



Union of European Federalists
Union Europäischer Föderalisten
Union des Fédéralistes Européens

FEDERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Venice | 28-29 November 2015

DRAFT MINUTES

Centro Culturale Don Orione Artigianelli
and
Università Ca' Foscari
Venice, Italy

Opening of the UEF Federal Committee Meeting

Approval of the agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved by the FC.

Adoption of the UEF Federal Committee meeting's minutes - Brussels, 17-18 April 2015

The minutes of the last Federal Committee meeting were approved by the FC, with the adoption of two amendments.

Appointment of the Resolutions Committee

- Luisa Trumellini as Rapporteur of PC1
- Monica Tiberi as Chair of PC2
- Florent Banfi as Rapporteur of PC2
- Franco Spoltore as Chair of PC3
- Otto Schmuck as Rapporteur of PC3
- Massimo Malcovati for the Praesidium
- Henrik Soderman for the Praesidium
- Mana Livardjani as Director of UEF
- Paolo Vacca as Secretary-General

Public Debate: The Future of the Eurozone and the European Union

A public debate with **Elmar BROK**, MEP, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament and UEF President, **Mercedes BRESSO**, MEP, Coordinator of the S&D Group at the Constitutional Affairs Committee, **Sandro GOZI**, Deputy Secretary of State for European Policies and Affairs, **Enzo MOAVERO MILANESI**, Director of the School of Law of LUISS University and Former Minister of European Affairs and Judge of the Court of First Instance of the ECJ and **Antonio TAJANI**, European Parliament Vice-President was held at the Università Ca' Foscari in Venice. [A full report of the debate is available from the UEF Website.](#)

Emergency Resolution

Following the recent terrorist attacks in Paris, Executive Bureau member Luisa Trumellini presented [an emergency statement](#). The statement was unanimously accepted.

General Political Debate, introduced by UEF President Elmar Brok

Europe faces many crises. Since the last meeting of the Federal Committee in April 2015, the European project has been forced to deal with major challenges: in reaching an agreement with Greece, in the migration crisis, and in responding to the recent terrorist attacks in Paris. In addition, the United Kingdom will hold a referendum on its membership of the Union before the end of 2017.

In responding to the migration crisis, the 29 November 2015 meeting of EU heads of state or government with Turkey is necessary in order to develop effective solutions. However, Member States that have traditionally supported Turkey's accession have reacted differently now that negotiations may lead to visa liberalisation. The EU finds itself in a difficult position: any agreement must not come at the cost of fundamental European principles and yet questions about civil liberties could prevent progress in bringing assistance to those most in need.

The migration and refugee crisis and the Paris attacks have led some to question the Schengen Agreement and the fundamental right of free movement for European citizens. The extreme reactions of national governments, pressured by nationalist and anti-European groups, into closing national borders, building fences and turning away refugees could prove to be catastrophic for the future of the European Union if pro-Europeans fail to make their voices heard.

While European Federalists should actively engage in the British referendum and seek to retain the UK as an important Member State, it is crucial that ideas and values are not sacrificed in order to appease British demands. The process of integration to an "ever closer Union" is unstoppable and EU citizens are not migrants within the Union - their rights outlined in the Free Movement Directive must be upheld.

On the other hand, the UK referendum should be seen as an opportunity to deepen the Eurozone. An agreement must be found that allows the Eurozone to continue its necessary integration towards the creation of a true fiscal union without disadvantaging the United Kingdom. The euro must remain the currency of the Union and European Federalists in national sections in non-euro Member States must join the debate and advocate in favour of joining the single currency. Remaining outside the Eurozone should not be seen as being in the best interests of any EU Member State.

In the current political climate European Federalists should focus on two areas: bringing the debate about the future of Europe back to the citizens and directly working to shape the future of the Union itself. The lies and deceptions of national governments in following narrow national interests and failing to allow Europe to act where it may be most effective must be exposed. Federalists must resist nationalist and anti-European voices and the pressure they exert on European governments. There is a positive alternative: a democratic and federal Union of nation states and Federalists will continue to campaign for a united future for Europe.

Activity Report

The UEF Secretary-General, Paolo Vacca, presented the past and upcoming activities of the UEF Secretariat. In the last few months the UEF Secretariat has been focusing on five areas: policy & advocacy, sections & members, strengthening UEF presence and profile in Brussels, communication activities and the recruitment of new members. [The Secretary-General's presentation can be viewed on the UEF website here.](#)

Finances

2015 Budget Report

The UEF Treasurer, Kolja Bienert, presented the 2015 financial situation.

The situation concerning membership fees and declarations is relatively positive, although some payments and declarations are still pending. It is very important for sections to comply with UEF rules as this affects members' ability to shape the UEF by casting a vote.

The UEF requires more stable sources of financial contributions. Apart from the EC grant, the main sources of funding are the membership fees and sections and members contributions. Cash donations, which at the moment are almost non-existent, should be explored, as should the possibility for stable contributors, such as project partners. Hosting local events, for which the UEF Secretariat can provide support, can also provide a source of revenue.

2016 Budget Report

The proposed budget for 2016 was unanimously approved by the FC.

Reports by the Political Commissions

The Rapporteurs of the four Political Commissions presented their work on the main topics that had been identified in the last FC meeting in April, in Brussels.

They also presented their Resolution proposals, together with the amendments as they were discussed during the individual and joint PC meetings.

Vote on Proposals for Resolutions

Resolution of the UEF Federal Committee on a genuine Monetary Union in a reformed EU

The resolution was adopted with one abstention.

Resolution of the UEF Federal Committee on research and innovation for more sustainable growth, employment and competitiveness in Europe

The resolution was adopted with six abstentions.

Resolution of the UEF Federal Committee on asylum and immigration policy

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolution of the UEF Federal Committee to support the development of a global, comprehensive and well-balanced European response for the current asylum and migration crisis

The resolution was adopted with six abstentions.

Emergency Statement of the UEF Federal Committee following the terrorist attacks in Paris

The statement was adopted with one abstention.

XXV Congress 2016 | Strasbourg, 10 – 12 June 2016

The draft agenda for the next UEF Congress and the latest developments concerning the venue and the parallel activities that will take place during the Congress days was presented.

The draft agenda was unanimously adopted by the Federal Committee.

The allocation of delegates for national sections for the XXV Congress 2016 was presented. Following the recommendation of the Bureau it was proposed that the number of delegates should be limited to 160, with an additional proportion of 10% for JEF Europe, as indicated in the statutes. For the calculation of delegates, the proposal was made to consider each section's declared membership numbers for the two years prior to the Congress, hence the number of members in each section in 2014 and 2015.

The number of delegates was unanimously adopted by the Federal Committee.

The calculation of delegates was unanimously adopted by the Federal Committee.