

INTERNAL RESOLUTION OF THE UEF FEDERAL COMMITTEE ON IMPROVING WORKING METHODS OF POLITICAL COMMISSIONS

Adopted by the UEF Federal Committee in Rome on 24th November 2019.

The Federal Committee of the Union of European Federalists,

- Recalling that political resolutions are a formal expression of the political will of the organisation and provide representatives with the legitimacy to express positions not only on the basis of their individual mandate but as official positions of UEF;
- Recognising the importance of an inclusive and democratic process for the definition of UEF's political positions and acknowledging that the decision-making process must be clarified;
- Being aware that the number and length of resolutions and of amendments submitted to recent statutory meetings did not allow for detailed consideration and discussion and that this discussion is only the final step of a political work and debate in UEF;
- Acknowledging that members of the Federal Committee have equally expressed a wish to maintain sufficient time for substantive debate with external speakers or internally beyond resolution work;
- Acknowledging that there are divergent expectations of members of the Federal Committee regarding the aim of the Political Commissions' meetings, recognising thus the necessity to find a right balance between the different expectations and to allow sufficient time to both aims during PC meetings;
- Considering that it is necessary to reduce the number and in some cases the length of resolutions to be discussed to allow for a detailed and inclusive discussion as well as space for discussion with external speakers:
 1. Decides that PC meetings shall dedicate part of their meeting time, to a broader discussion, with experts or internally, on one or several political questions related to the resolutions under discussion, and allocate sufficient time to discuss the issues raised by the submitted amendments. During PC meetings, all participants can speak but only FC members can vote when a vote is called by the PC Chair. The PC Chair shall not refute by its own authority proposed amendments. A majority vote in his PC will mandate him to do so;
 2. Commits to providing enough time resources to the PCs to allow for the realisation of both objectives;
 3. Recommends that the resolutions normally should not exceed the length of two pages and should have a political character;
 4. Recommends the PC chairs, in preparing their resolutions, to take into consideration the priorities that emerge from the EB meetings debates and the national sections, as well as in the general debates of the FC. This outcome will be pursued also thanks to the joint work of EB members appointed as PCs rapporteurs and the PCs chairs and the involvement of PCs chairs in the EB political debate;

5. Recommends PC chairs to set up, in cooperation with the Executive Bureau, a work-plan and inform the FC in advance on the topics they are going to organise in their PC works and on which they are going to draft a resolution (that should be maximum two per FC), and whenever possible, circulate a working draft resolution as early as possible to provide for opportunities to feed in comments ahead of the deadlines;
6. Recommends that PCs are not charged with too many further resolutions added to those ones proposed by or agreed with chairs. Therefore, sections and individual members shall:
 - contact PC chairs in advance, before presenting their resolutions, to see if the issues and contents they want to propose with their resolutions are compatible with the topics that are planned to be discussed during PCs works;
 - submit their resolutions when they are sponsored by at least three FC members coming from more than one national section;
7. Decides that the deadline for presenting resolutions is moved up to 6 weeks before the FC meetings;
8. Recommends the sections and FC members to submit their amendments as soon as possible once the draft resolution is made available in order to facilitate the search for compromise, and at the latest 3 weeks before the FC meeting;
9. Decides that, for the resolutions proposed by or agreed with the chairs, the chairs, together with EB members appointed as PCs rapporteurs (and together with the proponent/s of the resolution, in case the resolution is not presented personally by the chair), are asked to discuss before the FC meetings with the authors of the amendments, in order to look for an agreement and present, if possible, a common text. The issues raised by those amendments that cannot be agreed on will be discussed during the PC meeting where the PC so wishes and the amendments as such will be voted in plenary during the session when resolutions are voted;
10. Decides that, for further resolutions presented by FC members, it is up to the proponents to contact the authors of the amendments, exploring the possibility of finding an agreement. As in point 9, the issues raised by the amendments that will not be accepted by the author of the resolution will be discussed, during the PC meeting where the PC so wishes and the amendments will be voted in plenary during the session when resolutions are voted;
11. Decides that all resolutions will be proof-read after the FC meeting and that language amendments shouldn't discussed during PC or FC meetings.