

The Union of European Federalists

UEF European Secretariat

Square de Meeûs 25,

1000 Brussels

secretariat@federalists.eu

+32 (0)491 52 40 97

Charles Michel

President of the European Council

Rue de la Loi 175

B-1048 Bruxelles, Belgique

Brussels, 19 February 2024

Dear Mr. President, *cher* Charles,

We hope this message finds you well,

We would like to return to the letter sent to you on 29 November regarding the urgency for the European Council to discuss the European Parliament's proposal to amend the Treaties approved on 22 November 2023 together with the request to open a Convention under Art. 48 (2) TEU. The EP request in the meantime has been forwarded by the Council of the European Union to you according to the decision taken in the meeting on 18 December 2023.

The reasons for the urgency for the European Council to start discussing the request made by the EP – at this point already at its next meeting scheduled for 21-22 March are now even more pressing; indeed, the challenges to European security, autonomy, and democracy itself are becoming more and more evident.

It is more necessary than ever to update our policies and initiate a reform of our institutional framework. Enlargement should go hand in hand with deepening in order to manage a Union of – potentially – 36 Member States.

In this framework, the EU badly needs to overcome unanimity in the Council, especially in foreign policy, social policy, and taxation; and to extend the ordinary legislative procedure to all the policy areas and to strengthen the Parliament's prerogatives. Improving decision-making mechanisms is also a precondition for strengthening our policies in strategic areas - the environment, security,

technological development, industry, health and welfare, to name but a few - as citizens demand of us. Moreover, we cannot ignore the fact that these demands were made clear in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe and correspond to a deep public sentiment. Disappointing them means strengthening the political forces that want to destroy Europe.

Therefore, on behalf of the Union of European Federalists, of the Spinelli Group, of the European Movement International and the Young European Federalists, we take the liberty of strongly urge you to include in the Agenda of the European Council meeting of 21-22 March 2024 the discussion on the EP request for the amendment of the Treaties in order to open a debate among national Governments and reach in the next months a political agreement for the calling of the Convention.

We also include in this message a Memorandum we are circulating among all stakeholders to explain why, under the current circumstances, the only possibility to realize the necessary changes in the EU requires the opening of a Convention. On the contrary, alternative reform procedures that only allow to touch on marginal points of our system or that take place through non-public diplomatic negotiations cannot be the answer.

European citizens trust in us, and our unity needs strengthening urgently. We do believe that we all share this aspiration and commitment. Our organisations, and the many citizens that we represent, count on you to answer the call of History.

Yours faithfully,

Domènec Ruiz Devesa
President of the Union of European Federalists (UEF)
Member of the European Parliament

Sandro Gozi
Chair of the Spinelli Group
Member of the European Parliament

Guy Verhofstadt
Executive Rapporteur on proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties
President of European Movement International (EMI)
Member of the European Parliament

Christelle Savall
President of Young of European Federalists (JEF Europe)