

## EB draft minutes

6–8 December 2024

Athens, Greece

Present: Christelle, Xesc, Martin, Aléxandros, Brigita, Kati, Nikos, Hanna, Alexiane

Excused:

Minutes: Hanna, Nikos, Aléxandros (review Aléxandros)

Friday	
15:30 – 16:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Opening</li><li>2. Code of of Conduct (contact persons Kati &amp; Aléxandros)</li><li>3. Adoption of agenda</li><li>4. Adoption of minutes (28/11)</li></ol>
16:00 – 17:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. Federalist inspirations (Hanna)</li><li>6. Update networks (UEF, EMI, YFJ, Advisory Council, GCE, CSE, FRA, EaP, WFM, EESC)</li><li>7. Upcoming activities 2025 (operating grant activities and projects)</li></ol>
17:30-17:45	<i>Break</i>
17:45 – 19:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>8. Timeline for the operating grant 2026–2029</li><li>9. Detailed Financial update and fundraising, discussion on Workshop Results</li><li>10. Short Update on membership fee proposal</li><li>11. 2025 staff structure</li></ol>
20:00	Dinner
Saturday	
09:00 – 10:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>12. Code of of Conduct (contact persons Kati &amp; Aléxandros)</li><li>13. Taking stock: what do you want to achieve/to learn the second year</li><li>14. Membership growth brainstorming, on the road to next year campaign</li></ol>
10:30 – 11:30	<i>Travel to conference place</i>
11:30 – 13:30	<i>JEF Greece conference</i>
13:30 – 15:30	<i>Lunch with JEF Greece</i>

	<i>Travel back</i>
15:30-17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. EB photo</li> <li>16. Round of personal updates</li> <li>17. 4y strategy</li> </ul>
17:30 - 17:45	<i>Break</i>
17:45 - 20:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18. Political planning: upcoming campaigns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Federalist Academy</li> <li>b. Don't Touch My Schengen</li> <li>c. Europe <i>What if?</i></li> <li>d. Advocacy post election: Upgrade the EU / Update Europe / the Europe we want</li> </ul> </li> <li>19. Database training</li> </ul>
20:00	Dinner and Secret Santa
Sunday	
09:00 - 11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20. Timing of EB online meetings</li> <li>21. Review of positions and advocacy comms drafting and planning</li> <li>22. Taking stock: annual action plan progress and action plan 2025</li> </ul>
11:00-11:15	<i>Break</i>
11:15-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23. Kahoot on statutes</li> <li>24. EB feedback round</li> <li>25. AoB<sup>1</sup> and Conclusions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. EB Video (?)</li> <li>b. Who is doing federalist inspiration next time?</li> <li>c. Next EB meeting</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
13:00	<i>Lunch and departures</i>

<b>1. Opening</b>	<b>Decisions:</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Any other Business

<p><b>2. Code of of Conduct (contact persons Kati &amp; Aléxandros)</b></p> <p><b>3. Adoption of agenda</b></p> <p><b>4. Adoption of minutes (31/10, 14/11)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Agenda adopted</b></li> <li>- <b>Minutes of 31/10 and 14/11 adopted</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Update networks (UEF, EMI, YFJ, Advisory Council, GCE, CSE, FRA, EaP, WFM, EESC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UEF (Union of European Federalists): Christelle and Aléxandros went to FC in Budapest.</li> <li>- EMI (European Movement International): last meeting in Budapest</li> <li>- YFJ (European Youth Forum): General Assembly in Ghent a few weeks ago. Next GA on May 9th 2025, Xesc is representing us. We talked about some grant opportunities and applications with human library and peacekeeping topics.</li> </ul> <p>The new policy program got approved. Passed motions on: Youth right violations in Serbia (KOMS) Advocating linguistic diversity (CNJC) Active approach to child abduction (DNYC) Supporting the work of the CoE (DNK) Supporting the inclusion of INGYOs in the EU Youth Dialogue (EEE-YFU, MSS, LJP) Combating antisemitism (EUJS, re-adopted)</p> <p>Applications for new members of YFJ: FEMYSO - Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations EPSA - European Pharmaceutical Students Association National Youth Council of Andorra</p> <p>Expiring motions in next GA: Young refugees in the UK and Europe (BYC) Non-EU countries' participation in Erasmus (CSAJ/SAJV)</p>	<p><b>Decisions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Xesc will send an email on behalf of JEF to YFJ asking for further measures about the amount of membership fees, which we consider partially disproportionate.</b></li> <li>- <b>Xesc starts preparing the motion to be sent by April 9th based on CompletEU and JEF position for YFJ</b></li> <li>- <b>We will attend with a representative all inclusion meetings with YFJ.</b></li> <li>- <b>Aléxandros or Xesc is attending the YFJ European Youth Event preparatory meeting in Strasbourg 22.-26.January</b></li> <li>- <b>Xesc will host an info call on what</b></li> </ul>

Youth Organisations in Türkiye (GoFor)  
Bulgaria and Romania in Schengen Area  
(LIJOT, NYF, CTR, CNJ)

Next general assembly: 9-10 May 2025 (Brussels)  
Topic of membership fees: are they fair and are they proportionate? Some other organisations also complain.

Generation Climate Europe

- Held their general assembly on November 26th. Merely formal in terms of budgets and accounts. There were discussions on taking in some new members. (Supposed new members but no decision made yet: EYEN - European Youth Energy Network, European Youth Parliament, Global Youth Biodiversity Network Europe, Youth for Exchange and Understanding, while some other organizations mentioned but not ready to be new members yet are the following ones: Asia-Europe Foundation, Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe, European Young Rewilders, and International Younger Chemists Network)

CSE (Civil Society Europe)

- Judit is still on the board and keeps an eye open. advocacy work in commission formation to keep cash for youth civil society. We wanna change operating grants. Brigita wants to follow CSE further and we need clearer communication between roles of Judit and Brigita. Treaty change group in CSE following up on conference of future of Europe. Subworking groups on different topics to lobby commission and workplan. Lobby time now to May 2025.. We are in the democracy one and schengen. Martin in rule

**the Advisory Council is and his tasks there.**

**- Hanna keeps a look out if Generation Climate Europe new members are taken in at the end. Checking voting rights.**

**- Hanna and Alexandros talk to Juuso and connect African grant opportunity to our African partners and check if World Federal Movement has any useful African connections we can apply with.**

of law. We are not as in touch as we should be.

#### Fundamental Rights Agency:

- Martin goes to their monthly meetings. They presented a few different documents from partners. The most pertinent for us was on the foreign agents bill(s). Conference in Sofia that some attended, discussion on Bulgarian and Hungarian consequences of the foreign agents bill. There will be an In-person meeting in Brussels in September or October. People want more in-person meetings in general, but not enough funding is available.
- Martin went to their GA and their network is in good development. We evaluate it as a good space for us to share experiences and gain contacts.

#### Eastern Partnership Civil Society

- General Assembly in Vienna, picked new people for some statutory roles. A survey of them going out.

#### World Federalist Movement:

Aléxandros is in contact with them.

They made a questionnaire about their membership base and its outreach on social media, and we answered it. We might find a partner here to apply for the Africa grant with. Aléxandros will make a presentation of JEF to representatives of other members of WFM through a video call in December, which will also be recorded (most of their calls receive moderate or low numbers of participants, due to colluding time zones).

#### European Economic and Social Committee

Alexiane is running for their youth board and hopefully getting it.

<p><b>6. Upcoming activities 2025 (operating grant activities and projects)</b></p> <p>We went through the calendar of activities and discussed our project applications and ideas for events and projects, also about how we can coordinate as a team for the operating grant. No specific idea yet, except for the operating grant timeline, ideas in a preliminary phase.</p> <p>We did not get any projects under CERV, democracy projects or Bridge. We are especially surprised about the memory project, since we applied together with the service of archives of the EU, practically an EU institution.</p>	
<p><i>Break</i></p>	
<p><b>7. Operating grant 2026–2029'</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Brigita goes through the minutes of the brainstorming we had.</li> <li>b. Timeline: We apply for three years first and get a number from that which we use to apply year by year. Three year one deadline is January 28th 2025. The 5th of February is the one year deadline.</li> </ul> <p><b>8. Financial update and fundraising next steps</b></p> <p>Europe We Make money (60k) finally came after it was blocked by EYE report (900€)</p> <p>In January, the cash flow situation will be really good with the first installment of the Operating Grant. In late December and early January we will be in a good financial position with good liquidity.</p> <p>In early December, we have 54.000 euros in our bank account, therefore there will be no delays for our salaries.</p>	<p><b>Decisions:</b></p> <p><b>Merch proposal will be drafted by Aléxandros including the merch ritual (change name), amended and agreed on by EB, then proposal presented to other bodies outside EB (especially TF Comms and Capacity Building)</b></p> <p><b>Aléxandros will present a specific membership fees proposal by February and coordinate a</b></p>

Social secretariat is charging an ever growing amount, along with taxation. The cost is rising. We are considering whether we may be being overcharged, and the Secretariat is investigating this directly, in case there are provisions for missing months.

We got a tent in the EYE<sup>2</sup> village in Strasbourg, but a smaller tent than the last time.

Project Grant Idea: Idea to apply for Council of Europe grant in conjunction with Lviv Youth Capital 2025. Discussions if it will be entirely in Ukraine, or in Poland and Ukraine. 7 nationalities and a balanced delegation are required.

Proposal on merchandise/merch:

The result of the Workshop in the FC Budapest showed a wish to restructure our approach for merch: one design addressed to our membership for team-building reasons and, apart from it, designs that have to do with Europe and youth in general, ideally something humorous or beautiful, for some improved income from selling merchandise.

The one design JEF-related could be used as an opportunity for team-building and a clear visual identity. A participatory process could be organised to brainstorm, create material, make a "contest" and promote it, open to the membership base. Aléxandros will make a more concrete proposal and propose it to us by February.

Further ideas include a small contribution for the drinks and snacks during events and project meetings, a free sticker design with a QR Code leading to our website and store, even JEF-Cookies for events and gifts.

**second round of feedback and amendments from the national sections during spring**

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<sup>2</sup> European Youth Event

We discussed that the idea has to become simpler than the one discussed during the workshop, and aimed more at every two years and not every year.

We agreed that our merch has to be updated now and should be getting updated more regularly, but there was disagreement on whether it is something that has the potential to deliver us additional income. Content-wise, in order for it to be more openly worn and often bought, our merch has to be indeed political but not so much that we can't advertise it well.

We currently have a lot of merch from EurHope, which was delivered with extreme delay just a few days before the elections, and which we need to distribute. We will continue discussions on ways to make good use of it: including give them as free items for publicity during future events.

Debate on whether pins should be given for free.

Discussion about the technical and linguistic problems of our online store.

Discussion about how merch is not in line with our visual identity, nor with our political priorities.

Discussion on the relation of sustainability, good quality, human rights etc. related to the production of our merchandise.

Idea to be examined: would buying a machine to stitch badges on shirts and other projects be a good idea that saves us money?

We agree that we do not want to be too ambitious about how much merch we can sell, and that quality cannot be overseen.

## **9. Update on membership fee proposal**

Results of workshop: it has a great pedagogical value, helping members learn to understand JEF Europe's role and its evolution over time, as well as why the fees are important and should get increased sometime soon, as well as about how our transparent democratic structures work.

A tendency for people to not want the increase to be done in one step, but also not in many phases, therefore probably in 2 or 3 phases.

A tendency for people to want a slight increase and not an adaptation to inflation. A tendency against a high increase.

A tendency for a long transition period: this raises a question of accountability, since people will be voting on something that they will not bear the consequences of. Therefore, it is important that the current boards oversee at least some phases of the implementation for reasons of responsibility and accountability.

A tendency for sections to not support any exceptions to any section, even if it is very big or has special financial difficulty.

Few sections want a good written documentation of the added value that JEF Europe promises by getting increased membership fees. One section requests a model of what will happen if the increase does not get through.

Further financial measures:

We want to increase transparency, participation and inclusion, and to push for JEF as a force of good in general, helpful also for the skills and careers of its volunteers. The following ideas:

a working group of volunteer project application writers.

<p>regroupings of treasurers AND project proposals feedback group: do we want many small groups or one big?</p> <p>a green list and a red list for potential sponsors and blacklisted sponsors: rejected due to legal concerns</p> <p><b>10. 2025 staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Brigita guides us through the different options for policy officer(s) and Secretariat structure. We want a policy focus but not misguide them that they will do policy and advocacy themselves as they would only aid us doing it.</li> <li>b. scenario2 is sg taking more finance and hiring a project officer to help Sophie should there be no finance officer found.</li> </ul>	
Dinner	
Saturday	
<p><b>11. Code of of Conduct (contact persons Kati &amp; Aléxandros)</b></p> <p><b>12. Taking stock: what do you want to achieve/to learn the second year</b></p> <p>Not minuted</p> <p><b>13. Membership growth brainstorming, on the road to next year campaign</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. one internal EB call happened, we are discussing further</li> </ul>	
<i>Travel to conference place</i>	
<p><i>JEF Greece conference</i></p> <p>Event on the survey results regarding the priorities and concerns of youth in Greece, both generally and EU-related.</p>	

<p>Introduction, get-to-know-each-other and team building activities with the EB JEF Greece and of JEF Piraeus-Athens</p> <p>Networking with the other panelists and some VIP guests</p> <p>Open discussion of ca. half an hour with the public, with ca. 25 participants</p>	
<p><i>Lunch and travel back</i></p> <p><i>Lunch with the EB of JEF Greece and of JEF Piraeus-Greece, team-building activities with them</i></p>	
<p><b>14. EB photo</b></p> <p><b>15. Round of personal updates</b></p> <p>    a. over dinner</p> <p><b>16. 4y strategy</b></p>	
<p><i>Break</i></p>	
<p><b>17. Political planning: upcoming campaigns</b></p> <p>    <b>a. Don't Touch My Schengen</b></p> <p>Only JEF Germany and JEF Netherlands came to the brainstorming meeting to figure out what we want with the campaign. Do we want an information meeting on the situation, like for Georgia? With updates from Germany, Denmark etc people that have done stuff on Schengen. Schengen is PC2, and we can involve them. Should we have a booking system so sections can rather book times with us to talk? We should talk to our sections in section calls individually with the contact person. We consider whether we want to create stickers for Don't touch my Schengen and need another roll-up for it.</p> <p>Posts about what controls changed negatively on people's personal stories, food, work, doomsday of what could happen?</p>	<p><b>Decisions:</b></p> <p><b>On December 18th the DuP brainstorming session will take place, and then the info-kit and the material for sections will be ready in January.</b></p> <p><b>Aléxandros will contact in January the association of the Film Showcase FRONTEIRAS for some interviews on the topic of</b></p>

profiling aspects of arbitrary border controls - for instance how buses and cheap transportation means get controlled more than more expensive train routes, or how in the train the police officers check almost only people who look poor or based on their race.

**b. Advocacy post election: Upgrade the EU / Update Europe / the Europe we want**

As discussed at the FC, Christelle is working on short term steps on federalism while still looking at the treaty change advocacy plan.

**c. Democracy Under Pressure**

This year is going to be more focused on elections, both because of the current situations in Moldova, Georgia, and Romania and because of the upcoming elections in Germany and France, but also because it was the topic most of the participants were interested in during the conversations in Budapest.

We will pursue the practice of creating the material to distribute to national sections.

We consider ways to include in the campaign the element that the elections and democracy standards in EU candidate states in Eastern Europe are related to enlargement and EU membership.

We have to examine the tendencies of democratic standards and foreign intervention to election - also before the elections, for instance with Russia fostering corruption many months or years in advance. A foreign power increasing corruption in a country on purpose as a tool of illegitimate influence is a form of putting democracy under pressure - both in some EU countries and in non-EU countries interested in membership. Also the trends about

**how Schengen impacts the lives of small towns in the frontier area**

- **Federalist Academy and Europe What if? to be discussed at a next online call, same for the online database training**

<p>LGBT+ rights and the so-called foreign agents have to be thematised.</p> <p>We will discuss in the next online meeting about the fundings that are related to this campaign, so that we have time to read in more detail the planned deliverables.</p> <p>Campaigning about Treaty Change: it is evolving very slowly and it requires a lot of preparatory work for its political direction. We want to contact the PC and the Presidium to check their interest and capacities related to resolutions on federalist baby steps.</p> <p><b>18. Database training</b></p> <p>The point is pushed to an online meeting for practical reasons.</p>	
<p>Dinner and Secret Santa</p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	
<p><b>19. Federalist inspirations (Martin)</b></p> <p>A story that could be useful for the FC in Sofia. We discovered the story of the first openly European Federalist Ivan Shishmanov, who attended the first Pan-European Congress of Vienna by Kalergi (16-19/12/1916). His focus was on education and culture and he wanted a less nationalist sentiment in Bulgaria and viewed the Bulgarian culture as a part of the broader European culture. He created a higher education school that was later turned into a public university. He focused on activities to enrich the cultural life of Bulgaria with the goal of making it equally vibrant as of other European countries of the time. It is a much more inspiring model of healthier patriotism away from nationalism, how he came from a small town and gradually grew as a personality thanks to the European movement.</p>	<p><b>Decisions:</b></p> <p><b>EB meetings will now start at 18:00 CET every two weeks on Thursday. Effective 2025. EB Meetings will start on Thursday evening and not on Friday noon in the future, to reduce stress and exhaustion.</b></p> <p><b>Xesc will check if we could do in FC a little Federalist Academy session in Sofia fC about</b></p>

<p><b>20. Timing of EB online meetings</b></p> <p>Discussion showed that there were too many colluding time slots and the only possible improvement was to stick to Thursday and just do it earlier.</p> <p><b>21. Review of positions and advocacy comms drafting and planning</b></p> <p>It is hard to differentiate between posts that are controversial or delicate and posts that are uncomplicated. We must, however, try to do it better, so that the average time of the process goes down.</p> <p>Kati reminds everyone to use Trello more for proposals and stick to the rules that we agreed to in October, to evaluate how well they can work if they are applied. The initiative and the leadership of communication and content should be taken more often by the person in charge of the related portfolio.</p> <p>Topics that have ties with policy should move more to Slack from WhatsApp for better documentation reasons.</p> <p>Martin presents the data about our social media, especially Instagram, explaining how the top post from the previous mandate had made ca. 3.000 reach and 5.000 views, while the two top posts from this mandate are at 18.000-19.000 reaches and 32.000 views, while the average reach and views is over three times higher than two years ago.</p> <p><b>22. Taking stock: annual action plan progress and action plan 2025</b></p>	<p><b>CEE region early federalist thinkers</b></p> <p><b>Aléxandros will prepare ideas for an event on the anniversary of the Pan-European Congress of Vienna and we will plan the EB calendar to make sure it is present for people in the next mandates.</b></p> <p><b>We engage that from now everyone will check Slack everyday. Voting on Comms and on Policy will only be on Slack from now on.</b></p> <p><b>Action plan discussion moved to next online meeting</b></p>
<p><i>Break</i></p>	
<p><b>23. Kahoot on statutes</b> <b>24. EB feedback round</b></p>	<p><b>Decisions:</b> <b>- Nikos does</b></p>

<p><b>25. AoB<sup>3</sup> and Conclusions</b></p> <p><b>a. EB Video</b> Kati suggested trying a recap post with pictures rather than videos.</p> <p><b>b. Who is doing federalist inspiration next time?</b></p> <p><b>c. Next EB meeting</b> We are considering Portugal, a Malmö/Copenhagen combination and Slovenia.</p> <p><b>d. Congress dates</b> Discussion on various options taking into consideration budget, sections which may benefit from our political support, and practical logistics.</p>	<p><b>Federalist Inspiration next time.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Doodle to decide when next EB meeting will be and where.</b></li> <li>- <b>People will indicate their travel times</b> earlier, weekends will hopefully start to be longer to allow for more section engagement.</li> <li>- Kahoot on statutes pushed to online meeting</li> </ul>
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<sup>3</sup> Any other Business