

# Annexe 1: Monitoring Process JEF Austria

**Submitted by the Executive Board of JEF Europe. Approved in European Federal Committee in Tartu, Estonia on 14 April 2024**

## **The Executive Board of JEF Europe,**

- Noting that the Rules of Procedure allow for a “monitoring process on the situation of a section can be initiated by the Federal Committee with an absolute majority of delegates upon a motivated request of the Executive Board, a national section or an individual member of the organisation” (RoP 2a. pg7);
- Brings to the attention of the Federal Committee that JEF Austria has, from 2014 to 2019 declared an average of c. 2,800 members, which dropped drastically by over 90% over the last few years;
- Brings to the attention of the Federal Committee that there has been a highly irregular and low level of JEF related activities at the national level of JEF Austria during the past few years;
- Notes that the past section leadership in the recent times has ignored the requests of transparency by the JEF Europe Executive Board, including on the structure of JEF Austria;
- Notes that the new national board is composed of only two representatives, of which only the President is within JEF age;
- Notes that JEF Austria changed in December 2023 its logo on social media, effectively removing both the green colour of JEF and JEF name;
- Affirms its desire to resolve this situation in a way that leaves JEF Europe with an Austrian member section that is stronger and fully engaged in the network;
- Recalls that the Federal Committee is the sovereign body of JEF Europe between Congresses, and a monitoring process led by it is the most democratically accountable way in which the Executive Board can attempt to support a section;



- Emphasises that while a monitoring process can lead to a recommendation for sanctions against, up to and including the expulsion of a section, that its intention is to provide clarity on a situation and support, and hopefully resolve it before such actions need to be considered.

**The Federal Committee thus recommends the following:**

1. The Federal Committee formally decides to establish a monitoring process on JEF Austria;
2. appoints Christelle Savall (EB Representative), Mirko Ondrás (FC Representative), and Robin Mudry (Presidium) as members of the Monitoring Committee, to follow up on the situation of JEF Austria and draft a monitoring report as laid out in the Rules of Procedure;
3. the Executive Board take all necessary measures allowing discussion of the abovementioned report during the next meeting of the Federal Committee;
4. the Executive Board to take all necessary measures to allow for a hearing of the sections concerned before the Federal Committee and the Arbitration Board, should these sections be interested to use this statutory right;
5. that JEF Europe as a whole strive to lend its support to ensuring JEF Austria is a successful section and able to play a crucial role in JEF Europe;
6. that JEF Austria recognise such a procedure is rarely initiated in this way, to cooperate fully with the Monitoring Committee, and embrace this as an opportunity to develop.

## **Annexe 2: JEF Austria email about the resolution**

Esteemed Members of the JEF Europe Executive Board,

we address you with a sense of urgency and a heavy heart, as representatives of BEJ/JEF Austria. The purpose of this communication is to convey the profound concerns and subsequent decisions made by the BEJ/JEF Austria Federal Executive Board regarding the proposed monitoring procedure against our



organization. Our tone, while regretful for its directness, is dictated by the seriousness with which we view the draft resolution and its implications.

The draft resolution, laden with inaccuracies and allegations, has compelled us to reflect deeply on the future of our relationship with JEF Europe. The potential repercussions of adopting such a resolution are grave, risking not only our esteemed reputation but also the vital funding that sustains our operations. Historically, monitoring procedures have been initiated under circumstances vastly different from our current standing, making this proposed action not only unprecedented but also unwarranted.

**It is with great distress that we inform you that after careful deliberation, the BEJ/JEF Austria Federal Board, in its session last Monday, has resolved that withdrawal from JEF Europe membership will be considered as a final recourse should the monitoring draft be advanced to a vote.** This resolution was reached with the utmost reluctance and is viewed as a measure of last resort, driven by the need to protect our organization's integrity, reputation, and the continuity of our contributions towards European integration.

BEJ/JEF Austria's legacy as one of the founding members of JEF Europe and the bearer of the Young European Federalists name since 1956 is a testament to our commitment to the ideals we share with JEF. Our diligent adherence to the stringent criteria for national and European funding, validated by annual audits, underscores our dedication to our mission and the responsible management of our resources.

The proposed resolution's advancement poses not only a legal challenge but threatens the very foundation of our collaborative efforts and achievements. Such actions risk irrevocably harming BEJ/JEF Austria's standing and our ability to secure necessary funding, thereby impacting our projects and initiatives aimed at fostering democracy and European unity.

**Moreover, we wish to affirm our determination to retain our name rights and will actively oppose any attempts to establish a JEF section on Austrian territory that infringes upon our historical identity and operational sovereignty.**



In light of these circumstances, we urgently call upon the JEF Europe Executive Board to reconsider the proposed resolution, to engage in a dialogue aimed at addressing and rectifying the misunderstandings that have led to this juncture. Our hope remains steadfast in finding a resolution that preserves our shared goals and the integrity of our relationship.

We look forward to your understanding and a constructive path forward, ensuring that our collective efforts continue to thrive in the spirit of European solidarity and integration.

With sincere regards,  
The board of BEJ/JEF Austria

## **Annexe 3: Monitoring Process JEF Austria update**

**Approved in the Federal Committee in Budapest, Hungary on 17 November 2024**

- In April 2024, we launched a monitoring procedure for Austria for irregular and low JEF activities as well as lack of transparency among others.
- Current members of the monitoring committee for Austria are Christelle Savall (EB), Mirko Ondras (FC), and Robin Mudry (Presidium).
- **The Monitoring Committee recommends to continue the monitoring procedure for Austria until a clearer assessment can be made.**
- JEF Austria had a General Assembly in June 2024 and elected a new president. Despite our request, JEF Europe was not invited to their General Assembly nor has had the opportunity to e-meet the new president.
- The active local sections of JEF Austria, JEF Steiermark, JEF Upper Austria and JEF Kärnten voted to leave JEF Austria in the past months.
- No monitoring meeting took place despite the request for meeting on 17/04, with reminders on 27/05, 30/06, 21/08 and 21/09.

- On 23/09, JEF Austria acknowledged receipt of our request, informed us they are “conducting a thorough legal review of the situation with (their) legal advisor”, refuted again the bases of the monitoring process and informed us they will focus on solving internal problems, including with their local sections before engaging with JEF Europe.
- **Procedure to continue, efforts in reaching out to the section will continue.**

## **Annexe 4: Monitoring Process JEF Austria minutes from the 2025 Autumn Federal Committee in Budapest**

**Christelle Savall (President):** Gives context for the monitoring procedures for JEF Montenegro and JEF Poland, as well as for JEF Austria for transparency issues. They will try to engage with them again and report back in 6 months. The reasons the monitoring procedures can be open are different: for eg. in JEF Montenegro there was no activity, no membership fees coming. Monitoring procedures are here to support the section in their management. The recommendations are to close the monitoring committee on JEF Montenegro. And to continue for JEF Austria and JEF Poland.

- JEF Austria: they **did not invite the EB to the General Assembly**. Local sections left JEF Austria so they don't exist anymore. A meeting with the Monitoring Committee and them was not scheduled since FC Tartu as **they have not answered despite many reminders**. The former president resigned, **despite the request they are not in contact** with the new one. JEF Austria responded finally in September. We will try to engage again with them and hope to advance with the procedure.

**Andreas Moser (Observer, JEF Austria):** Was the previous president. Stresses the need to bring Austria back. **There were internal disputes, with the Secretary-General, he inherited a massive flood of internal troubles, inconsistencies in the financial structure, which together with the lack of personal experience and the high complexity it led to him not being able to deal properly with the problems.** There was a misunderstanding and disagreements



with the previous Secretary General. **He was in favour of the monitoring procedure when suggested by Christelle to them but had to reject it afterwards due to the Secretary General. No space for structure and reconciliation led to him stepping down.** Only reasonable solution is to expel the section at the next congress and make way for a reformation of the organization in the next Congress.

**Hanna Spitzer (Observer, JEF Austria):** says that is speaking on behalf of her regional section: **regional sections broke ties with JEF Austria permanently so they are not part of JEF Austria anymore, because they did not agree with the way they were acting towards JEF Europe.** At the moment they're evaluating future options to continue to work together, establish new youth organizations and replace the previous JEF Austria. This decision has been made by the president of the group of all regional sections. They would like to be an official part of JEF Europe again. They would like to work together to spread the JEF spirit.

**Moritz Sommer (Observer, JEF Austria):** As President of a local section, he would like to continue with the good work and feel very active and motivated. They hope with this procedure they can fully integrate again.

**Dvir Ezra (Observer, JEF Germany):** asks about the potential status of a new JEF Austria section

- **Christelle Savall (President):** There could be a new candidate section if JEF Austria is expelled. Then we would go through another candidate process once we find the people to do so. We have to give an opinion at the FC in Sofia so we can make a proposal.

## Annexe 5: Monitoring Process JEF Austria update

Approved in the Federal Committee in Sofia, Bulgaria on 30 March 2025

- In April 2024, we launched a monitoring procedure for JEF Austria for irregular and low JEF activities as well as lack of transparency among others.
- Current members of the monitoring committee for Austria are Christelle Savall (EB), Mirko Ondras (FC), and Robin Mudry (Presidium)
- **The Monitoring Committees recommends**

- **to start the exclusion procedure of JEF Austria from JEF Europe membership which includes the following steps:**
  - Expulsion letter to be sent 6 months before next FC/Congress by recorded delivery
    - Potential JEF Austria hearing before the Federal Committee and the Arbitration Board to present their defence, should they wish to.
  - Opinion requested to the Arbitration Board
  - New report at next FC/Congress and new vote.
- At the start of the Spring FC Tartu 2024, **JEF Austria had informed us they would leave JEF Europe if a monitoring procedure was initiated with them.** They had taken statutory steps towards leaving, however they have not sent a registered letter to our Secretariat informing us of their departure (a statutory requirement to start the resignation process) and the situation has not been clarified since.
- JEF Austria had a general assembly in June 2024 and elected a new president. Despite its request, JEF Europe was not invited to it nor had the opportunity to e-meet the new president.
- **JEF Austria paid its membership fees in 2024 but did not submit a member section report.<sup>1</sup>**
- **The active local sections of JEF Austria, JEF Steiermark, JEF Upper Austria and JEF Kärnten voted to leave JEF Austria in the past months.**
- No monitoring meeting could take place despite the request for meeting on 17/04, with reminders on 27/05, 30/06, 21/08, 21/09, 16/10, 16/11, 5/01 & 19/01,

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<sup>1</sup> The member section report for 2024, unlike the 2023, was received after the validation of the report.



as JEF Austria **refuses to engage** with the Committee.

- On 23/09, JEF Austria acknowledged receipt, informed us they are “conducting a thorough legal review of the situation with (their) legal advisor”, refuted again the bases of the monitoring process and informed us they will focus on solving internal problems, including with their local sections **before** engaging with JEF Europe.
- On 4/02, JEF Austria answered our renewed meeting request with:

*“nothing has changed from what we said in our Zoom call with Andreas last year. **Nobody has the time or interest to deal with your unsolicited interference.** Our members prefer to invest their time in constructive work in a positive atmosphere in which we work together and not against each other.*

*Internal intrigues and actionism against JEF Europe sections scare away our active members here in Austria and destroy the desire to get involved at European level. Nobody wants to get involved in such a destructive environment and be the target of penalty measures. Your so-called help harms us, causes us additional problems that we have to spend additional time solving and is therefore not wanted by our members.*

***Stop annoying us and stealing our time** and do meaningful work instead. There is enough to do to defend our democracy and move Europe forward.*

***I don't know how many times I have to explain it to you so that you finally understand.** With this approach you harming and destroying the organization and the will to cooperate and you are representing the opposite of the values that JEF Europe officials should represent. Stop this nonsensical monitoring procedure, then perhaps you can motivate members to get involved at European level again.”*

## Considering

- **JEF Austria is not willing to contribute to the realisation of JEF Europe ideals and aims, nor shows an active commitment in the organisation, or willingness to engage,**
- **the loss of all active local sections,**
- **aggressive communication and ultimatum to not start the monitoring process or they would leave JEF Europe**
- **the initial reasons behind the monitoring process,**

**the monitoring committee recommends to the FC to start the process to remove JEF Austria from the membership of JEF Europe.**

## **Annexe 6: Answer of JEF Austria to Monitoring report update**

Dear Christelle,

hereby I take the opportunity to react to your mail.

While we deeply value our long-standing commitment to the ideals of the Young European Federalists, we must express our profound concerns regarding the procedures and the rationale behind the proposed exclusion process.

BEJ/JEF Austria has been an integral part of JEF Europe since its foundation. Our national section was established in 1955 and was the **first section to adopt the name "Young European Federalists"**—even before the German section. Austria was a founding member of JEF Europe and has contributed significantly to its development and success for decades.

Historically, BEJ/JEF Austria has always had a different **organizational structure and working methods** compared to other sections. However, this does not mean that we are not **federalists**. On the contrary, our approach has enabled us to



engage a broad and diverse range of young people in Austria, fostering European civic engagement and strengthening the federalist movement in our own way.

Since 1955, BEJ/JEF Austria has been the umbrella organization for pro-European NGOs in Austria, always maintaining a distinct structure from JEF Europe. Unlike JEF Europe, which primarily focuses on students, BEJ/JEF has always engaged a broader audience, including **both students and school pupils**, ensuring a more inclusive and diverse pro-European youth movement. This broader approach has always been **a strength of our organization**, allowing BEJ/JEF Austria to reach and engage diverse young people across different educational backgrounds. Our ability to connect with both students and school pupils has made us a vital force in fostering European awareness and civic engagement in Austria.

The new federal team at BEJ/JEF Austria needed time to familiarize itself with the long-standing structures, and such transitions naturally take time. Additionally, the pandemic and its aftermath have brought significant changes, not only within BEJ/JEF but across many organizations. At the same time, the political environment in Austria is becoming increasingly hostile toward Europe, making our work more challenging.

With this procedure, JEF Europe is not only undermining our efforts but is actively facilitating the obstacles we face in promoting European values in an increasingly difficult landscape. JEF Europe should take these circumstances into account rather than exacerbating challenges through unnecessary conflicts.

It has been claimed that BEJ/JEF Austria has not been active, which is entirely incorrect. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we were one of the most active JEF sections, launching initiatives such as **#EUROPAgegenCovid19**, which received significant recognition, including the **EU Civil Solidarity Award from the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)**. Furthermore, BEJ/JEF Austria has been honored with the **Emperor Maximilian Award by the State of Tyrol** and a **National Award by the Austrian Federal Government** – awards that are not given to an inactive organization.

Beyond that, BEJ/JEF has successfully implemented **EU pilot projects**, which have been recognized as **best practices** at the European level. An example is the



**EU-funded project "European Fourth Estate – Fourth Power: Protecting Democracy through Investigative Journalism"**, which was selected as a leading initiative by the European Commission:

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/pilot-project-european-fourth-estate-fourth-power-protecting-democracy-through-investigative>

Additionally, **in 2024, BEJ/JEF Austria was entrusted with the official nationwide youth and first-time voter campaign for the European Parliament elections in Austria, successfully implementing #vote4EU**. This campaign mobilized thousands of young people, strengthened European political engagement, and countered Euroscepticism at a crucial moment. The idea that BEJ/JEF Austria is inactive is therefore not only false but entirely absurd.

It is true that **BEJ/JEF Austria is currently facing internal challenges**, particularly with **one regional section (which has absorbed two others)** that refuses to cooperate with the national board. However, **JEF Europe's handling of the situation is exacerbating the problem rather than resolving it**. Instead of **facilitating dialogue and supporting a constructive solution**, JEF Europe's **interventionist and punitive approach is eroding decades of cooperation and trust**.

Rather than acting as a unifying force, JEF Europe's actions are **actively harming** the federalist movement in Austria. By publicly attacking one of its strongest sections, JEF Europe is playing directly into the hands of **anti-European forces and Eurosceptic parties**, which are all too eager to exploit internal divisions among pro-European youth organizations. At a time when democracy and European unity are under attack, such reckless behavior is not only damaging but highly irresponsible.

At a time when Europe is facing unprecedented challenges like **rising Euroscepticism, democratic backsliding, and external threats** weakening JEF Austria would be a **self-inflicted wound on JEF Europe itself**. The removal of one of its founding members would set a dangerous precedent and weaken JEF's standing as a diverse, inclusive, and pan-European movement.



We urge the Federal Committee and Arbitration Board to **reconsider this decision and base their assessment on facts rather than misrepresentations**. BEJ/JEF Austria strongly urges JEF Europe to **end the monitoring process** and instead engage in an open and constructive dialogue. This process is based on **false accusations** and does not contribute to any meaningful improvements. On the contrary, the way JEF Europe is handling this situation **harms itself and weakens the entire organization** at a time when **European solidarity is more crucial than ever**. Rather than fostering division, JEF Europe should focus on strengthening cooperation and unity among its sections to effectively counter the growing challenges facing Europe today.

It is neither in the interest of BEJ/JEF Austria nor in the interest of JEF Europe to create unnecessary conflicts, especially when they are based on **one-sided and incomplete information**. We hope for a **respectful and constructive approach** rather than yet another round of **false accusations**, which only serve to deepen divisions instead of strengthening our shared mission.

I expect you to quote me in full and not just in excerpts when you do so.

Best,  
Kati

Kati Schneeberger  
Bundesgeschäftsführerin / Federal Managing Director

## **Annexe 7: Arbitration Board opinion on the expulsion of JEF Austria**

Dear Christelle,

Thank you for the materials and information provided, which we, as the Arbitration Board, analysed.

Per Article 13, C.i of the Statutes of JEF Europe, National Sections or candidate Sections of JEF can only be expelled for reasons of their nonadherence 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.

As from our understanding of the information provided, JEF Austria did not submit a member section report for at least two consecutive years<sup>2</sup>. Thus, the section can be expelled based on this consideration.

In terms of next steps, the section must be notified of the expulsion procedure, through recorded delivery at least six months before the next statutory meeting when the expulsion will be voted on. 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. Note that expulsion can only take place with a favorable opinion of the Arbitration Board.

Best regards on behalf of the Arbitration Board,

Flavia

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On Sun, 6 Apr 2025, 22.18 Christelle Savall <christelle.savall@jef.eu> wrote:

Dear Arbitration Board members,

I trust you are well. As you may know, the 2025 Spring Federal Committee in Sofia voted to recommend the expulsion of JEF Austria. As per the statutes (Article 13) we therefore request an opinion from the Arbitration Board. You can find the relevant monitoring reports and documents here:

FC Tartu resolution (you need to sign up to the internal area)

FC Budapest report

FC Sofia report

JEF Austria written answer (you need to sign up to the internal area)

Draft EB minutes of FC Budapest in which you can read the declaration of the former president of JEF Austria

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<sup>2</sup> JEF Austria has since then, unlike for 2023, sent their membership statement for 2024. A new AB opinion will be requested following the hearing.



The draft minutes of FC Sofia will be made available later in the month.

Should you wish to read all of the emails with JEF Austria, we are happy to provide it.

We will notify the recommendation to JEF Austria by recorded delivery and inform them of their right for a hearing before you and the FC.

Could you also confirm the next steps? My understanding is that the Federal Committee at its outgoing meeting in Sofia would vote on the expulsion (Art 13.2) but if accepted if supporting expulsion, is it sufficient or should it go to Congress as art 13.ciii or is it just for sections that ceased to exist ?

We remain at your disposal for more information that you may find useful,

Christelle on behalf of the Monitoring Committee for JEF Austria

## **Annexe 8: Request of JEF Austria for a hearing**

Dear Christelle, dear Robin, dear Mirko,

thank you for your message and the information regarding the proposed exclusion of our section. We take this development very seriously and would like to present our perspective and the relevant facts in the spirit of open and transparent communication.

First and foremost, we would like to emphasise that BEJ/JEF Austria is deeply committed to the goals and values of JEF Europe.

BEJ/JEF Austria has been an integral part of JEF Europe since its foundation. Our national section was established in 1955 and was the first to adopt the name “Young European Federalists”—even before the German section. Austria was a founding member of JEF Europe and has significantly contributed to its development and success for decades.



Historically, BEJ/JEF Austria has always had a different organisational structure and working methods compared to other sections. However, this does not mean that we are not federalists. On the contrary, our approach has enabled us to engage a broad and diverse range of young people in Austria, fostering European civic engagement and strengthening the federalist movement in our own way.

Since 1955, BEJ/JEF Austria has served as the umbrella organisation for pro-European NGOs in Austria, maintaining a distinct structure from JEF Europe. Unlike JEF Europe, which primarily focuses on students, BEJ/JEF has always engaged a broader audience, including both students and school pupils, thereby ensuring a more inclusive and diverse pro-European youth movement. This broader approach has been a key strength of our organisation, enabling BEJ/JEF Austria to reach and involve young people across different educational backgrounds and social groups.

Our work is consistently driven by a clear European vision and the goal of a united, federal Europe. It was all the more surprising to us that an exclusion procedure has been initiated.

In response to the allegations and arguments cited in support of the proposed exclusion, we would like to clarify the following:

- Our **Membership Statement for 2025** was submitted, including the minutes of our Federal Congress in 2024.
- It is correct that no Membership Statement was submitted in 2024. We sincerely apologise for this. The reason was a change in both the presidency and the position of secretary general at the federal level. Unfortunately, the submission was missed during the transitional phase—a procedural oversight, but by no means a sign of disinterest.
- Over the past years, we have **continuously and fully paid our membership fee**. Since our members do not pay individual membership contributions, we pay a fixed lump-sum amount. This model is rooted in our internal structure and has been communicated transparently to JEF Europe.



- The **submission of member lists and detailed financial data is not possible** under current data protection regulations. This has been communicated openly and repeatedly by our organisation.

Despite this, we are and have been highly active – both in terms of content and organisation. Our activities go far beyond symbolic actions and demonstrate that we effectively reach young people across Austria. Our annual activities and events (including in 2024 and 2025) include, among others:

- co-organised the **Youth Speak Forum** at the UNO City complex in Vienna, together with our member organisation AIESEC and the UNIDO;
- hosted national and regional sessions in collaboration with the **European Youth Parliament (EYP)**;
- organised **Austria's largest Europe Day celebration** on Vienna's Mariahilfer Straße (Austria's busiest shopping street, reaching over 40,000 people during our event time), featuring more than 20 European countries, European institutions such as the European Parliament and the City of Vienna's Europe Office, MEPs, local politicians, civil society partners etc.
- co-organized a **hackathon** with its own European category as part of ViennaUP (a startup festival) together with Sustainista
- co-organised a **two-day comic fair (Vienna Comix)** with a dedicated Europe section;
- held numerous **Europe-themed cinema events**, where young people could watch films on European values and issues free of charge;
- hosted **online and offline discussions** on European topics, including a recent event series on a common European Security and Defence Union;
- launched a new project, **#EUBriefing**, where we pose targeted questions to Austrian MEPs after every plenary session;
- carried out multiple events and activities on the subject of **EU enlargement**; currently, among other things, a series of discussions with the individual candidate countries
- organised numerous **internal networking and planning meetings** as well as participatory processes for the development of new formats and projects;



- and regularly distributed educational and advocacy content via **social media**, to bring European topics closer to a broad youth audience.

This list is exemplary and by no means exhaustive. However, it clearly illustrates that we maintain a diverse, in-depth, and high-quality programme with real impact. We engage young people where they are active – whether in civil society, politics, or culture – and place great value on sustainable partnerships and substantive depth.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we were one of the most active JEF sections, launching initiatives such as **#EUROPAgegenCovid19**, which received broad recognition, including the **EU Civil Solidarity Award** from the **European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)**. Furthermore, BEJ/JEF Austria was honoured with the **Emperor Maximilian Award** by the State of Tyrol and the **Austrian State Prize for Europe** in 2023.

In addition, BEJ/JEF has successfully implemented EU pilot projects that have been recognised as European best practices. One example is the EU-funded initiative **“European Fourth Estate – Fourth Power: Protecting Democracy through Investigative Journalism,”** which was selected by the European Commission as a leading pilot project:

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/pilot-project-european-fourth-estate-fourth-power-protecting-democracy-through-investigative>

Moreover, in 2024, BEJ/JEF Austria was entrusted with the **official nationwide youth and first-time voter campaign** for the European Parliament elections in Austria, successfully launching and implementing the **#vote4EU** campaign. This campaign mobilised thousands of young people, strengthened European political engagement, and countered Euroscepticism at a critical moment.

Regarding the situation with JEF Steiermark, we would like to clarify the following: According to information from our predecessors and former members, **JEF Steiermark has refused cooperation with the federal association for several years**. They failed to submit any activity or membership reports and did not contribute membership fees. Several **mediation attempts were unsuccessful**.



Eventually, **JEF Steiermark**, along with **JEF Kärnten** and **JEF Oberösterreich** – which they took over without informing or consulting the federal association – built a **parallel structure outside the federal association**. All three regional sections **withdrew without prior notice** last year.

We have received credible reports that representatives from these groups have been **misrepresenting themselves to institutions and other national JEF sections as “the real JEF Austria”**, deliberately spreading disinformation about our association – especially regarding alleged inactivity – and **actively discouraging collaboration with us**. This behaviour is not only harmful to our association and contrary to the statutes but also undermines cohesion within JEF Europe as a whole.

We hope that this clarification contributes to a factual and fair assessment of the situation and kindly ask that the points raised above be duly considered when evaluating the status of our section.

We remain fully open to dialogue and continue to seek constructive and positive cooperation with JEF Europe and all national sections – on the basis of **shared values, mutual respect, and a lived European spirit**.

We would also like to exercise our right **to be heard before the Federal Committee and the Arbitration Board** and kindly ask for proposed dates in July.

With kind regards,

Eleftheria Walzer  
President

Kati Schneeberger  
Federal Managing Director

## **Annexe 9: Link to JEF Austria hearing recording**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/aif-SJd9s13Yw\\_IA9pr6enVHslzbf8txQd\\_hDt1MjkH00Zyp7Z2HQ7ung-R0ymGJ.xQiyDkZa1r\\_h9OHW](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/aif-SJd9s13Yw_IA9pr6enVHslzbf8txQd_hDt1MjkH00Zyp7Z2HQ7ung-R0ymGJ.xQiyDkZa1r_h9OHW)



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