MINUTES of the

Extraordinary Federal Committee meeting

8 and 22 September 2026, Brussels (online)

Start of the meeting — Tuesday 8 September 2026, 18:05

End of the meeting — Tuesday 22 September 2026, 19:07

Opening of the Federal Committee meeting - 8 September

Kati Systä opened the extraordinary online meeting on behalf of the Federal Committee Presidium. The meeting had been convened to examine and approve the UEF 2025 accounts for submission to the Belgian authorities.

Formalities

Roll call and voting rights

Secretary General Mathilde Baudouin conducted the roll call with the assistance of Davide Negri. The Secretariat recorded proxy votes and invited members who had joined without registering to identify themselves and their sections in the Zoom chat. After accounting for arrivals and departures, the Presidium closed the roll call with 67 votes represented.

Election of the Tellers

Davide Negri, Paolo Milanesi and Mihai Beta were appointed as tellers without objection.

Confirmation of the Credentials Committee

Marovita Nikolaidou, Christelle Savall and Mathilde Baudouin were confirmed as members of the Credentials Committee without objection.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved without objection.

Treasurer's report and motion to adjourn

Treasurer Antonio Argenziano explained that the March Congress had taken place earlier than the usual June statutory meeting, when the previous year's accounts would ordinarily be approved. He said the approved accounts needed to reach the Belgian authorities by the end of September.

The Treasurer requested more time to correct and clarify several items with the external accountant, whose summer leave had delayed finalisation. He reported that the European Commission had already assessed the operating grant report and paid the maximum balance due. He expected to circulate the revised accounts and supporting documents ahead of the resumed session.

After inviting questions, the Presidium moved to adjourn the meeting and defer the presentation and approval of the accounts until 22 September. Members voted using the Zoom Raise Hand function.

The motion to adjourn and reconvene online on 22 September was carried with 48 votes in favour, 1 against and 7 abstentions.

Reconvening of the Federal Committee meeting - 22 September

The extraordinary meeting resumed online on 22 September. At the end of the roll call, Mathilde Baudouin reported 53 votes were represented. Malte Steuber chaired the presentation and discussion on behalf of the Presidium.

Presentation of the UEF 2025 accounts

Antonio Argenziano presented the final accounts. He reported total revenue of approximately €437,500, expenditure of approximately €412,000 and a positive net result of close to €25,000. The surplus strengthened UEF's reserves and would help finance the 2026 budget.

The European Commission operating grant accounted for more than 73% of revenue. The annual work plan had a €400,000 funding ceiling, with the Commission covering up to 80% and UEF providing the remaining 20% through co-funding. UEF received €256,000 in prefinancing at the end of 2024 and the full €64,000 balance in 2026 after the Commission assessed the 2025 report. The Treasurer confirmed that UEF had met the co-funding requirements.

The accounts included €32,000 of eligible volunteer time, recorded on both sides of the accounts with no net effect. The Treasurer thanked national sections and partner organisations for contributing to work plan activities. Section membership fees brought in slightly more than €35,000. Other income included individual membership fees, participation fees and donations of more than €8,500. He explained that some other revenue reflected the difference between standard grant unit costs and actual expenditure.

Staff was the largest expenditure item. Other costs included statutory meetings and interregional conferences, travel and accommodation, website and communications work, legal and accounting services, and office expenses. Rent was below €21,000 in 2025 and was expected to fall in 2026 under the office-sharing arrangement with JEF Europe. Costs ineligible for grant funding were just over €3,000. The Treasurer thanked the Secretariat for preparing the accounts and managing the grant.

Discussion

Ángel Landabaso asked whether the delay had affected compliance with the operating grant procedure. Antonio Argenziano confirmed that the Commission reporting process had already been completed and the final payment received. The remaining step was to submit the approved annual accounts to the Belgian administration by the end of September.

Jean Marsia asked to see the external auditor's report before voting. Mathilde Baudouin explained that the audit covered management of the operating grant and had been submitted to the Commission to secure the balance payment. Antonio Argenziano said he had circulated the report separately from the annual accounts prepared with the external accountant. Domenico Rossetti forwarded the report to Marsia during the meeting.

Alessandro Pilotti questioned the share of expenditure devoted directly to political activities. Antonio Argenziano explained that staff time, communications and support for national sections also contributed to UEF's political work and appeared under several accounting headings. He noted that the absence of an operating grant in 2026 limited the support available to sections.

President Domènec Ruiz Devesa called for a discussion with national sections on whether membership contributions and other own resources could cover a minimum level of capacity, consisting of a Brussels office and one employee. Mathilde Baudouin outlined the recurring costs of operating a registered association in Belgium and cited office sharing with JEF as a way to reduce them.

In response to Raffaele De Luca, the Treasurer explained that UEF had not secured the framework agreement for 2026–2028 and identified 2029 as the next possible funding year. The Presidium proposed continuing the discussion on future funding and the 2026 financial position at the November Federal Committee, with the option of preparatory work with national sections. No objection was raised.

Approval of the UEF 2025 accounts

Kati Systä took over the chair for the vote. Members entitled to vote under the roll call used the Zoom Raise Hand function. The count included proxy votes.

The Federal Committee approved the UEF 2025 accounts with 43 votes in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention.

Closing Remarks and Closing of the Meeting

Mathilde Baudouin thanked the Presidium and reminded members that, at the time of the meeting, 30 October was the deadline both to register for the November Federal Committee in Brussels and to submit resolutions. Kati Systä thanked participants and closed the meeting shortly after 19:00 Brussels time.

Brussels, 05/11/2026

Mathilde Baudouin, UEF Secretary General