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Motion

Proposer: JEF Greece

Title: **FC/EC Zero Declaration - Internal Resolution.**

Motion text

Resolution submitted by: JEF Greece

Preamble

ACKNOWLEDGING the increasing urgency to address climate change and the environmental impact of large-scale statutory meetings of JEF Europe;

ACKNOWLEDGING the pioneering work of JEF Greece in pushing forward this proposal through FC Athens 2026 for the collective benefit of all National Sections and JEF Europe to set a new standard for European youth civil society on climate action;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to actively facilitate the transfer of sustainability practices across the network by providing National Sections with toolkits, training, and digital resources to replicate sustainable practices at national and local levels;

AFFIRMING JEF Europe’s leading role in European youth politics/advocacy, aiming to inspire other European youth organisations and political stakeholders to adopt similar binding environmental standards;

CALLING for the transition toward fully paperless Federal Committees by 2027, whereby all statutory documents and proceedings are managed exclusively through secure digital platforms tested by JEF Europe;

DESIRING to establish a general framework for National Sections to reduce emissions of international statutory meetings and promote environmentally responsible practices during the organisation and implementation of FC/ECs;

ESTABLISHING the total carbon footprint and environmental impact of FC Athens 2026 as the "official emissions ceiling" and performance baseline for all subsequent statutory meetings to gradually reduce overall FC emissions;

RECOGNISING that the organisation of a Federal Committee (FC) or European Congress (EC) constitutes a vital function of JEF, with a measurable environmental

impact/footprint for the local community with regards to the participants' mobility emissions and logistical arrangements of the FC/EC.

Article 1 - Definitions

For the purposes of this resolution:

- **"Statutory Event"** - a Federal Committee (FC) meeting or a European Congress (EC) of JEF Europe as defined by Articles 14–25 of the JEF Statutes.

- **"Hosting Section"** - the national JEF section or sections selected to organise and host a Statutory Event.

- **"Candidate Hosting Section"** - any national section submitting a formal candidacy to host a Statutory Event.

- **"FC/EC Zero Framework" -** means the mandatory set of sustainability, emission-tracking, logistics, and reporting standards established by this resolution.

- **"Mobility Emission Tracking Protocol (METP)"** - the standardised data collection mechanism used to calculate and evaluate participants' transport emissions.

- **"Green Mobility Notification (GMN)" -** the actionable advisory notice issued to selected participants advising sustainable transport alternatives.

- **"Environmental Impact Report (EIR)"** - the comprehensive post-event report detailing the overall carbon footprint, logistics outcomes, and sustainability performance of a Statutory Event.

- **"Emissions Baseline"** - the maximum target emissions ceiling established for statutory meetings pursuant to Article 8 of this resolution.

Article 2: Objective and Scope

This Internal Resolution establishes the FC/EC Zero Framework, a comprehensive strategy to minimise the environmental impact of JEF Europe’s statutory meetings and promote sustainable organisational practices.

Scope:

- **Statutory Events:** The provisions of this Declaration shall apply to all physical Federal Committees (FCs) and European Congresses (ECs) of JEF Europe.

- **Network-Wide Application:** National and local sections are highly encouraged to adopt these standards for their internal activities to ensure consistency across the JEF network.

The FC/EC Zero framework is based on the principle of Good Faith Compliance. While acknowledging the diverse financial and geographical realities of National Sections, the host sections are expected to make every reasonable effort to meet these standards. Deviations from these standards herein must be justified during the host-selection process, including in the post FC/EC reports.

Article 3: Overview and Structure of FC/EC Zero

The FC/EC Zero declaration represents a fundamental shift in JEF Europe’s culture of organising FC/ECs, integrating our values on climate action into a standardised, data-driven environmental strategy. This declaration is built upon the dual conviction that our democratic bodies must be both inclusive and ecologically responsible as our duty and tribute to the next generation of young European federalists.

The plan is structured into two operational pillars: Cluster I (Mobility of the Participants), which addresses the carbon-intensive nature of international travel required by our participants to attend the FC/ECs, and Cluster II

(Logistics of the FC), which addresses the local environmental impact of the logistics of organising and implementing an FC/EC.

Together, these standards set a comprehensive blueprint for a "Green FC/EC," ensuring that JEF Europe’s statutory proceedings serve as a model of climate action within European youth civil society.

Article 4: Cluster I - Mobility of the Participants

The movement of our participants across Europe represents the largest contributor to an FC's or EC's emissions footprint. To lead by example, we must transition from merely acknowledging this impact to actively managing it. By prioritising data-driven, no-cost

applications, we ensure our commitment to a sustainable Europe is reflected not only in our political advocacy but in the very way we gather to deliberate.

The Mobility Emission Tracking Protocol (METP):

The Mobility Emission Tracking Protocol (METP) is hereby established as the mandatory standard for assessing transport-related emissions for all Host Sections. This Protocol shall apply exclusively to the primary statutory meetings of JEF Europe, namely the Federal Committee (FC) and the European Congress.

To ensure the accuracy of the resulting data, the Host Sections are required to use verified emission calculators to estimate the projected CO2 or CO2-equivalent emissions based on the distance travelled from and back, and the specific mode of transport indicated by the participants in their application.

The primary data-gathering phase of the METP shall be integrated into the Open Call for Participants. The official application form for every FC and Congress shall require applicants to declare their intended departure hub and primary mode of transportation, including for their return.

The METP mandates the use of internationally recognised emission calculators:

1. The ICAO Carbon Emissions Calculator shall be the standard for all flight-based data.

2. EcoPassenger (or an equivalent tool for European rail and road networks) shall be utilised for all non-aviation travel.

JEF Europe must ensure that this data promptly becomes accessible to the Hosting Section when it becomes available, in accordance with all related data protection laws and regulations.

Within fifteen (15) days of the event's conclusion, a voluntary validation survey shall be circulated to participants to account for any changes in travel plans (actual vs. projected).

The final data shall be included in the FC Environmental Impact Report.

Green Mobility Notifications (GMN)

The Green Mobility Notification (GMN) is the actionable part of the Mobility Emission Tracking Protocol (METP). While the METP serves as the emissions data collection framework, the GMN translates this data into direct communication with participants to encourage sustainable travel.

Using the data gathered via the METP, the Host Section shall identify participants whose travel originates within a geographical radius typically serviced by a short-haul flight of two (2) hours or less. Once a participant is flagged by the METP as travelling within this range, a GMN shall be triggered as part of the participant's official selection and onboarding process.

A formal notification shall be sent to the participant via email by JEF Europe in conjunction with the Host Section following their confirmation of selection. The email will include the Mobility emissions estimate and encourage participants to choose different transportation means to the hosting city.

The GMN email shall explicitly state that the recommendation is not mandatory and that it is up to the participant’s availability of options and capacities.

Article 5: Cluster II - Logistics of the Federal Committee and Congress

While mobility is the largest source of emissions for an FC or European Congress, event logistics are the most visible manifestation of our capacity to act. Every venue selected and every resource consumed is a choice that either contributes to or combats the climate crisis. By establishing these new standards, we ensure that JEF’s democratic functions leave a positive legacy in

the host city, proving that large-scale youth gatherings can be models of environmental excellence.

Venues and Accommodations

The Host Section shall prioritise venues and accommodations that have actively demonstrated a commitment to energy efficiency, responsible water management, and the reduction of their total environmental footprint.

Priority shall be given to venues and accommodations that hold green labels and certificates, demonstrating strong energy efficiency, responsible water usage, and compliance with recognised sustainability standards. Specifically, for the venues, where feasible, the aim is to utilise natural lighting and minimise unnecessary energy consumption.

To ensure objective standards, the Host Section shall favour venues and accommodations that hold verified third-party certifications. While specific labels may vary across Europe, the following are established as primary benchmarks:

Examples of certifications include:

- **EU Ecolabel:** this is the official EU environmental excellence label for tourism accommodation and services; it focuses on energy efficiency, water management, waste reduction, and reduced environmental impact;
- **ISO 14001 EMS:** an internationally recognised standard for environmental management and continuous sustainability improvement;
- **EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme):** the official EU environmental management framework promoting transparency, environmental reporting, and regulatory compliance;
- Other certificates include **BREEAM** (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method), **Green Key**, and more.

In cases where fully certified venues or accommodations are unavailable, the Host Section must evaluate potential sites based on the following criteria:

- Energy Efficiency: Venues must prioritise the use of natural lighting and

minimise unnecessary energy consumption through smart climate control and LED systems.

- Renewable Energy: Additional weighting shall be given to sites that utilise on-site renewable energy sources or procure renewable electricity.

- Water & Waste: Selected sites must demonstrate responsible water usage and provide accessible, comprehensive waste-sorting facilities for participants.

Transportation within the Host City

The use of local public transportation networks shall be set as the primary and default mode of transit for all participants within the Host City. The Host Section is encouraged to facilitate this by:

1. Prioritising the provision of public transport passes or digital tickets as part of the participant welcome pack.

2. Providing clear guidance on public transport routes.

The use of private hired coaches or shuttle services shall be strictly limited to cases where viable public transport alternatives do not exist. Private transport may only be used if the Host Section demonstrates that public transit is logistically unfeasible due to scheduling constraints, safety concerns, or a total lack of accessible public transport infrastructure.

Where private transport is necessary, the Host Section shall prioritise providers that have low-emission vehicle fleets.

Where distances allow, walking shall be encouraged as the most sustainable form of urban movement. **Environmental considerations shall not supersede the need for accessible transport for participants with reduced mobility. In such instances, the most efficient transportation option shall be provided to them.**

Catering and Food Waste Management

The Host Section shall prioritise local suppliers who use ingredients that are available within the current seasonal market cycle. To minimise transport emissions, preference shall be given to providers located in close proximity to

the venues.

Recognising the significantly lower environmental footprint of plant-based diets, vegetarian and vegan options shall be treated as the primary and standard for catering offerings.

It is recommended that food be distributed via individual meal containers to minimise food waste. In this case, the Host Section shall mandate that all individual containers are made from certified compostable, biodegradable, or reusable materials.

In case food is provided in a buffet style, the Host Section shall ensure that there is no overproduction, while any excess food must be stored in individual containers for the participants or to be given to people in need through partnerships with local NGOs.

For reasons of food safety, surplus food from a specific meal service shall not be reused for subsequent days of the FC or European Congress. Surplus food that remains safe for consumption shall be given to local social organisations or food banks. The Host Section is required to establish prior communication with these partners.

Conference Materials and Operations

To minimise the use of paper, JEF Europe statutory meetings shall operate as Digital-First events. The Host Section shall aim to eliminate the distribution of printed materials, including agendas, resolutions, and logistical guides, and use digital platforms instead.

Participants are strongly encouraged to use a personal electronic device (laptop, tablet, or smartphone) to access conference materials and procedural documentation. To ensure seamless participation in digital votes and document editing, the following technical standards are recommended:

- Laptops: Devices running Windows 11 or recent macOS equivalents (indicatively within the last three generations of hardware).
- Tablets/iPads: Devices running Android 13 or iPadOS 17 and more recent versions to ensure compatibility with modern platforms.

The Host Section shall implement a strict waste-mitigation strategy within the

event venues to reduce the ecological footprint of the FC or European Congress:

- The use of unnecessary single-use plastics, including disposable cutlery and excessive packaging, shall be avoided.
- The use of disposable plastic and paper cups is prohibited. The Host Section shall instead provide access to water refill stations and encourage the use of glassware or reusable alternatives.
- The distribution of single-use bags and items with excessive plastic packaging shall be limited to the absolute minimum.

The Host Section shall prioritise reusable solutions for participants:

- Participants are encouraged to bring their own reusable mugs and water bottles to the event.
- Any "goodie bags" or delegate kits provided by the Host Section should prioritise sustainable, long-lasting items that replace single-use alternatives (e.g., reusable bottles, tote bags).

The inclusion of these items is subject to the financial capacities of the Host Section. Where budget allows, the Host Section is encouraged to seek "Green Sponsorships" to fund high-quality, reusable materials.

Article 6: FC/EC Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

To ensure accountability and transparency, the Host Section is required to produce a comprehensive FC/EC Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This document shall be finalised and submitted to JEF Europe and the National Sections within thirty (30) days of the event’s conclusion.

Core Elements of the EIR

The EIR must provide a transparent, data-driven overview of the event’s ecological footprint, including:

1. A detailed breakdown of total CO2 and CO2-equivalent emissions, covering both Cluster I (Mobility of the Participants) based on METP data and Cluster II (Logistics of the FC or European Congress) based on

transportation, catering, waste, venues, and accommodation emissions.

2. A self-assessment of the Host Section's approach to implementing the FC/EC Zero Standards, including the effectiveness of the Green Mobility Notifications (GMN) and the "Digital-First" guidelines.

3. A formal declaration of the chosen Carbon Offsetting Plan (as outlined in Article 7), specifying whether the section will pursue immediate NGO partnerships or long-term carbon offsetting projects.

4. A reflection on the logistical viability of the sustainability standards of FC/EC Zero. This section should address the challenges the Host Section faced, the cost-effectiveness of the green measures, and the overall impact of these standards on the participants’ experience.

Article 7: Carbon Offsetting

After the conclusion of the Federal Committee or Congress, the information from the FC/EC Environmental Impact Report will be utilised by the Host Section to begin planning for carbon offsetting activities and actions.

JEF Europe recognises that the capacity for environmental action varies across National Sections. **Consequently, the Host Section is granted the autonomy to select the most viable carbon offsetting method, whether through immediate financial contributions to local NGOs or through long-term projects, based on its capacities.**

Immediate Carbon Offsetting

The Host Section may fulfil its carbon offsetting obligations by providing a financial contribution to local NGOs or foundations dedicated to Climate Resilience. Where possible, these partnerships should be collaborative. The Host Section is encouraged to involve its volunteers in these activities.

Contributions should support projects with measurable local impact, such as restoring flood-prone areas, protecting local biodiversity, or assisting community-led sustainability initiatives.

Long-Term Carbon Offsetting

For sections with limited financial capacities, carbon offsetting may take the form of direct, action-based projects. This may include organised "Cleanup Missions" for local parks, riverbanks, or beaches, or the establishment of an "FC/EC Forest" through seasonal tree-planting actions. These projects should focus on tangible ecological restoration that provides a visible and lasting benefit to the local community that hosted the Federal Committee or European Congress.

Carbon Offsetting Deadlines

To ensure that the Carbon Offsetting of an FC or European Congress does not become an indefinite promise, a strict Completion Deadline is hereby established. All offsetting activities triggered by an FC or European Congress must be fully completed by:

1. Two (2) years following the conclusion of the FC or European Congress; OR

2. The date the same National Section submits a bid to host a Federal Committee or European Congress, whichever occurs first.

Reporting to JEF Europe

The Host Section shall remain responsible for providing proof of completion of all the Carbon Offsetting activities to JEF Europe.

- This may include donation receipts to NGOs, photographic evidence of activities, or certificates.
- The verification and confirmation of the completion of activities will be conducted by JEF Europe at an FC or European Congress.

Article 8: FC/EC Zero Emissions Limits

JEF Europe recognises the need for standardised metrics to measure the progress of sustainable FCs or European Congresses. As the first full-scale implementation of the FC/EC Zero occurs during FC Athens 2026, this event is hereby established as the official Emissions Baseline for all future FC statutory meetings. The total CO2 or CO2-equivalent emissions documented in the FC Athens Environmental Impact Report (EIR) shall serve as the new benchmark for the next FCs.

It is understood that, in the case of a European Congress, the emissions limits of FCs cannot be applied due to the different scale of each statutory meeting. In this case, the Emissions Baseline for ECs will be set by the planned EC set for autumn 2027 following the same rules and standards as the baseline for FCs.

All subsequent Federal Committees and European Congresses shall be mandated to utilise the FC Athens/EC 2027 Emissions Limit as their primary reference point, with the explicit goal of achieving a total footprint lower than the FC Athens/EC 2027 Benchmark.

Each future Host Section must include a Benchmark Comparison in their own EIR, explicitly stating whether their event successfully reduced emissions relative to the FC Athens/EC 2027 baseline.

JEF Europe acknowledges that a host city's geographical location heavily influences total emissions. In this case, future Host Sections may provide a "Geographical Justification" if travel emissions exceed the FC Athens/EC 2027 baselines due to the extreme distance or lack of available travel options, provided that their Cluster II (Logistics of the FC or European Congress) emissions demonstrate a clear reduction of overall emissions.

The FC Athens/EC 2027 Benchmarks are intended to act as a starting point, setting the maximum emissions allowable. JEF Europe shall review the benchmark every two and a half years and adjust it based on the performance of the most efficient FC/EC held in that review period. The name of the FC benchmark shall remain the same as a tribute to

the first FC that implemented the FC/EC Zero standards. This provision does not apply to the name of the EC 2027 benchmark.

Article 9: The FC/EC Zero Implementation Framework

The FC/EC Zero standards, as outlined in this internal resolution, shall enter a transition phase immediately following the conclusion of FC Athens 2026. Full and mandatory enforcement of all of its provisions shall commence at the Spring Federal Committee 2027.

These environmental standards are established as a statutory obligation for JEF Europe. They shall apply to all current and future National Sections of JEF Europe hosting a Federal Committee or European Congress. Any section bidding to host a JEF Europe statutory meeting must demonstrate its capacity to fulfill these standards as part of its official bid (at least one slide).

FC/EC Zero Trainings for Sections

JEF Europe, in collaboration with the authors of the FC/EC Zero initiative, shall ensure that an FC/EC Zero toolkit (including the METP and GMN templates) is transferred to every new Host Section during the initial planning phase.

The JEF Europe shall provide an FC/EC Zero training to the incoming Host Section no later than four months before their FC or European Congress. Furthermore, the Secretariat shall act as the monitoring body to ensure that the thirty-day deadline for the Environmental Impact Report (Article 6) is strictly observed.

Article 10: Amendment Process of FC/EC Zero

JEF Europe recognises that environmental standards, technological capabilities, and carbon emissions accounting platforms are subject to rapid evolution. The FC/EC Zero framework shall be treated as a dynamic guideline, subject to periodic review to ensure it remains at the forefront as a sustainable event platform for European youth civil society.

Amendment Process of FC Zero

Every three (2.6) years, JEF Europe, in consultation with past Host Sections, shall conduct a review of the FC/EC Zero Standards.

This review shall analyse the data from all Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) collected during the period to determine if the Benchmarks need to be adjusted.

Updates to technical specifications may be made via a simplified procedure by the Secretariat, provided they do not alter the core mandate of the internal resolution. Significant changes to the Clusters, the carbon offsetting deadlines, or the enforcement framework must be debated and ratified at a Federal Committee or European Congress to ensure a broad democratic consensus.

Reason

This internal resolution establishes a common sustainability framework for JEF Europe’s Federal Committees and European Congresses. It introduces standards for measuring travel emissions, encouraging sustainable mobility, selecting responsible venues and catering, reducing waste, operating digitally and reporting the environmental impact of statutory meetings. FC Athens 2026 would serve as the initial emissions baseline, with full implementation beginning at the Spring Federal Committee 2027.