

CONCEPT NOTE: 75th ANNIVERSARY MONTREUX CELEBRATION EVENT

*event agenda provided as an external attachment

Organizing parties: The Union of European Federalists (UEF), and the World Federalist Movement/ Institute for Global Policy (WFM/IGP).

Time and Date: The event is set to take place on the **8th of November between 13:00 and 19:30 Central European Time**, and will be undertaken as a hybrid event.

Place: Attendees will have an opportunity to participate either online or in-person. The in-person meeting will take place at the **European Parliament, Brussels Belgium - Room ZWEIG 01**, while attendees may join in the discussions via **zoom** (the details of which will be provided at a later date).

Event Objective:

1. The event will provide an opportunity for those in attendance to reflect on the achievements of federalism and lessons learned since the Montreux Declaration and the creation of the WFM/IGP in 1947.
2. The event will also allow for discourse on the way forward for the Federalist movement, especially in light of impending challenges.
3. Finally, the event will provide an opportunity for WFM/IGP and UEF to explore how they can deepen their collaboration on work related to global governance and multilateralism.

Expected Outcomes

- Strengthened relationship between UEF and WFM/IGP
- New areas of collaboration identified and next steps regarding collaboration identified
- New audience sensitized on principles of Federalism, and enticed to join the movement
- Visibility for WFM/IGP and UEF, and the respective organizations' work.

Montreux Celebration Event Background

On 23rd August 1947, World Federalists met in Montreux at the first international congress of the "World Movement for World Federal Government" (now known as the World Federalist Movement/ Institute for Global Policy). These federalists called upon the peoples of the world to join them in supporting the idea of the establishment of a World Federal Government, which would be responsible for ensuring sustained peace in light of the United Nations being inhibited from doing so effectively, due to the self interest of States.

The declaration outlined the principles that would support such a World Federation including:

1. Universal membership: The world federal government must be open to all peoples and nations.
2. Limitation of national sovereignty, and the transfer to the world federal government of such legislative, executive and judicial powers as relate to the world affairs.
3. Enforcement of world law directly on the individual whoever or wherever he may be, within the jurisdiction of the world federal government: guarantee of the rights of man and suppression of all attempts against the security of the federation.
4. Creation of supranational armed forces capable of guaranteeing the security of the world federal government and of its member states. Disarmament of member nations to the level of their internal policing requirements.
5. Ownership and control by the world federal government of atomic development and of other scientific discoveries capable of mass destruction.
6. Power to raise adequate revenues directly and independently of state taxes. We propose to make use of any reasonable methods which can contribute to the early achievement of world federal government to prevent another world war. We consider that integration of activities at regional and functional levels is consistent with the true federal approach. The formation of regional federations – insofar as they do not become an end in themselves or run the risk of crystallising into blocs – can and should contribute to the effective functioning of federal government. In the same way, the solution of technical, scientific and cultural problems which concern all the peoples of the world, will be made easier by the establishment of specialist functional bodies.

75 years later, humanity still faces the threat of war in addition to new challenges such as climate change, and nuclear proliferation. Furthermore, the world is more globalized and interlinked than it has ever been, what occurs in one hemisphere of the world has vast implications for other regions, yet the UN still remains dominated by the self interest of powerful states, leaving a global governance gap for important and urgent issues. This is perhaps most evident in the current Russian- Ukraine war, whereby we have witnessed blatant violations of International Law, and Russia's repeated application of the veto power at the security council to avoid condemnation or orders to cease its invasion of Ukraine. As a by product, the war has disrupted global oil markets and food supply and has contributed towards inflation across the globe.

The commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Montreux Declaration provides an opportunity to pick up from where the Federalists from Montreux left off, and to continue the fight for much needed reform in the international system, in light of recent affairs (e.g. the Ukraine war) and current challenges (e.g. climate change).