

Pavia, August 24th 2016

To the UEF President
To the JEF President
To the UEF Secretariat
To the UEF EB Members
To the UEF FC members

Dear Presidents, Dear Friends,

I'm writing to you in view of our next meetings.

We are living hard European times. However, though shyly, both at the national level (at least among some governments) and at the European level (within the European Commission and the European Parliament), the awareness of the need of a European political relaunch is growing. It's a matter of fact that the federal transition is urgently needed for the governance of the single currency and of the European economy, the migration challenge and the security issues. The urgency to translate the flurry of proposals, for more and a better Europe (i. e. for more federalism), into political action and initiatives has become evident. But there is still a lack of political will and courage, when it comes to create, within a clear time frame, a federal union and a framework for its institutions, involving the citizens in a new political process. These are the reasons why the federalist action is so needed at all the levels! Because, as Friedrich Hölderlin wrote, if it is true that "where the danger is, also grows the saving power", it is also true that such a power, to become effective, must be enshrined in legitimized institutions.

In the following months we have two opportunities to act.

The first opportunity is a cultural-political one, and it comes from the relaunch of the Ventotene Manifesto's goals and principles evoked and celebrated by the newspapers and some political leaders during these days. Such a relaunch has been possible thanks, willy-nilly, to the initiatives and some symbolic acts done by few heads of State and government and leaders of national political institutions. The Merkel, Hollande, Renzi summit on August 22nd and the organization of the next meeting among five Presidents of national Assemblies on August 27th in the Ventotene island, meeting that will start together with the opening of the XXXV edition of the Ventotene seminar, have relegitimized the F-word in the European politics. And they have openly admitted that the goal of European unity (i.e., European federation since there is no other stable and effective form of association of states), must regain the precedence over all other political and social objectives if we want to deal with the multiple crisis we are facing (and to defeat the euroskeptics' and populists' propaganda). As you probably have seen via Facebook, on August 22nd, MFE Italy was present in the island with a group of federalist militants with banners and flags led by our President, Giorgio Anselmi and by JEF Italy secretary general, Giulio Saputo. On that occasion a letter has been given to Angela Merkel, François Hollande and Matteo Renzi via an advisor of the Italian government who, by the way, has recently become a MFE member (you can find the letter here: www.mfe.it/fileMfe/archivio/lettere/160822_lettera_ventotene.pdf). As regards August 27th, I want to inform you that the initiative promoted by the President of the Italian Chamber, Laura Boldrini, has been planned from the beginning in collaboration with the Italian federalists (you'll read more about the results of this initiative in the coming days). I don't say more words about the traditional Ventotene seminar sessions, which will start on the same day: you already know how important such a seminar is for the federalists and outside the federalist movement.

The second opportunity/challenge is an organizational one: it is represented by the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, next March 25th. That date has become a sort of political watershed for the relaunch of the European project, as it has been stressed by some MEPs and by some national ministers. For the federalists March 25th can be the occasion to mobilize all the pro-Europe political parties, trade unions, citizens and their associations for a great public action in Rome. As MFE we want to make of this date a great political event, showing that public support to the project for a federal union is still strong and willing to be heard. We have already started mobilizing our militants and sections (see the letter www.mfe.it/fileMfe/archivio/lettere/160722_lettera_militanti_en.pdf). But it is quite obvious that such a mobilization, to be really successful, should be a European one. This is the reason why we need a JEF and UEF help and commitment in order to have such an effective pro-Europe European mobilization.

So, looking forward to speaking with those among you who will be present in Ventotene next week or in Brussels next September 10th about all these issues,

Yours sincerely

Franco Spoltore