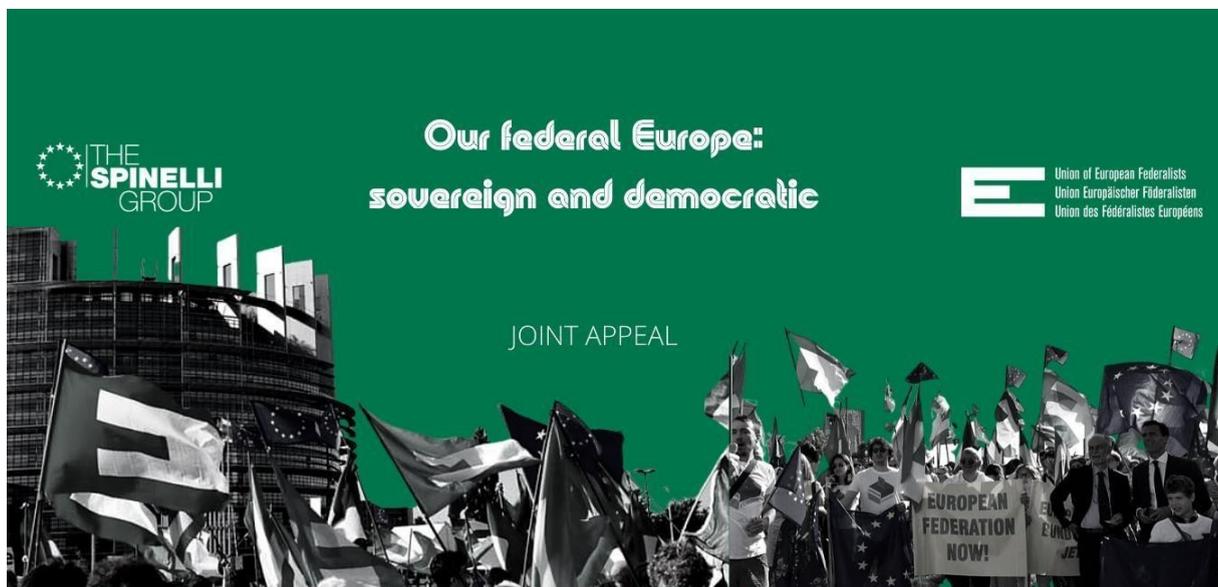


UEF-SPINELLI GROUP

MANIFESTO 9 MAY 2021



At watershed moments in history, communities need to adapt their institutions to avoid sliding into irreversible decline, thus equipping themselves to govern new circumstances. After the end of the Cold War the European Union, with the creation of the monetary Union, took a first crucial step towards adapting its institutions; but it was unable to agree on a true fiscal and social policy for the Euro. Later, the Lisbon Treaty strengthened the legislative role of the European Parliament, but again failed to create a strong economic and political union in order to complete the Euro.

Resulting from that, the EU was not equipped to react effectively to the first major challenges and crises of the XXI century: the financial crash of 2008, the migration flows of 2015- 2016, the rise of national populism, and the 2016 Brexit referendum. This failure also resulted in a strengthening of the role of national governments — as shown, for example, by the current excessive concentration of power within the European Council, whose actions are blocked by opposing national vetoes —, and in the EU's chronic inability to develop a common foreign policy capable of promoting Europe's common strategic interests.

Now, however, the tune has changed. In the face of an unprecedented public health crisis and the corresponding collapse of its economies, Europe has reacted with unity and resolve, indicating the way forward for the future of European integration: it laid the foundations by starting with an unprecedented common vaccination strategy, for a "Europe of Health", and unveiled a recovery plan which will be financed by shared borrowing and repaid by revenue from new EU taxes levied on the digital and financial giants and on polluting industries. This federal plan constitutes a major leap towards the creation of a financial and fiscal Union capable of asserting European sovereignty both domestically and abroad, and as such, it needs to become permanent.

Today, we therefore need and want a strong, legitimate, and properly financed political Union that can tackle the great transnational challenges of our time, acting decisively in a wide range of policy areas, from climate change, growing social inequalities, health and migration to foreign affairs and defence. Moreover, we are calling for stronger pan-European democracy — real European political parties and movements and proper campaigns for European elections, based on the creation of a pan-European constituency and transnational electoral lists headed by the candidates for President of the European Commission.

We are striving for a Union that is both a community of destiny and values and a model for the new world now taking shape - an example of how countries can live in peace together, build cross-border and social solidarity, and protect human rights, the rule of law, and fundamental freedoms.

We firmly believe that our future lies in a Democratic and Sovereign Europe. And the time to build it is now: now or never. Let us not waste this opportunity.

INITIAL SIGNATORIES & PROMOTERS

Sandro GOZI, President of the Union of European Federalists (UEF) and Member of the European Parliament (Renew Europe)

Brando BENIFEI, Chair of the Spinelli Group and Member of the European Parliament (Socialists & Democrats, S&D)

Eva MAYDELL, President of the European Movement International and Member of the European Parliament (European People's Party, EPP)

Esteban GONZÁLEZ PONS, Vice-President of the EPP Group in the European Parliament

Danuta HÜBNER, Former Member of the European Commission, EPP spokesperson in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs in the European Parliament

Domènec RUIZ DEVESA, Vice-President of the UEF, S&D spokesperson in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs in the European Parliament

Gabriele BISCHOFF, Vice-President of the Europa-Union Deutschland (EUD), Vice-Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs in the European Parliament (S&D Group)

Pascal DURAND, Renew Europe Group spokesperson in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs in the European Parliament

Daniel FREUND, Greens/EFA Group spokesperson in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs in the European Parliament

Damian BOESELAGER, Greens/EFA spokesperson in the Committee on Constitutional

Affairs in the European Parliament

Dimitrios PAPADIMOULIS, Vice-President of the European Parliament (The Left – GUE/NGL Group)

Fabio Massimo CASTALDO, Vice-President of the European Parliament (Non-Attached Member)

MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, GOVERNMENTS & OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Josep BORRELL FONTELLES, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission for a Stronger Europe in the World, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation in the Spanish Government (2018-2019), former President of the European Parliament (2004-2007), former President of the European University Institute

Luigi DI MAIO, Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Deputy Prime Minister of Italy and Minister of Economic Development, Labour and Social Policies in the Italian Government (2018-2019), former leader of M5S (2017-2020)

José Luis ÁBALOS MECO, Minister of Development, Transport Mobility and Urban Agenda in the Spanish Government and Secretary of Organisation of the PSOE

Stefano PATUANELLI, Minister of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies in the Italian Government, former Minister of Economic Development

Miquel ICETA LLORENS, Minister of Territorial Policy in the Spanish Government and First Secretary of the Party of Catalan Socialists (PSC)

Fabiana DADONE, Minister for Youth Policies in the Italian Government, former Minister of Public Administration

Federico D'INCÀ, Minister for Parliamentary Relations in the Italian Government

Luis PLANAS PUCHADES, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the Spanish Government, former Permanent Representative of Spain to the European Union, former Secretary-General of the European Economic and Social Committee

Manuel MUÑIZ VILLA, State Secretary for Global Spain in the Spanish Government, former Dean of the Global and Public Affairs School at IE, Spain

Juan GONZÁLEZ BARBA, State Secretary for the European Union, diplomat, Spain

Silvia COSTA, Extraordinary Commissioner for the Valorisation of the Islands of Santo Stefano and Ventotene, and former Chair of the Committee of Culture in the European Parliament, Italy

Susana SANZ CABALLERO, 'Ad hoc' judge at the European Court of Human Rights, Professor of Public international Law, CEU-UCH

Marion LARCHÉ, Judge-assessor (UNHCR) at the National Court of Asylum and lecturer in European and international law at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

Marietta GIANNAKOU, Vice-President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, member of the Greek Parliament, former Minister for National Education and Religious Affairs in the Greek Government, former Member of the European Parliament

Mario NAVA, Director-General of DG REFORM (Structural Reform Support) of the European Commission, Italy

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Hans GERT-PÖTTERING, President of the European Parliament (2007-2009), Germany

Enrique BARÓN CRESPO, President of the European Parliament (1989-1992), President of UEF Spain, Spain

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Javier SOLANA MADARIAGA, former European Union's High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy and Secretary-General of the Council (1999-2009), and former Minister of Foreign Affairs (1992-1995), Spain

MARCELINO OREJA AGUIRRE, former Commissioner for Transport and Energy and for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy (1994-1999), former Secretary General of

the Council of Europe (1984-1989), former Member of the European Parliament (1989-1993), and former Minister of Foreign Affairs (1976-1980), Spain.

Joaquín ALMUNIA, former Vice-President, and European Commissioner Economic and

Financial Affairs (2004-2009), and for Competition (2009-2014), former Minister for Employment (1982-1986) and Public Administrations (1986-1991), former Secretary General of the Spanish Workers Socialist Party (PSOE), Spain

Anna DIAMANTOPOULOU, former European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (1999-2004), former Minister of Education (2009-2012) and former Minister for Development, Competitiveness and Shipping (2012), Greece

Pedro SOLBES MIRA, former Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs (1999-2004), former Minister of Economy and the Treasury (1993-1996 and 2004-2009), former Minister of Agriculture (1991-1993), Spain

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Włodzimierz CIMOSZEWICZ, Prime Minister of Poland (1996-1997), Member of the European Parliament.

Dacian CIOLOȘ, Prime Minister of Romania (2015-2017), former European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, President of the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament

Giuseppe CONTE, Prime Minister of Italy (2018-2021)

Elio DI RUPO, Prime Minister of Belgium (2011-2014), Minister-President of Wallonia

Felipe GONZÁLEZ, Primer Minister of Spain (1982-1996)

Ferenc GYURCSÁNY, Prime Minister of Hungary (2004-2009)

Andrius KUBILIUS, Prime Minister of Lithuania (1999-2000), Member of the European Parliament

Leszek MILLER, Prime Minister of Poland (2001-2004), Member of the European Parliament

Mario MONTI, Prime Minister of Italy (2011-2013), former European Commissioner for the Internal Market, Services, Customs and Taxation (1995-1999) and for Competition (1999-2004)

Matteo RENZI, Prime Minister of Italy (2014-2016), Senator

Enrico LETTA, Prime Minister of Italy (2013-2014), Secretary-General of Partito Democratico

José Luis RODRÍGUEZ ZAPATERO, Prime Minister of Spain (2004-2011)

Sergei STANISHEV, Prime Minister of Bulgaria (2005-2009), current President of the Party of European Socialists (PES), Member of the European Parliament

Alexis TSIPRAS, Prime Minister of Greece (2015-2019), Leader of SYRIZA-Progressive Alliance

Guy VERHOFSTADT, Prime Minister of Belgium (1999-2008), former president of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe in the European Parliament (2009-2019), co-founder of the Spinelli Group, Member of the European Parliament

PUBLIC EUROPEAN PERSONALITIES & INTELLECTUALS, ARTISTS, ACADEMICS

Mario VARGAS LLOSA, Nobel Prize in Literature, writer and essayist, Peru and Spain

Daniel COHN-BENDIT, writer, social activist, former Co-President of the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament, and co-founder of the Spinelli Group, France and Germany

Luca VISENTINI, General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), Conference on the Future of Europe Board observer for ETUC, poet and writer, Italy and Belgium

Anthony GIDDENS, Member of the Chamber of Lords, former Director of the London School of Economics (LSE), United Kingdom

Ulrike GUÉROT, Political scientist and writer, Germany

Dusan SIDJANSKI, University of Geneva Professor Emeritus, Centre de compétence Dusan Sidjanski en études européennes, GSI, University of Geneva, Switzerland and Serbia

Miguel RÍOS, Singer, composer and actor, Spain

Adam MICHNIK, Writer and Editor-in-chief of Gazeta Wyborcza, Poland

Gyorgy GÁBOR, Philosopher, professor and Head of the Jewish Theological Seminary, University of Jewish Studies, Hungary

Fernando SAVATER, Philosopher and writer, Premio Planeta and Premio Ortega y Gasset winner, Spain

Sami NAÏR, Essayist and former Member of the European Parliament, France

Daniel INNERARITY, Philosopher and essayist, Director of Instituto de Gobernanza Democrática, Spain

Laszlo BRUSZT, Founding co-director of the Central European University Democracy Institute and editor-in-chief of the Review of Democracy, Hungary

Javier CERCAS, Writer and journalist, Premio Planeta, Spain

Jaap HOEKSMAN, Philosopher of law and Director of Euroknow, The Netherlands

Luis GARCÍA MONTERO, Poet, writer and director of Instituto Cervantes, Premio Nacional de Poesía, Spain

Noël ORSAT, Founder Director of the Via Charlemagne, France

Almudena GRANDES, Writer, Premio Nacional de Narrativa, Spain

Luis IVARS, Film composer, Board member of the European Composers Alliance (ECSA), President of Alianza Audiovisual – AA, member of UEF Comunidad Valenciana, Spain

Maria João RODRIGUES, Foundation for European Policy Studies President, former MEP, Portugal

César Antonio MOLINA, Poet and writer, former Minister of Culture in the Spanish Government, Spain

Chelina MANUHUTU, DJ & Producer, The Netherlands and Spain

Baltasar GARZÓN, former Judge of the Audiencia Nacional, author and lawyer, President of FIBGAR, Spain

Antonyo MAREST, Urban artist, Spain

Nuria AMAT, Writer, Ramon Llull Novel Award, Spain

Francesc DE CARRERAS, Jurist and essayist, Spain

Iñigo MÉNDEZ DE VIGO, former Member of the European Parliament (1992-2011), former Secretary of State for the EU (2011-2015), former Chief EP Delegation to the European Convention, Spain

Monica FRASSONI, former JEF Secretary-General and former Co-President of the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament, Belgium, president of the Conseil Communal of Ixelles, Belgium

Jo LEINEN, former Member of the European Parliament, former President of the European Movement International, former president of UEF, Germany

Andrew DUFF, former President of the Spinelli Group in the European Parliament, former UEF president, former Member of the European Parliament, United Kingdom

Pier Virgilio DASTOLI, former collaborator of Altiero Spinelli, President of the Italian

Council of the European Movement (CIME), UEF Federal Committee Member, Italy

Roberto CASTALDI, Director of Euractiv Italy, Professor of Political Theory at ECampus, Member of Movimento Federalista Europeo (MFE), Italy

Francisco ALDECOA, Jean Monnet Professor, President of el Consejo Federal Español del Movimiento Europeo (CFEME), UEF Federal Committee Member, Spain

Fran PICAZO, Art curator, Member of the UNESCO International Council of Museums, Spain

Alberto ALEMANNI, Jean Monnet Professor in EU Law at HEC Paris, Italy

Nathalie TOCCI, Director of the Istituto Affari Internazionali, Italy

Carlos PÉREZ CASTRO, Director of Instituto Europeo de Posgrado, Spain

Otto PFERSMANN, Director of the Écoles des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, France

Pietro FINELLI, Scientific Director at Domus Mazziniana - Istituto Storico Nazionale, Italy

Ingrid SHIKIVA, Head of Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, Sofia University St.Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria

Ferran TOUTAIN, Writer, Spain

Ignacio MOLINA, Principal EU Researcher, Real Instituto Elcano, Professor Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain

José Ignacio TORREBLANCA, Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations in Spain, columnist at El Mundo, Spain

Maria Romana ALLEGRI, Professor, Università Roma La Sapienza, Italy

Adalgiso AMENDOLA, Professor at Università di Salerno, Italy

Matej AVBELJ, Professor at Nova Univerza Ljubljana, Slovenia

Antonio BAR, Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Valencia and Jean Monnet Chair 'ad personam', Spain

Zoltán BODNÁR, former deputy governor National Bank of Hungary and professor Eotvos Loránd University, Hungary

Flavio BRUGNOLI, Director of Centro Studi sul Federalismo, Italy

Giorgio BROSIO, Professor of Public Economic at the University of Turin, Italy

Susanna CAFARO, Jean Monnet Professor, Università del Salento (Lecce), Founder

Associazione per la democrazia sovranazionale, Italy

Raimondo CAGIANO DE AZEVEDO, Emeritus professor, Università Roma La Sapienza, Italy

Gabriele CAIATI, Professor of Environmental Economics, Università di Milano, Italy

Paolo CARAFFINI, Professor of History of European Integration at the University of Turin, Italy

Alessandro CAVALLI, Member of Academia Europea, Italy

Adriana CIANCIO, Professor of Human Rights, Public Law and European Constitutional Law, Università di Catania, Italy

Francesca CORSI, Professor of Economics at Università La Sapienza, Italy

Juan Manuel DE FARAMIÑÁN GILBERT, Emeritus professor of University of Jaén, Spain

Manuel DESANTES, Director of the Department of Philosophy of Law and International Private Law at the University of Alicante, Spain

César DÍAZ CARRERA, Full Professor of Political Science, former Director General of Centro de Investigación y Formación Europea and member of the Centre International de Formation Européenne, Spain

Michel DÉVOLUY, Economist and Honorary Professor at the University of Strasbourg - Jean- Monnet Chair of European Economic Integration, France

Jacques FAYETTE, Honorary University Professor and Former Elected Delegate to Altiero Spinelli's Congress of the European People, France

Roberto FERNÁNDEZ, former CRUE (Conference of University Presidents of Spain) president, Universitat de Lleida, Spain

Massimo FICHERA, Associate Professor, University of Helsinki, Academy of Finland Research Fellow, Italy and Finland

Giovanni FINIZIO, Researcher at the University of Turin, Italy

Paco FRANCO, Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Alicante, Spain

Caterina FRATEA, Professor of EU Law at the University of Verona, Italy

Marco FREY, Professor at Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna di Pisa, President of Fondazione Global Compact Italy, President of Cittadinanzattiva, Italy

Filippo GIORDANO, Researcher at the University of Turin, Italy

Pedro GÓMEZ CARRIZO, Editor, Spain

Emilio GONZÁLEZ FERRÍN, Professor of Islamic thought at the University of Sevilla, Spain

Edoardo GREPPI, Professor of International Law at the University of Turin, Italy

Alessandra GUERRINI, Professor of the Pharmacy Faculty at the University of Ferrara, Italy

Antonio HERMOSA ANDÚJAR, Professor of Ancient Philosophy, Spain

Gurutz JAÚREGUI, Emeritus Professor, University of the Basque Country, Spain

Matteo LARUFFA, Researcher at Harvard University, Università LUISS Guido Carli and Freie Universität Berlin, Italy

Alessia LO TURCO, Professor of Economics at the Università delle Marche, Italy

Francesco MAIANI, Professor, Università di Losanna, Italy and Switzerland

Dimitrios TRIANTAPHYLLOU, Professor of International Relations at the Kadir Has University of Istanbul, Turkey

Jerónimo MAILLO, Jean Monnet Professor, CEU-San Pablo University, Spain

Fabio MASINI, Professor, Università di Roma Tre, Co-director Cesue and Euractiv Italia, Italy

George PAGOULATOS, Director General of ELIAMEP (Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy), Greece

Loukas TSOUKALIS, President of ELIAMEP (Hellenic Institute for Foreign and Defense Policy), Emeritus professor at the University of Athens, former professor at the College of Europe, Greece

Panayiotis IOAKIMIDIS, former Ambassador and Emeritus Professor at Athens University, Greece

Nunziante MASTROLIA, Senior Fellow at the European Centre for International Affairs, Senior Researcher at the Military Center for Strategic Studies (CeMiSS), Italy

Mercedes MONMANY, Writer and editor, Spain

Umberto MORELLI, President of Centro Studi sull'Europa, University of Turin, Italy

Franco NARDINI, Professor of Mathematical Economics at the University of Bologna, Italy

Emilio ONTIVEROS, AFI President and Professor of Economics, Spain

Emilio PAPA, Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Turin, Italy

Gianfranco PASQUINO, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, University of Bologna, Accademia dei Lincei Fellow, Italy

Ludmila PETRASHKO, Professor, Vadym Hetman Kyiv National Economic University, Ukraine

Sergio PISTONE, Professor of European integration at the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Torino, also holder of the chair "Jean Monnet", Italy

Giuseppe PORRO, Professor of EU Law at the University of Turin, Italy

Franco PRAUSSELLO, Professor of Economic Policy at the University of Genova, Italy

Elvira ROCA BAREA, Historian, Spain

Giulia ROSSOLILLO, Professor of European Union Law and International Business Law at the University of Pavia, Chair of the Institutions and Future of Europe UEF Political Commission, Italy

Saskia SASSEN, Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology, Columbia University, The Netherlands

Vivien SCHMIDT, Jean Monnet Professor Boston University, Honorary Professor LUISS Roma, USA

Martin SEELEIB-KAISER, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Germany

Constantinos STEPHANOU, Professor at the University of Cyprus, Emeritus professor at the University of Athens, former visiting professor at the University of Geneva – Global Studies Institute, Greece

Mario TELÒ, Emeritus Professor ULB Bruxelles, LUISS Roma, Italy and Belgium

Ennio TRIGGIANI, Professor of EU Law at the University of Bari, Italy

Alessia LO TURCO, Professor of International Economics at the University of le Marche, Italy

Jean-Marc TROUILLE, Jean Monnet Professor University of Bradford, United Kingdom and France

Blanca VILÀ, Professor of International Private and European Law, UAB, Spain

Joaquín VILLANUEVA, Coordinator of “Consenso y Regeneración”, Spain

Jacques ZILLER, Professor of European Union Law at the University of Pavia, Italy

Juan MOSCOSO DEL PRADO, Director “Deusto Asuntos Globales World Affairs – Strategic Issues”, former Member of the Spanish Congress, Spain

Maria STRATIGAKI, Associate Professor of Social Policy, Panteion University - Athens, Greece President of the Greek Association of Academic Women (ELEGYP), Member of UEF Greece

Sotiris NTALIS, Associate Professor, Department of Mediterranean Studies, University of the Aegean - Rhodes, Greece

Andreas FOTOPOULOS, Professor of Nuclear Medicine, University of Ioannina - Greece, Member UEF Greece

Lida GOGOU, Nuclear Medicine Physician - Professor and Dean of the West Attica University – Athens, Member UEF-Greece

Ioannis PAPAGEORGIOU, Associate professor of European and International Politics, Jean Monnet Chairholder, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki - Greece, former UEF-Greece President

Iro STEPHANU, emeritus Professor of Social Policy, Panteion University- Athens, Greece

Jordi SEBASTIÀ, writer, professor and former Member of the European Parliament (Greens-European Free Alliance)

EUROPEAN POLITICAL LEADERS & MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Rainier WIELAND, Vice-President of the European Parliament (EPP Group), President of Europa- Union Deutschland e.V.

Klára DOBREV, Vice-President of the European Parliament (S&D Group), candidate for Prime Minister, Hungary

Iratxe GARCÍA PEREZ, President of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats (S&D Group) in the European Parliament and PSOE Executive Secretary for the European Union

Luis GARICANO, Vice-Chair of the Renew Group in the European Parliament and Member of the European Parliament

Thomas WAITZ, Co-President of the European Green Party and Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA)

Helmut SCHOLZ, Member of the European Parliament (The Left-GUE/NGL) and Spinelli Group Board Member

Alicía HOMS, President of the Young European Socialists and Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)

Adrián VÁZQUEZ LÁZARA, Chair of the JURI Committee in the European Parliament (Renew Europe)

Maria ARENA, Chair of the DROI Committee in the European Parliament (S&D)

Irene TINAGLI, Chair of the ECON Committee in the European Parliament (S&D)

Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR, Chair of the LIBE Committee in the European Parliament (S&D) and former Minister of Justice (2004-2007)

Lukas MANDL, Vice-Chair of the SEDE Committee in the European Parliament (EPP), President of UEF Austria

Isabel GARCÍA MUÑOZ, Vice-Chair of the CONT Committee in the European Parliament (S&D)

Javi LÓPEZ, Chair of the Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly in the European Parliament (S&D)

Gwendoline DELBOS-CORFIELD, Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA) and Spinelli Group Board Member

José Manuel GARCÍA-MARGALLO, Member of the European Parliament (EPP Group) and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain

Pierre LARROUTUROU, Member of the European Parliament (S&D), General rapporteur for the 2021 Budget, founder of the political party La Nouvelle Donne and essayist

Stéphan BIJOUX, Member of the European Parliament (Renew Europe Group)

Rasmus ANDRESEN, Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA Group)

Niyazi KIZILYÜREK, Member of the European Parliament (The Left – GUE/NGL)

Radan KANEV, Member of the European Parliament (EPP Group)

Thijs REUTEN, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)

Eider GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL, S&D Spokesperson in the BUDG Committee of the European Parliament

Charles GOERENS, Member of the European Parliament (Renew Europe Group)

Anna DEPARNAY-GRUNENBERG, Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA Group)

Margarida MARQUES, Member of European Parliament (S&D), general rapporteur 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework

Manolis KEFALOGIANNIS, Member of the European Parliament (EPP Group)

Jonás FERNÁNDEZ, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Spokesperson in the ECON Committee

Izaskun BILBAO BARANDICA, Member of the European Parliament (PNV, Renew Europe Group), former President of the Basque Parliament and the first woman to be elected to the presidency

Eleonora EVI, Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA Group)

Stelios KYMPOUROPOULOS, Member of the European Parliament (EPP Group)

Clara AGUILERA, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Spokesperson in the PECH Committee

Cristina MAESTRE, Member of the European Parliament (S&D)

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Katrin LANGENSIEPEN, Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA Group)

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Jans GEIER, S&D Member of the European Parliament, President of the SPD Delegation in the European Parliament

Maite PAGAZAURTUNDÚA, Member of the European Parliament (Renew Europe Group)

Niklas NIENASS, Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA Group)

Sylvie GUILLAUME, S&D Member of the European Parliament, President of S&D French Delegation in the European Parliament

Hilde VAUTMANS, Member of the European Parliament (Renew Europe Group)

Jutta PAULUS, Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA Group)

Csaba MOLNÁR, S&D Member of the European Parliament, President of the Democratic Coalition Delegation in the European Parliament, Hungary

Jordi SOLÉ, Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA Group)

Hannes HEIDE, Former Mayor of Bad Ischl (Austria), Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)

Javier MORENO SÁNCHEZ, S&D Member of the European Parliament, President of the Spanish Socialist Delegation in the European Parliament, Spain

Evelyne GEBHARDT, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)

Attila ARA-KOVACS, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)

Estrella DURRA FERRANDIS, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)

Sándor RONAI, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)

Lina GÁLVEZ, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)

Andreas SCHIEDER, S&D Member of the European Parliament, President Austrian S&D Delegation in the European Parliament.

Ibán GARCÍA DEL BLANCO, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)

Nicolás GONZÁLEZ CASARES, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)

César LUENA, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)

Adriana MALDONADO, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)

Inmaculada RODRÍGUEZ-PIÑERO, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group), former State Secretary for Infrastructures in the Spanish Government

Nacho SÁNCHEZ AMOR, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)

Marcos ROS, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)

Alessandra MORETTI, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)

Tiziana BEGHIN, Member of the European Parliament (Non-attached Members)

Gianna GANCIA, Member of the European Parliament (Identity & Democracy Group)

Giuliano PISAPIA, Former Mayor of Milan, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group), former Member of the Italian Parliament (Rifondazione comunista, Gruppo misto)

Salvatore DE MEO, Member of the European Parliament (PPE Group), Former Mayor of Fondi (Italy)

Nils UŠAKOVŠ, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group), former Mayor of Riga, former journalist

Pietro BARTOLO, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)

Laura FERRARA, Member of the European Parliament (Non-attached Members)

Sabrina PIGNEDOLI, Member of the European Parliament (Non-attached Members), Consultant of the Italian Parliamentary Antimafia Commission

Eleonora EVI, Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA Group)

Tiziana BEGHIN, Member of the European Parliament (Non-attached Members), Head of delegation of the 5 Stars Movement at the European Parliament

Katalin CSEH, Member of the European Parliament (Renew Europe Group)

NATIONAL POLITICAL LEADERS & PARLIAMENTARIANS

Cristina NARBONA RUIZ, President of PSOE and First Vice-President of the Spanish Senate, Spain

Adriana LASTRA, Deputy-Secretary General of PSOE and Spokesperson of the Socialist Parliamentary Group in the Congress, Spain

Alessandro ALFIERI, Senator (PD), Italy

Patxi LÓPEZ, Member of the Spanish Parliament, former President of the Basque Government, Spain

José ASENSI SABATER, Senator (PSOE) and Full Professor of Constitutional Law, Spain

Francesco BERTI, Congressman (M5S), Italy

Francesca BONOMO, Congresswoman (PD), Italy

Franziska BRANTNER, Member of the German Bundestag (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen or Grüne), Germany

Josefina BUENO, Senator (PSOE), Chair of the Equality Commission in the Spanish Senate (PSOE), Spain

Prof. Dr. Lars CASTELLUCCI, Member of the German Bundestag (SPD), Germany

Gianmarco CORBETTA, Senator (M5S), Italy

Manuel CRUZ, Senator and former president of the Senate, former president of Federalistes d'Esquerres, Spain

Iolanda DI STASIO, Foreign Affairs Group leader at the Chamber of Deputies of Italy and congresswoman (M5S), Italy

Raffaele FANTETTI, Senator (Cambiamo), Italy

Lorenzo FIORAMONTI, Congressman (FacciamoECO), Italy

Silvia FREGOLENT, Congresswoman (Italia Viva), Italy

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Francesca GALIZIA, Head of the M5S European Policies Committee Chamber of Deputies & Congresswoman, Italy

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Charalampos KONTONIS, Political Advisor, GUE/NGL, European Parliament, UEF-Greece, Brussels

Ion KYRIAZIS, International Relations Post University Student, Sciences Po, UEF-Greece, Brussels

Iris KYRIAZIS, Trainee Solicitor – London, UEF-Greece, Brussels

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