

SC candidate 2022



Anna Del Freo, Italy

Federazione Nazionale della Stampa Italiana (FNSI)

CV

Born in Carrara, graduated in Political Sciences with an international focus at University of Pisa, I have lived in Milan since 1987. In Milan, I attended the Institute for journalism training and in 1989 I started working for Il Sole 24 Ore, the leading economic and financial daily newspaper in Italy. As a journalist, I covered the following sectors: foreign desk, writing about the EEC (now EU) and integration issues; foreign desk, writing about trade, exports, globalization, emerging countries' economy, Italian enterprises in the global market; Italian economy desk, writing about work, labor issues, labor market.

As a unionist, I started many years ago as journalists' elected representative within "Il Sole 24 ore" editorial group. In 2010 I was elected member of the executive board of the Journalists' association in Lombardy and in 2015 I became deputy General Secretary of FNSI (The Italian Journalists' Federation). Since 2010, I have dealt with dozens of labor disputes. Mine was and is active Union work. I led negotiations with publishers, organized demonstrations for rights and freedom, listened to colleagues, fought on behalf of temporary workers and for good salaries and against threats to journalists and press freedom. I still do this kind of work every day. I have been a member of the EFJ Steering committee for two terms.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

In the last three years, since we met in Tallinn, Europe has had to face two very serious crises: the pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Journalists have paid a very high price for this crisis. And not only because many of them (I am thinking above all to Ukrainian journalists but non only) died covering the events. Also because a lot of governments, for example, take advantage of the pandemic to restrict press freedom.

Moreover, the economic problems that arose first from the pandemic and then from the war, such as the collapse of advertising revenues or the increase in the prices of raw and energy, had a heavy impact on publishing companies and therefore on wages and jobs of journalists, both employees and freelancers. This has made the already critical situation of the information system even more serious.

In this situation, I believe that EFJ can play a very important role for European journalists. Bringing the problems of journalists in front of public opinion will be fundamental. It is also important that people and authorities understand that the issues related to freedom of expression are deeply linked to those of work, wages, and fighting against precariousness. An underpaid journalist is also less autonomous. I strongly believe that the European Union should put the protection of journalists and free information among its priorities. It is very important to recover a strong category identity throughout Europe. I think EFJ can do a lot for all this and must continue its battle, both relating to EU institutions and by continuing to meet its affiliates throughout the continent.

Last but not least I want to mention gender issues. Every possible effort must be put in place to cancel the gender gap in our profession.

If I am elected, I will fight for all this.