

Resolution of the UEF Federal Committee: *OUR FEDERAL EUROPE, SOVEREIGN AND DEMOCRATIC*  
Submitted by the Executive Bureau

1  
2 **The Federal Committee of the Union of European Federalists,**

3  
4 gathered on line on December 19, 2020

5  
6 **underlining**

7 that the current crisis has shown the significance of acting united as Europeans in  
8 an effective and supportive way, also to become able to act globally;

9 that in tackling the pandemic, the Union has decided to face this unprecedented  
10 challenge indicating the need and showing the will to strengthen its political unity;  
11 that the need to act together as one becomes even more evident in the face of  
12 the second wave of the pandemic we are; experiencing since autumn 2020;

13  
14 **welcoming with relief**

15 the election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to the White House;

16  
17 **stressing**

18 how this turning point in American policy needs to be supported in Europe by an  
19 acceleration of the European Union's capability to be an authoritative partner in  
20 redesigning multilateralism;

21 the opportunity that this election constitutes for a new Atlantic Pact based on an  
22 equal partnership, with a view of promoting a more democratic global  
23 governance;

24  
25 **welcomes**

26 the agreement reached by the European Council on the Recovery Plan on 21 July  
27 2020 which incorporates many of the indications contained in the resolutions  
28 adopted on 17 April and 15 May 2020 with a large majority by the European  
29 Parliament and in the proposals put forward by the Spanish Non-Paper on the  
30 Recovery Strategy on 17 April 2020 and the Franco-German Recovery deal on 18  
31 May 2020 and relaunched by the European Commission on 27 May 2020 in its  
32 communication Next Generation EU, constituting an embryo of a financial union  
33 by way of the common issuance of debt by the Union;

34  
35 **stresses the importance of**

36 the launching of a European Health Union on the basis of article 168.5 of the Lisbon  
37 Treaty TFEU announced by the Commission on 11 November 2020, as also  
38 requested by the Union of European Federalists in its Federal Committee resolution  
39 of 4th July 2020;

40  
41 **recalls**

42 that in tackling the coronavirus the Union has also decided to act as a responsible and  
43 committed global partner, supporting among others the global initiative for equitable  
44 access to a COVID-19 vaccine (COVAX Facility);

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45 that the coronavirus pandemic is a transnational public bad with great health, economic,  
46 and social consequences that requires global coordination by a reformed, strengthened  
47 and more democratic and efficient United Nations system, with a particular role for the  
48 World Health Organisation;

49

50 **expresses its satisfaction**

51 at the agreement achieved between the European Parliament and the Council  
52 on 10 November 2020 on the new MFF 2021-2027 and the Own Resources  
53 package that increased the previous proposal in more than €15 billion on  
54 conditioning European funds to respect for democratic values and the Rule of  
55 Law, thus correcting the Council's original position;

56

57 **notes with regret, however**

58 the veto of the Hungarian and Polish governments to the proposed 2021-2027 MFF  
59 and new Own Resources Decision of 16 November 2020, in order to dilute the said  
60 Rule of Law mechanism;

61

62 **underlines**

63 that the Hungarian-Polish veto recalls the urgency of reforming the Treaties in order  
64 to abolish unanimity in key financial, budgetary, and fiscal matters, and therefore  
65 the need to convene the Conference on the Future of Europe as soon as possible;

66

67 **highlights**

68 the crucial role of the European Parliament to reach a satisfactory agreement to  
69 correct the cuts in the budget lines for European youth programmes, (Erasmus  
70 programme, +€2.2 Billion), research (Horizon, +€4Billion), cultural sectors, (Creative  
71 Europe, +€600Million), citizenship (Rights and Values, +€800Million) and health  
72 coordination programmes (EU4Health, +€3,4Billion) aimed at building the future of  
73 Europeans;

74

75 **emphasizes**

76 the importance of the reform of the system of own resources, as a condition for  
77 making permanent an instrument such as the Next Generation EU, which provides  
78 the EU: i) with a stabilisation mechanism capable of structurally supporting the  
79 convergence and the overall resilience of the Euro area, as repeatedly requested  
80 by the ECB itself; ii) with a rallying point for national programmes of increased  
81 public investment;

82

83 **strongly supports**

84 the confirmation of a binding timetable for the introduction of new own resources  
85 in the form of new European taxes as the following: tax on non-recycle plastic will  
86 enter into force in 2021, the border adjustment mechanism for carbon emissions,  
87 and the Digital Service Tax in 2023 and the Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) and the  
88 Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB) in 2026;

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89

90 **and while it affirms that**

91 increased competences for the European Parliament, in particular concerning the  
92 revenue side of the EU budget, must be grounded in a significant enhancement of  
93 its democratic legitimacy and, as a consequence, it becomes urgent the  
94 establishment of the necessary legal framework to ensure the election for the  
95 European Parliament cease to be a collection of national elections and become  
96 truly European,

97

98 **strongly highlights**

99 the need to give the European Parliament the power to share decisions on the  
100 collection and spending of the European Union's own resources. This implies a  
101 reform of the Treaties aimed at attributing a fiscal competence to the European  
102 Union. This is also the request by the European Parliament in the legislative  
103 resolution on the draft Council decision on the system of Own Resources of the  
104 European Union adopted in plenary session on 15 September 2020, in which it is  
105 stated that *"In view of future deliberations about treaty changes, and using the  
106 momentum of the Conference on the Future of Europe, the democratic  
107 legitimacy, accountability, resilience and alignment with major policy objectives  
108 of the Union budget's revenue side, should be further strengthened by granting  
109 the European Parliament enhanced competences in the legislative decision  
110 making and a more active role in the monitoring of the implementation of the own  
111 resources system as well as in the underlying sectoral legislation"* ;

112

113 **recalls**

114 that the pandemic has reminded Europeans of the need, in front of common  
115 transnational challenges, of supranational responses, of common action and co-  
116 ordination of policies, and has shown the damage done by the multiple vetoes  
117 and complexity which defeat projects and block long-term visions;  
118 therefore, the importance of federalisation and of affirming the principle of  
119 subsidiarity, allowing efficient action while guaranteeing open and constant  
120 democratic participation to legitimate a sense of common destiny, and with  
121 information and consultation devolved to the lowest appropriate levels;

122

123 **recalls moreover**

124 that the nascent financial and fiscal union embedded in the Recovery Plan for  
125 Europe poses fundamental democratic and accountability dilemmas;  
126 that the French government aims to present, during the first half of 2022, the  
127 proposal for a "Common Security and Defence Union", with or without revision of  
128 the Treaties.

129

130 **In this framework, the Federal Committee of the UEF**  
131 **claims strongly the start of *Conference on the Future of Europe***

132

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133 The *Conference on the future of Europe* is a unique and urgent opportunity to  
134 launch a concrete project for a stronger political Union of a federal nature, as the  
135 necessary complement of the steps already taken in the direction of a financial  
136 and fiscal union, involving citizens in a transparent and participatory process.

137 It is the ideal political framework in which to address the question on how we, as  
138 Europeans, can lead a successful transition towards a new model of sovereign  
139 political Union, strengthening the functioning of participative democracy, rule of  
140 law and sustainable development.

141 In this context, we can also address how we can become a stronger international  
142 player in an increasingly unstable world and promote peace, democracy,  
143 regional and global integration, human rights and sustainable development. **Am.1**

144 At the same time the Conference offers the opportunity to define and discuss  
145 concrete proposals for opening a Constitutional process, with a view to develop a  
146 federal constitutional pact, in order to strengthen the European Union in front of  
147 the challenges of our time and the needs of its citizens. In this perspective the  
148 Conference should also includes in its conclusions proposals on how to implement  
149 its results.

150 The Conference is also the ideal framework to develop the concept that, in the  
151 future of Europe, the necessary drive for subsidiarity - both strengthening  
152 competences and powers by joining forces at European level, and  
153 devolving new responsibilities to sub-national levels - must always be  
154 combined with an increased truly democratic participation. In this perspective,  
155 it also offers at European level the opportunity to experiment new forms of citizens'  
156 democratic participation and involvement in shaping and sharing key political  
157 and institutional decisions, taking also examples from the consultative assemblies  
158 experienced at national level in some Member states, also on the occasion of  
159 constitutional changes. On the other side, this also implies that, in order to develop  
160 a real European public space, movements and parties need to become  
161 transnational, with membership, funding, policy generation, procedures, all raised  
162 to a new borderless level.

163  
164 **Having all this in mind, the FC of the UEF believes**

165 that during the Conference it will be possible and necessary to discuss how Europe  
166 can:

- 167 - guarantee the pursuit of its value, interests and its citizens' security in the  
168 international framework, ensuring the respect of human rights and  
169 promoting multilateralism and international cooperation;
- 170 - accelerate the development of an autonomous European defence, **Am.2**  
171 as a concrete basis for an influential European foreign policy and a greater  
172 capacity of action at international level;
- 173 - define a truly European migration policy;

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- 174 - make Europe a model of sustainable development and of successful  
175 ecological and digital transition;  
176 - strengthen the Single Market, ensuring a level-playing field and a new model  
177 of corporate governance, fairer internal competition as well as harmonising  
178 certain taxes;  
179 - make the Recovery Plan permanent;  
180 - complete the Economic and Monetary Union  
181 - promote inclusion, non-discrimination, gender equality, effective social  
182 justice and solidarity;  
183 - implement a successful mechanism for the protection of rule of law,  
184 democracy and fundamental rights in all EU member States;  
185 - define the foundations of a genuine European democracy, both from an  
186 institutional point of view by abolishing unanimity in Council and extending  
187 co-decision with Parliament, (including more competences developing the  
188 right of Initiative and the right of inquiry of the EP) and from the point of view  
189 of the creation of a common public space, promoting transnational  
190 European movements and parties also through the creation of a joint pan-  
191 european electoral constituency with transnational lists, formalising the  
192 Spitzenkandidaten system and considering the creation of cross-border  
193 constituencies.

194 **The FC of the UEF is also persuaded**

195 that in order to respond to citizens' questions, concrete proposals for a new Treaty  
196 must emerge, even if some countries and some political forces might not  
197 immediately share this view. These reforms must be focused on:

- 198 - the creation of a fiscal capacity of the European Union, so that it can  
199 collect the resources it needs to implement its policies on its own. The fiscal  
200 power to be exercised in line with the priorities of the European political  
201 agenda is a necessary condition for **Am. 3** the emergence of a European  
202 sovereignty able to operate in the name of the common interest of  
203 European citizens and to achieve fairer taxation within the European Single  
204 Market.  
205 - the attribution of new competences to the European Union so that it can be  
206 sovereign, according to the subsidiarity principle, at macroeconomic level  
207 and in foreign and security policy and in research, health and training;  
208 - the reform of the decision-making process in a way to grant the Union with  
209 sufficient autonomy to act in the new areas of competence, i.e. through an  
210 extension of the ordinary legislative procedure, with the co-decision of the  
211 European Parliament and the Council;  
212 - measures to safeguard the democratic principles and the rule of law  
213 underpinning the European Union with regard to possible illiberal drifts in the  
214 Member States;

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215 - the question of ratification by qualified majority of the EU Treaties. Since  
 216 some member states might not initially share the project for a federal Union,  
 217 the time has come for the majority of countries that agree to share a part of  
 218 their sovereignty - in those fields that are no longer manageable at national  
 219 level - to go ahead to build a Europe open to all, safeguarding the unity of  
 220 the European Union, but at the same time restructuring EU in a way that it  
 221 provides for different levels of integration and participation. **Am.4**

222 **The Federal Committee of the UEF therefore calls**

223  
 224 *on the European Parliament*

225 as the Assembly representing European citizens and thus having the institutional vocation  
 226 to promote this agenda within the Conference and to nurture and guide the political debate  
 227 within the Conference and with the citizens, in a constituent perspective;

228 *on the entire UEF organisation, and in particular the national sections,* **Am.6**

229  
 230 to commit themselves to the convening and success of the *Conference on the Future of*  
 231 *Europe* and to work together to establish the broadest possible alliance among  
 232 political forces, civil society organisations and citizens in the framework of a joint  
 233 campaign that claims on behalf of the federalists, and on behalf of the citizens, **Our**  
 234 **Federal Europe, Sovereign and Democratic.**

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237  
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240 *AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTIONS*

241

242

<b>Amendment n.</b>	<b>1</b>
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*submitted by* **Domenico**  
**Moro**

243

<b>Line number(s):</b>	After 143, ADD	
<b>Original text</b>	<b>Amended text</b>	
(new)	It might therefore be useful to invite representatives of third countries to the Conference as observers	

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<b>Explanatory statement (optional):</b>	If the Conference on the future of Europe is to discuss its role in the world, it seems necessary to invite at least its most important allies and neighboring countries
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244

245

<b>Amendment n.</b>	<b>2</b>
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*submitted by **Domenico Moro***

246

<b>Line number(s):</b>	End 173	
<b>Original text</b>	<b>Amended text</b>	
after "an autonomous European defence"	Add: "according to a recent proposal to establish the European "28th Army" in addition to the national armies and directly accountable to the European institutions"	
<b>Explanatory statement (optional):</b>	The EU will take a step towards an autonomous European defence only if it solves the problem of the relationship between European and national level in the military sector. The proposal to combine an autonomous European army with national armed forces is similar to the American federal model of the "dual army".	

247

<b>Amendment n.</b>	<b>3</b>
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*submitted by **Antonio Argenziano, Elias Carlo Salvato, Giulio Saputo***

248

<b>Line number(s):</b>	201-203 delete	
<b>Original text</b>	<b>Amended text</b>	
The fiscal power to be exercised in line with the priorities of the European political agenda is a necessary condition <b>for the emergence of a European</b>	Delete: <b>for the emergence of a European sovereignty able to operate in the name of the common interest of European citizens and</b>	

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<b>sovereignty able to operate in the name of the common interest of European citizens and</b> to achieve fairer taxation within the European Single Market	
<b>Explanatory statement (optional):</b>	Redundan

249

250

<b>Amendment n.</b>	<b>4</b>
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*submitted by Antonio Argenziano, Elias Carlo Salvato, Giulio Saputo)*

251

<b>Line number(s):</b>	215-221 reformulate	
<b>Original text</b>	<b>Amended text</b>	
the question of ratification by qualified majority of the EU Treaties. Since some member states might not initially share the project for a federal Union, the time has come for the majority of countries that agree to share a part of their sovereignty - in those fields that are no longer manageable at national level - to go ahead to build a Europe open to all, safeguarding the unity of the European Union, but at the same time restructuring EU in a way that it provides for different levels of integration and participation	reforming the ratification process of the EU Treaties; most of the countries, ready to create a political union, cannot be stopped by some veto. It is time to renovate the European Union building up a multilevel governance system, with a fully integrated core, but safeguarding the unity of the single market with a second level of integration	
<b>Explanatory statement (optional):</b>		

252

<b>Amendment n.</b>	<b>5</b>
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*submitted by Emil Dimitrov*

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253

<b>Line number(s):</b>	after line 221	
<b>Original text</b>	<b>Amended text</b>	
	(new) Unanimity should be reserved for future enlargement decisions.	
<b>Explanatory statement (optional):</b>		

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<b>Amendment n.</b>	<b>6</b>
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*submitted by Antonio Argenziano, Elias Carlo Salvato, Giulio Saputo*

257

<b>Line number(s):</b>	line 228 - delete	
<b>Original text</b>	<b>Amended text</b>	
on the entire UEF organisation, <b>and in particular the national sections,</b>	delete: <b>and in particular the national sections,</b>	
<b>Explanatory statement (optional):</b>	Redundant	

258

259

<b>Amendment n.</b>	<b>7</b>
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*submitted by Antonio Argenziano, Elias Carlo Salvato, Giulio Saputo*

260

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<b>Line number(s):</b>	233-234 reformulation	
<b>Original text</b>	<b>Amended text</b>	
claims on behalf of the federalists, and on behalf of the citizens, Our Federal Europe, Sovereign and Democratic	claims on behalf of the federalists, and on behalf of the citizens, for a Constituent process to build up a federal, democratic, sustainable Europe	

<b>Explanatory statement (optional):</b>	Clearer and more coherent with the document
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