YOUNG
EUROPEAN
FEDERALISTS

European Congress
Paris – France
25 - 27 October 2019

FRIDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2019

1. Official Opening

1.1 Official opening

- Welcome address by **Marie Caillaud**, President of JEF France: "Thanks to the city of Paris, with whom JEF France has been working for two years to ensure that thousands of Parisians live their European citizenship. Thanks also to JEF Europe and the JEF France volunteers for all the work done for the future of the organisation".
- Welcome address by **Christopher Glück**, President of JEF Europe and Chair of the Congress until the new Presidium is elected: "A lot of decisions to be made for the future of our organisation. It's been a really intense mandate for us. It's been the year of the European elections and now a new mandate started on the European level which we already don't see any major changes that we were hoping for. Our role in the next 5 years will be just as important as in the last five years, if not more important because Europe is becoming more and more challenged by the lack of many changes that we are pursuing as JEF. It is important that we take this Congress as a starting point for the next 5 years. The first two years will be important for us to establish ourselves as a youth organisation that can be influential in Brussels and beyond Brussels, in the Member States due to the role of our sections. And what a better opportunity to coordinate ourselves than a Congress, that for once we all see each other, for once we have the opportunity to exchange and get to know each other, have nice ideas and new connections; but also to speak about the challenges that we have and the solutions that we suggest''.

1.2 Code of conduct

- **Christopher**, as Chair of the Congress (Presidium). Reminds the code of conduct of JEF Europe established in the last Federal Committee of the last mandate. "Our code of conduct is very simple: in this organisation there is no space for any sort of discrimination based on gender, race, sexual orientation. None of these things can't be seen here and if they are seen we will take actions against". (applauses). There is also the opportunity, if you experience any sort of harassment, any sort of situation that you feel uneasy about to speak to trustable people within the organisation that will take over your concerns and find solutions, or help to deal with the solution. The two people that we have nominated for this are Milosh Ristovski, our Secretary General, and Ophélie Omnes, Chair of Task Force Empowerment. When you wonder if you are in line with we consider our code of conduct, these questions are something to consider: is it ethical? Is it legal? Is it consistent with the values of JEF Europe? Keep in mind what we stand for as an organisation. Keep in mind that when you are here, you are not only representing yourselves but you are representing your sections and JEF Europe".

2. Formalities

2.1 Report of the Credentials Committee

Credentials Committee composed of: **Ophélie Omnes** (Federal Committee), **Elisa Selinummi** (Auditors Committee) & **Johannes Börmann** (Arbitration Board). Designated to check the allocation of the Congress delegates.

- **Ophélie**: "Everything is in check".

2.2 Roll-call (declaration of the votes present and represented)

- **14.35h, 25/10/2019.** 76 national delegates. **QUORUM IS REACHED**

2.3 Appointment of the Congress Presidium

- **Christopher Glück**, Chair of the Presidium: "Following our old tradition in JEF Europe, the Presidium is usually composed of worthy former members of JEF Europe who know how to chair meetings and have a proper insight understanding of the organisation. The EB makes a suggestion for names that gets approved by the FC. This happened this morning. The FC approved the following names: **Sven Bisang**, **Pauline Gessant**, **Carlo Maria Palerno**, **Elisa Selinummi**, **Ioan Bucuraș**".
- **THE PRESIDIUM IS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- **Sven,** Presidium**,** remembers to use the Congress hashtags and explains the Congress rules:

Question or new point: raise one finger
To comment: raise two fingers
Point of order: raise the full hand

2.4 Appointment of the Returning Officer

- **Sven,** Presidum: "It is been suggested [by the EB] that we vote in abstention for **Valentin Dupouey-Sterdyniak**".
- **Pauline,** Presidium: "The returning officer is the person responsible for counting the votes during the elections. It is the person who deals with the elections and answers your questions regarding the results".
- **VALENTIN IS APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS**

2.5 Appointment of four Tellers

- **Sven**, Presidium: "Tellers are a very honourable task. They cannot vote, so they cannot be any delegate nor run for any position: they have to be observers eager to follow the instructions".
    - Matteo, Kristine, Lauren, Michelangelo kkk (they didnt say the sections in the voice record)
- **THE TELLERS ARE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

2.6 Appointment of the Resolutions Committee

- **Sven**, Presidium: "These people that you are seeing [names on the screen] have been proposed and recommended by the FC this morning to be in the Resolutions Committee. The RC makes sure that whatever has been decided on Saturday morning is in correct form to be voted on Sunday morning".
- **Mariasophia Falcone,** JEF Italy: "Juho is not here, so I would like to know if that is an issue with the procedure".

- **Sven**, Presidium: "We'll delete him from the list here and not appoint him".
- **THE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE IS APPROVED**

2.7 Adoption of the Agenda

- **Sven**, Presidium: "According to the statues you have been seeing a pre version of the agenda that has been sent to you on time. Our job now is to adopt this agenda. Once that is adopted it can be amended and it there can be changes due to the course of the discussion, but we need to have an agenda. That's why I'm asking now to vote on this agenda".
- **THE AGENDA IS UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED AS SUGGESTED**

2.8 Adoption of the voting procedure on resolutions

- **Sven**, Presidium: "Here it gets a bit tricky and you have to have patience with us over the course of the weekend. The intention behind having this point on the agenda and vote on it is to make sure that everything is done according to the statues. We have three points here to point out. On the first bloc, 'On resolutions', the conditions whenever we vote on resolutions. That means that the responsible Chair explains the resolution in general that we all vote by amendments and then it can be explained if there are any questions. We also have the rule that if requested one person can speak in favour and one person can speak against an amendment. There is only needed simple majority on resolutions".
- … JEF Germany (39.04): "There will be no general debates on resolutions, only on amendments. Is that correct?".
- **Sven**, Presidium: "There is going to be a general debate in PCs, but not in the voting session on Sunday".
- **VOTING PROCEDURE UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**
- **Sven**, Presidium: "On the statutory reform, the vote is going to be on Sunday. And we will first vote on all of the amendments of the rules of procedure and then on the statues. We have so many amendments that it will not be possible from a practical and logistical point of view to vote one amendment after the other so we suggest is voting in blocs according to the discussions that have taken place in the Task Forces before and make sure that we can get swiftly to the program. However, if there are individual concerns or individual amendments they can be raised on Sunday as well. But in order to make it practical those amendments that are not really controversial will be voted in a bloc system. We'll explain more on Sunday morning. Then, on the rules of procedure and statutes, the voting is a bit different. So for the rules of procedure we need an absolute majority, that means that abstentions are counted. For the statutes, there is a two third majority for sections requested for each amendment and for the whole text".

2.9 Adoption of the minutes of the 24rd European Congress (Malta 2017)

- **THE MINUTES ARE ADOPTED**

3 Sections & Membership

3.1 Presentation of candidate sections applying for full membership + Q&A

- **Sven**, Presidium: "That would be the presentation on the candidate section for full membership of Slovenia. Slovenia has a bit of delay, so let's move to the next point and we can come back to this once that the candidate section representative is here".

- **No objections to modify the agenda.**

3.1 Recognition of / vote on full membership of candidate sections

(salto)

- **Elisa Selinummi**, Presidium: "Now we go to the happy part: the family is grown. We will have the chance now to get to know a new member: Welcome, JEF Slovenia!"
- …, JEF Slovenia: "I'm here on behalf of JEF Slovenia for how we call ourselves, Society beyond Europeans. So we are very happy to join JEF, we are trying to do so since 2017. The message that I want to send to the members is that we are very glad to be part of the Assembly. We were engaged in the past 3 years in local projects through Europe@School in a secondary school in Ljubljana and more in rural areas of Slovenia. We presented the European values so students will know more about how the European Union is constructed.
- One interesting thing was European Coffee, where we had different conversations with civilians and MEPs on youth engagement through +dialogue within the European Union and the European Parliament.
- We were engaged in different festivals in Ljubljana. At the festival of NGOs we were presenting and sharing the values of European integration and cooperation in Ljubljana.
- We are engaging our youth organizations, especially the Youth Council of Slovenia and House of EU in Slovenia.
- We are organizing different international projects for JEF sections to gather in Slovenia, not necessarily in Ljubljana but in other cities of Slovenia.
- The most important international projects for us were participating in the I Choose Europe campaign, when the bus came to Slovenia in April and JEFers could engage with citizens of Slovenia.
- The most important event for our us was in late May, just before the European elections. We organised an event, I vote. There were participants from 8 different countries and we visited the Council of Slovenia, the National Parliament and offices of MEPs in Slovenia.
- **Jacopo Barbati**, outgoing VP: "To complete the information about the relationship that we had with the candidate section. For the establishment of this group we had constant contact and as I mentioned to the different board it was shown that they were able to have regular democratic endowment. They were also providing all the requested documents for applying as a full member of JEF Europe on time. On behalf of the former EB my congratulations to the new section on their achievement, passion and efforts made to be part of this organisation.
- **Simon Devos**, outgoing treasurer: if you look into the statutes, before accepting JEF Slovenia to be a full member section of JEF Europe, we need to make sure that there is no-outstanding member fees. And now we can confirm that all the financial and administrative requirements were met.

UNANIMITY ON APPROVING SLOVENIA

4 Finances

4.1 Financial and audit report 2017-2019 45.31

- **Simon Devos**, Treasurer of JEF Europe: "Let's start off with our agenda for today: our membership and our financial situation of the accounts of 2017 and 2018. Also, I would like to do an update of the financial situation up to now and end with some remarks as a handover review and as the Congress responsible for the financial situation of this organisation and how to move on in the future".
- Update on the number of sections: 30 full member sections. We have two candidate sections and of them, JEF Slovenia, will be presenting their application to become a full member section later during the Congress.
- Over the last couple of years the number of members of JEF Europe has increased with me as a Treasurer. JEF Europe had 12.368 members in 2016 and now it has 12.706 members.
- I will also inform you on the sections (JEF Armenia, JEF Greece, JEF Hungary, JEF Lithuania, JEF Moldova, JEF Montenegro, JEF Serbia) that are having some difficulties and have not submitted their statements, that have not paid their membership fees for the last two years. And this is not good news for our organisation because this means that little by little we are losing the sections in our network. So another remark from my side: please, if you get to know people from these countries, if you meet people from those sections, make sure they get in touch with the newly elected board.
- On how membership has developed: in many Western European countries our membership figures have increased quite well. However, in Central Europe we have seen figures stagnating and decreasing, so if we want to be a real pan-European we'll have to be more active there and put our resources there.
- Financial situation: brief on the financial situation of our accounts. In 2018 and 2017 we made some 5000 euros profit, we underspent a little bit of the budget simply because we got many projects allowing to move the initially budgeted expenses under project budgets
- Internal and external audits were favourable. Everything was in line with what was budgeted and reduced general expenditure.
- On the expenses for our Statutory meetings: we had two in Rome and in Malta whose expenses were much higher that what we had budgeted. This is another point for me to do; dear Congress, dear FC members: it is fantastic that you take the initiative to help us organising these meetings but we also need to be aware of our financial situation. I don't thinks it's very sustainable for the organisation if our statutory meetings cost 10000-13000 euros more than what we had budgeted. Future generations of JEF will have to look into it.
- Overview on our operational incomes and expenses:
    - **2017 incomes:**
        - We still got some funding form the Erasmus+ programme: €60,000
        - Membership fees: €23,000
        - Operational grants – Council of Europe: €22,000
        - Participation fees from Statutory events: €24,000
    - **2017 expenses:**
        - Majority of expenses went to staff: €50,000
        - Statutory meetings: €48,000
    - **2018 incomes:**
        - Moved from the Erasmus+ scheme to Europe for Citizens scheme

        - Operational grant from the European Commission went up from around €50,000 to €200,000 as part the Europe for Citizens.
    - **2018 expenses:**
        - Majority spent on personnel – allowing the organization to grow.
        - Expense on statutory meetings.
- Financially speaking, this was a challenge for the organisation because this was a totally new way of reporting programmes to the European Commission. We also hired new staff, we purchased new infrastructures for the Secretariat.
- We made some losses, about 13.000 euros. But do not worry, we have enough financial reserves to cover these losses. This happens in any organization.
- We also cut some expenses for the Statutory meetings.
- Different projects that we did with JEF Europe. In the years 2017-2019, the money flow increased from project funding.
- For the upcoming months, the financial situation is stable, the monitoring so far went very well.
- We also have an update on the cash flow – we have between €150,000-200,000.
- Some recommendations for the future Treasure: what is important is to have regular exchanges with the Secretary General. Also, future generations: make sure to always update the EB about the financial situation. Use the EB meetings to do a short update. Since I got elected Treasurer, we have never had cash problems. We have always been able to pay the salaries.
- In 2015 I promised to you I would work on solidarity to make people able to come to our events. I know it's not cheap to come to the Statutory events but I think with the Solidarity Fund and with the deals with, for example, Flixbus now it's easier, compared to the situation back in 2015. Diversity and inclusion are important for the organisation.
- Now I'm becoming a more serious on this: pay your membership fees on time. Yes, overall it's 25000 euros for JEF Europe but without your membership fees there is no way to our projects, there is no way to operational grants. Your contribution is crucial.

4.2 Audit Report 2017-19 (Auditors Committee)

- **Christelle Savall**, Auditor: "In the last two years the Secretariat has done a great job. The last Audit Report shows that … a reform in the Secretariat? There is also more accurate record on our events. Membership fees…? Full time president?

4.3 Adoption of the annual accounts 2017 and 2018

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS ARE APPROVED

5 Past activities

5.1 Organisational activity report 2017-2019 (SG)

- **Milosh Ristovski**, Secretary General: "The idea was but all of you could have the activity report printed because it was ordered a long time ago but sadly they didn't arrive on time. We have it uploaded online. The idea of having an activity report is to show what we, as JEF Europe and not only the Secretariat, have done in the last 2 years.
- The Secretariat, the EB, the Auditors and the Arbitration Board were involved in the activity report that has been done by JEF Europe.
- We have had a lot of project activities so that is why our budget was much higher. I would like to thank all the sections and apologise for all the crazy calls that they have received in the last months but this year we had a lot of grants and that is why we were pushing you so much to make sure that you would come to the events.
- We got a big grant from the European Youth Together grant thanks to the "I Choose Europe" campaign. Thank you again to all the sections for the work done. You will be hearing more about the campaign because we are approaching all the MEPs that got elected
- Besides this, we have continued our activities on Europe Day with our sections, we have continued our campaign 'Democracy under Pressure' in 2018 and 2019.
- We are also working on diversifying our membership. We have noticed that we have a typical member that has studied Politics and European studies but we really want to broad our network and change our language to make it more accessible to a wider range of volunteers.
- We also continued talking a lot among our sections on shrinking space. Our section in North Macedonia was attacked by the government and the police shut it down for quite some time for their European political activism. This motivated us to speak about this issue.

Throughout the year we did a lot of seminars -7.42

Council of Europe… Leonie will keep working

This year we worked on Media literacy and critical thinking with our Regional Schools.

We also set a Pool of Trainers. I have been a trainer for JEF Europe for seven years and this is something that I think it was really needed (applauses)

On the Europe@school… Next year we will continue on the programme. One step further will be to really understand how accessible are the activities that we do with different disadvantaged groups (Roma, disabled people, migrants and refugees)…

4.30 continue…

5.2 Political Activity report 2017-2019 (President)

- **Christopher Gluck**, President of JEF Europe: "At the beginning of this mandate, the EB thought about the things we wanted to do, the things that we wanted to achieve in this mandate. We decided to set 3 main priorities to put forward through the mandate.
- First one, more development and consolidation on the organisation side, dealing with more money, staff and more projects. The reflection on this made us grow 10 times more. I can't really say we managed to put forward all our ideas but we definitely brought the idea behind, which was professionalism and being taken seriously.

- The second part was to strengthen the organisational capacity of our network. Network meaning how we can support you as sections but also you as individuals and how we can support you in your work as activists. We wanted to think about how to use this wide network with the Union of European Federalists, the European Youth Forum, AEGEE, ESN, youth organisations in general, Civil Society Europe. political parties, think tanks, etc. Thirdly, we wanted to do effectively advocacy for federalist positions.
- We opened a Solidarity Fund which allows members who do not benefit from sufficient resources themselves to sometimes travel for quite expensive trips for statutory meetings like in Paris, London, Stockholm. I think the Solidarity Fund is a really good idea to connect our members and I recommend continuing it.
- We also introduced the Code of Conduct as a suggestion of JEF Finland following the last European Congress and we tried to engage more with the directly elected FC members and give them a larger role within the organisation. We did for the first time an FC/EB meeting. I still believe that there is more to be done and that we can get better on that.
- One of the first that we had to do as EB was to find the right person as Secretary General, as this position is extremely important for JEF Europe. I believe we found the right person with Milosh to take forward the work. The work so far has been fantastic with a full secretariat with efficient staff members.
- We also improved the reporting between the SG and the EB following the suggestions from the Auditors Committee to have a more coherent follow up on the money situation. We implemented all these recommendations from the last Congress.
- On the funding side, and on the projects size as Simon pointed out earlier, we have six times as more money that we had three years ago. Managing that was quite challenging, we moved from the Erasmus+ operational grant to the Europe for Citizens operational grant.
- We also implemented that we could pay proper salaries to our staff. There is no more short or unpaid internships.

6 Discharge

6.1 Discharge of the Executive Board (simple majority)

- **CLEAR MAJORITY - THE EB IS DISCHARGED.**

6.2 Discharge of the Federal Committee (simple majority)

- **CLEAR MAJORITY – THE FC IS DISCHARGED**

7 Inputs from guests

- Speech from speaking guest: **Paolo Vacca**, Secretary General of UEF

8 Full time President

8.1 Presentation of the resolution on Full time President, debate and vote

- **Pauline**, Presidium: "As you know, the now discharged EB recommended that the President of JEF Europe should be a full time position for the coming mandate. I'll ask Chris if he can say a few words about to introduce the debate".
- **Christopher Glück**, former President: Along with the EB we sat to assess how the experience on a Full time President went. And in fact it's very easy: we set three priorities out of that. The first priority was to able the President to follow up on the work that was happening. Second: to increase the ability of the President to be in touch with the national sections. And three: to support and strengthen the policy and advocacy efforts.
- From my perspective, it's not always been easy to be here and sometimes a bit difficult to adjust to that role. It took me a few months to understand what my function was and to find that my time was well invested. But the longer it's been going the more I've seen the results of it and the benefits. Therefore, my recommendation to the EB is really clear: to maintain this. And I'll explain why. After we increased twice the projects and the activities we run at the European level and the budget we have, it became more of a challenge for me simply to follow up next to my real job. It took me a lot of effort and many hours in the evenings and weekends. And even if I felt I couldn't give up at some point I felt that I did not know everything that was going on, that I did not have the exact details. Plus, I did not have time to have new ideas, to be creative on how to develop our work. I also had less and less time to be in touch with the sections, to be present. So I felt this is needed if you want to enable the organization to continue its work as we have always done, effectively lead by volunteers, by people like us. However, as other organisations, we also need professionals who believe in what they do to grow along with our activists and volunteers.
- And I feel that last year was possible for me to start understanding what we do and strengthen the communication that happens between the 6.11 leadership of JEF and the professional side of the leadership of JEF. Now the EB knows more about what we are doing on the European level and also feel that they are getting more involved in the projects and activities, and their priorities and points of view are being heard. We feel more ease sometimes to think that things are going well and we can focus on the substance and to contribute to the movement.
- In the last year I spoke with more JEFers, more sections about the work, about the challenges than in the previous 4 or 5 years because I had the opportunity to travel, to visit sections. And I can tell it's another level of work if you can follow up, if you can set up meetings. It improved also my content work: to write about all these things that matter to us, JEF proposals, amendments for MEPs. And sometimes to make that contact that leads us somewhere. After the elections campaign, we are approached now as a professional organisation.
- The EB now calls me to ask for my opinion. It did not happen so often before but it's being so for the last couple of months. It's my feeling now that this organisation is present. But if we want to be there, if we want to make a change and act actively to push for the claims that we make, we can't do it without a President who is not in the organisation full time.

- There are also a few recommendations that we had collectively. The first recommendation was that the work and responsibilities between the SG and the President needs to be very clear. We had unclear roles that sometimes lead to confusion. Now it's very clear: Milosh takes care of the operational side running the day-to-day for projects, fundings, applications, reports. On my side it would be the contact with sections, understand what is going to do a political representation and advocacy in Europe. But we haven't fully done it yet and that's a recommendation to keep working on.
- On the 114 times that I have represented JEF in the last 4 years in political debates, meetings with organisations etc, 79 happened in the last 12 months. That's quite an increase. If we want to continue that, we need a Full time President.
- On further recommendations: If it's one term or two terms. This is for you to decide if it's... more than a job than a volunteering experience. In my opinion, it is also important that the organisation has people that have a good grounding in the movement.
- Certainly, what we recommend as tasks and priorities, if you approve, for the new full time President, will be on strengthening the communications between the European level and national level and to close the gap that exists in all the umbrella of European sections with a focus in Brussels. In the resolution.
- We think it's also a good idea to be able to be flexible to make changes in the financial situation?13.55 – 14.49
- It will always be possible to have the SG or President in the long term.

Questions

- **Léa,** JEF France: Could you please give us more details about the policy officer position and the relationship between the President and the policy officer?
- **Iris,** JEF Finland: I want to speak on behalf of JEF Finland and say that we acknowledge the work of the President is very important and therefore we would like to support the Full time Presidency and also remains the role accessible for us all to apply.
- **Mariasophia**, JEF Italy: When it comes to our European President... I would like to say that we need to take care of each other. Being a federalist militant is not something that lasts for 2 years. If you are in this only for 2 years you are not in the right place. This is a lifelong battle which will take a lot of time and most of us will have to transition from JEF to UEF. That is all we want. So let me be serious on this: if we don't take about people, about each other, we are going to lose this battle. We do not want people to get a burnout. We are already privileged because not everyone can do what we do, but let's not push people to their limit.
- **Margaux**, JEF France: My reflection to the Congress would be about the amount of money that we pay to the Full time President?
- 20.32 JEF France: First of all, thank you all for your responses via email. If I understood correctly right now the budget expenses for our Presidency are until some extent covered by our budget projects. I would like to know if this is going to be the case for the next two years.
- **Christopher**: on the Policy Officer and President relationship. There was the risk that the Policy officer role would have become completely redundant because the President takes it over. In fact, it's been the opposite. For me being there and doing more and more things, with more ideas and projects, there is more work to be done. Of course, I could do it alone but it's a huge help that the policy officer is in the office and helps tremendously if we can coordinate with a relatively short schedule and deliver efficiently. It helps as well that we can reflect on the outcomes. It's a question of ambition and how much we can afford it but it is also not

essential for the survival of the movement. In the moment our money gets cut, I think moving away from Full time president is number one and getting rid of the policy officer is number 2.

- One thing is the flexibility; and another thing is the political freedom we have in speaking. I always pushed the boundaries, but at the beginning of my JEF Presidency I was a civil servant in the UK government and certainly it was not that easy to speak my mind as it is now. And my job was as parliamentary assistant afterwards. And if your member is not a federalist you are still seen as an assistant And there is always conflict in that. Leonie works at a German regional Representation in Brussels. And there are things that you can't say if you have another role even if you are representing JEF: we need to be aware of that. It's important for the movement that the President can be only that and not to take personal risks.
- On the size of the salary: the current salary is 40.000E including taxes, social security, etc., which is slightly higher than the minimum wage. What is also included in our resolution is that the Secretary General and the President should earn the same amount. We don't specify but that amount gets approved in the annual budget of JEF. If you want to change that, if you think that in the future we should be earning more or less, the time to change that is either now and tomorrow before we pass our resolution…. or in the next Federal Committee.
- On the project and cooperation fund: My salary comes from the European for Citizens operational funding as well as some of my travels and things that I need. 27.21.
- **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

8 Statutory reform

8.1 Presentation of statutory reform

- **Christopher Gluck**, former President: what we are doing tomorrow is the conclusion of a two year project that has been led by Ole and Abdul in the Task Force Organisation & Statutes, which was for the renewal of the statutes. Thanks a lot for that.
- I'm going to explain briefly the procedure to adopt the statutes.
- Those amendments that have been discussed in the task force have to be voted in one bloc. 15 sections were present during the discussions and they all agreed on certain amendments. So in order for us to be quicker, we are going to proceed in that way.
- The voting blocs are those in grey which you can find on the voting list.
- Not all of the amendments that are in the text at the moment can be adopted and implemented in this term. That is why changes to statutes of a civil society organisation in Belgium can only happen with the presence of the Belgian authorities for some parts of the statues. Those parts concern the goals of the organisation, the means of voting process of the organisation, whatever changes, even if it's only a comma.
- We cannot do any modifications on things that change the rights of the Congress, that prevents organisations from becoming authoritarian, neither on the procedure for changes the statutes nor on the voting majorities in the Congress.
- So we will vote on those few amendments and we will keep that vote. But those changes we cannot take to the Belgian authorities and make them part of our statutes because now we are not in Belgium and don't have the Belgian authorities request.

- Most of the changes are relevant for us but at least one change is more: The annual budget has to be approved by the highest decision making body in… but our Congress…, so we need to find a solution for that.
- The Belgian authorities give us a couple of years to make those changes… can also get the feedback. The plan is to hold the next Congress in Belgium and make those changes according to the Belgian law and also include those changes that we agreed today.
- The EB will commit to take forward those proposals that are going to be voted tomorrow.
- **Ophélie Omnes**, JEF France: does that mean that our next Congress will be by default in Belgium?
- **Christopher**: I would say yes, we need our next Congress to happen in Belgium to further proceed with the changes.
- **Simon**: Theoretically, we could also organise an extraordinary Congress if we find money.
- **Pauline**: There will be no extensive time to discuss each amendment on Sunday morning.
- **Abdul**: I would like to thank you everyone who contributed to this.
- **Christopher:** we will not have the time to go in depth about the amendments on Sunday morning. It's not possible to change amendments anymore. All our sections were required that all their suggestions to changes to the statues were presented to the FC before the Congress. If requested it is possible to speak in favour and to speak against, but those amendments can be voted only on yes or no.
- **Abdul**: what was discussed within the Task Force during the FC in Turku was to limit the mandate to two terms of 2 years each, in total 4 years. That was in the minutes that was discussed and agreed. But unfortunately due to a mistake of copy paste, in the document it's written that the Presidency is limited to 1 mandate. You should read 2 mandates.
- **Antonio Argenziano**: There are some amendments with different formulations prepared by the task force. Do we have to take into consideration just the formulation proposed by the task force or we will have to choose among all the formulations?
- **Pauline Gessant**: the vote will be on the amendment proposed as they are in the document which was circulated before. So you can not choose. Additional information: in some amendments you have several changes but we consider the amendments as one. So you can't say within an amendment I agree with this change but not with this one. You have to agree on the full amendment or not.

Christopher Glück, President: Farewell speech

SATURDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2017

Pauline Gessant, Presidium member: Official opening by the Presidium. Announcement of the agenda of the afternoon.

Political Commission 1, Institutional Affairs

- **Mariasophia Falcone,** PC Chair: **"**We have an active resolution on sustainable development Some of the issues are really covered in the last few years and some others will be covered by another Congress.
- Then we will discuss other two resolutions, a technical one, which is on the Banking Union [Towards genuine completion of the Banking Union], and the other one, which is a more political resolution, From the Spitzenkandidaten to renewed European democracy, taking into account what happened before and after the European elections, trying to figure out a new system beyond the current lead candidate system, the Spitzenkandidaten system, in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Political Commission 2, Internal European Affairs

- **Diletta Alese,** PC Chair: Regarding the resolution on Environment [Environment does not stop at borders: Towards a Sustainable Europe and a Sustainable Global Climate Policy], we are still updating it, so we will discuss the new version during the PC meeting together with PC3.

- 10.02 Mobility? and the one on the EU Structured Dialogue: for a more connected and diverse Europe. We suggest to let them… since the last one was based on the Structured Dialogue and it is not useful anymore. And the other one was also based on a very specific proposal regarding the visa code which is not anymore important.

- Regarding what we are discussing today apart from environment, we are also discussing a resolution on Artificial Intelligence [Calling for an ethical and efficient EU policy framework on Artificial Intelligence]. We have already discussed this issue during our previous Federal Committee but we are not updated, this time we have try to focus more on the topics of ethics and accountability. We hope this can be a start for a further discussion on the topic.

- We had also the JEF Norway resolution, which was delivered on green ideas. What we would like to propose is to find a way to put their points in the environmental resolution. If we do not success to do it, then we can jointly discuss it with PC3.

Political Commission 3, Foreign Affairs

- **Johannes,** former PC3 Chair: We will be discussing four resolutions.
- Together with PC2 we are going to discuss a resolution on the environment.
- The second resolution that we will also discuss with PC2, and we can discuss it later during the joint PC meeting in further details, will be about the Halle synagogue attack [After the Halle synagogue attack - Never again far-right extremism and antisemitism, Solidarity with Jewish communities]. I submitted it yesterday and it's less of a resolution, it's more like a statement.
- There is another one on transatlantic relations ["Protecting the value-based partnership with the US"] and the other one on "Establishing a European Security and Defence Union". Both resolutions have been adjusted to the current circumstances and we will discuss them during our PC meeting.

Pauline Gessant: if you see some wording in green it's because this resolution will be discussed by PC2 and PC3 together.

The emergency resolution. which is new, has been submitted after the deadline. So what the statutes say is that it's fine but in this case, in order to be voted on Sunday morning it has to be carried by the PC. In this case, if the PCs carry the resolution, there is no problem: we put the resolution into vote on Sunday; if not, we will not vote it.

As Simon was mentioning, there is another resolution on financial guidelines.

Simon: we have financial guidelines which explain how the Secretariat should manage the money of the organisation. These guidelines were adopted in Rome. We would strongly recommend you to readopt the financial guidelines. I'm of the strong conviction with the outgoing EB that the next EB should look into the financial guidelines and adapt them to the changing financial situation. But still it would be good if we could have a sort of financial guidelines.

Pauline: this resolution will not be discussed in the PCs because it's not political but Simon will be available in case you have any questions.

6 Elections

6.1 Presentation and Questions to the President candidate
Leonie Martin

- We all have heard during this weekend that there are new good developments of JEF Europe: an increase in funding, an increase in activities and staff members. We have reached a new level in JEF and the work has become more professional and the responsibilities the team are carrying are bigger now.

- We all contribute to our network internally as well as externally in a good and open way. We have reached a good level but I do not think we JEFers have unleashed our full potential yet. We are needed in these times and sometimes we also feel that we JEFers need JEF to constructively channel our frustration and sadness in the current context.
- In the past weeks I had the pleasure to talk to most of you as sections representatives to discuss the challenges that we see for JEF. And it seems we are all on the same page, fired up by the current politics and facing certain organisational challenges.
- I've been a member since December 2010. Back then, the idea of JEF was presented to a group of 15-25 people in The Hague and there I met Pauline. Since then my enthusiasm for JEF just keeps on growing.
- During the past 2 years I've noticed specifically the idea of what JEF can be or the things we can create when all of us commit, the idea of what JEF can move and do, what JEF can speak about and initiate. That is what thrills me in these times. We are creating change. That is why I stand here today in front of you to ask you for your support to become President of the Young European Federalists.
- It's also our history that thrills me when I connect specific pieces of recent European history with what we did in JEF. When I wonder who were these young people before us I can see that JEF in our essence is radical and has always been.
- I'm thrilled by those who were before us fighting with other young Europeans for a free continent in the 1950s, just after the II World War. Their vision was big and their actions very symbolical: when free movement in Europe was not a given yet, they met up to break border posts; when the war was still a fresh memory, they set up pen pal programs across Europe; when a common currency was still an idea in the distance, they minted the first Eurocoin already in the 1950s. And there are many other examples.
- Being part of JEF means being part of that history, walking in those footsteps and carrying on and translating what their hopes and inspirations mean in the soon 2020s.
- One could argue that compared to their political context, it feels as if we are much closer to a federal Europe than they've ever been. And yes, there have been setbacks.
- Compared to their political context, what we look at are details. Technical details that might feel boring sometimes but are important details. Technical details that one by one showcase that intergovernmentalism is not an appropriate method to solve European problems. Technical details that require us to study the nerdiest topics when we open our history books and we note similarities with the political situation that led the escalation on our continent: national populism, scepticism towards international and European cooperation, towards media, science, with xenophobia and anti semitism on the rise. It's within the organisation DNA to speak up in these times. Democracy is not a given, but a regular daily fight especially if we still need to reach European democracy.
- In our daily battle against nationalism, we need to be clear with ourselves. The word "European" in our name is merely an adjective. We are Young European *Federalists*. We are post nationalists. We are not here to promote European nationalism. We are Young European Federalists coming together to work for a more democratic, federal Europe.
- In times where more people see the EU critically, where we move away from the question we want to ask, that is: "what kind of Europe?", the debate on the EU seems to be held between those who want to keep the status quo and those who want to change the status quo. And technically we do not mind the latter, technically we are the latter. But those who are against Europe seems to dominate our camp. And so, many citizens, whether truly convinced and

informed or not, somehow they long for “going back to the old days” where nation states “had more of a say”. We need to own that camp. We need to communicate our critical stances better, to allow those that do not feel at home amongst EU cheerleaders to join our camp; before those who want to be critical towards the EU but want unity, positive change and peace - for lack of better alternatives - drift off, to the national populists.

- We know better: Nationalists long for national isolation, for political inefficiencies, for a world where “us vs them” is easy to say again.
- And our argumentation is two-fold: a) Yes to closer cooperation to tackle certain political challenges. But here comes two crucial parts, b) (1)Instead of international agreements between national governments, decisions should be taken in a way that allow democratic accountability and scrutiny. We do not want our heads of government to quickly agree on deals; we do not want national interests to govern Europe - when it’s in the European interest, we need European interests to govern. We want a strong European Parliament. And (2) Subsidiarity - a word that we JEFers so proudly and loudly sing - is key here actually to explain federalism: take decisions where they’re most efficient and yet closest to the citizen. There are countless examples of the EU not being able to act because of the Council or European Council locked down by national interests.
- Essentially, the world has changed: Europe and essentially our world is closer interconnected, in a way that populists who want to “take back control” seem to not have understood yet. Sure, the control might not be on national level anymore, but in a lot of cases it’s also not on European level. Control, the sovereignty, is for instance where transnational companies are able to make use of legal loopholes between national legal systems because there is no European answer; Control is not with those that should govern us, it is not with those that we can democratically elect and hold accountable.
- To put it simply: the times we live in are not normal. We are needed in these unnormal, political times. To us, it seems obvious that democratic change, that a federal Europe is needed. What can we do? What is our role in this? Let me point out to you a five ways:
    - We are needed when political debate seems much more radicalized, putting things merely in black and white, splitting groups into two, against or in favour. Grey scale and reaching consensus is seen as much more difficult. To be in JEF, to organise debates in JEF in a non-partisan way, to meet fellow pro-Europeans and federalists and challenge each other in our viewpoints, and to become friends regardless of party lines - but based on our shared vision for Europe -, I think that is already an exercise of radicalness. And that’s something I want all of us to celebrate, proudly.
    - I want us to act, not merely react to politics. For instance, the Conference on the Future of Europe is a good occasion: do we want to react within the framework that others set for us - or do we want to act and suggest concepts ourselves and ensure that the decision-makers actually have valuable options to change Europe? If we don’t propose it, who will? For us to succeed, we need to be coherent, as JEF Europe - and together with UEF Europe, as federalist movement.
    - I want us to be closer working together with the Union of European Federalists, the European Youth Forum and Civil Society Europe, that will continue to be essential, not only for advocacy work. I hope that in the next mandate, as I´m now elected to be in the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, I will also get to play an interconnective role within JEF for that.

    - I really want us to really reason why we are doing things, why we are organising certain actions, certain events. We do it because we are federalists, and as that, we do it because we care about the European public espace. And I also want to make sure that we really think about how we are using or offering time to volunteers, what skills and competence people bring. I personally came in because I am good at organising, I like social media, but there are other people that have different volunteering profiles and I think we need to be open for that to diversify, to go beyond the political science students and law students.
    - It is also important to note: I think it is time to have a closer look on how we use our grants to turn them into long-term investments into our network. We have started setting a certain plan and I think it's also time that we communicate very well with you as sections as members on how you can use these things and actually grow with this. As I said, this is an investment in our network and I want all of our members to profit from this.
- Dear JEFers, the past four years I have served as your Senior Vice-President were the ultimate opportunity to get to know our organisation and the different corners of Europe really well. As you can tell, there are a number of things where I see potential for us to strengthen our network and sell our message, in the hopes of preparing JEF for future generations and making them as proud of us as we are of those who became before us.
- I'd be grateful to get your support, to work not only as President but as Full-time President, together with a good team in the newly elected Executive Board in support of the Secretariat, the newly elected Federal Committee and you, the members.

Questions

- **Antonio Argenziano,** JEF Italy: How do you see our engagement in the process of the Conference on the Future of Europe?
- **Leonie**: This is our thing and we need to be there. I just don't know how yet. But it's also not me who has to decide. Some people in Brussels need to decide what they want from the Conference. That means that we also have something to play with. If people don't know what they are talking about it's easier for us to suggest things.
- I will build up on the personal connections that Chris and Paolo have already created to try to talk to MEPs, to make sure that our participatory way is understood. That we want this Conference to be significant, not just a symbolical thing where we bring citizens and take nice pictures.
- The Conference is still to define what we know is that the Conference will be happening because Ms Von der Leyen has designated two people in her team: one to organize the conference and the second one to represent the Commission. This is serious but there is no proper timeline yet. Again, this is something we can lobby. There's already two concrete things that we know for advocacy: by summer 2020 they need to have a proposal for the Spitzenkandidaten and transnational lists.
- Another thing that I want to note on the Conference is that I hope that in the future the Conference is taken so seriously that enlargement policies are not used as... That Member States so much want to commit to our future that they don't play with the future of our friends that should be part of the group as our friends from North Macedonia.
- **Paolo Tinti**, JEF Poland: Do you have any new projects to support our budget and activities?

- Leonie: The Secretariat has already applied for a wide range of projects, not only to the classical JEF projects. You can check the Activity report in the internal area. All the projects are listed.
- **Juuso Järviniemi**, JEF UK: In the past EB mandate we have talked about the relationship within the EB and the FC and how to engage the FC members more than in JEF Europe. What is your vision to develop that relationship in the next two years?
- Leonie: I still remember all these debates last year in December when we said that we wanted to have a radical FC or radical different FCs and we didn't really know how. So I hope we can have a talk on those EB/FC meetings, there will be one in December, to establish task forces understanding that task forces have a task to close and find new tasks to deal with. I think sometimes in the past mandates the engagement between the EB and FC was basically due to all of us dealing with European elections, all of us really focusing on that and then trying to understand at the same time the growth that we were experiencing, how we were dealing also wit the employees and what kind of role they had to play with this. I really want the next EB/FC meeting to work actively in that.
- **Simon Devos**, former Treasurer: You mentioned that you would like to continue working closely with the European Youth Forum and that you have fantastic relations with them. So maybe you could elaborate a little bit more on what we can really gain as an organisation from the EYF network.
- Leonie: Let me take the opportunity to say "hey" to the people in the back. So, as we do with sections, we also split organisations in the board. In the past 3 years and a half I was the representative of JEF Europe in the European Youth Forum, which is the largest youth platform and also thanks to Peter... Vice-President before me, we have been able to show more presence of JEF and portray ourselves as cooperative partners, network with people - that's one of the best things of the YFJ: to meet other people and to tell them, especially in some countries, "we are not scary, we do not bite".
- I hope that in the next EB we are going to have some people really interested in taking this up. We have you Simon as cc chair?. I will also have the chance to visit some of the assemblies of the YFJ, and to take part in the Advisory Council. There is plenty of JEFers present. So, sometimes we don't need to oversell but it's also in those moments where is about the future of Europe, where is about understanding the YFJ also as an actor of civil society, where I think that is precisely when we come in and we mind the others again that we need to stand in solidarity sometimes when we act.
- **Hannah**,...23.34. Maybe you could elaborate more on how you are planning to reach out to sections because I think a lot of people in the room might not know how it happened before and the EB actually works and how they are trying to make connections with the sections.
- Leonie: In case you don't know the EB shares, divides the sections amongst the members so all of you can have a contact person in our board. In the past 4 years, I've been regularly calling my sections to understand what is going on in their sections and in their countries and telling them about JEF Europe. This is something that the last EB has fully embodied and it's something that I want to see in the next EB. I would also like to say that thank to the Europe for Citizens Grant we have now more funding for us to visit sections and it's the best thing for us because face to face contact is really important. My hope is that now, should I be elected, and I get to this full time, that I can really travel to meet with sections, also local sections to have proper sit downs and understand what is going on.

- **Grace**, How do you think we can recruit or ensure that we have more diversity among our members?
- Leonie: My idea is to propose tomorrow to the newly elected FC to have a task force on resilience sections to make sure that we talk about how the volunteer culture is changing. As far as I understood this is a problem because a lot of people want to be a member but they do not want to be active or proactive. We have to reflect on how to do this and study what other movements are doing and probably adapt JEF to this reality.
- In this task force I also want us, all of us, to identify certain local sections that are in JEF in untypical areas like in rural areas, or composed mostly of high school students or young professionals, etc. I think those we need to bring together to connect so they can see that they are not the only ones. Those people need to meet for their self-confidence and to share best practices and put them on paper. Once that we have that knowledge and understand how different volunteer profiles can work and what different activities we can or should offer, it's a way for us to strengthen our network.
- I also hope that the Task Force on Empowerment that has been chaired by Ophelie. Juuso, and... the initiative that started in the last FC mandate can continue. We have to debate on this and now that Dive project guidelines are ready, you will have seminars where local sections can participate in on how to make sure that JEF becomes more accessible in our conversations. I invite all of you yo keep an eye and bring people to train themselves.

6.2 Presentation and Questions to the Vice-President candidates
Emma Farrugia

- In December 2006, I was on a family holiday in Munich. My father and I were trying to guess which Euro coin came from which country, when he told me that when we would go back to Malta, we would not be exchanging our Euros back into Maltese Liri: we would have now the same currency as our European neighbours. This was powerful to me.
- Until then I had spent the vast majority of my life outside the European Union and at that moment I physically felt my European identity. What I did not know back then was how many JEFers, like us, fought for that coin.
- At the height of the eurozone crisis in 2011, eurosceptisim was growing at a fast rate. Yet paradoxically, I had just started my first year of Law school, and my European identity was only starting to mature. It suddenly wasn't enough to relish in this European dream, what happens if this slips away? I joined JEF Malta, and later was elected JEF Malta International Officer and JEF Malta President.
- As I had been active on the European level since 2014, I felt ready to run for the JEF Europe board and with all of our combined efforts, I feel that JEF grew from what it was two years ago. However, in these past two years, I also did a lot of growing myself.
- I realised that JEF and the European project were more critical, and more meaningful to me than my job as a practicing lawyer. So I quit, moved to Brussels and started specialising in EU Law. I committed myself wholeheartedly to JEF and its objectives and yet I still feel I have not managed to give back as much as I have received. I have so much more I have left to give.
- Strengthening the ability of our network to achieve our goals has been my main priority and my main work in JEF and so I feel that I have the necessary experience, skills, attitude and vision to drive this portfolio forward within the next two years.JEF Europe needs to properly

utilize its new increased resources for more meaningful organizational growth. I want JEF Europe's growth to be reflected in the success of the entire network.JEF Europe cannot have a-one-size-fits all structure anymore – it needs to be versatile and listen to the needs of the sections. JEF Europe must be disposable to closer cooperation with smaller sections, making extra efforts to visit and organize capacity building activities in these countries, with the aim of fostering a sense of belonging and increasing motivation.

- At the same time, there is so much benefit that a European network can add to the work of bigger sections. However, JEF Europe must also be aware that big sections do not always need JEF Europe's support and that it should be an added value, not an added task. Striking the right balance and communication is key.
- With the start of the new Commission and the Conference on the Future of Europe coming up, the next five years will be crucial and our voice needed. Therefore, we need to have an honest and open discussion on what makes us unique amongst pro-European organisations and what we mean when we call for a federal Europe – we need to know who we are and what we are, to know where we are going.
- Coming from a section that was not expressly political, I understand the plurality within our network but it is important that we can unite behind a clear and common message internally to be more effective externally – unity is strength.
- And so I stand up here today unashamedly defending our movement, and my conviction and vision for it. Even in the face of those who call us dreamers, I want us to advocate our solutions for democratic governance, for the Rule of Law, for climate and environmental sustainability, for a common and humane approach to asylum and migration and for peace and security within Europe. We are today's generation of those resilient JEFers that worked against all odds to allow me – us - to hold that Euro coin. If we don't do it, no one will. And if no one will, the European project will fail. It's all on us.
- European federalism is not an invitation to dream, it's an invitation to work. I want to work. Let us work.

Céline Geissmann

- Given to the most recent events when it comes to voting for a French candidate I want to be fair: I am French, i´m runnin for an European association but I´m not subject to any... 39.51. however it seems that French candidates are not successful nowadays. That is why right at the beginning of my speech I want to tell you that at the end of my speech I will withdraw my candidacy for VP.
- But first I would still like to say a few lines. I want to thank all of you because JEF has been one of the most important parts of my life for the last 8 years.
- I started my JEF journey because I love 40.53 Coming from a Jewish family I know the importance of peace, tolerance and the European Union was a promise to live such an era in which people were living in a continent without borders and solidarity between countries sharing the same values
- Because of JEF I understood that this promise would only be achieved with federalism, a movement bigger than us, a movement that makes History.
- I remember the European elections in 2014 in which the extreme right was the most voted for the first time in France. I remember the sadness I felt and the feeling that I did not understand

my country anymore. And then I remember my angriness and my willingness to continue to fight even more. This feeling has never left me since then because I know this is right battle. Because I know that we federalists do not only fight for European democracy but for humanity as well.

- In this organisation I met many of passionate, crazy and talented people that seek for the impossible and think to make it a reality. These people are also my motivation. In some I found a new family.
- I seriously don't know if I will experience the European federation in my lifetime but as long as there is JEF to debate, to demonstrate and to speak out, the European fire and flag will not disappear. Our motto is One generation ahead, and that is proven to be true because it is obvious that federalism is the only democratic answer to the EU challenges.
- We face a unique momentum and our presence is essential for the future of Europe. And I fully trust the new board to prove it. Especially Leonie, Sebastiano and Emma, whom I´ve had the chance to work for the last three years.
- One a JEFer always a JEFer.

Sebastiano Putoto

- The last 6-8 years have established JEF as an influential youth NGO, in Brussels and beyond. In the next mandate, we should keep building on the work done before us.
- Despite the encouraging results of the European elections, all is not well in Europe. There is work to do. The next two years will be - in fact, they already are – possibly the last window of opportunity to relaunch the process of establishing a free and united Europe, of constituting a supranational, democratic Union through peaceful means.
- With the European public debate drowned in endless European Council meetings, geopolitical challenges, and national egoisms, European federalism may seem like far off the mark. It is not. Our role as JEFers, and our moral duty as federalists, is to shatter that dominant narrative, according to which the time wouldn't be right for a political Union.
- The newly inaugurated EU institutional cycle is an opportunity begging to be seized. Failing to do so would condemn us to the limbo of intergovernmentalism, where decisions are not taken, responsibilities are shifted elsewhere, and the European People is not in charge.
- We will need to get our hands dirty at times, swallowing coalition agreements that are not perfect and Presidents-elect that are not Spitzenkandidaten. At times, maybe, even struggling to remain loyal to who we are. But we must not lose sight of the ultimate goal. JEF, as a political organisation, always plays in two camps. While we prepare the political conditions for the revolution, we must ensure the world doesn't slowly go to complete shit.
- This brings me to the concrete priorities that JEF should set for itself, or at least to the ones where I think I could contribute most. As I stood before you two years ago, I committed to help strengthen JEF Europe as a major political actor in Brussels, reinforcing our policy-based advocacy. The tools we have developed as outgoing EB and Secretariat over the past mandate have delivered, in part, on that promise. In part, because as an organisation we can be effective only if we fully harness the power of the network.
- Over the next two years, we should build advocacy capabilities in the sections, for example through trainings and exchanges, so that these tools can be adapted to the needs of your members, of your national and local realities.

- Now, as much as we must ensure that the EU takes the necessary steps forward at policy level, we must also urgently step up our ability to mobilise masses and engage citizens, the younger ones in particular. It is people we must rally to our cause, not just politicians. To achieve this, with European and world federalism as our North Star, we must keep reinventing ourselves and pushing our boundaries.
- And so in the next mandate, we will need to review our strategies for citizens' mobilisation and forge new relationships with other civil society organisations, for example in the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe.
- It was for lack of mandate, not of will, that JEF Europe could not join the climate strikes led by youth across the world. But we could learn a lot from these mobilisations – and hopefully we could also bring a few of our own ideas, for example on the need for effective global governance to tackle climate change.
- I admit it's easier said than done. But if our job were easier, it wouldn't need to be done. Every lost or only half-won battle is the chance to do better next time. We have not survived as a youth movement for almost 50 years, to give in to frustration for not getting everything right here, right now.
- SU-BI-TO is about our ability to enact change, not others'. We have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And we have to do it every single day.

Questions

- **Simon Devos, former Treasurer**: To stay in the federalist tradition, what is your favourite Spinelli quote?
- Emma:
- Sebastiano: "the European federation is not an invitation to dream, it's an invitation to work".
- Antonio Argenziano, JEF Italy: I would also like to ask you about the Conference on the future of Europe. And about your sense of militancy as well. You know that we as Italians have very much key this concept and we know that the style of the federal militance is also a moral style, a high moral engagement.
- Sebastiano: I promised that I would not shout and that I would try not to cry either today. But that is the meaning of militancy for me. I'll do this for you today but in any other day I will shout, I will cry and I will keep my engagement.
- On the Conference: the form has not been decided yet, whether it's a Convention or not. We will have to wait. On the role of the civil society organisations I´m of the view that if we are not sitting at the table the dinner will not be served. We need to that to push policymakers to take decisions to make a change and have an effect. To do that we need to create new networks of civil society organisations. We have started already. We had a meeting at Euractiv a few months ago. We must establish a clear role of what we want and what the other civil society organisations want to try to make sure influences and keep this from a federalist message. I also think one important thing is that when this Conference is over, whatever it takes and whatever the results will be, we need to make sure that these results are picked up. And to be picked up I think the European Parliament should have an active role because it cannot by itself initiate a treaty change and if a treaty changed is needed or, better, a new Treaty, then the EP should take the responsibility.

- Emma: I agree with mostly everything with Sebastiano is saying. On the Conference, I´m always thinking on how the sections can contribute and I think national sections will have a role and for that it's possible to have trainings, seminars from the European level to the sections in order to get them influence the agenda of their national level as well. Also, a big part of my speech and of what I said is that I would like unity and a united message from the organisation. This is what I will focus on, on how to speak externally.
- **Hannah...**: I really think that the capacity building trainings are one of the best things that JEF can offer to its members and sections. That is why I would like to know your assessment on what our network now needs, on how we should now train our members to become even more vocal.
- Sebastiano: The main thing where I think I can help is helping to transfer what we have done well at the European level to the sections. When they need it, if they need it and always they need it. But first we need to know from the sections what they want from us because otherwise we do not know which problems each section are facing.
- Emma: I would like to focus on the Federal Academy. It's part of my program to have seminars, having representatives from different sections in order to understand what the federalist movement is about, what we stand for and to create unity in our messages and more confidence to speak about federalism among our members. I would also like to focus on the DIVE project, but specifically focused on smaller sections and key topics. In the last year or so it was on project management, memberships, recruitment. With this I would like to help smaller sections to grow.
- **JEF Germany, 58.** You are really experienced in what you do, so what do you think you could improve, in which areas would you put more energy in the JEF board.
- **Louise, JEF France**: my question is about JEF media, that as you all know, has been developed in the last few years. I would like to know how you would like to contribute in the development and which role it should play in the organisation.
- **Ida, JEF Finland**: What is the next step that you will take to develop diversity in JEF?
- **Johannes**: since you have been active in the highest positions of JEF Europe for the last two years, how would you see the division of tasks between you and the President? What makes you different from the two previous years, what do you want to achieve in the next two years?
- Sebastiano: To Germany, on the JEF media: in my opinion, it's not different medias, it´s different languages of the same one. We should develop an effort more organically possibly even including a more or less formally involvement of the Federal Committee, both elected members and the Committee itself. How do we do this? Let's work together. A few things already started this year, the Editors in Chief communicated more often with the EB, with Jacopo and myself trying to understand what was going on. I think we can continue this path and see if new ideas are coming and how we can establish structures if structures are needed to make this strong.
- On diversity, I'm gonna go fully behind with what Leo said. We have launched a long and necessary discussion within the organisation with the task force in the past mandate. Now we need to make this discussion operational. Bringing along the results from DIVE. I´ll be frank, this area is not my strongest suit but it is important to me. I just do not know what to do, so tell me and I can help.
- To Johannes: I did not have a high position in JEF, I was just helping out in the EB. My position with respect to Leo I think it's not going to change. She is the boss, she tells what she needs from us and I'll do it.

- Emma, I´ll start with Ida´s question because I think that is my strongest suit. I was very happy to be informed about Empowerment Task force during the last two years. Of course I´m not charing the task force but I would definitely like to see more seminars happening and also focusing on another type of minority groups and not just on the issue of gender parity. Having said this as well, in the resolution that was adopted in London there was an inclusion JEF Women's group and I would like to see this created.
- On media, I think the cooperation has to be continued. And I definitely think that what Sebastiano said with different traditions? but different languages. We all have to cooperate based on the fact that we all have the same goal, we are advocating for federalism keeping in mind the independence of the media. It's not my strongest suit, but it's something that I'm interested in and I will support and encourage.
- To Johannes: I was also a board member and even though I have felt very committed to this organisation for the last two years I had a limitation: I lived on a island in the middle of the Mediterranean sea and I did not have enough mobility. So, a concrete change for me in the next mandate is that I´ll be based in Brussels and I can do some work on the ground. I can go to the Secretariat and ask, so definitely that is mobility.
- On the question on the relationship towards Leonie: I believe completely in Leonie, I share her vision and I want to work with her and support her. I want her to be in the organisation and I want to be her shoulder to rest when she needs it.

6.3 Treasurer
Chris Powers

- I want to thank Simon for the amazing job that has done like treasurer in the past years. I would like to make sure that you all know who I am and what I´m about. So for you those who do not know me personally, I have two big flags in my bedroom: one is physically that flag, that one (pointing to the Federalist flag hanging in the room) and then I have a bigger Cecemel flag – I thank for that JEF Netherlands.
- So here we go, the main thing I need to reassure you of is that the money is in safe hands because we do not have to worry about the budget situation at all, we have had a really good leadership that I want to ensure it´ll continue. The way I can do that is by telling you what my work is. So my career is political science, my job is a fundraiser. I don't have an accountant background but a fundraiser one, that is why I applied for Treasurer but I´ll come back to that.
- I have to raise money, I have to report on the money we spend, I have to report on how the money we raise is used. So in my day to day life, that's exactly what I'm doing. We are also a charity. So it's not only about reporting to the Charity Commission, but also how strict you can get. I'm not necessarily very confident with the Belgian law but I'm up to face that challenge. So that is me.
- What I want to get on to is my motivation because I'm fully aware that I'm not contested but I need you guys to able me to do my job. If you object anything I do I can't do it. If you don't pay your membership fees we cannot apply for grants. As simple as that. So I need you. I need to convince you. I hope I do.
- About me: I´ve been in JEF since 2012, different kind of positions, most recently I was in the Presidium with Ioan and Ophélie. After the last Congress in Malta I was really not sure what I would do in JEF. I did not know what the future was; I knew I wanted to help but I did not

know how. Back then I was also facing some serious health issues but then in the FC in Skopje it was clear to me. I was working in fundraising and I wanted JEF to fill the gaps. Whenever anyone was worried about UEF and their financial difficulties I was actually worried about JEF because although we are told that we have more much money than before -and we do-, 8 48 and that is what I wanted to change. And I want to change that because I'm a federalist, I'm not just a pro European. Money is often tied to 8.34.

- So concretely, how do I do that? I have 3 priorities in mind: one is to collect and disseminate the best practices within the organisation. We already fundraise, I´ve heard two in the last week: one in Belgium where the apply for grant,s and JEF France where they have sponsorships. So we have it in the organisation, it's about communicating it around. Im very keen to do that. In order for me to do that I would need to be in touch with all of your treasurers, local, regional and national.
- Number two: I want to find potential donors, obviously; individuals that care about the European project and interested in a federal Europe. The third, which is the biggest one, is to create a database. If you have spoken to me at all about this candidacy or in the last two years, I want to do this database for several reasons: 1) to fundraise for our membership as they age and succeed in their careers, 2) for administrative support. I have been in JEF UK for several years and I have spent a lot of time to reconstruct the membership database because the treasurers were not doing it. Small sections also need that help sometimes and it's something that the European level could provide and be an added value from the European level.

Questions

- **Alfin (Lauren?),** JEF?: I have a question regarding diversifying JEF funds, to finance JEF. How far are you willing to go with the criteria and limits to get funds?
- Jasper, JEF Denmark: how do you think you will involve TF Finances & Funding, if they still will be there after this Congress, in your work? What parameters would you rely the credibility of the donors on? Would it be private donors or public donors so we don't have any possible issues with the donors?
- Ine JEF Finland: our members come from different kind of societies where we have different kind of fundings in our countries, as well as different schedules on how to plan our fundings. How do you think we can better cooperate on different statues?
- Johannes, Thank you Chris for your speech. I think having a university fundraiser in the team would be amazing. My question would be: Do you have maybe some individual in mind that could be potential donors to JEF? Individual that have enough money that they could also spend money on the federal cause?
- Chris: We have a resolution that covers that in part, which I suggest that you to look at. There are boundaries that I have to get approved from people beyond me and the people I'd immediately work with.
- When and when not to accept money from individuals that could cause diligences for the organisations and to check that they are not corrupt. And in fact, there was an slide at the beginning of this Congress of our Code of Conduct with serious questions: is this legal? is this something I want to get associated with? is it ethical? does it contradict the principles of JEF Europe? If the answer to any of those questions is negative you have to start to consult other

people. Obviously it depends on the amount, but when it comes to federalism I would not bend if there is some doubts the answer will be no.

- On involving TF FinFun, it depends on what the FC decides. I would like more people to help. Simon has been on this for the last four years and it hasn't been easy. It's not going to be easy. What I can do is that I can be proactive in communicating with treasurers across the national sections and to bring people on board. It's really the only way to establish a schedule, to finally do things in JEF for fundraising is to work together and communicate transparently. If I'm elected I would like to tell your treasurers that I would like to have a chat.
- On individuals in mind: the short answer is that I have a few. I admit that where I'm weaker is with people in Brussels, I'm more familiar with people in London, but there are some. I've worked a lot for the European Movement in the UK in introducing the concept of crowdfunding and we raised... There are contacts that I have for example in the Open Society Foundation. I'm not going to give people's names though because it would be not right. But just for you to know I have experience on researching people that might be interested in our cause.

Questions

6.4 Four members of the Executive Board
Diletta Alese

- JEF is an incredible political tool which is growing and becoming everyday more the revolutionary instrument that we all need as militants looking towards the world that we all need as citizens.
- As a political instrument JEF is what we make of it. The way we will act through will define us collectively, as a revolutionary force, as a political movement in our present. It will define our place in History. I feel the responsibility that comes from this candidacy. What I'm asking to this Congress is mainly being less me, Diletta as an individual, and to be more JEF, a representative of this striving force to work for our common cause that needs your trust.
- We all feel the urgency of this historical moment we are living, the European system is missing the democratic foundations it should be built on making citizens live in a chronicle uncertainty.
- We need to bring the light to the most contradiction of our times. We need to reconnect the links broken crisis after crisis. We know that the current *status quo* preserves nationalisms. We need to work to tackle concrete global challenges and give the perspective of a common society who responds to constitutional boundaries. Identifying itself in a common destiny.
- How can we do that? We should exploit any opportunity, bring the federalist perspective in every thematic section at any civil society networks. We should reach the migrants and the peripheries bringing our message there where is more controversial.
- As my conclusive sentence, if I have to decide militancy, I´ll finish with Albertini´s words: "Let's transform the responsibility in concret change (ask Diletta)". I hope you will trust me to bring this to our common battle.

Andreas Høstgaard Poulsen

- To be a young European is to have a bold vision for Europe, to be a JEFer is also to have a bold vision for Europe but is also to be part of a strong section, an strong organisation. We are simply one generation ahead and our generation has always been the one proposing bold and progressive solutions compared to our parents generation. And as it is today we are that generation that are taking the streets protesting for climate action.
- I think JEF could have a role and should have a central role in playing this because there will be no real climate action in Europe if we don't have a strong and united Europe. Our role should be to tell people, to tell our generation that a federal Europe is the solution to real climate action.
- Some say Europe is confusing and most of our members say, shout, that we are lacking a Constitution. Federalism is not an easy message to share and advocate for in all the corners of our sections. We have to think between the sections about how to create an strategic approach to spread the word about federalism around the world so everyone knows about subsidiarity and freedom.

Hanna Kivimäki

- Politics have never been part of my studies so all what I've learnt has been through non-formal education. This way of learning has always made me humble and eager to learn more, so: what can I bring then? I can bring my cultural experience in the field of NGO activism from sports to social welfare. I became engaged at a political level through municipal youth representativity and then student politics; that's where my roots are. Nowadays I represent JEF Finland and the European Youth Forum. I know that the last 10 years in activism and advocacy have made me a valuable candidate for the EB.
- Although being active in an NGO is fulfilling, it was a huge achievement for me personally and career wise to work to get to an institution that recognises non-formal learning, meaning that I started to work for the Ministry of Culture and Education in Finland during its presidency of the Council of the European Union. Through my job I have been able to establish a wide network of contacts and a European governance scheme.
- My motivation to run for this is because I totally see myself collaborating in 3 things with JEF, most importantly working on the topic of Rule of Law. RoL is under threat and is the most pressing issue in Europe we face today. Secondly, empowering equality in JEF. We need to continue the great job done by the Task Force Empowerment. And communications: if we want to be the most influential NGO in Europe we need to communicate effectively.

Moritz Schleicher

- I'm excited to be standing here before you in this room, but I'm even more excited about what is awaiting for me if I get your support to become an EB member.
- I would like to explain my motivation. My initiation in politics was during a 5 day high school project simulation at high school. Since then I have been on fire to work for democracy. I got involved in youth political organisations and it was only time that I would get in contact with JEF at some point.
- And it was quite memorable. In 2013 I had the chance to take part in a seminar between my hometown Stuttgart and soon-to-be Strasbourg, having workshops on best practices, getting to know the Europe at School program and talking to people all over Europe.

- One year later, when I started my degree in Chemistry in Strasbourg I attended the European Youth Event with more than 5000 participants to think about the future of Europe. The environment there was so nice that, since then, inspired by this, with my section we have organised workshops, events as well as simulations.
- Last year I spent a semester in Taiwan. Outside of the European bubble I realised what an international cooperation and democratic example Europe can be.

Questions

- **Jacopo Barbati**, former EB Member: Could you please speak about a topic of your choice in 30 seconds?
- Diletta: I will explain what I meant about the balance between actions and tools within JEF. I think as an organisation that has such a huge historical heritage and legacy we really need to find the time to discuss about what being a federalist means today and to adapt to the federalist theory to our time. And both elaborating on the emergencies that are coming up - it can be climate change, it can be migration, it can be the Rule of Law - and then we really need to translate it into actions. I think this is a comprehensive reasoning about the work that we need to do together and that without content we cannot do the other.
- Moritz 16.46. I would include a... of the twinning program. I realised that it can be really fun to work with other local sections. In my experience it was often a first personal contact that sets such a twinning program, so I would like to set up some kind of Speed Date seminars for sections.
- Hannah: the topic I would love to talk about for hours is communications and how to communicate better. I think our communications are high quality already but they are not wide enough. We need to take concrete actions to able national sections to use the same materials as we do, such as Democracy Under Pressure. We can make a campaign and then communicate about Rule of Law through communications that enable national sections to put the blaming and to become bigger and the most influential youth organisation in Europe.
- Andreas: Mapping and having a more strategic approach towards the countries that are federalist champions and countries where federalism is not something that people are used to. We need to find another way of speaking up in, let's say, bigger sections and bigger countries. Organising federal seminars and summer camps could be a tool to solve this.
- **Simon Devos**, former Treasurer: Hannah and Moritz, you are still active in different positions in JEF sections and boards. Could you please explain if you will keep this position or only focus on the work of JEF Europe?
- Moritz: I'm free at the moment. I was President of JEF Stuttgart and I was also on the board of ...,. I run for different positions at the federal level and I could see what kind of problems there are, especially on communicating all the reporting. But at the moment I don't hold any other position in JEF so I'm looking forward to working with JEF Europe.
- Hannah: my mandate as International Officer of JEF Finland ends the last day of this year in two months. If I'm elected I'll be running two positions at the same time but I won't be running for any other positions besides the EB.
- **Maia,** JEF Finland: what is your unpopular opinion on federalism or JEF?
- Hannah: my unpopular opinion is that gender quotas are not a way to make our organisation more diverse, they are opposed/forced? to it.

- Andreas: I agree with Hannah's point. But I would also like to raise another point: keeping our force and increase our force in sustainability and climate makes us also to look internally and at ourselves. We do flight a lot in this organisation; and we have an important cause: our vision is important. We need to go around Europe for our cause and messages to be heard but we could do view a climate fund to compensate our impact and make internal guidelines to at least start the conversation internally in JEF.
- Diletta: I don't have an unpopular opinion about the organisation, but what I still think that we should say and bring everywhere and in every possible dimension is the topic of democracy that is actually becoming unpopular and this is the crazy thing. I don't think it's unpopular for us but we it's where our priority should be, so it's for us think about it and put our efforts there and on how we are perceived.
- Moritz, sometimes as a German I'm a bit lazy to move my mouth and as such I sometimes present JEF such as Europa-Union or just Young European because I'm too lazy to say the Federalists.
- ….: just a clarification on Simon's question. Hannah, you said that you are still in the position of International Officer in your national section until the end of the mandate. When would that be? Andreas, what is it going to be your choice? Are you going to resign or continue in your current position?
- Hannah: I think I already said that my mandate ends at the end of this year, so that is two months left for that position as International Officer, which is not a full-time job, but takes 2 days a week.
- Andreas: I'm still President of JEF Denmark at the moment. But we have already started a process internally that will enable me at some point to set down. A certain date has not been fixed yet but we have started with the process.
- Simon: this is a very political question and we would like clear clarifications. Unfortunately, "we have started a procedure" is not a sufficient answer.
- Andreas: Our next statutory meeting where I will be able to set down is at the end of next month.

6.5 Elections

- Roll call by the Secretary General - **QUORUM IS REACHED**
- **Regarding the FC elections we will be electing 16 members of the FC, it's a simple majority, not a preferential vote, so you will be only ticking boxes. You don't need to put numbers.You can tick up to 11 boxes, not more, between 0 and 11. If you tick more, your balloyot will be void. The 16 candidates with the most votes will be elected unless the 40% gender quota that we have in our statues is not respected. If this happens, we will discard the last candidate from the most represented gender and replace him or her with the first non-elected candidate of the least represented candidate.**
- **Regarding the Arbitration Board, we are going to elect 4 members and we need a simple majority, non-preferential vote, no quota. You have all the candidates on the screen or on the website. Tick the boxes or add the names if necessary. Tick a maximum of four names**
- **For the Auditors, we are electing three members, simple majority, non-preferential vote, no quota. Just tick boxes and a maximum of 2 names.**
- **Valentin Dupouey-Sterdyniak,** Returning Officer: "According to Article 6 of the rules of procedure at least the 40% of our direct elected members should be of the least represented

gender, which means at least 7 members. The same applies for the EB, except for the SG, which means that it has to be 4 and 4.

- A recommendation: the Congress should elect at least one of the positions of President and the two Vice-Presidents of the other relevant gender.
- The European Congress shall 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 three members of the Auditors Committee.
- You can choose whether to make or not to make a mark next to the president or the treasurer.
- We have now only 2 candidates for Vice-Presidents. You must write 1, for the preferred candidate, or 2 for the second preferred.
- According to Article 39 the single transfer vote system will be adopted for the two vice presidents.
- **Sven,** Presidium: the whole procedure that we do for the VPs in order to rank is a legal obligation according to the Belgian law.

Balloons session. During the coffee break, participants speak with the FC candidates and ask them relevant questions about their political projects for JEF.

6.6 Election results

- **There are 99 votes cast.**

Results:

- President
  LEONIE - 95/99 VOTES – ELECTED
- Senior vice-president
  SEBASTIANO - 51/99 VOTES – ELECTED
- Junior vice-president:
  EMMA – 38/99 VOTES - ELECTED
- Treasurer:
  CHRIS POWERS – 95/99 VOTES - ELECTED
- Board Members:

DILETTA ALESE – 80 votes - ELECTED
HANNAH… – 63 votes - ELECTED
MORITZ… – 57 votes - ELECTED
ANDREAS - 46 votes – ELECTED

- Speech from speaking guest: **Michael Piccinino**, YFJ
- Speech from speaking guest: **Sandro Gozi**, UEF
- Speech from speaking guest: **Ozge Kara**,

- Speech from speaking guest: **Elisa Selinummi**, YES
- Inputs from former JEFers: David Grace and Kim Gammelagard)
- Informal discussion with Friends of JEF (JEF alumni) and partner organisations: **Tilo Podstatny-Scharf** from IYNF, **Nami Isaki** from CID, **David Gil** from Young Educators and **David López** from Lifelong Learning Platform).

6.6 Elections of the Auditors Committee, the Arbitration Board and the Federal Committee

- Roll call vote (declaration of the votes present and represented) – **QUORUM IS REACHED**

6.6.1 Auditors Committee (3 positions, presentation)

- 4 persons are running for the **Auditors Committee**:
- Emilia, Mark, Patrick…
- Voters can vote for 2 out of the 3 candidates

6.6.2 Arbitration Board (5 positions, presentation)

- candidates are running for the positions in the **Arbitration Board**
- Voters can vote for 4 out of the candidates
-

6.6.3 Federal Committee (16 positions)

- **Candidates running for the** Federal Committee**:**

- Voters can vote for 11 out of the candidates. There are 16 positions available.

6.6.3 Election results

- **There are 99 votes cast**

- FC directly elected members:

Sofia AFANESJEVA, Christelle, Ine, Anne-Marie, Riccardo, Simon, Olav, Giorgia, Gerhard, Raimon, Alexandra, Ben, Ida, Flavia, Caro…, Juuso.

- Auditors Committee:

Johannes BÖRMANN, Klemens KOBER, Simon PAETZOLD, Kardelen GUNAYDIN, Miriam POSTIGLIONE.

- Arbitration Board:

Christelle SAVALL, Elisa SELINUMMI, Emilia CHEHTOVA

SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER 2019

Speech by **Leonie Martin**, newly elected president of JEF Europe

8. Voting

- **Delegates: 92 votes are present.**
- **National sections: 18 are present.**
- **THE QUORUM IS REACHED**

pauline: in order to have the vote valid we need half of sections, 10 sections. and two third of the delegates, 62 supporting the change, Iremember all tat we are going to vote in bloc except if there is a wish to vote on an article separately.

RULES OF PROCEDURE. the purpose is to vote all the rules of procedure in a bloc.

no one against, no abstention, una adopted.

8.2 Statues

no wishes to vote on any article separately.