Union of European Federalists

Goals, Achievements and Proposals
Who we are

The Union of European Federalists (UEF) is a European, non-governmental, non-partisan political organisation dedicated to the promotion of European political unity. It was founded in 1946 in the belief that only by uniting into a European Federation could the states of Europe overcome the divisions of the past and ensure a future of peace and economic prosperity to the continent.

For more than 70 years UEF has been the leading voice in the promotion of European unity and an early campaigner for all key milestones in the development of the European Communities and then the European Union. Today UEF is engaged in promoting a united, strong, democratic and federal Union with more power and resources to act in Europe and in the world.

Where we are

Founded

1946

30,000 members

25 national sections

European secretariat in Brussels

A youth organisation with 13,000 members

Young European Federalists (JEF)
More than 70 years of federalist campaigns for a united and federal Europe!

**1940s**
- **1946: Foundation of the UEF**
  - In the post-war period, building a European federation seemed to be the obvious way forward.
- **1943: Alcide De Gasperi and Jean Monnet founded the first federalist movement in Italy.**
- **15 December 1946: UEF was officially brought into life.**
- **1949/50: For the European Federal Pact**
  - Thousands of citizens signed a petition which asked the Advisory Assembly of the Council of Europe to propose a federal pact among key European countries.

**1950s**
- **1950/54:**
  - Federalists demanded a European constituent assembly to draw up a draft federal constitution, ratified by a Europe-wide referendum.
  - Hundreds of meetings and polling stations were organised for citizens across Europe.
- **1952:**
  - The European federationists organised numerous action campaigning for open borders.
  - Leaflets were distributed on the order between Strasbourg and Kehl and symbolic boarder bars were burnt to call for the abolition of borders.

**1960s**
- **1967/72:**
  - For Direct Elections to the European Parliament
  - 65,000 signatures in Italy signed a petition for the direct election of the Italian representatives in the European Parliament.
- **1965/64:**
  - For Direct Action Europe!
  - The European federationists organised numerous action campaigning for open borders.
  - In 1963, leaflets were distributed on the order between Strasbourg and Kehl and symbolic border bars were burnt to call for the abolition of borders.

**1970s**
- **1977/90:**
  - For a single European currency
  - June 1977: demonstrations were held in Brussels for the support of the single currency and the election to the European Parliament through universal suffrage.
- **1992:**
  - For a European Union
  - The federalists gathered during the negotiation of the Treaty of the European Union in Maastricht, where the European Union as we know it was created.

**1980s**
- **1984:**
  - For European Democracy
  - An important federalist achievement is the approval of the Spinelli Treaty by the European Parliament; reforming the European Institutions.
- **1997/2006:**
  - For a European Constitution
  - The European federationists held a demonstration in Nice to demand a European Constitution.
  - The government summoned the European Convention, which drafted a European Constitution.
  - The constitution was eventually defeated by referendums in France and the Netherlands.

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- **2000s**
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- **2009:**
  - “Who is your candidate”
  - The campaign fought for a transparently and democratically elected president of the European Commission.
  - 2014: The European Parliament voted for the election of the President of the European Commission for the first time.

**2010s**
- **2011:**
  - Federal Union Now!
  - Federalists campaigned to re-open the debate for a decisive move towards a federal Europe.

**2017: March for Europe**
- On the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, the federalists rally the citizens to raise their voice and call governments to relaunch and complete Europe’s economic and political unity.

**2019:**
- **I Choose Europe**
  - With nationalism and populism on the rise and Europe at a crossroad between more integration and disintegration, the federalists’ campaign for the European elections call citizen to vote and choose Europe.
Our activities

We raise citizens’ awareness on the need for European political unity. We call on national governments to act for a united and federal Europe. We promote the project of a federal Europe among political parties and politicians. We advocate federalism as the best way to organise European unity. We organise debates, seminars, activities in universities and street actions. We run advocacy activities and communication campaigns.

Our vision for Europe

A united and sovereign Europe, with a federal Government

An Economic and Monetary Union with adequate fiscal and economic powers and own resources

European economic and social policies that can balance national responsibility with European solidarity

A single European foreign, security and defence policy to promote European interests and values in the world

European forces to manage together the EU common border

Europe as a global leader in combating climate change

Transnational lists for the European Parliament elections, for a stronger European democracy

A democratic and effective Europe, with a smaller European Commission, no veto right in the Council and European Council, and equal powers for the European Parliament in all EU competences.