

## CANDIDACY FOR STATUTORY POSITION

**POSITION:** EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

Following the resignation of Executive Board (EB) member Hanna Kivimäki on 13.09.2020, the JEF Europe EB has decided on 27.09.2020 to appoint Christelle Savall as her replacement, to serve for the remainder of the outgoing officers' term of office, to be ratified by the Federal Committee at the next available Federal Committee meeting, according to the Statutes, Art. 26(c).

### PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

**NAME:** CHRISTELLE SAVALL

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### **ABOUT ME**



I have been a dedicated member of JEF since 2012. Last year, I had the privilege to be elected as part of the Federal Committee and become a member of the Presidium as well as co-chair of the Task force Capacity Building. I contributed to this Task Force (TF) already during the last mandate back when I was internal auditor of JEF Europe.

In 2016-2017, I was treasurer on the board of JEF-France where I managed a budget of c. €150,000, co-organized several seminars including the European Youth Convention and helped local sections grow through training and mentoring.

Before being part of the national board, I have successively been in charge of conferences, Vice-president, and President of my local section in Paris (Sciences Po). I was also a member of JEF in Sweden and in Germany during my ERASMUS year and am currently a member of JEF France and JEF Belgium.

At the moment, I am a junior monitoring officer of public projects in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific at the European Investment Bank (EIB) in Luxembourg. I hold two master

degrees in international affairs/ finance and strategy from the University of St Gallen (Switzerland) and Sciences Po (Paris).

And some random things about me: I love to read, to dance - name a partner dance and I probably tried it already -, I really enjoy karaoke (especially in JEF). I also love to speak different languages: French, English, German, Swedish and I am currently learning Spanish, so feel free to contact me in any of those!

### **MOTIVATION FOR THE POSITION**

JEF made me the person I am today, gave me a voice, extra confidence, competencies and the courage to step forward. Just as importantly, it allowed me to meet a lot of different people and form meaningful friendships. I started volunteering in JEF for Europe and Federalism but I stayed for the people! I now want to join the EB to contribute even more to JEF Europe's work and action, to its internal organization as well as to its advocacy and outreach work.

Over the last year, I worked in the FC Presidium alongside Gerhard and Simon, preparing and chairing FCs and the EB-FC meeting in Brussels. Being the day-to-day link between EB and FC, coordinating FC work alongside its very committed JEFers and those in the EB and in the local sections all over Europe was an amazing experience I would like to carry on, now from the other side, in the EB team.

Since I joined TF Capacity Building three years ago, first as an enthusiastic member and then as co-chair, I helped local sections connect through the twinning programme. During the past year, Juuso and I strived to adapt the offer of the task force to the sections, be they big or small, national or local and to their specific needs. Creating new content, new training and improving access to this common knowledge gave me the urge to do even more. I wish to amplify this work as an EB member.

Over the past years, I also had the opportunity to take part in Empowerment and Diversity activities in JEF. I became an active member of the dedicated taskforce, helping draft the Code of Conduct, but also took part in two DIVE seminars on diversity which gave me new understandings of what we need to achieve and how to be a point of contact during the past FCs. As part of the Presidium, I then helped entrench the gender watch during FCs, by taking part in its implementation and by writing guidelines on the gender watch so it can be used further. Should I be confirmed as an EB member, I want to continue working closely with the FC to put the Code of Conduct into action and helping JEF on its path of improved diversity and equality.

As much as we need a solid backbone as an organization, it is aimed at a purpose, our advocacy and outreach work. As a JEF activist for more than 8 years now, I have

participated in a large number of field actions, with a special place in my heart for the Free Belarus action, which became Democracy under Pressure. Through the political commission in JEF France, as part of PC3 work those past years, I have developed a taste for policy development. My favourite subjects are enlargement (on which I wrote my thesis), development aid, Africa (at the heart of my day job) and climate change action. Being entrusted with the policy mandate of our members as an EB member would be a great honour!

### **MY VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF JEF**

With the Covid-19 and its dire effect on our activities and members, everything is to reinvent: our events, our campaign tools, our recruitment etc. This is a daunting task but I trust the network with all my heart to pull it off. It is during hardships that we see the true valour of an organization and I see ours.

During the lockdown, I saw new initiatives, new partnerships and a lot of open online events bringing together sections across Europe. So now that so much is online, not just JEF work in between physical FCs, let's try to work even more together! Have more EB /FC meetings, more knowledge sharing between sections, more cross-national events, and so on.

The European political crisis shows us that it is necessary to further strengthen our network and JEF-Europe strategy in terms of public and goals. In this regard, our members need to be trained, our sections to be even better interconnected and our network to be efficient. Our vision needs to be clear to be heard. JEF Europe also has to gain from working more on its visibility and impact to the local sections and members to act as a true European network.

JEF needs to become more sustainable, by becoming more environmentally friendly in our action as well as in our policies but also by making space for everyone to belong, be they new or more familiar faces. We want to keep volunteers in JEF for a long time and not just for a couple of years. We need to build a more inclusive JEF that embodies the values we want the EU to be a beacon for. And more than ever, I want in!

Feel free to contact me with any questions or if you want to talk about a particular point or just to get to know each other as meeting and getting to know JEFers is more complicated during an FC taking place online!