



**UNION OF EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS
XXIV EUROPEAN CONGRESS
TOWARDS A FEDERAL EUROPE**

Berlin | Auswärtiges Amt | 15–17 NOV 2013

PRESS KIT



[Press online
registration](#)

PRESS RELEASE

FEDERALIST CONGRESS IN BERLIN

‘Tough decisions needed now to save Europe’

At the outset of the election campaign for the European Parliament, Europe's federalists will gather in Berlin next week to debate the future of Europe.

The XXIV Congress of the Union of European Federalists will debate and vote on a manifesto which will then be presented to the European political parties.

The UEF manifesto will call for a Convention to start in spring 2015 to begin the general revision of the EU treaties. The main goals of the new treaty will be to establish a proper fiscal union, to transform the Commission into a parliamentary government and to create a new status of associate membership.

There will be key note speeches from:

- Guido Westerwelle, outgoing German Federal Foreign Minister (17h00 Friday 15/11), followed by a cross-party panel debate;
- Andrew Duff MEP, President of the UEF, who is retiring at the Congress (10h00 Saturday 16/11)
- Elmar Brok MEP, President-elect of the UEF (17h30 Saturday 16/11).

Andrew Duff says: ‘This is the largest and most important gathering of Europe's federalists for many years. After years of defeatism in Europe, it is high time for those who wish the Europe well to set out a detailed agenda for EU reform.

‘We will challenge the European political parties to rise to the occasion of the next election of the Parliament and of the new Commission. Tough decisions are needed if the European project is to be saved for future generations.’

END



ABOUT

On the eve of the European Parliamentary elections, Berlin is the rendezvous for the gathering of the European federalist movement. On 16-17 November the XXIV Congress of the Union of European Federalists will be held at the historic premises of the German Federal Foreign Ministry.

The Congress will vote its Federalist Manifesto which will be presented to the political parties and candidates in the electoral campaign. It will elect a successor as UEF President to Andrew Duff MEP.

The Congress will be preceded on Friday 15 November by a Keynote Speech by Guido Westerwelle, Foreign Minister of Germany, followed by a public meeting with leading political figures.

The Union of European Federalists, a non-governmental and supranational organisation, is dedicated to the promotion of a democratic and federal Europe. It aims to bring together citizens who desire to work for the federal unity of Europe, act as a catalyst of democratic forces in Europe, and stimulate public debate on the political content of the 'European project'.

Federalists believe that only a common effort of European citizens working towards more democratic institutions on the European level could create a long lasting peace and freedom, and a strong common answer to global challenges.

The Federalists are present in 37 European countries and represent over 50.000 members.

THEMES OF THE CONGRESS

ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION

How is the European Union grappling with the continuing crisis? How adequate are the measures taken so far and now proposed to strengthen economic governance? What else is needed to create fiscal union?

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Have the new provisions of the Lisbon Treaty with regard to common foreign, security and defence policies been put into effect? How can the EU make a more effective contribution to world affairs?

UEF STRATEGY FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND BEYOND

What role should federalists play in next year's European Parliament elections? How to engage the political parties and the citizens? After the European elections, what can be the federalist proposals and actions for the Eurozone governance, the reform of the Union and for addressing the British dilemmas on Europe?

FRIDAY, 15 NOV

17.00

ANDREW DUFF MEP,
 UEF President

KEYNOTE SPEECH
GUIDO WESTERWELLE,
 Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

VIDEO MESSAGE
JOSÉ MANUEL BARROSO,
 President of the European Commission

PANEL DEBATE

ELMAR BROK MEP,
 Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee (EPP)

MICHAEL LINK,
 Minister of State for European Affairs (ALDE)

SYLVIA-YVONNE KAUFMANN,
 President Europa-Union Berlin (S&D)

CEM ÖZDEMİR MdB
 (Greens)





MEETING VENUE

AUSWÄRTIGES AMT

German Federal Foreign Office
Unterwasserstr. 10
10117 Berlin

We encourage you to arrive as early as possible to avoid the line at the security check! Please present your ID at the entrance of the venue.

PARTNER



With the participation of:



Media Partner:



ABOUT

The Union of European Federalists, a non-governmental and supranational organisation, is dedicated to the promotion of a democratic and federal Europe. It aims to bring together citizens who desire to work for the federal unity of Europe, act as a catalyst of democratic forces in Europe, and stimulate public debate on the political content of the 'European project'.

Federalists believe that only a common effort of European citizens working towards more democratic institutions on the European level could create a long lasting peace and freedom, and a strong common answer to global challenges.

The Federalists are present in 37 European countries and represent over 50.000 members.

THEMES OF THE CONGRESS

ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION

How is the European Union grappling with the continuing crisis? How adequate are the measures taken so far and now proposed to strengthen economic governance? What else is needed to create fiscal union?

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Have the new provisions of the Lisbon Treaty with regard to common foreign, security and defence policies been put into effect? How can the EU make a more effective contribution to world affairs?

UEF STRATEGY FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND BEYOND

What role should federalists play in next year's European Parliament elections? How to engage the political parties and the citizens? After the European elections, what can be the federalist proposals and actions for the Eurozone governance, the reform of the Union and for addressing the British dilemmas on Europe?

For interview requests or media partnerships please contact:

MANA LIVARDJANI (Director) / +32 2 508 30 30
mana.livardjani@federalists.eu

DIMITRIOS MAVRIDIS (Communication Assistant) / +32 2 508 30 30
dimitrios.mavridis@federalists.eu



DRAFT AGENDA

FRIDAY, 15 NOV

15.00 Welcoming of participants

17.00 Welcome by Andrew Duff MEP, President of UEF

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY GUIDO WESTERWELLE

Federal Minister for foreign affairs

VIDEO MESSAGE ADDRESS BY JOSE MANUEL BARROSO

President of the European Commission

PANEL DEBATE “Towards A Federal Europe”

Led by: **ANDREW DUFF** MEP
President of UEF

MICHAEL LINK
German Minister of state for European Affairs

SYLVIA-YVONNE KAUFMANN
Vice-President of the European Parliament 2004–2009,
President Europa-Union Berlin

ELMAR BROK MEP

CEM ÖZDEMİR
Member of Bundestag

19.30 Reception

SATURDAY, 16 NOV

07.30 Welcoming of participants

09.30 **OPENING SESSION OF THE XXIV CONGRESS**

10.00 **KEYNOTE SPEECH BY ANDREW DUFF**
President of UEF



10.30 **ADDRESSES TO THE CONGRESS**

RAINER WIELAND MEP

President of Europa Union Deutschland

PAULINE GESSANT

President of the Young European Federalists

FEDERICA SABBATI,

Board Member of the European Movement International

11.00 **ACTIVITY AND FINANCIAL REPORT 2011- 2013**

11.30 **GENERAL DEBATE ON UEF MANIFESTO**

14.00 **POLITICAL COMMISSIONS**

- 1.) Economic and Monetary Union
- 2.) Foreign Affairs
- 3.) UEF strategy for the European Parliamentary elections and beyond

16.30 **REPORT BACK FROM POLITICAL COMMISSIONS**

17.30 **PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE FOR NEW UEF PRESIDENT**

18.00 **ELECTIONS**

20.00 Dinner

SUNDAY, 17 NOV

09.00 **ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS**

09.45 **VOTES ON UEF MANIFESTO AND RESOLUTIONS**

11.30 **SPEECH BY INCOMING UEF PRESIDENT**

12.30 **ELECTIONS OF VICE-PRESIDENTS AND NEW BUREAU**



UEF DRAFT MANIFESTO 2014

CONGRESS OF THE UNION OF EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS,
BERLIN, 16-17 NOVEMBER 2013

TOWARDS FEDERAL UNION

Europe is passing through a period of turbulence and uncertainty. The European Union itself is in deep trouble. The long financial crisis, which has led to economic stagnation and political fragmentation, has exposed not only the flaws in the design of the Economic and Monetary Union and the weakness of EU institutions, but also a lack of commitment to European integration by EU states. As a result, the European Union has lost the trust of many citizens.

If the European Union is to survive for years to come, it must pursue the paths of social peace, prosperity and political unity through the business of democratic government. A federal Europe with strong democratic institutions is the only way to meet this challenge. Europe will not be united if it is not democratic. And it will not be democratic if it is not a federation.

The process of building a genuine European federal union can start today with the eurozone and those states genuinely committed to joining the euro. It is the responsibility of our decision makers to take all the necessary steps to solve the problems, put our affairs in order and rebuild confidence.

We therefore urge the political parties and candidates in the European Parliamentary elections of 2014 to make the accomplishment of a federal union a central theme of their campaign. An election with a genuine European dimension will be attractive for citizens and lead to a higher turnout. We therefore welcome the fact that the European political parties are to nominate candidates for the Commission presidency and other posts.

And we urge the European Parliament to develop its proposals on the structure of federal union alongside representatives of national parliaments in an inter-parliamentary Assizes.

Dealing with the crisis

Federalists believe that only deeper fiscal integration will lead Europe out of the crisis and fulfil Europe's economic and democratic potential. This new polity has to be formed around the states whose currency is or will soon be the euro.

In the first instance, the eurozone needs a real banking union, including a European resolution mechanism and a federal deposit insurance scheme. Decisive action is still needed to disentangle sovereign from banking debt. Regulation must be tough, clear and fair. At national level, fiscal discipline must be accompanied by economic reforms. At both European and national levels a better balance must be struck between fiscal consolidation and investment in growth and jobs: fiscal union is not viable without social justice.

It has become clear that purely national recovery plans have been largely ineffective. Only by creating the tools and resources for common European economic, industrial and energy policies can we boost trade and competitiveness, stimulate research and education, build trans-European networks and complete the single market in services.

UEF welcomes the legislation already in place which will ensure budgetary responsibility at the national and European level. Now we urge the eurozone to make rapid progress to address the burden of debt which is destroying opportunity for too many European citizens. We need adequate forms of European taxation and new forms of European debt instruments for a proactive European social and economic policy. We need to replace ad hoc policy conditionality with the European rule of law combining solidarity and growth enhancing policies.

These steps require the transformation of the eurozone into a true political union. And those states which have yet to join the euro, and are intent on doing so, must be connected as closely as possible to this process of deeper integration.

Treaty change

The Treaty of Lisbon is being stretched to breaking point under the pressure of crisis management. Its revision is unavoidable if the Union is to escape from its present difficulties.

We therefore call for a constitutional Convention to begin as soon as possible after the May 2014 elections, and no later than spring 2015. The Convention will be composed of MEPs, national MPs, the Commission and the state governments.



But it must reach out to the media, political parties, civil society and public opinion in direct and effective ways. Its mandate must include the task of explaining and justifying the decisions it takes.

The agenda of the Convention must be broad, but shaped by a coherent political strategy based on the re-foundation and renewal of the European Union around a federal vanguard. Its task will be to draft a new fundamental law which provides a durable settlement of the system of governance of the Union, along with a clearer sense of things to come.

The new treaty must further enhance the capacity of the Union to act at home and abroad. It must be a strong constitutional framework in which its governors and law makers are empowered to make coherent and efficient choices about the direction of policy. Member states must respect the values and principles of their Union, and the EU needs to be alert when changes to national constitutions depart from them.

A genuine common immigration and asylum policy is needed to make a reality of the EU area of freedom, security and justice. Responsibilities for the control of the external frontiers of the Union must be decently shared. Consular rights of EU citizenship should be strengthened. EU citizens living in other EU states should be allowed to vote in all elections at their place of residence. The scope of the European Citizens' Initiative should be widened and its bureaucratic nature reduced.

The European Union will not be the global actor it aspires to be unless its states makes a more serious political commitment to developing common foreign, security and defence policies. At the moment, Europe is failing to fulfil its potential to be a source of good in world affairs.

The treaty revision must not fail to adjust competences and increase the powers of the European institutions where necessary in order to achieve these objectives.

Federal government

The main new feature of the fundamental law will be the installation of a federal government, with a powerful Treasury Secretary, for the fiscal and economic union. The eurozone must have its own fiscal capacity, capable of contributing to macro-economic stabilisation. The EU budget should be financed by genuinely autonomous own resources – such as taxes on carbon emissions or financial transactions – which, by moving away from the current system of direct national contributions, will allow the federal core to escape from the paralysis of juste retour.



The new treaty must permit the progressive mutualisation at least of a portion of sovereign debt within the eurozone, subject to strict conditionality. It should lift the prohibition on deficit financing while ensuring that the federal debt is subject to limits comparable to those imposed on the states. In addition, the current unanimity rules for the decisions on own resources and the multi-annual financial framework must be modified.

A better democracy

We should transfer to the Commission most of the residual executive powers now held by the Council, at least in the economic and fiscal field, turning the Commission into a recognisable and accountable government. The size of the Commission should be reduced, with its members nominated by the President-elect and elected by the European Parliament.

The two legislative chambers of the European Parliament and the Council should be put on an equal footing. In order to build up real European political parties and to heighten the EU dimension of politics, Parliament should elect a certain number of Members in a pan-European constituency, drawn from transnational lists. Parliament must gain the right of consent to treaty changes and to the accession of new states.

Restrictions on the scope of the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice should be lifted, and access to the Court eased for individuals.

A deeper legitimacy

Flexible and democratic procedures are needed for future treaty amendments, which should enter into force either once ratified by four fifths of the states or if carried in a pan-EU referendum. Such changes will bring the EU into line with all other federal or international organisations.

EU states cannot be forced against their will to take the federal steps we here propose. At the same time, such states cannot be allowed an open-ended possibility to pick and choose what they want from the EU and discard the rest. Yet more à la carte opt-outs and derogations risk fracturing the cohesion of the *acquis communautaire*. Free-riding means disintegration.



We therefore propose to create a new category of membership available to states which choose not to join the federal union. Institutional participation would necessarily be limited. Continued allegiance to the Union's values should be required, but political engagement in the Union's objectives and policies would be reduced. This new form of associate membership would also be an improvement on the present European Economic Area, and would be open to all other European countries.

Should it prove impossible for all current member states to agree to revise the European Union along these lines, we urge the creation of a constituent assembly, gathering members of the national parliaments and the European Parliament to establish a constitution along these lines. Every parliament would be invited to participate in a fresh start for Europe but the assembly should be able to start its work even if not all have resolved to join such a project.

To the achievement of these objectives, UEF welcomes a broad public debate on 'A Fundamental Law of the European Union' as elaborated by the Spinelli Group of MEPs.

We commit ourselves to advancing the cause of European federal union in the interests of a more peaceful and prosperous world.

The Union of European Federalists commends this manifesto to the political parties and candidates campaigning for election to the European Parliament in May 2014.