

Young European Federalists of Belgium

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JEF Belgium Board Abroad Aachen, August 23-25, 2013 – Minutes –



Present: Conny Hoffmann (President – PR), Goele Janssen (Political Secretary – PS), Ariel Zealot (Secretary General – SG), Daan Pelckmans (a.k.a. ‘die Geile Vögel’ Activity Officer – AO), Cédric Fernández Alonso (Local Sections Officer – LS), Peter Oomsels (Political Secretary – PS), Florent Verfaillie (Treasurer – TR).

In the principal temple of European consciousness, JEF Belgium selected to ruminate over its place in history. What remains will be a story told not by us but those who will sift through its pages in whatever world we leave behind.

JEF Belgium Mid-Term Review

Cooperation EEB/MEB

The membership-issue: For years now there has been an issue in managing our membership in cooperation with the European Movement (EEB/MEB). Since the MEB is managing the memberslist and the new subscriptions, we as JEF asked to be notified whenever a new JEFer subscribed, so that we can get in touch with them. The MEB promised to do so a while ago but forgot in the end, which sometimes puts us in the awkward position that people contact us themselves telling us they have been member for weeks or months without having heard anything from us so ar.

Goele (who’s currently working for the MEB and who will stay there until after the 2014 elections) promised to look into this problem and find a better and long term solution for this problem. She will report back at the next meeting which will take place on the 11th of September in Ghent (for safety measures everyone is recommended to come to Ghent by train or car, NOT by airplane).

Conny and Peter, not trusting Goele’s IT skills (or the English ones either), recommend her to use CiviCRM, a certain software which efficiently manages your member lists and which will probably be better than the current excel file the MEB is working with (and which is lacking information like email addresses of some people at this moment).

5 debates in the 5 local sections in preparation of the 2014 elections

The MEB got money from the EP to produce a sort of ‘count down calendar’ towards the European elections and to have 5 debates with youngsters. For these debates they would like to cooperate with us, helping us with money, communication (costs), locations, getting MEPs to come etc. The MEB with Cédric (LS) and Goele (intern MEB) looked in to the possibilities, and at this point they are trying to pimp some already planned activities of our LS. Nothing has been decided so far, so updates will follow on later meetings.

Cédric and Goele describe their position, saying that nothing has been decided upon so fars since there has only been one meeting. However, one should not wait with giving feedback on ones

actions or asking opinions of fellow board members. So, the board decides to create a file with a table in de Dropbox. In this table every board member can fill in what he or she is working on, in this way we all know and Conny can keep oversight (Conny will create the file herself).

Communication tools

We want to have a flyer to put in attachment to an e-mail we can send to new members and which contains all the useful information about JEF (who are we, what do we do and how do we do it) (and how many times do we do it?). Also, we could use this flyer to distribute on for instance a Student Kick-Off Event.

We also want a sort of template of which the LS can erase the content and put their own content in. In this way they can always use the same template for all of their activities.

Ariel will make a template because doing things like that is his job.

Peter en Goele will take care of the content of the flyer (explaining JEF).

Cooperation with US Embassy (Sarah's Mid-Term Review)

Conny presents the proposal of Sarah to cooperate with the US Embassy for a certain event.

- The Board is very enthusiastic.
- The Board misses Sarah.

Organising an International Seminar in the Fall of 2014

The Board decides to try again to have the Happiness Seminar in Belgium next year. Peter thinks we stand good chances. However, it cannot be just up to us to decide because in the Fall of 2014 this will be up to a new board. Goele, Conny, Florent and Peter promise that they will, *no matter what*, help organising the seminar. They will contact Sarah Dejaegher, Sam Coomans and Mathias Maertens to ask them if they're interested in helping. 8 people in the organising team would be perfect. We should have a best practices exchange with Paris.

Who will contact Sarah/Sam/Mathias: Someone from the previous board.

Who will contact the Paris people, aka the ones who stole the seminar from us last year?

Any Candidates for the elections of the new EB?

Yes there are! His name is: PETER OOMSLS. Peter thinks to himself that he stands a fair chance in the elections. So, we need a new POLSEC and thus also a GA to elect the One. We will have an open call for a replacement, but we will also motivate people we already know, for instance Monica and Jeremy or one of the POLSECs of Liège. Peter comes up with the idea to have a debate on federalism first so that we can see what the people are worth and then elect the best one. The board agrees

that IF we make it an open debate (otherwise it would scare people off). A solution would be to have the GA after the FC on the resolutions (which also has to take place before the FC in Paris). Cédric sees a possibility to also have a LS meeting on the same day, in this way we'll also have a crowded GA, which is what we want.

We'll have an FC to discuss the resolutions for the FC in Paris and a GA to elect a new POLSEC on the 26th of October, with a lunch break in between. (Possibly a LS meeting can also take place that day, Cédric will look into it).

Since the new POLSEC is going to be Goele's colleague, we might want to check whether he, she or it is OK with being a victim of continuous sexual harassment.

Bottom line: We are combining the LS / FC meeting with the GA on October 26.

Daan's Mid-term Review

The BBQ wasn't a big success, we need to rethink its purpose (no longer for fund-raising) and concept (the BBQ itself is not a very appealing concept). Next year we have to change into a team-building activity with the European Movement.

We are not able to attract members to our activities like the BBQ (Peter) – intervention is needed.

Other upcoming events: Training Days (in Namur) about the EU election; Cross-Border Network activities.

Peter and Goele's Mid-term Review

Sexual harassment activities to the side, they are involving themselves in JEF and the European Movement, following the UEF's movement and European Federalist Papers' founders. They tried involving themselves in drafting of party platforms without much success: they are still trying to connect the federal, regional and local level with the European one.

Writing blog posts and opinion pieces: The best time to start contacting the journalists is September (Goele). **She will start writing opinion pieces for the website and further distribution, mainly in Dutch.**

They manage **the FCs**, which takes quite some time: The August FC wasn't as effective, should we continue the concept of the FC? There are positive/negative sides: involving new members in JEF Belgium (+), convoluted communication due to uninformed participants. We will communicate what the FC is, how it works and our expectations for anyone participating in it (reading the proposals and formulating opinions in advance).

Ariel's Mid-term Review

Communication plans are still geared for a September release: the redesigned website, newflash and moderation access/ privileges.

Communication input and suggestions:

The reach on Facebook, content production for our social media channels & the website must be increased. It has been receding in the past months!

How to do crank up the content:

- Interviews with ex JEFers
- Interviews with Famous JEFers
- Articles on JEFers' Experiences/Interviews
- Anniversaries (500 Years of Thomas Moore's Utopia)
- JEF Videos
- Local section board news

With Seminar writing:

Barcelona : Sarah or Rita

Ventotene report: Loic (FR), Conny (EN), Sarah (NL).

Macedonia : Daan (NL), Cédric (EN)

Sweden : Either Rita Stadfelt (EN), Mediko Kurdagia, Heleen Messelem (NL).

Florent's Mid-term Review

As it is not a very exciting matter in itself, please refer to the sheet of Florent and his notes for an exhaustive report on our financial situation.

The BBQ in absolute terms didn't have a loss.

The plan for selling polos and hoodies on the JEF Belgium website: we need great photos (fashion models, sign up please) and tentatively a PayPal account.

THE END of the official part.

Written and compiled mostly by Goele, addendums and grammar Nazi duties performed by Ariel. There was no sexual harassment involved in making this report. Even if there was, we're not telling.