

Elmar Brok

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Chair

To the Delegates and Observers to the XXV UEF Congress in Strasbourg
To UEF member organisations

Dear Friends,

Brussels, 2 June 2016

I have been very honoured to serve as President of our organisation since our last Congress in Berlin in November 2013. In the past two and a half years, we have worked together to raise the political profile of UEF and the credibility of the federalists' demands, particularly in the EU institutions and in key national capitals. We have established a structural relationship with The Spinelli Group, gathering the most federalist and pro-European members of the European Parliament, and together we are organising important occasions of dialogue with national politicians in key member states. In parallel, we have worked to strengthen our organisation, expanding the European Secretariat and multiplying our initiatives in Brussels and in cooperation with many national sections. Last but not least, we have injected new energy in our already robust cooperation with our youth organisation - the Young European Federalists - which remain the best hope for the future of the federalist organisations across Europe. All this has been possible thanks to a cooperative effort, to which many of you have given a significant contribution.

The next years will be crucial for the long-term future of the European project. The European Union is facing a make-or-break moment. A prolonged financial and economic crisis has weakened several Member States and has shaken the trust of many European citizens in the Euro and the European Union. The migration challenge is putting in danger Schengen and the free movements of people. Security challenges are surrounding the European Union. European solutions are required, and very rapidly, to regain the trust and hopes of the European citizens. A strong federalist voice will be more essential than ever particularly in debate on the future of the Economic and Monetary Union, European border management, European security and, at a certain point in time, the reform of the institutions, which we want to move in a federal direction. Our voice should challenge the status quo, the inertia of many governments, and the false and distractive "solutions" proposed by nationalists and anti-Europeans.

I would be pleased to continue as President of the organisation for the coming term and contribute to further raising the visibility and credibility of the UEF and our demands, at European and national level.

I look forward to meeting you in Strasbourg.



Elmar Brok