



FSFE • Schönhauser Allee 6/7 • 10119 Berlin • Germany

Members of the FSFE e.V.
by e-mail

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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 coordinatorship? 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

*kann mehr als eine schwächste
Bevorzugung geben.*

*11. Gibt es keinerlei Bevorzugung innerhalb des
Schwartz-Set, so wird der Sieger von den
Kandidaten im Schwartz-Set gewählt. Gibt es
nur einen solchen Kandidaten, ist sie/er der
Sieger. Gibt es mehrere Kandidaten, wird der
Sieger durch das Los bestimmt.*

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
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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 Löhmus / Vice President FSFE