

The Union of European Federalists

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Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission

Rue de la Loi 200

B-1049 Bruxelles, Belgique

Brussels, 19 February 2024

Dear Mrs. President, *Liebe Ursula*,

We hope this message finds you well,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Union of European Federalists (UEF), the Spinelli Group, the European Movement International (EMI) and the Young European Federalists (JEF Europe), in view of your upcoming Communication on Treaty revision.

In front of the challenges to security, strategic autonomy and democracy Europe is facing, and in view of the relaunch of enlargement, it is more necessary than ever to update our policies and initiate a reform of our institutional framework. Indeed, enlargement should go hand in hand with deepening in order to manage a Union of – potentially – 36 Member States; but the EU also 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 policy areas.

Improving decision-making mechanisms is also a precondition for strengthening European policies in strategic areas - the environment, security, technological development, industry, health and welfare, to name but a few - as citizens demand. Actually, 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.

That is why we take the liberty of sending you a Memorandum, which we are also sharing with other stakeholders, to explain that the simplified Treaty revision procedure, or the use of the possibilities offered by the Accession Treaty (according to Art. 49 TEU) to this effect, cannot guarantee the change that the EU needs today.

We assume that both procedures excluding the Convention are rightly being studied by the institutions and experts, but we stress at the same time that neither the legal arguments in our Memorandum nor the political expectations of citizens must be underestimated. A discussion on the opening of a Convention in order to effectively reform the Treaties must not be excluded or be lifted in your Communication.

European citizens trust in Europe and its institutions, 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)