

ACTIVITY REPORT

2004-2006

YEAR 2004

In 2004, the priority of the UEF was informing and educating the citizens about the challenges the EU is facing: the accession of ten new countries, the election of the European Parliament, the appointment of the new European Commission, the Constitutional process and the achievement of the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe.

In light of the Constitutional process in 2004, UEF carried out a transnational campaign for the European Constitution, giving the priority to informing citizens about the final steps of the approval of the draft Treaty and to explain the achievements of the latter.

YEAR 2005

The 2005 UEF priorities were all related to the promotion of the Constitutional Treaty, through the organisation of a Transnational Campaign for a European Constitution, an information campaign about the draft Constitution, a debate with European citizens and politicians, and a ratification campaign for the Constitutional Treaty.

2005 being the year of the EU's further integration and enlargement, the UEF has especially focused on involving and acquiring new member organisations and has succeeded in building up new organisations of the UEF in Sweden, Cyprus and Slovenia. The aim was to build a bridge between old and new member states.

Of course, the activities took a radical new orientation after the French and Dutch Referenda. We therefore decided to organise a series of European Citizens Conventions, in order to take the constitutional process back to the citizens of Europe and discuss the notion of federalism and the new expectations from Europe. The first Convention took place in Genoa on 3-4 December 2005: a European Manifesto was drafted and adopted, calling on member states to continue the ratification of the European Constitution.

YEAR 2006

In 2006 the priorities of the UEF-Supranational had to be adapted to the totally changed political situation in the EU after the NO-referenda: new activities run parallel to the "usual" activities of the UEF.

Beginning with the new Commission late 2004, the EU-institutions stressed the importance of the Civil Society's support for the EU and the lack of a political communication within the EU. Therefore, the "Plan D, for Dialogue, Debate and Democracy" was launched in October 2005, and in February 2006 the "White Paper on a European Communication Policy" was adopted. Moreover the EP started with the organisation of inter-parliamentary and citizens' fora.

Therefore the UEF Secretariat lay one additional focus on the accomplishment of these very promising and well-intentioned programs; unfortunately, finally only little resources were provided and it all turned out to be more bureaucratic than expected. However, these programs can not only be seen as the first step towards the improvement of the public support for the EU project, but they also provide the UEF a strong opportunity to be involved in these citizens motivating/informing activities, serving as a basis for our political aim directed to the creation of a supranational, finally federal Political European Union.

Another important priority for 2006 is the improvement of our organisation and network. For instance, the MEP-breakfast serves as an informal meeting point with the MEPs with a special experience and interest in UEF (Jo Leinen etc.). It is an opportunity to exchange political issues, get advice, ideas and information. Of primary importance is also the newly created informal group of young friends of the UEF, called "Think-Tank," which involves former JEF-activists, who support the UEF Secretariat with the preparation of comments, the planning of events, the exchange of ideas, and the managing of the contacts with younger people, thus supplementing "Group Europe".

Moreover, the deepening of cooperation with JEF and with the EMI has provided synergies: this was especially realised through cooperation within the framework of the Plan D call for proposals to which the three organisations applied together.

Detailed description of the activities organised by the UEF in 2004 and 2005:

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES:

- ***UEF/JEF European Training Seminar “Reanimating the EU: Towards the Constitution and the EP-Elections”*** (6-8 February 2004, Berlin). The subject of the three-day training seminar was the failure of the IGC to adopt a new Constitution and the upcoming elections for the European Parliament.
- ***UEF European Colloquium “European Identity, Culture(s) and Federalism”*** (19 March 2004, Genoa). Organised by both UEF and the Movimento Federalista Europeo, the Colloquium focused on the Christian roots of European democracy and also the laic values of Europe.
- ***UEF International Conference “European Elections: Let Us Choose the European Government!”*** (20-23 May 2004, Prague). The International Conference ended with the adoption of the “Prague Declaration”.
- ***European Seminar “Europe on the Move. Elections, Enlargement and the Constitution”*** (24-27 June 2004, Bad Marienberg). The seminar took place at a time of important changes for the EU; the participants mainly discussed the outcome of the European elections and challenges for the EU, in particular the enlargement and the adoption of the draft Constitution.
- ***International Seminar on Federalism & International Democracy*** (4-9 September 2004, Ventotene). Young people from all over Europe gathered to debate the present and future challenges for federalism and democracy in Europe.
- ***Ratification Campaign Meeting with NGOs*** (9 October 2004, Brussels). Members of the UEF, JEF, the EMI and other European NGOs gathered to discuss a pro-European ratification campaign.
- ***Conference “Is European Federalism Dead? – The Eurogeneration and Europe’s decision-makers face to face”*** (10 November 2004, Brussels). The aim of the conference was to put European federalism to the test in order to see what it could bring to a Europe currently lacking a political project. The three round table discussions focused on the following issues: “Is there a way back for politics?”; “Federalism: Remedy for Economic Decline?”; “What next? Who has a vision for tomorrow?”.
- ***Workshops of UEF Commissions*** (20 November 2004, Brussels). The UEF organised three workshops: “Towards the European federation: the evaluation of the Constitution and the ratification campaign”; “Europe and its citizens – The internal policies of the Union”; “Europe in the world – The external policies of the Union”.
- ***UEF/JEF/Altiero Spinelli Institute International Seminar “Between Aim and Reality: Ratifying the European Constitution”*** (25-27 February 2005, Berlin). The participants discussed the ratification process of the new European Constitution.
- ***“XIIIth Marienberg Gespräche zur Einheit Europas”*** (24-26 June 2005, Bad Marienberg). The UEF debate centered on “The European Constitution and the Europe of the Citizens”.
- ***UEF, JEF and Altiero Spinelli Institute for Federalist Studies: International seminar on Federalism & International Democracy*** (28 August – 2 September 2005, Ventotene).
- ***Joint UEF-WFM International Conference: “European and African Union”*** (4 November 2005, Brussels). The debate centered on the idea of a “United States of Africa” and on the European and African contribution to a more peaceful and united world.
- ***First European Citizens’ Convention*** (3-4 December 2005, Genoa).

PUBLIC DEBATES ON EUROPEAN TOPICS:

- ***“Convention: a human endeavour, a documentary, a debate”, screening of documentary, debate and reception*** (25 May 2004, Brussels).
- ***“The European Constitution: What Strategy for its Ratification?”*** (29 September 2004, Brussels).
- ***“The EU and the Reform of the UN”*** (1 December 2004, Brussels).
- ***Reception Debate with British Liberal Democrats*** (22 June 2005, Brussels).
- ***UEF/JEF/European Movement Conference “How to get Europe back on Track”*** (13 September 2005, Brussels).
- ***UEF/JEF debate “Revitalising the United Nations’ System”*** (4 October 2005).
- ***Reception Debate with Maison de l’Europe Lyon and Europe Insertion*** (12 October 2005, Brussels).
- ***Reception Debate with British Liberal Democrats*** (30 November 2005, Brussels).

PUBLIC EVENTS AND ACTIONS:

- *Open Door Day in the European Parliament* (1 May 2004, Brussels). The UEF Secretariat participated in the event by organizing an info stand in the Parc Leopold, right behind the European Parliament. It was a day of dialogue with citizens and exchanging ideas and points of view.
- *Federalists' action in front of the European Parliament and launch of the new Federalist Intergroup* (19-21 July 2004, Strasbourg).
- *UEF/Federal Union workshops and stand at the European Social Forum* (15-17 October 2004, London).
- *European Parliament Open Door Day* (30 April 2005, Brussels). The UEF held two presentation stands near those of its partners from JEF Europe, UEF Belgium, European Movement and Yes Campaign.
- *European Human Chain for the OUI in France* (13-14 May 2005, Paris and Strasbourg). In order to demonstrate the wide support for the OUI around Europe, we initiated a common day of activities together with the YES Campaign partner (events at airports and train stations were organised in order to distribute flyers and engage debates with people travelling from/to France).
- *European Scrabble for OUI-JA-JO in Luxembourg* (7 July 2005, Luxembourg). The public event involved elected representatives and federalist activists.

SEMINARS SUPPORTED BY THE UEF:

- *Europa-Forum Neumarkt "Reformaussichten für die erweiterte EU" Europäische Föderalistische Bewegung Österreich* (16-18 July 2004, Neumarkt in Steiermark).
- *«L'Europe proche de ses citoyens: un rêve, une réalité, une illusion ? » – « Ein bürgernahes Europa : Traum, Realität, Illusion ? »* (3-5 December 2004, Strasbourg).
- *JEF Niedersachsen «The relations between the EU and Russia »* (17-19 December 2004, Otterndorf).
- *Seminar/Workshop "Auf dem Weg zur europäischen Verfassung"* (28-30 January 2005, Budapest).
- *JEF Spain Seminar on "Why Europe needs a Constitution?"* (28 January 2005, Madrid).
- *UEF Czech Republic, Conference on the Lisbon Agenda* (11-13 March 2005, Prague).
- *UEF/JEF European Seminar "The new face of the EU: what new challenges after the enlargement and the Constitution?"* (19-24 April 2005, Bardonecchia, Italy).
- *UEF Bulgaria conference on "The impact of the enlargement of the EU"* (3-5 June 2005, Sofia).
- *Europa-Forum Neumarkt "Reform Perspectives of the Enlarged European Union"* (16-18 July 2005, Neumarkt).
- *Feldbacher Europa Gespräche "Perspectives for Reform in an Enlarged European Union"* (14-15 October 2005, Felbach).

COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION, PUBLICATIONS:

- *Documentary on the Convention* (2004). In order to introduce debates about the European Constitution and its ratification, the UEF supranational Secretariat provided the regional and national constituent organisations with a one-hour VHS videotape, available in English and French.
- *UEF Website*. Our website www.federaleurope.org has been growing constantly and it is our main source of contact with our members and European citizens. It includes information about the UEF and its history, news about its activities, links to other organisations and a press section, with the Newsletters and Press Releases. It is also the place where all documents emanating from our meetings are posted. It is available in three languages: English, French and German.
- *UEF Newsletter*. The monthly UEF Newsletter is accessible for free on our website and remains the main source of information about UEF activities. It is the link between the Secretariat and the individual members in each EU member state and the candidate states.
- *UEF Press releases*. The UEF has published 7 Press releases in 2005 to ensure that European citizens are aware of the activities being organised by pro-federalist forces in Europe today. Press releases are sent to European and national press agencies and newspapers, and then posted on our website, where everybody can consult them at anytime.

- ***The Federalist Debate***. These “Papers for federalists in Europe and the World” are published 3 times a year and are promoted by the UEF, JEF and WFM.
- ***Group of visitors to the EP*** (2 December 2004, Brussels). The UEF organised a visit to the European Parliament for a group of about 25 young Italians from the region of Rome.
- ***Media interventions/contributions by UEF Leadership*** (Interview with the then UEF Secretary-General Bruno Boissiere at “Télé Bruxelles” and interview with the then UEF President Jo Leinen at “France-Europe Express”).

Detailed description of the activities organised by the UEF in 2006:

(Classified differently)

GRANT APPLICATIONS:

- ***Application to the usual operational grant 2006***, provided by the European Commissions Directorate-General for Education and Culture. This has been the first application since the UEF has lost its earmarking and fortunately, the amount requested has finally been approved in the first week of June.
- ***Call for proposals of the EP***: the intention was to give support to EU-related public debates, conferences, seminars with the Civil Society. Unfortunately, the UEF application was not approved.
- ***Plan D***: together with the European Movement International, JEF and other pro-European Civil Society organisations, the UEF replied to Commissioner Wallström’s call for proposals in the framework of Plan D. Several UEF sections answered to our call for cooperation. We hope to be informed on the Commission’s decision soon, so that we can start extensive and harmonised programmes in as many UEF sections as possible.

POLITICAL EVENTS ATTENDED:

- ***Public Hearing of European Civil Society Organisations***, organized by the European Parliament’s Committee for Constitutional Affairs (Brussels, 24 April 2006). Several organisations of the Civil Society were invited to present their views on the questions concerning the goal of European integration and the role Europe should have in the world.
- ***Interparliamentary meeting on “The Future of Europe”*** (Brussels, 8-9 May 2006). The First Interparliamentary Forum was organised in the European Parliament as a result of the Duff-Voggenhuber resolution adopted on the 19 January 2006. During the Forum, members of the national parliaments of the EU, including candidate countries and members of the European Parliament debated the general outlook of the EU. At this occasion, the UEF handed over an appeal urging the European Parliament to re-launch the constitutional process.
- ***“Sound of Europe”*** (Salzburg, 26-27 January 2006). Friedhelm Frischenschlager, Secretary-General of the UEF, attended “Sound of Europe” on 26-27 January in Salzburg as representative of the UEF.
- ***European Commission presents the “White Paper for a European Communication Policy”*** (Brussels, 1 February 2006). EU Commissioner for Communication Margot Wallström presented the White Paper during a debate which gathered around 500 participants, which consisted of representatives of the regions, NGOs, associations, think-tanks, European Institutions and the media. The heart of the event was the presentation of the White Paper, which was adopted on the same day by the European Commission.
- ***European Citizens’ Initiative*** (Brussels, 20 February 2006).

ATTENDINGS OF CONSTITUENT/CONNECTED ORGANISATIONS:

- ***EMI seminar and Secretaries General meeting*** (Brussels, 10-12 November 2005).
- ***Europa-Union Deutschland, Bundeskongress*** (Potsdam, 26-27 November 2005).
- ***Federal Council of the European Movement International*** (London, 9-10 December 2005).
- ***Meeting with UEF Belgique*** (Brussels, 25 April 2006).

- *Laudation in the honour of Fernand Herman and presentation of the publication “Europa Patria Mea”* (Brussels, 25 April 2006). Presentation of a publication and homage of Fernand HERMAN at the European Parliament.
- *Reception of a visitors group from the local section „Limburg“ of the Europa-Union Besuchergruppe*, European Secretariat (Brussels, 2 May 2006).
- *Participation of the congress of Europa Union Hessen* (Wiesbaden, 11 June 2006). The UEF Secretary-General Friedhelm FRISCHENSCHLAGER gave a speech in which he outlined the plans and activities of the UEF within the present political situation of EU.

PLAN D EVENTS IMPLEMENTED:

- *Federal Union seminar within the framework of Plan D: “The European Constitution: what went wrong and how to put it right?”* (11 March 2006, London)
- *Evening debate with UEF Belgique* at the UEF European Secretariat (Brussels, 31 January 2006).
- *European Commission presents White Paper on a European Communication Policy* (Brussels, 1 February 2006).
- *UEF Austria, Panel discussion (13 March 2006, Vienna): EU in its Reflection Period - In the light of excessive markets: More or less Europe?* Representatives of “Attac Austria,” the industry, journalists and UEF discussed about globalisation and EU policies.
- *European Citizens’ Forum “Shaping more Europe together: for more Democracy, Dialogue and Discussion”* (Cologne, 20 May 2006).
- *Conference “The citizens’ right to know about the debate on Plan D”* (Brussels, 7 June 2006). First review of Plan D organised by ECAS and attended by the UEF European Secretariat.

EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE UEF EUROPEAN SECRETARIAT AND UEF CONSTITUENT ORGANISATIONS:

- *UEF International Workshop on International Crisis Management* (Vienna, 12-13 January 2006). UEF supranational and the Austrian Study-Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution organised an International Workshop on "The role of the EU in Civilian Crisis Management", gathering over 120 participants from all member states, EU institutions and NGOs in whose work field Crisis Management is very important.
- *Open doors day UEF* (Brussels, 6 May 2006).
- *UEF hands over the appeal to the European Parliament’s President, Mr. Josep Borrell* (Brussels, 8 May 2006). On 8 and 9 May the first inter-parliamentary forum took place in Brussels to discuss the future of Europe and the Period of Reflection. Just before the plenary, the UEF handed over an appeal to the President of the European Parliament urging the European Parliament, the European Council and national parliaments to re-launch the European constitutional process.
- *UEF Secretary-Generals meeting in Cologne* (Cologne, 20 May 2006). First meeting of the UEF Secretary-Generals in order to get to know each, to exchange experiences and decide on a common strategy for the future. The event was attended by **Cyprus** (Pavlos Liassides), **Czech Republic** (Ivo KAPLAN), **Bulgaria** (Velko IVANOV), **Italy** (Giorgio ANSEMI, Matteo RONCARA), **Portugal** (David PINA), **Switzerland** (Ronald ABEGGLEN), **Austria** (Günter LINDNER), **France** (Jacques CHAUVIN), **Belgium** (Michele CIAVARINI AZZI, Mario GRECO and Peter STREMPPEL) and **Germany** (Bernd HÜTTEMANN). Furthermore, Henrik KRÖNER from the European Movement (EMI) as well as Sarah SCHOLLBERG from **JEF Europe** were present.
- *European Citizens’ Forum “Shaping more Europe together: for more Democracy, Dialogue and Discussion”* (Cologne, 20 May 2006). The forum aimed at involving the citizens in the discussion about European processes. The speakers discussed the current problems and challenges of the Union.
- *Marienberg Talks on European Unity: “Quo Vadis Europa?”* (Bad Marienberg, 9-11 June 2006). The seminar focused on the following main issues: Europe of citizens, the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, the Enlargement of the European Union, and Euro-scepticism especially regarding young adults.

LOBBYING:

- *UEF meets Commissioner Jan Figel* (10 May 2006, Brussels). Jan Figel, Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism, welcomed a delegation from the UEF and took the time to listen to UEF's concerns about the operational grant for NGOs.
- *Meeting with Wallström* (Strasbourg, 18 January 2006). Together with EMI and JEF, UEF attended a meeting with Commissar Wallström on the 18 January 2006 in Strasbourg, to express the interest of the organisations in cooperating with the European Commission in the implementation of Plan D.

FRIENDS OF THE UEF:

- *UEF MEP Group*. In order to increase the liaison of the European Parliament (EP), a "UEF MEP group" was created and has met twice already. Jo LEINEN, Thomas MANN, Alojz PETERLE, Libor ROUCEK, Rainer WIELAND, Richard CORBETT, Monica FRASSONI, Cecilia MALMSTRÖM are invited to attend these 1 hour long breakfasts which are held at the occasion of the EP's mini-sessions held in Brussels. The MEP group is used for debate, contacts, but also to channel UEF interests into the EP.
- *"Think-Tank"*. A group of young experts composed by current or former members of JEF and the UEF was created. It comes together about once a month to discuss European policies and the challenges of our organisations and it will support the elaboration of the UEF's statement to Plan D and the White Paper on a Communication Policy.

FUTURE EVENTS:

- *60th anniversary of Hertenstein and Churchill* (Zurich, 22-24 September 2006); 2 day seminar will be organised together with UEF Switzerland and Europa Union Deutschland.
- *23rd International Seminar on "Federalism, from Europe to the world"* (Ventotene, 3-8 September 2006).
- *Federal Committee* (date and place to be decided).