Invitation to the FSFE’s extraordinary assembly

Dear Members,

you are hereby invited to an extraordinary General Assembly of FSFE e.V. on 26 May at 14:00 local time at the FSFE’s office Schönhauser Allee 6/7, 10119 Berlin.

During the last General Assembly the executive was asked to prepare a constitution change to remove the Fellowship seats with 20 members for, 0 against, and 3 abstentions.

The reasons outlined before were that the Council believes that the institution of Fellowship Representatives has ceased to serve its original purpose (and may indeed have never served its intended purpose). In addition, it has become a tool for arbitrarily excluding active contributors from membership, and has thus become harmful to the future development of the organisation. Wherefore, the Council believes that the institution of Fellowship Representatives should be removed. Here, the full background:

- The Fellowship Representatives were introduced for the purpose of giving FSFE’s sustaining donors (known as the Fellowship) a say in how FSFE is operated. This is almost unprecedented in the world of nonprofits, and our community would have been justly outraged if we had introduced similar representation for corporate donors.

- The elections have identified a number of useful additions to the GA. Most of them can be described as active volunteers with FSFE before their election. The Council believes that by identifying and encouraging active contributors to become GA members and better documenting the procedure of becoming a member, the FSFE would have attracted the same people.

- We should either agree on including volunteers whose contribution exceeds a certain threshold (core team membership? local/topical team coordination? active local/topical team contributor for a year? – the threshold is entirely up for debate) as members or we should decline to extend membership on the basis of volunteering. It is simply wrong to pit volunteers against each other in a contest where a mixture of other volunteers and a miniscule fraction of solely financial contributors decide which of our volunteers are most deserving of membership. This unfortunate mechanism has excluded at least one current GA member from membership for several years, and it has been used to discourage a few coordinators from applying for membership in the past.

- Reaching consensus on removing the Fellowship seats is always going to be difficult because we will keep electing new Fellowship Representatives who will understandably be hostile to the idea of eliminating the post. The current members who have been able to observe past and current Fellowship Representatives and their...
involvement in our activities need to decide if the institution serves a useful role or not, and hence whether to remove it or not. The Council believes it does not, and will prepare a constitutional amendment for GA2018 if the majority of the members feel likewise.

After supporters were now informed by Daniel's mail about the plans to remove the Fellowship seats we believe another election would cause confusion and unnecessary work. If we would send out election e-mails this year before finally removing the seats, it will confuse our supporters. It is also additional work to handle the election by Erik. Having another representative joining and then removing the seat, might add another person who is unhappy about this step, and in general who would run for a seat which will be abolished.

In case the proposed changes are not approved by you, we would still have time to run another Fellowship election this year so the term of the current Fellowship representative is not that much longer than 2 years.

**Agenda**

1. Greeting
2. Determination of resolutionability
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Approval of minutes of general assembly held 15 October 2017 in Edinburgh
5. Removal of Fellowship seats

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**English Current: §3 Acquisition of membership**

(1) Any national or foreign natural or legal person may become member of the FSFE. Natural persons must be 16 years old. Persons under age do not have eligibility for election.

(2) Condition for the acquisition of the membership is a written application for membership to the President.

(3) The General Assembly of the members decides on the application for membership with three quarter majority of the delivered valid votes; abstentions are therefore not counted. The President can grant the application for membership passing; the application for membership must then be confirmed by the next members assembly. In case of refusal of the request no obligation exists to communicate the reasons to the applicant.

(4) Fellows elected according to §6 become members of the FSFE. Their membership terminates automatically at the end of their term. New

(2) Voraussetzung für den Erwerb der Mitgliedschaft ist ein schriftlicher Aufnahmeantrag an den Präsidenten.


(4) Fellows, die gemäss §6 gewählt wurden, werden Mitglieder der FSFE. Die Mitgliedschaft endet automatisch mit dem Mandat.
### English Current: §6 Fellowship seats

Two seats in the General Assembly are up for election among Fellows of the FSFE, with a Fellow being defined in §6: (2) - 4.

(1) Fellowship seats in the General Assembly must be held by natural persons, cannot be inherited and enjoy all rights and responsibilities of regular members of the General Assembly.

(2) Fellowships seats differ from regular seats in the following ways:
   1. Each seat is subject to general election among all orderly Fellows of the FSFE;
   2. Elections for seats shall be held yearly in rotation;
   3. The term for each seat is two years;
   4. An orderly Fellow is a natural person who
      - is registered to the Fellowship programme with correct information;
      - made their annual Fellowship contribution;
      - maintains a current email address in the Fellowship forwarding.
   5. All orderly Fellows who have been subscribed to the Fellowship programme for more than one year are eligible for election.
   6. The term begins with confirmation of the election results by the Fellowship coordinator.
   7. Membership in the General Assembly terminates
      - automatically upon conclusion of their two-year term;
      - when a Fellow fails to meet the eligibility criteria defined above;
      - according to the provisions defined in §4.

(3) The following procedure applies for all elections of the Fellowship and is done in accordance with the Schulze method for voting:
   1. The election is called and run by the Fellowship coordinator, who is appointed by the General Assembly;
   2. Elections are called by signed email to the Fellows three months before the election date;
   3. All orderly Fellows are entitled to vote. The Fellowship coordinator defines the

### English Proposed: removed
point in time at which the list of orderly Fellows is determined.

4. Candidates are all Fellows eligible for election who have informed the Fellowship coordinator of their intention to stand for office at least two months before the election date;

5. Each Fellow participating in the election shall submit a ballot ranking all Candidates.

6. Not all Candidates need to be ranked. Ranked Candidates are considered preferred to all unranked Candidates. Voters may rank Candidates equally. Unranked Candidates are considered to be ranked equally with one another.

7. From the list of Candidates, a list of pairwise defeats are generated:
   - Given two Candidates A and B, \( V(A,B) \) is the number of voters who prefer Candidate A over Candidate B.
   - Candidate A defeats Candidate B, if \( V(A,B) \) is strictly greater than \( V(B,A) \).

8. From the list of pairwise defeats, a set of transitive defeats are generated:
   - Candidate A transitively defeats Candidate C if A defeats C or if there is some other Candidate B where A defeats B AND B transitively defeats C.

9. A Schwartz set is constructed from the set of transitive defeats:
   - Candidate A is in the Schwartz set if for all Candidates B, either A transitively defeats B, or B does not transitively defeat A.

10. If there are defeats between Candidates in the Schwartz set, we drop the weakest such defeat from the list of pairwise defeats, and return to step 6.
    - A defeat (A,X) is weaker than a defeat (B,Y) if \( V(A,X) \) is less than \( V(B,Y) \). Also, (A,X) is weaker than (B,Y) if \( V(A,X) \) is equal to \( V(B,Y) \) and \( V(X,A) \) is greater than \( V(Y,B) \).
    - A weakest defeat is a defeat that has no other defeat weaker than it. There may be more than one such defeat.

11. If there are no defeats within the Schwartz set, then the winner is chosen from the Candidates in the Schwartz set. If there is only one such Candidate, (s)he is the winner. If there are multiple Candidates, the winner is randomly
### §6 Fellowship Mandate

Zwei Fellowship Mandate für die Mitgliederversammlung stehen zur Wahl unter allen Fellows der FSFE. Fellows sind definiert in §6 (2) - 4.

1. Ein Fellowship Mandat in der Mitgliederversammlung muss durch eine natürliche Person ausgeübt werden, und ist nicht übertragbar. Inhaber eines Fellowship Mandats sind regulären Mitgliedern der Mitgliederversammlung in Rechten und Pflichten gleichgestellt.

2. Fellowship Mandate unterscheiden sich von regulärer Mitgliedschaft in der folgenden Art und Weise:
   1. Über jedes Mandat wird per Wahl unter allen ordentlichen Fellows der FSFE abgestimmt;
   2. Die Wahl für die Mandate soll jährlich im Wechsel erfolgen;
   3. Die Dauer eines Mandats beträgt zwei Jahre;
   4. Ein ordentlicher Fellow ist eine natürliche Person, die
      • im Fellowship Programm der FSFE mit korrekten Informationen angemeldet ist;
      • Ihre jährlichen Fellowship-Beitrag geleistet hat;
      • eine aktuelle E-Mail-Adresse für die Fellowship E-Mail-Weiterleitung unterhält.
   5. Wählbar sind alle ordentlichen Fellows die seit mindestens einem Jahr am Fellowship Programm teilnehmen.
   7. Die Mitgliedschaft in der Mitgliederversammlung erlischt
      • automatisch nach Beendigung des zweijährigen Mandats;
      • wenn ein Fellow nicht den oben aufgeführten Mindestkriterien genügt;
      • gemäss den Voraussetzungen in §4.

3. Das folgende Verfahren ist anzuwenden auf alle Wahlen im Fellowship und folgt der Schulze-Wahlmethode:
   1. Die Wahl wird anberaumt und durchgeführt durch den Fellowship Koordinator, der von der Mitgliederversammlung ernannt wird.
3. Alle ordentlichen Fellows sind zur Wahl berechtigt. Der Fellowship-Koordinator bestimmt den Zeitpunkt, an welchem die Liste der ordentlichen Fellows festgelegt wird.

4. Kandidaten sind alle wählbaren Fellows, die den Fellowship Koordinator bis spätestens zwei Monate vor dem Wahltermin über ihre Absicht informiert haben, sich zur Wahl zu stellen.

5. Alle Fellows, die an der Wahl teilnehmen, sollen Stimmzettel in Form einer Rangliste aller Kandidaten abgeben.


7. Aus der Liste der Kandidaten wird eine Liste der paarweisen Bevorzugung generiert:
   - Im Falle von zwei Kandidaten A und B gibt V(A,B) die Anzahl der Wähler an, die Kandidat A gegenüber Kandidat B bevorzugen.
   - Kandidat A schlägt Kandidat B, wenn V(A,B) größer ist als V(B,A).

8. Aus der Liste der paarweisen Bevorzugung wird Satz transitiver Bevorzugung generiert:
   - Kandidat A besiegt Kandidat C transitiv, wenn A Kandidat C besiegt, oder wenn es einen Kandidaten B gibt, für den A Kandidat B besiegt und B Kandidat C transitiv besiegt.

9. Aus den transitiven Bevorzugungen wird ein Schwartz-Set generiert:
   - Kandidat A ist im Schwartz-Set, wenn für alle Kandidaten B entweder A Kandidat B transitiv besiegt, oder B nicht transitiv Kandidat A besiegt.

    - Eine Bevorzugung (A,X) ist schwächer als eine Bevorzugung (B,Y), wenn V(A,X) kleiner ist als V(B,Y). (A,X) ist ebenfalls schwächer als (B,Y) wenn V(A,X) gleich V(B,Y) und V(X,A) größer V(Y,B) ist.
    - Die schwächste Bevorzugung ist die Bevorzugung für die es keine Bevorzugung gibt, die schwächer ist. Es
6. Decision about current Fellowship representatives

The council puts the following options to a vote:

1. The current Fellowship representatives' membership ends immediately after this extraordinary General Assembly, or 2 years after their election, whichever comes later.
2. The current Fellowship representatives' membership ends immediately after the next ordinary General Assembly.
3. The current Fellowship representatives' membership ends immediately after the this extraordinary General Assembly.

6. Miscellaneous

7. Closing

Requests for addendums to the agenda can be submitted in writing (including by signed email to council@fsfeurope.org) until .

Votes of members who cannot attend the assembly themselves can be transferred to another member in writing until the start of the General Assembly.

According to §19 of our constitution, written form is met by

- handwritten signed paper document;
- E-mail signed with a key that is sufficiently state of the art.

Paper documents can be sent to FSFE’s Berlin office at

Free Software Foundation Europe e.V.
Schönhauser Allee 6/7
10119 Berlin
Germany

until 19 May 2018.

Delegations by email should be sent to council@fsfeurope.org.

We are looking forward to see you all in Berlin!

Best Regards,
Matthias Kirschner / President FSFE
Heiki Lõhmus / Vice President FSFE