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1. FOREWORD BY FRANCESCO FERRERO

Join us in Genoa for the first Citizens’ Convention

The French and Dutch “NO” to the European Constitution opened a difficult phase, in which the forces of nationalism and populism, led by the governments who oppose the Constitution, are trying to bury forever, together with the project, the very idea that Europe needs a Constitution.
In this context the UEF launched the idea of a Citizens' Convention, which will take place in Genoa, Italy, on December 3-4. The debate which preceded the referendums showed that citizens did not perceive to be sufficiently involved in the constituent process. This is why we need a Citizens' Convention. It will gather all the political forces and the movements of the civil society that want to counteract nationalism and to continue the struggle for a better Europe.

The Convention will draft a Manifesto for a United Europe, more open, democratic, effective, and closer to the wishes of its citizens. The meeting in Genoa is just a first step. To attain the largest involvement of all the European citizens, similar Conventions shall be held in as many EU countries as possible. Another meeting of the Convention has already been scheduled at the end of the Austrian presidency.

The Convention will try to answer some of the crucial questions which our citizens face in their daily life. How can the EU speak with one voice to the rest of the world? How can it give an answer to the fears generated by the process of enlargement and of globalisation? How can Europe secure peace and development in the Mediterranean, in Africa and in the other poor countries? What can we Europeans do for the world’s sustainable development? Only by giving an answer to those questions will the EU institutions be able to regain the confidence of the citizens.

The Citizens' Convention aims to pave the way for the Congress of the European People, which we expect to be promoted by the Federalist Intergroup for the European Constitution inside the European Parliament. This Congress should convene MEPs and MPs in a great continental "assizes", and make concrete proposals for relaunching the constitutional process. This is why the Citizens' Convention will promote an open confrontation between parliamentarians, political parties, trade unions, grass-root movements and local institutions from all over Europe. These forces were at the head of the Nice demonstration in the year 2000, and have always proved to be the most active in the struggle for a political Europe.

The participation of federalist activists, of all ages, from all over Europe, is a must to make this initiative a common success. More details on the event are available on http://www.citizensconvention.net. Some funds are available for travel reimbursement. We invite you to contact the Secretariat (info@federaleurope.org).

Francesco Ferrero
Deputy Secretary-General of the Movimento Federalista Europeo (MFE)

2. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

UEF/WFM Joint Conference:
“FEDERALISM PEACE AND DEMOCRACY,
THE EXPERIENCES AND CONTRIBUTIONS
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND
THE AFRICAN UNION.”
4 November 2005, Brussels

On the eve of the meetings in Brussels of the UEF Federal Committee (FC) and of the World Federalist Movement (WFM) Council, the European and global federalist movements jointly organise a public conference. This international conference will take place at the European Parliament (Eastman Building) in Brussels, on the afternoon of Friday 4 November, from 15:00 until 19:00. The topic will be “Federalism, Peace and International Democracy: the experiences and contributions of the European Union and the African Union”. All UEF FC and WFM Council members are kindly invited to join the conference.

The debate will open on a general discussion on relationships between regional organisations and global institutions.
debate will then move to the central topic, based on a case study, that of the experiences of the European Union and the African Union as first steps towards a peaceful and united world. It will conclude with a round table discussion on how regional unions can contribute to the strengthening and democratisation of the UN.

Confirmed speakers already include Mr. Jo LEINEN, Member of the European Parliament, and Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs; Mr. Lucio LEVI, Professor of Comparative Politics at the University of Torino; Mr. Jean-Paul POUAGALA, Representative of the African Federalist Movement; Prof. Hans KOECHLER, President of the International Progress Organisation; Prof. Fernando IGLESIAS, of the University of Buenos Aires; Mr. Bill PACE, Executive Director of the WFM.

For the provisional programme please click here: http://en.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Joint_Conference_WFM_UEF.pdf or simply go to our website at www.federaleurope.org and click on ‘Future Events’.

UEF Public Debate
“HOW TO RELAUNCH THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS”
30 November 2005, Brussels

The UEF’s next public debate will discuss how to relaunch the constitutional process after the rejection of the current draft Constitution by the French and Dutch. Originally scheduled for 12 October 2005, will now take place on 30 November, from 19:00 until 20:45, in the Eastman Building of the European Parliament.

The reflection period should not be a period of inaction. Therefore, this debate will offer an opportunity to exchange ideas on the structure, the themes and the context of the reflection period and to assess its influence on the wider debate surrounding the European Union.

For registration, please contact the UEF European Secretariat, Tel.: +32-2 508 30 30, Fax: +32-2 626 95 01, Email: info@federaleurope.org

For more information, please click here: http://en.federaleurope.org/index.php?id=68 or simply go to our website at www.federaleurope.org and click on ‘Future Events’.

European Citizens’ Convention
3-4 December 2005, Genoa

As announced in our foreword, UEF-Supranational and its Italian section the Movimento Federalista Europeo, are organising a large gathering of civil society in Genoa on 3-4 December 2005. Following the French and Dutch voters’ rejection of the draft European constitutional treaty, this event takes on particular importance.

Despite this drawback in the ratification process, the EU still needs a Constitution to face the challenges of its enlargement and of globalisation. Therefore, citizens and NGO representatives will meet in Genoa to debate on how to relaunch the constitutional process. Which method? Which timetable? Which agenda? By exchanging views with MEPs, MPs and political parties, pro-European forces will come together to pave the way for a Constitution that a large majority of EU citizens would approve.

The lack of support for the current draft of the Constitution is not only based on the dissatisfaction with the text itself, but also and probably above all, on the European political, economic and social context. The Genoa Convention will therefore also offer the opportunity to discuss the expectations citizens have of the European social model and of the EU’s role in the world.
In the spirit of the UEF Bureau’s declaration of 19 June 2005, entitled “European citizens should be fully involved in the continuation of the constituent process”, the UEF invites its member organisations to organize similar gatherings at regional and national levels. A second Citizens’ Convention has already been planned for the end of June 2006 in Vienna.

Conférence par UEF Slovénie
“UNIVERSITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND EMPLOYMENT”
27-29 January 2006, Ljubljana

The conference by UEF Slovenia “University, information technology and employment,” which was to be held from 30 September to 2 October 2005 in Ljubljana, will now take place on 27-29 January 2006. Speakers include H.E. Mr. Janez Potočnik, Commissioner for Science and Research; H.E. Mr. Wim Kok, former Prime Minister of the Netherlands; and H.E. Ján Figel’, Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism (to be confirmed). Further details will shortly be posted on our website at www.federaleurope.org and click on ‘Future Events.’

3. NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL COMMITTEE

As previously announced, the next meeting of the UEF Federal Committee (FC) will take place in Brussels on Saturday 5 November and Sunday 6 November.

The FC meeting will be preceded by a public conference on Friday 4 November (afternoon) to be organised jointly with the World Federalist Movement (WFM) (see point 2 of the present Newsletter), who are holding their Council in parallel with the UEF FC, and who will also be attending our Political Commission 3 on Saturday morning and joining us for a joint dinner that evening.

Following the new format of the FC, which had been introduced one year ago, the three Political Commissions will meet on Saturday morning. This time, PC 1 will of course deal with the federalists’ strategy after the negative votes of the French and Dutch on the draft European Constitution. The provisional position approved by the UEF Bureau in June 2005 will be assessed and completed. PC1 will also debate the role of European Citizens’ Conventions in the future phases of the constituent process.

PC 2 will discuss the UEF President’s demand to the European Council (June 2005) to launch a plan for growth and jobs in Europe, which aims at the achievement of the Lisbon goals and which would be financially based on a multi-annual budget of 1.27% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The idea of issuing euro-obligations should also be debated. PC 3, along with the WFM Council members, will discuss the reform of the United Nations and its institutions.

On Saturday afternoon, after the presentation of the UEF President’s political report and the Secretary-General’s activity report, the main political debate will deal with the federalists’ strategy for saving the European Constitution and for relaunching the constitutional process.

The political preparation of the European Citizens’ Convention in Genoa (3-4 December) (see points 1 and 2 of this Newsletter) will also be discussed. Furthermore, the financial reports and the draft budget 2006 as well as first decisions regarding the UEF European Congress 2006 will be dealt with. Following the recommendation of the Bureau on 8 October, the FC will also appoint a new Secretary-General in accordance with the Statutes that were revised by the Congress in April 2005. (For more information on the nominated candidate, please see point 5 of this Newsletter.)
As decided by the UEF Bureau before his unexpected death in April 2005, Fernand Herman will be awarded the pro merito Altiero Spinelli medal. The medal will be handed over to Mrs. Rudi Herman-Tissing.

4. PAST ACTIVITIES

Evening Debate with 
Prof. Joseph E. Schwartzberg: 
“REVITALISING THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM”
4 October 2005, Brussels

Joseph E. Schwartzberg, Professor Emeritus of the University of Minnesota and member of the steering committee of the World Federalist Movement, joined us for an evening debate at the UEF/JEF European Secretariat in order to share his ideas on how to revitalise the United Nations (UN).

He pleaded for the readjustment of the “one state = one vote” system and for the introduction of a “weighted voting system”, which would be more representative of the world’s distribution of power.

This new voting system would be based on a formula taking into account the two fundamental factors of UN membership: a country’s share of the total population of all UN member states and its financial contribution to the United Nations. It would also take into account each country’s ‘share’ of the organisation, i.e. one in 191 UN member states, to lessen the extremes in influence between the smallest and the largest states.

With each member state thus allotted its voting power, the General Assembly would vote on which states are to serve in every three-year session of the Security Council.

According to Prof. Schwartzberg’s system, this new Security Council would have between 16 and 18 members, all of whom should have a weighted influence of at least 4% in the General Assembly. Only four countries, the United States, China, Japan and India, would therefore have a permanent seat in the Security Council; that is, as long as their demographic and economic influence does not change radically, and make them drop below the four percent hurdle.

Other states seeking a seat in the Security Council would create a “caucus of like-minded nations” and share a seat in the Security Council. These caucuses would not be permanent; but would evolve with each session of the Security Council, thus every three years.

A passionate debate ensued between Prof. Schwartzberg and UEF and JEF members on the feasibility of implementing such a scheme in the face of “great powers” unwilling to give up their veto right in the Security Council.

For additional information on Prof. Schwartzberg please click here: www.geog.umn.edu/Faculty/Schwartzberg.html

For his publications, please click here: www.wfm.org and www.globalsolutions.org; or contact the UEF European Secretariat at: info@federaleurope.org
Evening Debate
at the UEF/ JEF European Secretariat
with UEF Rhône-Alpes and
La Maison de l’Europe de Lyon
12 October 2005, Brussels


S’en est suivi un débat sur comment relancer le processus constituant après les Non en France et aux Pays-Bas. Cette rencontre a démontré que le débat est encore vivant dans les milieux pro-européens qui ne peuvent se résigner à la mort du processus constitutionnel. Dans ce contexte le Secrétaire général de l’U.E.F. a appelé les participants à dépasser la réflexion par l’action.

40th Feldbacher Europagespräche:
“PERSPECTIVES FOR REFORMS IN AN ENLARGED EUROPEAN UNION”
14-15 Octobre 2005, Feldbach, Austria

This year for the 40th time, the “Feldbacher Europagespräche” were organised by UEF Austria (Europäische Föderalistische Bewegung Österreich) in cooperation with Bund Europäischer Jugend and with the financial support of UEF supranational.

The reform prospects of the enlarged European Union were at the centre of discussion. Participants came from Hungary, Slovenia, Poland, Italy and other new and old member states. Amongst the many speakers were UEF Treasurer Gerda DE MUNCK, the recommended new Secretary-General of the UEF European Secretariat Dr. Friedhelm FRISCHENCSHLAGER as well as former Austrian Foreign Minister Dr. Willibad PAHR.

From the left: Dr. Pahr, Dr. Frischenschlager, Gerda de Munck, Moderator Dr. Rudolf Grasmug, Alfred Stingl, Dr. Ortner, Max Wratschgo

Please find hereafter a detailed summary of the seminar in German:
Dieses Jahr zum 40. Mal organisierten die Europäische Föderalistische Bewegung und
Die EU streckt in einer Krise, aus der die EU bisher allerdings immer gestärkt hervorgegangen ist. In einer Rückbesinnung auf die ursprünglichen Ideale liegt auch jetzt die Chance für eine Erneuerung. Dieser Befund zog sich als roter Faden durch alle Beiträge der diesjährigen Feldbacher Europagespräche.

Laut dem ehemaligen österreichischen Außenminister Dr. Willibald PAHR stecke die EU in einer Identitäts-, Funktions- und Vertrauenskrise und würde immer häufiger von der nationalen Politik als Sündenbock missbraucht. Notwendig sei eine Rückbesinnung auf die Ideale eine europäischen Modells, das den Menschen in den Mittelpunkt stellt.


Gerda DE MUNCK, Mitglied des Präsidiums der UEF, forderte ein verstärktes Einbeziehen der Menschen in die Diskussion über die Zukunft Europas und kündigte eine Initiative der Föderalisten dazu an.

Hofrat Dr. Gerold ORTNER, Honorarkonsul der Republik Polen brachte die Sicht eines neuen und bedeuteten Mitglieds der EU ein. Polen habe in der Umbruchs situation des Ostens, vor allem bei der orangen Revolution in Ukraine die Werte Europas vertreten.


5. NEWS FROM UEF BUREAU

UEF Bureau meeting, 8 October, Brussels

The last meeting of the UEF Bureau took place on Saturday 8 October in Brussels.

The Bureau members had a very interesting and lively debate on how to relaunch the constitutional process and decided to write a letter to the President of the European Parliament asking him to take the lead in this endeavour. Furthermore, a respective appeal proposed by the Movimento Federalista Europeo (UEF Italy) was passed (see further below). This appeal demands the European Parliament to convene, as soon as possible, a European Congress (Assizes), made up by delegates of the European Parliament and the national Parliaments, in order to relaunch the constitutional process with the contribution of the active forces of European society.

Another important item on the agenda of the Bureau meeting was the selection of the new Secretary-General at the UEF European Secretariat. After having interviewed three preselected candidates, the Bureau decided to recommend Dr. Friedhelm FRISCHEN SCHLAGER to the UEF Federal Committee (please read further below for information on the recommended candidate).
Last but not least, several important upcoming events had to be prepared: the joint conference with the World Federalist Movement (see point 2 of this Newsletter) on 4 November, the meeting of the UEF Federal Committee on 5-6 November 2005 in Brussels as well as the European Citizens’ Convention of Genoa (see point 2 of this Newsletter) and the next UEF Congress, which is to be held in Vienna in June 2006.

Movimiento Federalista Europeo, Italy:
APPEAL TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND TO NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS TO RELAUNCH THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS
Adopted by the UEF Bureau on 8 October 2005

The Union of European Federalists

 alarmed
- by the drift towards euroscepticism and nationalism which is spreading all over Europe, and by the fact that some political groupings have shamefully given up striving for the creation of the European Federation, pursued by the founding fathers in the aftermath of WW II;

 believing
- that the draft European Constitution is the symbol of a political community in the making and a first step towards a European Federal Government, which is necessary for securing a sustainable development, the creation of new jobs, the ability of the EU to speak with one voice to the world, peace, cooperation with the poorest peoples for their development, and safeguarding the environment of the planet;

- that the negative result of the French and Dutch referendums on the European Constitution represents a protest of the citizens of those countries against their governments and the present EU, for its democratic deficit and its inefficiency, rather than the refusal of European Constitution and the project of a European Federation;

considering
- that a majority of the EU member states comprising a majority of European citizens have already ratified the Constitution and therefore, in the name of democracy, the ratification process must continue;
- that it is the duty of the European Parliament, the only body which legitimately represents European citizens, to listen to them, and to propose to the Governments how to overcome the present stalemate of the convention;

demand
- the European Parliament to convene, as soon as possible, a European Congress (Assizes), made up by delegates of the European Parliament and the national Parliaments, in order to relaunch the constitutional process with the contribution of the active forces of European society; the Congress (Assizes) shall
a) debate the citizens’ concerns and the major political questions that emerged in the course of the national ratification campaigns like the European social and economic model and Europe’s role in the world;
b) listen to the proposals of the organizations of European civil society on how to proceed with the European project;
c) present no later than at the end of 2007 a proposal on how the European Constitution should enter into force;

- the national Parliaments to support the initiative of the European Parliament to relaunch the constitutional process and possibly to host a session of the European Congress (Assizes)

Pre-selected candidate for the post of Secretary General at the UEF European Secretariat

On Saturday 8 October 2005, the UEF Bureau decided to recommend Dr. Friedhelm Frischenschlager for Secretary-General to the
UEF Federal Committee, which will meet on 5 and 6 November 2005 in Brussels.

Mr. Frischenschlager is of Austrian nationality and has been a member of “Europäische Föderalistische Bewegung Österreich” (UEF Austria) for more than a decade. Furthermore, he brings extensive political experience to the UEF. After the start of his political career in the early 1970’s as member of the Austrian parliament, he was Minister of Defence in the mid-1980’s and member of the European Parliament in the late 1990’s. More recently he has been active with the OSCE mission in Kosovo and is now member of the Board of Directors of RadioTelevisionKosovo.

Mr. Frischenschlager’s mission for the UEF is to promote the resuscitation of the constitutional process and the improvement of communication of the “European idea.”

Mr. Frischenschlager will be working at the European Secretariat of the UEF from Monday to Thursday of every second week and at his Vienna office for the rest of the time.

« Au revoir Monsieur Boissière »

The long-term UEF Secretary General Bruno Boissière confirmed that he would not be a candidate for a new term in the UEF General Secretariat. He will leave the UEF after more than a decade, eight years of which has spent as Secretary General. He nevertheless remains Secretary of the European Parliament Federalist Intergroup, and will therefore stay in close contact with the UEF Bureau.

UEF President Mercedes BRESSO and the UEF Bureau thanked Mr. Boissière for his contribution to the political and organisational renewal of the UEF General Secretariat.

6. NEWS FROM UEF SECRETARIAT

Welcome to our new Intern

Since 10 October, the UEF has been joined by a new intern, who will be working largely on the Citizens’ Convention in Genoa, and will stay with us until mid-December.

Atli Stannard, born and brought up in Rome of a British father and an Anglo-Afrikaans mother, has just completed a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the University of Oxford. He is bilingual in English and Italian, fluent in French and has a good knowledge of German.

UEF Materials

The UEF Secretariat still has UEF stickers and UEF banners that can be ordered. In order to find information about prices, images of the material and an order form, please click here: http://en.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Expression_of_interest_for_banners.doc

7. NEWS FROM CONSTITUENT ORGANISATIONS

Movimento Federalista Europeo, Italy:
“MR. BAROSSO SHOULD EITHER PROPOSE TO RELAUNCH THE CONSTITUENT PROCESS OR REMAIN SILENT”

Statement on President Barroso’s Hélècine Castle statement

24 September 2005

“After the meeting in the Hélècine Castle, President José Manuel Barroso of the European Commission declared: “Let us stop holding on to the illusion of a Constitution, let us put an end to transcendental discussions on the future of Europe, and let us get down to business using the existing treaties”.”
“This statement is unacceptable, because it was made by the President of a Commission that took part, with constructive proposals, in the works of the Convention that drew up the Constitution and which, after the European elections and a vote of confidence by the European Parliament, should express the will of European citizens.

“The European Commission must realise that the majority of Union citizens and States are already in favour of the European Constitution. In the name of European democracy, it is therefore its duty, together with the European Parliament and Council, to indicate how the Convention process can be finalised.

“It should also acknowledge that the discussion concerning the Constitution and the future of Europe is not at all “transcendental”. The debate during the national ratifications has proved that European citizens discussed Europe’s future passionately and understood how their destiny is more and more depend on European choices, above all on the Constitutional order of the Union.

“If President Barroso considers himself a bureaucrat at the head of a technical secretariat serving the European Council, he should remain silent. If he considers himself the President of a political organism, the expression of the will of a parliamentary majority, it is his duty to accept his responsibilities.”

8. FEDERALIST INTERGROUP IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Meeting in Strasbourg, 28 September

In total, 100 MEPs from 24 member states and 7 political groups of the European Parliament (EP) have now attended meetings of the Intergroup since its founding session in July 2004.

The last meeting of the Federalist Intergroup took place in Strasbourg on 28 September. This eleventh plenary session of the Intergroup numbered 20 MEPs.

The 2 co-rapporteurs of the EP on the Reflection Period, MEPs Andrew DUFF (ALDE, UK) and MEP Johannes VOGGENHUBER (Verts, A) presented their views on how to relaunch the constitutional process.

Some MEPs from the EPP-DE and PSE groups found the rapporteurs’ proposals too quick and too radical; however the MEPs present agreed that the EP should play a crucial role in the debate on the Constitution as not much (or nothing) can be expected from the British Presidency or even the European Commission. To successfully fulfil its role the EP should search without delay for support from national parliaments and Civil Society.

One option would be that the EP convenes a Conference of parliaments so that joint proposals on how to relaunch the constitutional process could be handed over to the Austrian Presidency. But the Intergroup showed awareness that efforts are still necessary within the EP to convince all
political groups and the EP as a whole to take the lead.

For the latest list of members, please click here: http://en.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/user_upload/First_Members_28_Sept_2005.doc

To see the attendance of MEPs at the meetings, please click here: http://en.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/user_upload/MEPs_Attendance.doc

For the minutes of the last Intergroup meeting on 28 September, please click here: http://en.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Compte_rendu_sept05.doc

Future Plans
(End of 2005-beginning of 2006)

The Steering Committee of the Intergroup agreed that the next plenary meetings should allow exchange of views between the Members of the Intergroup and:

- Commissioner Wallström on the Commission’s “Plan D” (on 26 October, upon availibility)
- The future Austrian presidency of the EU about its contribution to the relaunch of the constitutional process
- Pro-European MPs who nevertheless were in favour of the No in the referendum in France
- Federalist-like MPs from the most important member states (bilateral meetings)

9. NEWS ABOUT WORLD FEDERALISM

“How nations make a great leap forward”

The Guardian, 20 September 2005

Lots of other countries achieved independence at the same time as China and India are large enough to force the rest of the world to treat them as equals.

The UN is based on the fiction of national sovereignty in order to prevent the recognition of equality. The latest set of reforms cement this fiction, rather than bringing it to an end: no wonder they have been met with hollow approval around the world. The new notion of humanitarian intervention changes nothing. It gives rich and powerful states rights but not duties and is no basis for a new world order.

The League of Nations failed in the 1930s because it had become nothing more than a means of defending the position of the British and French empires after the Versailles settlement. It had lost its legitimacy as a global body. Without reforms that genuinely start to treat all states and all citizens as equals, the UN risks going the same way.

Richard Laming
Director, Federal Union
Member of the UEF Bureau

To read more letters on the same topic, please click on the following link: http://www.guardian.co.uk/letters/story/0,3604,1573741,00.html

10. PRESS RELEASES

Plan D: It’s a start, but does the Commission really understand democracy?

Brussels, 13 October 2005

The European Commission has launched today its ‘Plan D’ for more dialogue and democracy in the European Union. While the Young European Federalists (JEF-Europe) welcome the efforts of Margot Wallström and her team, the EU must do far more if it is to win citizens’ trust.
“The Plan D assumes that talking to citizens will get to the heart of the matter,” stated Jon Worth, President of JEF-Europe.

“What citizens want is a real way to have some control over what the EU’s institutions do, in the same way as they can kick out an unpopular government nationally.”

“On the political level the “plan D” seems to ignore this very real concern. It remains a question why would then citizens want to debate Europe, if the agenda does not include changes.”

The Young European Federalists have long campaigned for the President of the European Commission to be chosen by the European Parliament in light of the results of the EP elections.

“Blame is to be placed on national governments and parliaments for not having done enough,” continued Jon Worth. “While that's true, it is never going to be in a national government's interests to portray the EU in a positive light, so how is that really going to improve matters?”

“The emphasis on the EU seeming to deliver concrete benefits to citizens is very welcome, but good policy making and good institutions are two sides of the same coin.”

“At the end of the French and Dutch votes, the EU must not forget about the imperative of institutional reform - and that's best achieved in a European Constitution!”
They blame the French and Dutch referendum “tragedies” on a climate of uncertainty, caused, in their opinion by five particular fears. The first three are identity-based: 1. The fear of losing the real meaning of “Europe” as the EU goes on with its successive enlargements, 2. The apprehension many citizens feel about a “European Constitution” imposing itself on the norms and laws they already know, and 3. The cultural phobias unleashed by the opening of accession talks with Turkey. On top of these identity based fears, economic anxieties – related to 4. the end of import quotas on Chinese textile and 5. the infamous “Bolkestein” service directive – only made matters worse.

The authors conclude that in this context it is not surprising that European citizens voted not to move forward. They think it is perhaps a failure on the part of European politicians, who should have managed their agenda more effectively to avoid inundating European citizens with controversial information. They believe EU politicians and functionaries must learn – as any national government does – to spread out seemingly radical policy decisions if they wish European citizens not to block all such necessary reforms.

The authors conclude that the best way out of this crisis is probably for the Union to focus on one grand, overarching project which would clearly present what Europe does for its citizens and reassure them instead of scaring them – in their view, energy policy. If a higher level of trust is not reacquired, it is likely, as has already occurred in the EU’s past, that necessary reforms will have to wait even longer.

President Borrell sets out the priorities of the European Parliament

Strasbourg, 26 September 2005

Speaking at the arrival of Bulgarian and Romanian observers to the European Parliament (EP), its President Josep Borrell outlined the EP’s priorities in this challenging phase of European integration. Of particular interest to European civil society, and particularly to federalists, was his call for their full participation in the rejuvenation of the EU.

“In the wake of events, we need to stimulate, throughout Europe and among Europeans, a large-scale ‘European conversation’, on a decentralised basis and with the cooperation of the national parliaments and all civil society bodies. Let us take time out for this. Let us conduct it in a perhaps less heated fashion and on the basis of more and better information. [...] The] Europe which we have to build must be neither technocratic nor bureaucratic […] we need to draw attention to the value added which the EU can provide in the areas that are of most concern to our citizens.”

For the full summary of the main points in President Borrell’s speech, please click here: http://en.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Borrell_speech.pdf

12. CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

- **4 November**: UEF Bureau meeting
- **4 November**: Joint public conference of the UEF and WFM in Brussels on “How to promote regional federalism in the world? The experiences and contributions of the European Union and the African Union.”
- **4-6 November**: WFM Council and Executive Committee
- **5-6 November**: UEF Federal Committee
• 30 November: UEF public debate on European topicality
• 3-4 December: “European Citizens’ Convention”, Genoa
• 14-15 January 2006: UEF Bureau Meeting, Vienna
• 27-29 January 2006: UEF Slovenia Conference

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Please do not hesitate to contact us in case you might have any questions, comments or critiques concerning the UEF Newsletter! We would be happy to hear them in order to improve it!

Please also think about sending us news from your organisations, of which you think that they could be of interest to other federalists in Europe!

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