

## SC Candidate 2022



### **Candidate as Steering Committee Member Tim Dawson, National Union of Journalists in Britain and Ireland**

#### **Candidate statement**

These are dangerous times. There is war in Europe between states for the first time in seven decades. Dependable news matters as never before. Journalists are under increasing pressure. Public service broadcasting (where it exists) is under attack. The economic model of many newspapers is broken. Journalist's safety is threatened as never before.

The role of the European Federation of Journalists could not be more critical. Elect me and I will champion the following.

#### **Unity is our greatest asset.**

As trades unionists we advance members' interests by finding common ground and using that as the foundation on which to build collective strength. This must be our approach within the international family of journalists. It is not always easy. We will always have differences of perspective. Events such as Brexit and the Ukraine war pull us apart. If we are to represent our members as they deserve, however, the EFJ must be a forum from which unity is constructed. The only agenda that really matters is our common commitment to defending journalists.

#### **Forging a shared identity among journalists is the first priority.**

Journalism is a uniquely challenging profession. We deal with economic storms, employers who prioritise their own interests, and bullying legislators who attempt to shut us up. Dealing with these is best done by encouraging a sense of the commonality of the challenges we face, and the importance of a unified response. The EFJ has a brilliant track record of creating programs and events that bring us together. I want this to continue, with greater emphasis on recognising common experiences and appreciating how this is the key to unlocking collective strength.

**Our unions are engaged in brilliant work – the more of it we share the greater will be the benefits.**

There is too much going on to waste time re-inventing the wheel. When an affiliate is victorious, or finds a novel solution to a widespread issue, then the more effectively it is shared, the better. I have participated in numerous EFJ events. Their greatest benefit has always been the lessons I could take home to members in the UK and Ireland. Elect me and I will encourage the EFJ to do more of the same.

I have experience both as a staff member and a freelancer, and am proud to be a member of a union united by common purpose, serving members across all parts of Great Britain and Ireland.

My track record as a trades unionist is as someone who gets things done. I have: organised disparate workers and negotiated on their behalf; created events to share ideas: set up and delivered training events; as well as writing articles, taking photographs and making films to publicise my union's work. With your support, I hope to apply this activism to the EFJ.

**CV**

I have been a journalist for more than 30 years, including 20 years working for The Sunday Times (London) as a reporter, feature writer, columnist and section editor.

I now freelance, writing, creating audio-visual packages, delivering training and producing events. A member of my union's national executive since 1999, I served as NUJ president between 2016 and 2018. I have negotiated on behalf of members with national and international employers as well as representing the IFJ to supra-national organisations. I convened the IFJ's working group on the surveillance of journalists.