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## Letter of Motivation

Dear Members of the World Federation for Science Journalists,

I am writing to express my sincere interest in being nominated as a board member of the World Federation for Science Journalists (WFSJ). With over two decades of experience in science journalism, my professional journey has spanned various roles, media outlets, and international collaborations, positioning me as a strong advocate for the core values of the WFSJ: international collaboration, and the promotion of scientific literacy on a global scale. As a Board member of the German WPK and as the Secretary of the European Federation for Science Journalism, I have had the opportunity to learn and engage in national and international science journalism organizations during the past years.

Having worked as a staff reporter for renowned media outlets such as Süddeutsche Zeitung, Die Zeit, and Stern in Germany, I have gained a solid foundation in investigative science journalism. Today, I serve as the editor-in-chief of the German Health News Review ([medien-doktor.de](http://medien-doktor.de)) while continuing my freelance work, with a special focus on cross-border journalism projects. These projects, funded by international grants and fellowships, have allowed me to collaborate with colleagues from diverse backgrounds in Europe as well as countries such as Mali, India, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela. My ability to communicate in multiple languages, including English, German, Spanish, French, and Dutch, has been instrumental in ensuring effective and inclusive teamwork across these projects. Having lived and worked as a science reporter in Los Angeles, Mexico City, Barcelona and Paris, I have been able to acquire in-depth intercultural knowledge.

I am particularly proud of my contributions to fostering international connections among science journalists. In 2021, I organized the first European trip for the European Federation for Science Journalism (EFSJ) to Barcelona, which involved visits to cutting-edge research institutions working on climate and biotechnology. My commitment to enhancing international collaboration continues with the first science journalism exchange program between Germany and Switzerland which I'm organizing this fall with my WPK colleagues.

Within my cross-border investigations I have seen firsthand the transformative power of cross-border collaboration, where shared expertise and perspectives from different regions can drive impactful storytelling and enhance public understanding of science. As a woman with a multicultural background, I also bring a commitment to ensuring that the Federation promotes diversity and inclusivity, both in terms of gender and cultural representation.

If given the opportunity to serve on the WFSJ Board, I would draw on my extensive international experience to foster even greater collaboration among science journalists globally. I would work to strengthen existing networks, facilitate cross-border projects, and ensure that journalists from all regions are given the opportunity to contribute to the global conversation on science and society.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the future of the Federation.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Viciano". The letter 'V' is large and stylized, with a long vertical stroke and a curved top. The rest of the name is written in a cursive, lowercase style.

Dr. Astrid Viciano

<https://wpk.org/wer-wir-sind/vorstand/>

<https://efsj.eu/who-we-are/>