



JEUNES EUROPÉENS FÉDÉRALISTES
JUNGE EUROPÄISCHE FÖDERALISTEN
YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS

Information for first-time attendees

Welcome to a meeting of the JEF Europe Federal Committee.

The Federal Committee brings together JEF representatives from all European countries and serves as a decision-making body for our organisation. As it is your first time attending a FC meeting, we want to get you acquainted with some of the not-so-easy aspects of the FC's functioning.

In general, all FC members will be happy to give you a hand and explain to you things as they happen in the context. Don't hesitate and ask if you don't understand something.

The statutory bodies of JEF Europe

There are several important statutory bodies within JEF Europe guaranteeing the democratic working of the organisation.

European Congress: The European Congress is the highest decision-making body of JEF Europe. It meets every two years and is composed by representatives of the different member sections. Its size is decided in advance and votes are allocated to the sections following a mathematical rule based on their respective membership numbers.

Federal Committee: The Federal Committee ensures the working of the organisation in between the two years of congress. It meets bi-annually in different European cities. Its members are representatives of the various member sections and directly elected members.

President, Vice-President: The President and the two Vice-Presidents are elected by the European Congress for two years. They direct the Executive Bureau in leading the organisation and are the face of the organisation to the outside.

Executive Bureau: Four directly elected members of the Federal Committee form the Executive Bureau together with the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-General and the Treasurer.

Secretary-General Treasurer: The Secretary-General and the Treasurer are both elected by the Federal Committee for a two-years mandate. The Secretary-General is the only paid employee of the organisation and holds both a political and a professional role. He or she represents the organisation in Brussels and ensures its activities and communications. The Treasurer reports about the finances of the organisation.

The tasks of the Federal Committee

It is the Federal Committee's task to supervise the functioning of the organisation by ensuring the compatibility of its actions with the statutes and to decide on its political direction through deliberations and resolutions.

Resolutions are the Federal Committee's main decision-making tool. One distinguishes two types of resolutions: external resolutions (EP) direct the organisation's external position towards certain political situations while internal resolutions (IP) target the activities and workings of the organisation.

The composition of the Federal Committee

The Federal Committee is composed of directly elected members, representatives of the member sections plus the President and Vice-Presidents.

The directly elected members have been elected by the European Congress and represent the interest of the organisation itself. Should anyone of them resign the election results of the last congress will decide about their replacement.

The national sections and their respective interests are brought into the FC by the section representatives – usually an international officer or the section's president.

Member of the Federal Committee who cannot attend the Federal Committee meeting can transfer their right of vote by means of a proxy. The proxy can only be given to another member of the FC and one such member can only hold one single proxy on top of his or her personal vote.

The structure of the Federal Committee

All members of the Federal Committee have one single vote that they can use within the deliberations and decisions of the FC. Decisions are normally taken by simple sometimes absolute majority depending on the prescriptions laid out in the Statutes.

The Federal Committee will elect from its midst three individuals to form a Presidium that will ensure the smooth working of the body when it meets.

The Federal Committee can form standing and ad-hoc political commissions and working groups. These bodies treat specific matters of political and operational importance and serve as platforms for continuous collaboration between the FC members even between the meetings. Currently, there are three political commissions and three working groups.

Political Commissions (PCs): PC 1 Towards a Federal Democracy (institutional questions), PC 2 Federal Society (matters of society and specific policy-fields), PC 3 Global Europe (Europe in the World and international politics)

Working Groups: WG 1 Branding/Communication, WG 2 Project Development and WG 3 Finances



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The agenda for the Federal Committee meeting

The agenda for the Federal Committee meeting is prepared jointly by the Executive Bureau and the FC presidium. It is presented as a draft to the FC in advance and is decided upon by the Federal Committee at the opening of its meeting.

Main items on its agenda include the reporting by the different bodies (President, Vice-President, Secretary-General, Treasurer, Arbitration Board, PCs and WGs) and members (directly elected members, national sections), discussions in the plenary and the different commissions and working groups and the voting on the resolutions.

Procedural questions

Contribution: Anyone can make a contribution to any of the discussions. Attendees raise their hand and indicate with one finger that they want to raise a new point or with two fingers that they want to make a comment to a point that is currently being discussed. The presidium or the chair keep track of contributions and assign positions on the speakers' list.

Vote: In the plenary, only those who hold a voting card as directly elected member or national representative can vote. In the Political Commission and Working Groups, everyone regardless of their status can vote if they have been present in the discussion since the beginning of the point on the agenda.

Point of order: Anyone can raise a point of order to draw the attention of the body and the presidium on a possible incompatibility with the statutes. The presidium then takes appropriate action.

Point of clarification: Anyone can contribute with relevant factual information should the be need in order to take the appropriate decision.

Motion: Members of the Federal Committee can make use of a whole toolbox of procedural motions in order to influence the proceedings of the meeting. Motions have to be voted on immediately.

For more detailed information on the statutory bodies and their working, please refer to the Statutes or the Rules of Procedure.