

SC candidate 2022



Candidate as Vice-President

Mustafa Kuleli, Journalists' Union of Turkey (TGS), Turkey

Candidate statement

Dear colleagues,

Never in the field of journalism a country was so strongly at the forefront of multiple challenges, from political repression to technological transformation. That country is Turkey and I, as the executive of this country's Journalists' Union (TGS), kindly request your support to be elected as the Vice President of the European Federation of Journalists. (EFJ)

Since my years as a student journalist, I have worked as a reporter and editor for various news outlets based in Istanbul.

After a TV channel fired me for recruiting employees to the union, I started to dedicate all my time to the TGS, and I was elected nine years ago as the country's youngest-ever labour union head at the age of 28.

Following the election process for the TGS board, the main goal of our communication campaign was to re-establish the union's public image and rejuvenate the union to make it more attractive for young journalists. In this period, the TGS managed to secure new collective agreements in several media outlets and promoted fair working conditions and press freedom at a time of increased political and economic pressures on Turkey's journalists.

I strongly believe that I can make an impactful contribution to the EFJ with my unique experience as a journalist and union leader in Turkey. While addressing the respected delegates of the GM with this background in mind, I vow

- **to strive to collaboratively create a new EFJ – more agile, inclusive and appealing** to the underrepresented segments of our community, including young journalists;
- **to amplify EFJ’s voice as a leading free speech advocate by using my experience in fighting for media freedoms** in Turkey, where dozens of journalists remain behind prison bars under an increasingly authoritarian government;
- **to work hard as EFJ’s agent of change** not only to help the creation of better legal frameworks, fairer working conditions, higher job security and tighter solidarity in European media outlets but also to advance journalists’ individual professional capacity amid the new challenges posed by tech giants.

Accomplishing these tasks will require an intense program, from press freedom advocacy to digital training, to be conducted in every European country. I have the utmost confidence that should the esteemed delegates of the GM elect me for the next three years, I will be a key player in making sure that the EFJ facilitates not only the survival but also the proliferation of European journalism.

CV

EXPERIENCE

- General Secretary of Journalists’ Union of Turkey, 12.2013 – ...
- Steering Committee Member of EFJ, 05.2019 – 06.2022
- Lecturer at Eastern Mediterranean University, 09.2021 – ...
- Editor-in-chief of Journo.com.tr, 02.2015 – ...
- Founder of TGS Akademi, 01.2015
- Editor for the news website Gazete Duvar, 06.2016 – 01.2017
- Editor and social media specialist for news website Diken, 01.2016 – 05.2016
- Host and producer of several TV shows for IMC TV, 04.2012 – 04.2014
- Editor & Social media specialist for NTV, 07.2010 – 04.2011
- Columnist for daily Evrensel, 02.2009 – 09.2013
- Presenter and producer of several TV programs for Hayat TV, 04.2008 – 07.2011
- Correspondent for TV8, 10.2008 – 11.2009
- Correspondent for daily Evrensel, 10.2003 – 02.2004

EDUCATION

- Istanbul Bilgi University, Television Reporting and Programming, 2003 - 2009
- Europa-Universität Viadrina, Post-Socialism (exchange), 2007 - 2008
- İzmir Bornova Anadolu High School, Social Sciences (German) 1999 - 2003