take place: Consider the fact that some current employees might leave/their contracts come to an end.
 - Main goal: keep the organisation going (fundraising, project management, statutes...).
- b. Contact with sections: SG not a contact person for any section but important to be in touch with the network.
- c. Representation and contact with partners
 - YFJ² Board. Elections are in November. Judit to contribute with her extensive YFJ knowledge.
 - CSC: Milosh for now.
 - CSE: Antonio.
- d. Communication with the Secretariat and the EB
 - Management of the Secretariat
 - Delegation of tasks should go through the Secretary General before they are possibly shared with EB members (e.g. grant writing).
 - Update of the Secretariat's progress/plans in EB online meetings (point in the agenda).
 - Membership database Civi-CRM

Judit will have to consider whether she would like to actively work on this. Small sections struggle with registering membership.

Decisions:

- **Consensus that we will give Judit time to get familiar with the organisation's work and plans.**
- **Milosh will be present at the Online Congress.**
- **Further reflection on use and platform of the database needed.**

9. Campaigns

According to the policy priority topics listed earlier:

9.1. Treaty change and Convention from CoFoE

- Go through the resolution and check the various proposals
- Write a Manifesto as a follow-up

JEF can become 'the' civil society organisation leading this process.

² European Youth Forum

How to involve sections in the project? → International Officer evening: focus of discussion.
How to organise ourselves effectively for action.

Get to know the national sections' realities and perspectives towards the proposals (also gathering local and regional sections' inputs). EB could take the role of providing the information in an accessible way (from the though European Parliament resolutions) and sections could start mapping MPs and MEPs across the political spectrum and their views, possible coalitions for political advocacy, etc. Political advocacy would be coordinated by the EB (and with Michal).

Campaign: European Council to vote YES for European Parliament's proposal.

ACTION: Let's unlock the Convention

Decisions:

- **Prepare a draft to be screened by EB. Can take example of the press release antonio.argenziano@jef.eu and juuso.jarviniemi@jef.eu**
- **Draft an email for international officers' evening gergana.blazheva@jef.eu**
- **Bottom-up discussion with sections.** Example: to map MPs/MEPs for political advocacy, translate the Manifesto into their language.
- **Draft a message for sections compiling the list of tasks.**
- **EB (Antonio) be in contact with AFCO members to get updates on political discussion's developments antonio.argenziano@jef.eu**

9.2. Non-EU states and enlargement

- Build coalitions with local organisations in non-EU countries to create new sections -shaped according to their problems rather than to our solution
- *What if...?* (x country joined the EU) campaign. Positive scenarios of what would happen if countries joined, related to society's problems and interests
 - Present the idea to the non-EU sections and receive feedback from them.
 - Find an artist -to prepare graphic - visual identity (maybe NCE connection ask Alexandra)
 - Help willing sections organise webinars and in person event in sections to reflect on 'What if' topics/approach, to start the debate. Idea is to identify key points that interest people/questions that people have (maybe about EU accession itself). Open to hold the sessions in the respective languages

Decision: organise a meeting at the end of June to present the idea to sections.

9.3. Federalist Academy

- More than a series of webinars
- Physical workshop in Prague
- Summer plan: draft list of interested people (which participants in the webinar series and the physical workshop, which sections would be interested in developing this further)
- Identifying topics of conversation in their own contexts related to federalism and integration/de-centralisation, etc. Could be a 'year-long' project type. It would boost sections, deepening their and the society's understanding and reflections on federalism applied to life problems.
- Pending CERV grant response.

Decision: using the summer to better define the program of the seminar and the follow-up.

9.4. JEF 50

- Contacting former members (Board, Presidents...) and interviewing them - prepare draft interview questions, list of potential interviewees and their bios
- Preparing exhibition
- Further actions
- Historical research

Decision: prepare the archive part of the anniversary, that will be used in Prague.

- **And, if useful, create a calendar of key action dates/deadlines according to priorities.**

Membership survey

Lorène will start after Strasbourg. Would be ideal to have it by the EB summer meeting.

10. Action Plan 2022

Decision: Action Plan amended and approved by EB.

11. Secretariat updates & financial update

Milosh presented updates from the Secretariat, including past and upcoming projects. Milosh thanked the EB for participating in writing grant applications this spring. Submitted grants are very relevant for JEF's activities, which is an important point also to retain for the future.

The summer in-person EB meeting should have a deeper discussion on the possibilities for on-granting to national sections, potentially offered by our operating grant. The EB should come up with criteria for these grants, but shouldn't be involved itself in choosing the sections' projects to be funded.

Decisions:

- **For COYV, Antonio and Gergana are the board members following the project.**
- **For the Erasmus+ grant with JEF-France (ECR2I), Juuso will be the contact in the board.**
- **Board to discuss granting criteria at the summer long meeting.**

12. Reopening the PC3 resolutions on Russia and on Ukraine

Based on the Statute provision that enables the re-opening of a resolution in the event of major political developments that render the content of a current resolution outdated, the EB decided that it is appropriate to reopen the resolutions on Russia and on Ukraine.

Decision: Christelle to request PC3 the reopening of Russia and Ukraine resolutions.

13. Political Commission (PC) brainstorm

Brainstorming of the Board:

- Trainings with TF Capacity Building in relation to convention
- Chairs to organise events and Reach out to experts
- Meeting of PC chairs
- Involve more PC chairs and goodwilling JEFers in advocacy plan
 - when we make one or briefing, could even be the first draft ex online advertising and European parties coming in May
 - To be triggered by the Pc coordinator or the portfolio holder as a help to do advocacy
- Factsheets like PC3 used to do could be drafted before first meeting
- Suggestion: When you revise the resolutions, if there is a recommendation that became a reality in the meantime, don't remove it simply but rephrase in a way that showcases it was a recommendation that became a reality - hence, you had impact
- Local in person PC events on topics

Decisions:

- **EB contact persons to promote PCs to their sections**
- **Promote the PCs at International Officer meeting (June)**
- **Knut to convene a meeting with EB contact persons of PCs and the PC chairs, to discuss further about the actions of PCs → (PC contact points), to happen before the International Officer meeting**