



Union of European Federalists
Union Europäischer Föderalisten
Union des Fédéralistes Européens



YOUNG
EUROPEAN
FEDERALISTS

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY

Failures, Challenges and Federalist Perspectives

Athens | 18-20 March 2016



#FedWE16

Venue: Europe Direct – City of Athens
50, Akadimias str., 106 79 Athens / Ακαδημίας 50, 106 79 Αθήνα

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FEDERALIST DEBATE & TRAINING WEEKEND

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY:

Failures, Challenges, Federalist Perspectives

Athens, 18-20 March 2016

The Federalist Debate & Training Weekend is a yearly event for experienced and new activists as well as those interested in the activities of the European Federalists.

The weekend is the perfect opportunity to engage with expert speakers, discuss federalism and current European political issues from a federalist perspective and take part in practical training on campaigning for a federal Europe.

The 2016 edition, hosted in Greece – a country concurrently exposed to the Euro crisis, a social crisis and the refugee crisis – will focus on three of the main challenges facing the European integration project today through the common thread of **European solidarity**:

- **Solidarity between states:** from a monetary union to a fiscal and economic union
- **Solidarity between citizens:** towards a social Europe and European welfare tools
- **Solidarity between peoples:** European solutions for the refugee and migration crisis

Expert speakers will introduce each session to enable participants to develop their theoretical and political understanding of the topic.

Ultimately each session will examine how a federalist perspective offers solutions to the problems faced.

Sunday will be dedicated to three practical-oriented workshops

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 18 MARCH 2016

Venue: Achillion Hotel, 32, Ag. Konstantinou str. – 10437 Athens

- 18:00 Registration for international participants
19:00 Welcome drinks – meet at the hotel reception

SATURDAY 19 MARCH 2016

Venue: Europe Direct – City of Athens, 50, Akadimias str. – 106 79, Athens

- 8.30 International participants meet at the hotel reception to walk to the venue
9.00 Opening and introduction to the programme
Greetings by **Yannis SMYRLIS**, President of the Union of European Federalists - Greece
9.15 Session I – Panel discussion

“SOLIDARITY BETWEEN STATES: FROM MONETARY UNION TO A FISCAL AND ECONOMIC UNION FOR THE EUROZONE”

Speakers:

- **Yannis BOURNOUS**, Member of the Political Secretariat of SYRIZA; Head Responsible for European Policy, International Relations, Foreign Policy & Defence, Greek diaspora (tbc)
- **Georgios PAGOULATOS**, Professor of European Politics and Economy at the Athens University of Economics and Business, Visiting Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges
- **Domènec RUIZ DEVESA**, Policy Advisor to the S&D Group in the European Parliament Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee
- **Paolo VACCA**, Secretary-General of the Union of European Federalists

Moderated by:

- **Ophélie OMNES**, Vice-President of the Young European Federalists

Topics that will be addressed in the introductions:

- Why is the European Monetary Union still fragile?
- Does the Eurozone have sufficient mechanisms to address economic imbalances?
- What solidarity mechanisms between member states are typical in federal states?
- Does the Eurozone need more solidarity mechanisms between member states?
- What would a Eurozone fiscal union mean?

- 11.00 Coffee Break
11.30 Session II – Panel discussion

“SOLIDARITY BETWEEN CITIZENS: TOWARDS A SOCIAL EUROPE AND EUROPEAN WELFARE TOOLS”

Speakers:

- **Marietta GIANNAKOU**, Former Member of the European Parliament and former Minister for National Education and Religious Affairs
- **Ioannis MANIATIS**, Member of the Greek Parliament, Former Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change
- **Domenico MORO**, Member of the Executive Bureau of the European Federalist Movement
- **Ioannis NASIOULAS**, Founder and Director of the Social Economy Institute
- **Marilena SIMITI**, Associate Professor of Political Sociology at the Department of International and European Studies in the University of Piraeus

Moderated by:

- **Petroula NTELEDIMOU**, Member of the Union of European Federalists Bureau

Topics that will be addressed in the introductions:

- What is meant by “social Europe”?
- What solidarity mechanisms between citizens are typical in federal states?
- Does the Eurozone require a dedicated social policy?
- Will there ever be a European welfare system directly for citizens?
- How could a European Unemployment Insurance Scheme work?

13.30 Lunch Break

14.30 Session III – Panel discussion

“SOLIDARITY BETWEEN PEOPLES: EUROPEAN SOLUTIONS TO THE REFUGEE AND MIGRATION CRISIS”

Speakers:

- **Georgios KYRTSOS**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Yannis PAPAGEORGIOU**, Assistant Professor at School of Political Science at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- **Apostolos VEIZIS**, Director of Medical Operational Support Athens (SOMA), Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières

Moderated by:

- **Daphne GOGOU**, European Commission (Directorate-General Justice) and Chair of UEF Political Commission on Social Europe

Topics that will be addressed in the introductions:

- Who is coming to Europe? Why are they coming? Where are they coming from?
- Why has the Dublin regulation failed? What could replace it?
- How can Schengen be strengthened?
- How would a single European Asylum policy look like?
- How can EU member states share the impact of refugees and migrants?
- How to assess the recent proposals of the European Commission for a European Border Management

16.30 Coffee Break

17.00 **POLITICAL ROUNDTABLE AND DEBATE WITH GREEK MEPs/MPs:**

“TOWARDS A FEDERAL EUROPE: OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE EURO AND MIGRATION CRISES”

Speakers:

- **Philipp AGATHONOS**, Vice-President of UEF
- **Christopher GLÜCK**, President of the Young European Federalists
- **Konstantinos HATZIDAKIS**, Vice-President of Nea Dimokratia
- **Konstantinos KYRANAKIS**, President of the Youth of the European People’s Party
- **Pantelis KAPSIS**, Journalist, Member of PASOK’s Central Political Committee, Former Deputy Minister of public radio-television
- **Miltiadis KYRKOS**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Dimitrios PAPANIMOU**, Vice-President of the European Parliament

Moderated by:

- **Sarantis MICHALOPOULOS**, Editor-in-Chief, EurActiv.gr

19.30 Closing

20.00 Group dinner: **Union Restaurant & Cafe**
5, Massalias & Didotou Str., 106 80, Athens

Venue: Europe Direct – City of Athens, 50 Akadimias str. – 106 79, Athens

8.30 Meet at the hotel reception to go to the venue

9.00 Opening and explanation of the workshops

9.30 **WORKSHOPS**

The workshops will run one after the other and will last approximately one hour each.

They will be structured as table discussions.

Each workshop will focus on one of the sessions of the previous day with the aim to:

1. Summarise key federalist proposals out of the previous day's debates
2. Build arguments in defence of each proposals
3. Identify and rebut arguments against each proposal

Workshop I

**SOLIDARITY
BETWEEN STATES**

Workshop II

**SOLIDARITY
BETWEEN CITIZENS**

Workshop III

**SOLIDARITY
BETWEEN PEOPLE**

12.30 Evaluation

13:00 Closing and departure

READING LIST

Links to the documents in this reading list may be found in the electronic version of this meeting folder, available to download from the UEF website: www.federalists.eu/activities/training-seminar/

“SOLIDARITY BETWEEN STATES: FROM MONETARY UNION TO A FISCAL AND ECONOMIC UNION FOR THE EUROZONE”

COMMISSION DOCUMENT

...as economic growth and confidence return to much of Europe, it is clear that the quick fixes of recent years need to be turned into a lasting, fair and democratically legitimate basis for the future.

[The Five Presidents' Report: Completing Europe's Economic and Monetary Union](#)

European Commission Background document on EMU, June 2015

SPEAKERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

The euro area lacks the tools, powers and resources for implementing effective economic policies at the European level
[Strengthening and Deepening the Economic and Monetary Union within the Current Treaties: Possibilities and Limits \(25 Proposals\)](#)

David Garcia and **Paolo Vacca**, UEF Policy Brief, 2014

There is an ongoing debate on the long-term sustainability of the eurozone and the ultimate objectives of a fiscal union, economic union and eventually a political union, even though the nature of these unions is still unclear. The European institutions have started to acknowledge that the eurozone must have its own budget.

[A Budget for the Euro Area: Objectives, Procedures and Institutions](#)

Domenico Moro, UEF Reflection Paper, June 2015

A more progressive policy shift within the Eurozone [...] would be possible with real European solidarity, burden- and risk-sharing between states, so the euro could operate as more of an economic union. It would be possible with a single budget, a European unemployment insurance scheme, and a single deposit guarantee system.

[Are left-wing policies feasible within the eurozone?](#)

George Pagoulatos, ekathimerini.com, December 2015

The Greek experience shows that sacrifices can be made as the price for a new grand bargain that will secure the euro for a lifetime, and prevent the divide that is growing between the 'virtuous' North and the 'failed' South.

[Desperately hanging on: A euro-crisis view from Greece](#)

George Pagoulatos, European Council on Foreign Relations Reinvention of Europe series, September 2012

FURTHER READING

The way the EU conducts its business is greatly complicated by the diffuse and abstruse nature of its executive. These shortcomings are constitutional. A deepening of the economic and monetary union is scarcely possible under present legal and political constraints

[The Protocol of Frankfurt: a new treaty for the eurozone](#)

Andrew Duff, EPC, January 2016

The euro area needs to take a further step to create a comprehensive fiscal union. In the absence of greater fiscal integration, the strains within EMU are likely to erupt again from time to time.

[How to Fix the Euro: Strengthening Economic Governance in Europe](#)

Stephen Pickford, Federico Steinberg and Miguel Otero-Iglesias, Chatham House, Elcano and AREL, March 2014

“SOLIDARITY BETWEEN CITIZENS: TOWARDS A SOCIAL EUROPE AND EUROPEAN WELFARE TOOLS”

FEDERALIST POLICY

Recognising free movement of persons in the EU as one of the four important pillars of the Single European Market that constitutes one of the core achievements of European integrations so far

[Genuine Free Movement for All – Advancing Citizenship and Welfare Rights across all EU Member States](#) Resolution, JEF Federal Committee, Bologna, October-November 2014

SPEAKERS’ CONTRIBUTIONS

The current EU budget is viewed not as an economic policy instrument, but rather as a redistributive mechanism. Indeed [...] member states regard the EU budget more along the lines of the requisition system in force in the United States before the Philadelphia Convention than as an instrument capable of guaranteeing Europe income and employment stability.

[Solidarity with Stability: An Additional Budget for the Eurozone](#)

Domenico Moro, The Federalist, 2013

We already know that Social Economy organizations are good employers, are quite resilient to the crisis and provide ground for business and development experimentation. This alternative economic sector links investments to employment and cohesion. And this is the competitive advantage of Social Economy.

[Social Economy: A Viable Alternative?](#)

Dr Ioannis Nasioulas, Crisis Observatory, January 2015

...collective mobilisations and the proliferation of new informal initiatives are clear signs of public dissatisfaction with representative democracy as a practical political project. In this respect, the proliferation of alternative networks in Greek society reflects both the choice to experiment with new forms of radical activism and the need to provide social support in the context of the crisis.

[‘Social Need’ or ‘Choice’? Greek Civil Society during the Economic Crisis](#)

Marilena Simiti, Hellenic Observatory Papers on Greece and Southeast Europe, November 2015

FURTHER READING

The best options for a predictable and rules-based mechanism of countercyclical fiscal transfers appear to be schemes where EMU Member States would share part of the costs of short-term unemployment insurance.

[Social Europe: Can the EU again improve people’s live prospects?](#)

László Andor, ed. EPC, 2014

...the prevailing view in academic circles and among policy-makers is that intra-EU labour mobility is too low; too low to support the single labour market as anything but a notion and too low to play anything other than a modest role in helping to rebalance the eurozone after the crisis.

[Labour Mobility in Europe: An untapped resource?](#)

Mikkel Barslund, Matthias Busse and Joscha Schwarzwälder, Policy Brief, CEPS, March 2015

Undoubtedly... migration patterns can amplify, or lead to, regional and local shortages of public and social service provision and impact local labour markets. Yet these challenges do not mean that at the macro level migration has fundamentally negative effects or that EU migrant citizens intend to or do exploit the system.

[Migration, EU Citizenship, and Social Europe](#)

Elaine Chase, Social Europe Journal, January 2014

Mobility has proven its positive impact on the economic and social development of Europe. It is also of great importance to our citizens, enabling them to build careers and ensure the well-being of their families.

[Freedom of movement of persons – the building-block of European growth](#)

Radoslaw Sikorski, Policy Paper, European Policy Centre, September 2014

“SOLIDARITY BETWEEN PEOPLES: EUROPEAN SOLUTIONS TO THE REFUGEE AND MIGRATION CRISIS”

COMMISSION DOCUMENTS

We now need to put in a great effort to implement our legislation and ensure this common system will function well and uniformly. Only then we will have an area of protection and solidarity deserving its name — an achievement that we can be proud of.

[A Common European Asylum System](#) European Commission (Foreword by Cecilia Malmström), 2014

Frontex is the EU border control agency. It helps the countries of Europe manage their borders and keep up with changing trends in border control.

[Frontex at a Glance](#) Frontex — European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union, 2015

is clear that we need a new, more European approach. This requires using all policies and tools at our disposal — combining internal and external policies to best effect.

[Communication from the Commission - A European Agenda on Migration](#) European Commission, 2015

FEDERALIST POLICY

...proposals for a European Border Service, including a European Border and Coast Guard, and for a Europe an Asylum Authority must be taken seriously if the European Union is to develop the tools needed to manage asylum and immigration issues in the future. As such steps impact on national sovereignty, their completion is only conceivable as part of a plan to relaunch European political union, according to a clear and definite time frame.

[Building European Asylum and Immigration Policies and a European Border Service](#)

UEF Policy Digest, February 2016

The Union of European Federalists asks the European Parliament, the Commission and the governments of the Member States to do everything in their power so that the European Union proves itself in the refugee crisis and that the European idea is not damaged.

[Resolution on Asylum and Immigration Policy](#) UEF Federal Committee, Venice on 29 November 2015

FURTHER READING

The EU should focus on two sets of thematic priorities: First, to develop rule of law-driven actions towards more effective sharing and uptake of responsibility by member states in rescuing people at sea and providing access to asylum.[...] Second, to devise legal and flexible mechanisms ensuring access to Europe for would-be immigrants.

[What priorities for the new European agenda on migration?](#) Sergio Carrera et al, CEPS, 2015

...the European Border and Coast Guard initiative indicates a misguided EU policy priority focused on external border controls, return and cooperation with third countries as the ‘solutions’ to the refugee crisis. This focus comes at the expense of EU actions to address asylum, humanitarian and human rights challenges and opportunities to enhance EU institutional solidarity.

[A European Border and Coast Guard: Fit for purpose?](#) Sergio Carrera & Leonhard den Hertog, CEPS, 2015

...will the increased externalisation of the Union’s migratory policy, which places the burden of hosting migrants and asylum seekers on third countries go together with an adequate protection of migrants’ fundamental rights, particularly of those who need international protection?

[Rescue at sea, asylum and immigrants fundamental rights. What is the European Union's Approach?](#)

Corinne Balleix, ed. Robert Schuman Foundation (RSF), 2013

The Member States’ perspectives on the allocation of responsibility for processing asylum claims in the EU are essential to any comprehensive debate, all the more so given that governments understand Dublin as a mechanism primarily unconcerned with the asylum seeker herself.

[‘We Need to Talk about Dublin’ Responsibility under the Dublin System as a blockage to asylum burden-sharing in the European Union](#)

Minos Mouzourakis, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, December 2014

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

MAP & VENUES



MEETING VENUE

Europe Direct – City of Athens
50, Akadimias Str., 106 79 Athens



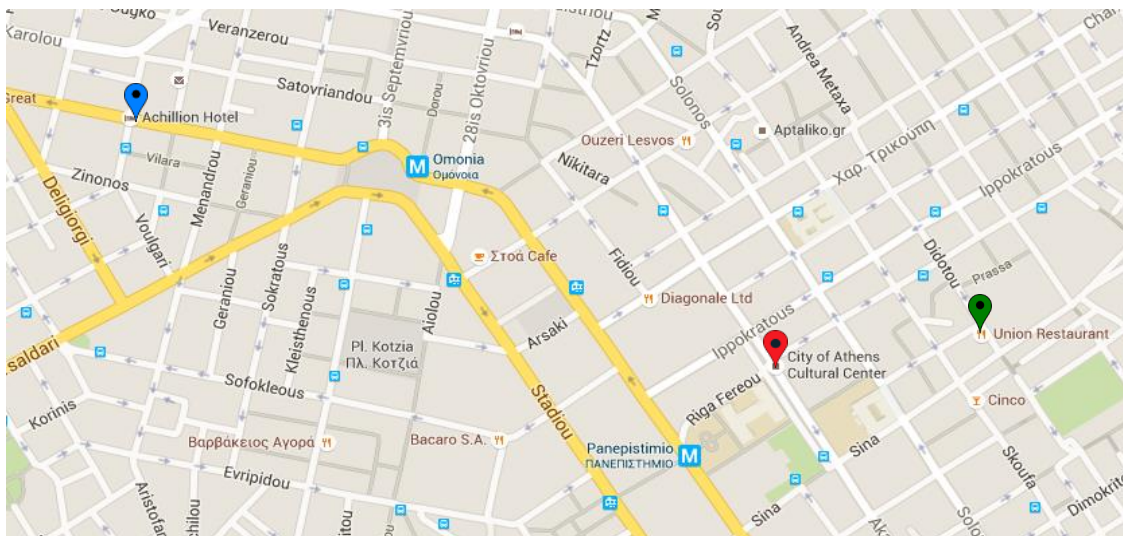
ACHILLION HOTEL

32, Ag. Konstantinou Str., 104 37 Athens



DINNER VENUE

Union Restaurant & Cafe
5, Massalias & Didotou Str., 106 80, Athens



DIRECTIONS FROM ELEFTHERIOS VENIZELOS AIRPORT TO THE HOTEL

Take the metro line 3 Airport-Egaleo (train every 30 minutes) and at Syntagma Station change to line 2 in the direction of Agios Antonios. Get out at Station OMONOIA. Omonoia station is a very central station with lots of exits. Follow the arrows to the exit Ag.Konstantinou-Kotopouli to get you exactly to the point where the Hotel's street starts. Walking through Agiou Konstantinou str. you will find the **Achillion Hotel** on your right hand site at number 32, a few meters past the Athens National Theater.

The Metro ticket price is 8 € per person between the airport and the city and it starts its service from the airport at 06:30 and ends at 23:30. The journey takes approximately 40 minutes.

DIRECTIONS FROM THE HOTEL TO THE VENUE

The Venue of the Federalist Debate and Training Seminar is walking distance from the Achillion Hotel. Head east on Agiou Konstantinou str. towards Omonoia square. Turn right on Panepistimiou str. and after 550 m. turn left on Ippokratous str. After 200 m. you will find Akadimias str., where **Europe Direct – City of Athens** is located at number 50.

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

International participants

Accepted participants from outside Athens who require accommodation have paid an attendance contribution of €100. Included in this contribution are:

- two nights in hotel in twin room accommodation with breakfast
- welcome drinks on Friday evening
- lunch on Saturday
- dinner on Saturday
- coffee breaks

The contribution also helps to fund the cost of the venue, printed material and other organisational costs.

For accommodation in a single room an additional contribution of €80 is requested.

Following the event, a reimbursement of 80% of travel costs will be available to a maximum refund of €200 for international participants.

Original documents including boarding passes and travel tickets with proof of purchase must be provided to qualify for reimbursement and these must be submitted before the deadline provided on the travel reimbursement form. "TRIB" Forms for the reimbursement claims will be distributed to participants at the time of registration.

Living in Athens?

For local participants living in Athens and not requiring accommodation, a participation contribution of €10 applies to cover coffee breaks and lunch or €30 to cover coffee breaks, lunch and dinner. Local applicants not requiring meals are welcome to join the debates without contribution.

UEF CONTACTS

In case of emergency you can reach us by phone on +32 2 508 30 30



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