

De: UICI Ufficio Relazioni Internazionali - UICI International Relations Office <inter@uici.it>

Date: 3 mai 2022 à 16:56:52 UTC+2

À: Nadia Hadad <nadahad@hotmail.com>

Cc: Catherine Naughton <catherine.naughton@edf-feph.org>, Pierre Gyselinck <gyselinck@aeheurope.de>,

>

Objet: R: Upcoming Presidential Election

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I would like, in this short message, to express my opinion on the statement and the relevant proposals brought forward by some Board members regarding the election of the President of EDF at our forthcoming General Assembly in June.

I would like to say that my reflections are based on a private telephone conversation with Nadia a few days before she posted her message, and of course the content of the message itself. I would also like to clarify that before being involved I did not investigate about the different candidatures, but then I requested the list from the secretariat to have a clear picture of the situation.

First of all, I would like to stress that I am not a candidate to any positions, because I have decided to stop my activity in the EDF governing bodies. So, my considerations do not have anything personal or utilitarian. However, until the end of the General Assembly, I will fully take care of my duties and responsibilities.

With regard to the arguments put forward by our colleagues, the first assumption they make that it would not be right that the person in the highest position in an organisation like EDF remained unchanged for 20 years appears to me totally subjective, as there are no statutory dispositions or official EDF's resolutions stating or recommending this. Putting it on the table in an apodictic way is indeed in contradiction with the democratic values and practices of EDF.

I fully agree that we have the responsibility to secure democracy, gender balance and diverse disability representation as well as to make sure that elections are based on the right to choose. Our colleagues say that our democratic values are at risk due to the absence of choice in the election of the leading position in our organisation, but they neglect the fact that for each of the four positions with portfolio there is just one candidate, so the whole elections process should be reopened.

The overlapping of EDF's and IDA's presidencies in the person of Yannis Vardakastanis is the result of democratic elections, so it should not be questioned objectively.

I also agree on the statement that change and diversity should be ensured in EDF and the way to establish a procedure that reflects these values should be realised respecting the agreed statutory rules that should not be broken instrumentally. The proposal to establish an extraordinary procedure and extend the nomination period for the President's position only, which should allow alternative candidates to come forward, seems to me in conflict with the EDF statutes and greatly discriminatory towards our President. It is essential to recall that for each of the four leadership positions with portfolio there is currently just one candidate. Finally, the proposal that, in case no alternative candidate should come forward, EDF should establish a committee to investigate the reasons for the limited nomination to the position of President, demonstrates a total mistrust and a provocative attitude towards the newly elected governing bodies which are clearly considered incapable to address and manage the supposed problem.

In conclusion, I would like to invite the colleagues who are proposing and supporting this regrettable initiative to consider the detrimental effect for EDF that the creation of an opposition movement inside the expiring Board and Executive Committee could have, especially now that we are all engaged in the important mission to ensure protection and safety for millions of persons with disabilities in Europe. United we can.

Kind regards to all,

Rodolfo

Da: Dovilė Juodkaitė <d.juodkaite@Inf.lt>

Inviato: lunedì 2 maggio 2022 12:00

A: Nadia Hadad <nadiahad@hotmail.com>

Cc: Catherine Naughton <catherine.naughton@edf-feph.org>; Pierre Gyselinck <gyselinck@aeh-europe.de>; ...

Oggetto: Re: Upcoming Presidential Election

Dear Nadia, dear all,

thank you for bringing this issue and concerns. I am in favour of the proposed suggestions, since I myself am in the beginning of 3 term (going into the 9 years) of my presidency back home with Lithuanian disability forum. And I have promised both to myself and clearly declared to the members, that this is my last term, because I do think that everything requires renewing at some

point and time, young and new coming people are necessary and very needed (and those are lacking, at least in LT). As well I understand that there should be very hard and targeted work for empowering and supporting them to come.

So I am very much looking forward for both EDF and us all at national level to be the most efficient, effective, democratic and representative organisations.

With best regards,
Dovile

Pagarbiai,

Dovilė Juodkaitė

Lietuvos negalios organizacijų forumo

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