

Highlights of the UEF Federal Committee in Brussels | 13-14 June

 <p>Union of European Federalists Union Européischer Föderalisten Union des Fédéralistes Européens</p>	<h3>News from the Secretary General</h3>
	<p>Dear friends,</p> <p>as you know, the UEF Federal Committee met in Brussels on 13-14 June. In the next few days, the Secretariat will circulate a report with the minutes of the meeting and the approved resolutions. Meanwhile I would like to share with you the highlights and key points of our meeting.</p> <p>§ UEF President, Mr Elmar Brok, stressed the importance to select the next President of the European Commission amongst the candidates proposed by the European political parties during the electoral campaign and taking into account the results of the elections. This new procedure can reinforce the authority, political legitimacy and accountability of the European Commission and can create a new democratic dynamic linking the citizens, the European Parliament, and the European Commission, closer and closer to a parliamentary democracy. This is the press release that we are issuing today on this matter (“It is time for European democracy: Mr Juncker President, Mr Cameron get on with it”).</p>
<p>§ The activities for the European Parliament election carried out by the UEF and its national sections, in close cooperation with JEF, were presented to the Federal Committee and were greatly appreciated. Here you can find the report of the European activities. I think we can all be proud of what we have done, both at European level and at local level, with hundreds of activities across Europe and a good impact of the political and communication activities at European level (including 220 candidate MEPs singing the pledge for a federal Europe proposed by UEF and JEF).</p> <p>§ The Federal committee started to discuss the political priorities for UEF campaign after the European elections. We had a fruitful plenary debate on “After the European elections, what next on the campaign for a federal Europe?” introduced by UEF Vice President Isabelle Durant. The subject was then discussed again in the Political Commission on UEF Strategy. It was decided that in the next few weeks we will concentrate on the election of the European Commission President continuing the “respect my vote” action. In parallel we will reach out to new MEPs, in alignment with the Spinelli Group, to help organize the federalist minded MEPs in the new European Parliament (with a possible first meeting already in July). Helping the new Parliament and the new Commission to develop and implement a federalist agenda for the next 5 years will be a priority. Next, we will have to develop a two-pronged strategy: calling for further economic and political integration of the Eurozone and for reopening the debate on the reform of the EU and Eurozone institutions, with attention to the consequences of an increasingly Euro-sceptic United Kingdom and stronger populist forces across Europe. The UEF-JEF election campaign task force shall continue to operate and will make proposals in this respect during the coming months. If you are willing to participate, please let me know – your help will be welcome.</p>	

§ The Federal Committee thanked very warmly Christian Wenning for his service as Secretary General in the past 4 years and Olivier Hinnekens for his service as Treasurer for the past 7 years. Thanks to them (and the team in the Brussels office), today the European level of the organization is increasingly professional in the way it works and communicates, it is financially stable, and the organization is more recognized and appreciated in the EU circles.

§ The Federal Committee elected me as new Secretary General and Kolja Bienert as new Treasurer. In my presentation to the Federal Committee I have highlighted my organizational priorities: (1) consolidate our achievements in terms of professionalization of the Secretariat, stabilization of our finances and UEF profile in the EU institutions and circles, (2) help our national and local sections to grow in members and activities, in cooperation with JEF, (3) further enhance UEF lobby capabilities towards the EU institutions and national decision-makers, with a well-defined federalist profile, (4) keep federalism at the center of the debate on the future of Europe, reaching out also to forces and organizations outside our traditional circles.

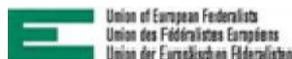
§ We had excellent discussions in the four Political Commissions, leading to 2 resolutions on the election of the President of the European Commission, [Resolution 'Don't Betray the Voters'](#) and [Resolution about Support to EP](#), and a [resolution on Foreign and Security Policy](#). The Political Commission on Economic and Monetary Union discussed an excellent paper by FC member Domenico Moro "[The Eurozone needs an additional fiscal capacity](#)" and has proposed to use it for lobby activities (which we will do after the summer). The Political Commission on Social Europe and Citizens' Rights started to map out the subjects of interests of its members and to make a plan for the next months. A joint meeting of the political commissions of UEF and JEF working on foreign and security policy, in the form of a small seminar, was proposed and we plan to organize it soon after the summer.

§ UEF Honorary President and former President Andrew Duff closed the meeting of the Federal Committee recalling again the importance of the Commission President selection and inviting us to use the Manifesto approved by the UEF Congress in Berlin as the basis for defining the political priorities of the next phase of the Campaign for a Federal Europe.

Dear friends, in the next few years, the need for further economic and political integration of the Eurozone, a possible Treaty changes and perhaps a Convention, a possible Brexit, not to say the widespread dissatisfaction with the European Union and ongoing economic crisis, call our organization - and each of us as activists - to action for a federal Europe, mindful that we may really be close to a make-it or break-it point.

I count on your support, and I look forward to working with you in the next months.

Paolo VACCA
Secretary General



Union of European Federalists [UEF] European Secretariat Square de Meeûs 25 B-1000
Bruxelles +32 (0)2 508 3030 paolo.vacca@federalists.eu www.federalists.eu