

General Assembly of Free Software Foundation Europe e.V.

21 October 2023, Linuxhotel, Antonienallee 1, 45279 Essen-Horst, Germany

Opening by the Chair

Time: 12:16 CEST

By invitation sent on 30 August 2023 we have come together for this year's General Assembly.

Members attending the assembly:

1. Albert Dengg
2. Amandine Jambert "Cryptie"
3. André Ockers
4. Bernhard Reiter
5. Björn Schießle
6. Carmen Bianca Bakker
7. Carsten Agger
8. Florian Snow
9. Heiki Löhmus
10. Matthias Kirschner
11. Nico Rikken
12. Nicole Faerber
13. Patrick Ohnewein
14. Reinhard Müller

Guests attending the assembly:

1. Ana Galan

Members not attending but who delegated their vote:

1. Torsten Grote (assigned vote to Matthias Kirschner)
2. Nikos Roussos (assigned vote to Matthias Kirschner)
3. Henrik Sandklef (assigned vote to Bernhard Reiter)

Agenda

1. Greeting
2. Determination of quorum
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Approval of minutes of the General Assembly of 2022

5. Report of the Executive Council
6. Exoneration of President, Vice President, and Financial Officer
7. Information about departing membership
8. Confirmation of new members
9. Election of President, Vice President, Financial Officer
10. Miscellaneous
11. Closing

Greetings

- The assembly is officially opened at 12:16 CEST.
- The Chair welcomes all present to the General Assembly.

Determination of the quorum

14 of 26 members are present. 3 members are absent, but represented by a members present.

The Chair notes that the invitation has been sent on time on 30 August 2023.

Of the current members 17 members are either present or represented which is more than one third of the members. Thereby the Chair declares the General Assembly to be quorate.

Adoption of the agenda

The chair asks if there are further additions to the agenda.

No further additions to the agenda requested.

The Chair puts the agenda to a vote.

Result: 17 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions

The agenda is adopted.

Approval of minutes of the General Assembly 2022

The Members beforehand read the minutes of the General Assembly from 29 October 2022.

Carmen Bianca Bakker noted that the time indication of CET in the agenda should have been CEST.

The Chair asks the members to approve the minutes through vote.

Result: 13 for, 0 against, 4 abstentions

The Chair determines that the minutes of the General Assembly are approved.

Report of the Executive Council

In the course of the preparation for this General Assembly, the Executive and the Financial Officer presented the members with a report about the FSFE's activities since the last General Assembly and held Q&A sessions about it.

The Chair asks whether there are further questions.

There are no further questions.

Exoneration of President, Vice President, and Financial Officer

The Chair asks whether the General Assembly would like to exonerate Matthias Kirschner (2022-2023), Heiki Löhmus (2022-2023), and Patrick Ohnewein (2022-2023) in a single vote.

No secret vote is requested.

Result: 17 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions

The Chair notes that all executives of the FSFE – Matthias Kirschner, Heiki Löhmus, and Patrick Ohnewein – have been duly exonerated.

Information about departing membership

There were no departing members since the last General Assembly.

Confirmation of new members

Carmen Bianca Bakker

The Chair notes that Carmen Bianca Bakker has been granted membership in the FSFE. The application was granted passingly by the President and requires confirmation by the General Assembly. The Chair puts proposal on the membership to the vote.

A secret vote has been requested.

Result: 15 for, 0 against, 1 abstention

Thereby the membership is confirmed.

Nicole Faerber

The Chair notes that Nicole Faerber has been granted membership in the FSFE. The application was granted passingly by the President and requires confirmation by the General Assembly. The Chair puts proposal on the membership to the vote.

A secret vote has been requested.

Result: 13 for, 1 against, 2 abstention

Thereby the membership is confirmed.

Election of new President, Vice President, Financial Officer

Chair announces that all elections will be done by secret votes.

Florian Snow nominates Matthias Kirschner for the office of President of the FSFE. No other nominations are proposed and the candidate is put to the vote.

Result: 17 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions

Matthias Kirschner accepts the vote and is thereby elected as President.

Bernhard Reiter nominates Heiki Löhmus for the office of Vice President. No other nominations are proposed and the candidate is put to the vote.

Result: 17 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions

Heiki Löhmus accepts the vote and is thereby elected as Vice President

Amandine Jambert "Cryptie" nominate Patrick Ohnewein for the position of Financial Officer. No other nominations are proposed.

Result: 17 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions

Patrick Ohnewein accepts the vote and is thereby elected as Financial Officer.

Miscellaneous

Amandine Jambert alias Cryptie informed the other members about her resignation of the GA: She is very happy to have joined the EU institution as a public officer in privacy related duties. Sadly, as the FSFE is a stakeholder in EU regulatory work, (actively contributing to public consultation, contacting EU politicians and institutions about impact on Free Software of their work, etc) and a proud member of EDRI, which is also involved in EU regulatory work, Cryptie decided to resign to avoid any potential conflict of interest (or appearance of). She thanked everyone for those awesome years together and expressed that she is very proud of having been part of the GA of the FSFE for 6+ years. She said that the FSFE accomplishes a very important, and often hard, mission but everyone at the FSFE is working together for a better future. She has seen a few difficult situations in her years at the FSFE and she has also seen how the group deals with it: everyone does his or her best to support each other, to reach out when one has a difficult time, etc. Thus she is resigning confident in the FSFE's future. She said that pushing for Free Software with heart and ethics is the DNA of the FSFE, and thanked all for being themselves and wishes everyone all the best.

Matthias, Heiki, Albert thanked Cryptie for her great work. Florian thanks Cryptie for her integrity for stepping down to prevent even a possible perceived conflict of interest, thanks her for supporting the FSFE in difficult times and tells her she is always welcome back. The members thanked Cryptie with a standing ovation.

Reinhard Müller also wanted to make a personal announcement. He reads out the following: *"On 24. March 2004, nearly 20 years ago, I had the honor of being accepted as a member of FSFE. In these 20 years, I have filled a number of roles, be it translations coordinator, webmaster, system administrator, maintainer of internally used software, coordinator for the administrative staff, or Financial Officer. Meanwhile I believe that I've found the spots where I can best use my personal set of skills - probably a somewhat uncommon set within the Free Software community - to serve FSFE best.*

In these 20 years, we have been facing ever changing challenges, and we had to address new topics again and again. And more and more I find myself not being able to raise the energy to follow these new topics closely enough. Not because I don't think they are important, to the contrary. But looking around in this group, I see an expertise that I trust more than I ever would trust myself.

After all, these 20 years have turned me into an old and a little bit tired man who has by far more memories from FSFE's past than visions about its future. I feel, no, I know that FSFE's General Assembly is not any more one of the places where my contributions make the biggest possible impact for the organisation.

So, while I will continue to keep up my work for FSFE in all the other fields as well as I can, I hereby declare that I will resign as a member of the Free Software Foundation Europe e.V., effective by 24. March 2024, exactly 20 years after I joined."

The members thanked Reinhard with a standing ovation.

Closing

The chair closes the GA officially at **13:00 CEST**.

Signatures

Patrick Ohnewein (Minutes)

Matthias Kirschner (Chair)