

## SC candidate 2019: Pablo Aiquel

### Candidate as member of the Steering Committee

Pablo Aiquel, France  
SNJ-CGT

#### CV

##### Union

Member of SNJ-CGT national union of journalists (second trade union of journalists, among 6 in France), of CGT, main trade union confederation, since 2013. Member of a freelance journalists association, Profession Pigiste, since 2012.

Elected in 2017 to the national bureau of SNJ-CGT, in charge of freelancers matters, I've become since January 2019, secretary to union life and international issues, after Tallinn and Tunis meeting. I participate in EFJ meetings since Zagreb, fall 2016, member of Freelance expert group (FREG), and co-chair with Oddrun Midtbo (Norway) since 2018. I've also attend annual meetings in Bucarest and Lisbon.

##### Journalist

Born in 1974 in Santiago de Chile (44 years old), I grew up in Venezuela and studied university in France. Graduated from ESJ Lille in 1997, I've worked for *Radio France International* (RFI) as Caracas correspondent, and other media outlets in french as *Libération*, *Radio Canada*, *Radio Suisse Romande*, *Le Monde Diplomatique* (freelance) and staff journalist in main daily newspapers of Venezuela (*El Universal*, *El Nacional*), until 2003.

Based in Vichy (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region) since 2005, I've worked in local weekly newspapers (*La Semaine de l'Allier*), local government staff, and since 2012 as freelance correspondent for *La Gazette des communes*, weekly magazine specialized in public policies, aimed at local and regional official and civil servant professionals. I also collaborate as local journalist for AFP, and for newspaper *Le Monde* as part of the program « The New Arrivals », about refugees installation and integration in Vichy city.

#### CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Journalism is under pressure. Violence against journalists grows in the streets as precariousness expand in the newsrooms. In Germany, England, France, young freelance journalists protests for their low working conditions, as well as in many other countries where legal grounds should be applied. Freelance journalists were killed in Malta, Slovakia, Northern Ireland or prosecuted in Belarus. While in Balkans or in Spain, lack of legal framework or branch collective agreement increases the fragility of independent journalists.

When freelance journalism is under pressure, all kinds of journalism are under attack. Staff journalists must know that they are also weakened when freelance journalism is socially kneeling. How can you do a good job when you are fighting to earn enough for a living ?



As member of FREG since 2016, and cochair since last year, I think we need to strength links among national unions on freelancers topics and tighten connection with steering committee.

Unions are expected to defend journalists and journalism as a public good.

Freelance journalists expect unions and federation of journalists to take care of them, but also to incorporate them to the steering instances, to count them among the decisions makers.

Freelance journalists expect unions and federation of journalists to lead the fight of solidarity, for a better journalism, close to the people, inspired by ethics, although works on digital challenges.

Freelance journalists expect unions and federation of journalists to be a shield that defends them against the attacks, to be a tool that helps them to stand up for their rights, to be an instrument of rally.

Steering committee must be a working team, I want to be part of that team to be the voice of freelance journalists, from every country of Europe.