



Union of European Federalists  
Union Europäischer Föderalisten  
Union des Fédéralistes Européens

FEBRUARY 2024

# ABOUT US

FROM 1946 TO NOWADAYS  
PROMOTING A FEDERAL, SOVEREIGN  
AND DEMOCRATIC EUROPE

The Union of European Federalists is a supranational, non-governmental political organization of activists who are committed to the struggle for a European Federation, intended as the fundamental first step along the road towards a world federation.

It was founded in 1946, shortly after World War II, in the belief that only by uniting into a European Federation could the states of Europe overcome the divisions of the past and ensure a future of peace and economic prosperity.



# ABOUT US

Throughout the past 75 years we have been a leading voice in the promotion of European unity and an early campaigner for key milestones in the development of the European Communities and then the European Union.

The Union of European Federalists “works for the creation of a European Federation, endowed with supranational institutions with limited but real sovereign powers, consisting of: a Federal Government, a Parliament elected by direct universal suffrage, a Federal Senate representing Member States and possibly the Regions, a Court of Justice” (art. 2 of the Statutes of UEF).



# STRUCTURE

OUR MEMBERS | 27 SECTIONS | +400 LOCAL SECTIONS

1. Europäische Föderalistische Bewegung Österreich | Austria
2. UEF Belgique | Belgium
3. Съюзът на европейските федералисти | Bulgaria
4. Unie evropských federalistů v ČR | Czech Republic
5. Κίνημα Ευρωπαίων Φεντεραλιστών Κύπρου | Cyprus
6. Eurooppafederalistit ry | Finland
7. Union des Fédéralistes européens | France
8. Europa-Union Deutschland | Germany
9. Ελληνική Ένωση για την Ομοσπονδία της Ευρώπης -ΕΕνΟΕ | Greece
10. Európai Föderalisták UniójaMagyarország | Hungary
11. Movimento Federalista Europeo | Italy
12. Europos Federalistų Sąjunga Lietuvoje | Lithuania
13. UEF Luxemburg | Luxembourg
14. UEF Kosova | Kosova
15. Unije evropskih federalista Crna Gora | Montenegro
16. Union of European Federalists in North Macedonia | Macedonia
17. Unia Europejskich Federalistow | Poland
18. União dos Federalistas Europeus de Portugal | Portugal
19. Uniunea Europeană Banat din România | Romania
20. Unija Evropskih Federalista Srbija | Serbia
21. Únia Európskych Federalistov | Slovakia
22. Društvo Združena Evropa Slovenije | Slovenia
23. Unión de Europeístas y Federlistas de España | Spain
24. Europafederalisterna | Sweden
25. Neue Europäische Bewegung Schweiz | Switzerland
26. Federal Union | United Kingdom
27. UEF Group Europe | EU Institutions



ABOUT THE MEMBERS OF UEF,  
MORE INFO HERE:  
[federalists.eu/members](https://federalists.eu/members)

# STRUCTURE

## OUR BODIES

### EUROPEAN CONGRESS

It meets every two years. The composition is proportional to the number of members and there are adjustments to ensure the representation of smaller sections.

### FEDERAL COMMITTEE

The members are elected to serve until the next UEF Congress. The FC determines the UEF political direction and activities between the Congresses. It organises the Congress, approves the annual budget and final account balances, draws up the rules of procedure of UEF, and elects the Executive Bureau and Treasurer.

### EXECUTIVE BUREAU

Elected by the Federal Committee for a period of two years, the Bureau carries out the decisions of and is accountable to the Federal Committee.

### ARBITRATION BOARD

It consists of seven members elected by the Congress. It ensures the application of the Statutes and serves as an arbiter in case of disputes within the organisation.

### PRESIDENT

The UEF President is elected by the UEF Congress by absolute majority vote. They are also the President of the Federal Committee and of the UEF Bureau.

### SECRETARY GENERAL

The Secretary-General is responsible for running the UEF Secretariat and carrying out the decisions delegated to them by the organs of UEF.

### TREASURER

Elected by the Federal Committee on the nomination of the Bureau, they are responsible for the management of the funds.



# ACTIVITIES

*We raise citizens'*

awareness of European issues and the need for European political unity through organised campaigns, public debates, conferences in schools and universities, seminars, street actions, and information stands.

*We promote the  
European Federal Project*

among political parties, politicians, and civil society organisations at local, national, and European levels through lobbying activities, public debates, and initiatives in European, national and local parliaments.



# ACTIVITIES

*We call on national governments*

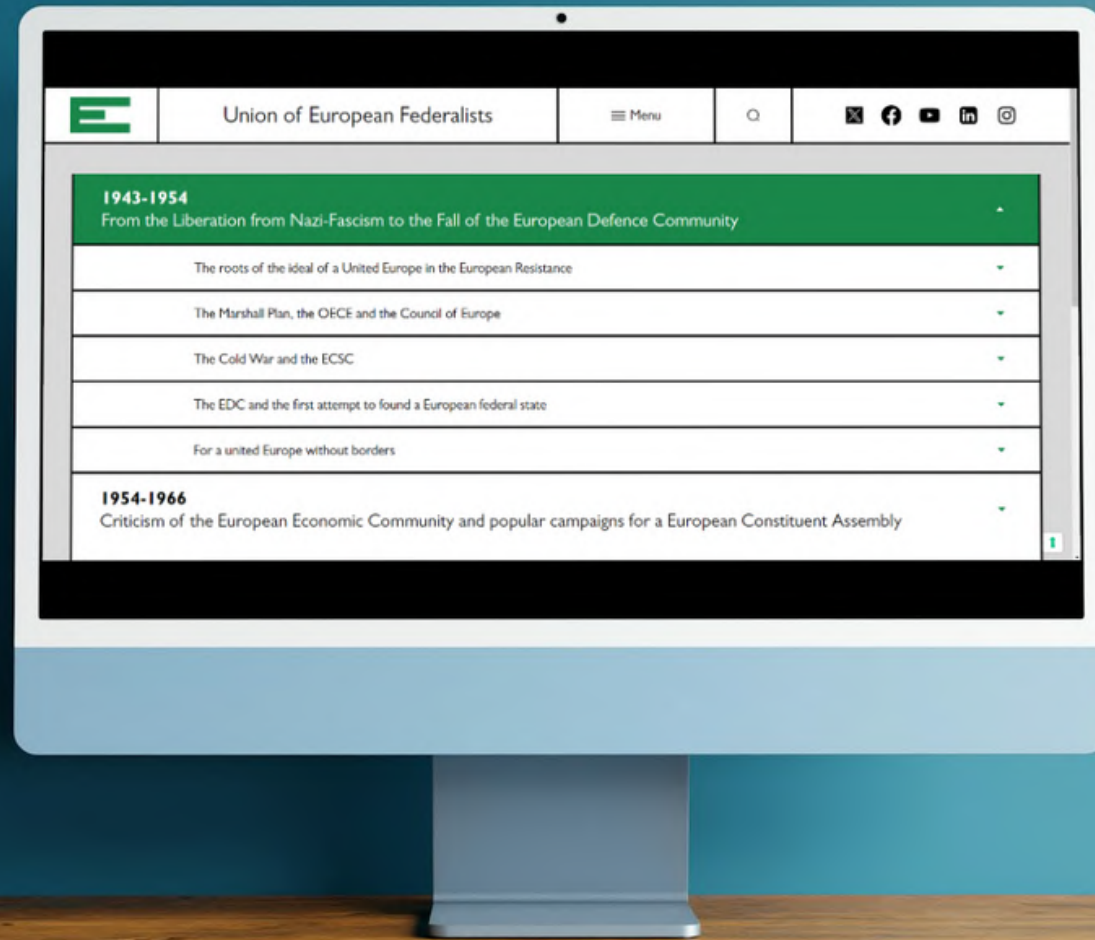
to act for a united and federal Europe with petitions, appeals, and advocacy activities directed toward decision-makers and opinion leaders.

We contribute to the European debate with our publications, policy briefs, websites, newsletters, podcasts and press releases.



# OUR CAMPAIGNS

HISTORY AND ACHIEVEMENTS | FROM 1946 UNTIL TODAY



Go to our website and discover the history of the UEF, its campaigns and achievements

For each period:

- The context
- The UEF's political analysis
- The UEF's actions

ABOUT THE HISTORY OF UEF

<https://bit.ly/3OUG80p>

[federalists.eu/history-and-achievements/](https://federalists.eu/history-and-achievements/)



# OUR CAMPAIGN|2021-2022

## LAUNCH OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE (COFOE)

### CAMPAIGN FOR A FEDERAL, SOVEREIGN AND DEMOCRATIC EUROPE

CoFoE was a unique opportunity for European citizens to meet with European and national institutions and parliamentarians to discuss the challenges and priorities of tomorrow's Europe.

The Conference was the first experiment in democratic proposal and debate open to all citizens. It consisted of the following elements:

- Multilingual digital platform to collect concrete proposals from citizens and their organisations, to comment on them and to disseminate them;
- Decentralised events organised by citizens, organisations and national authorities;
- European Citizens' Panels, randomly chosen and who helped draft the proposals;
- Plenary session of the Conference, which collected the proposals and drafted the Final Report.

CoFoE lasted one year, from March 2021 to May 2022.

The objective of CoFoE was the elaboration of a document with proposals to change the current European Union.

In the silence of the press and media, 500,000 people actively participated (the CoFoE platform was viewed about 5 million times in one year).

#### For a true European democracy: There can be no true European democracy without an autonomous EU fiscal power

Union of European Federalists - UEF Secretariat

04/06/2021 16:52

04/06/2021 16:53 21 comments

Historically, the creation of fiscal power has coincided with the founding act of a political community, and has required strong democratic control over who wields it; hence democratic societies have always required fiscal power to be exercised by parliament. Today, the attribution of fiscal power to the European Parliament (together with the Council of the European Union, under the ordinary legislative procedure) is an indispensable condition for building an effective and fully democratic European Union.

At present, the EU budget depends on the will of the individual member states. On the revenue side, Article 311 TFEU stipulates that the system of own resources shall be decided by the Council unanimously and that the decision shall then be approved by the individual Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. In this procedure, the representative body of the citizens - the European Parliament - is only consulted and each government retains the right of veto on the issue of resources transferred and then used by the EU budget.

This financing mechanism must be reformed so that the European Union has the autonomous capacity to levy European taxes directly on businesses and citizens without going through prior harmonisation of national taxes and therefore without the intervention of

489 Endorse

1041 Follow

Reference: cofe-PROP-2021-06-23827  
Version number 2 (of 2) [see other versions](#)

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# OUR CAMPAIGN|2021-2022

- In 2020, and before the start of CoFoE, the UEF took the field with an Appeal for Our Federal Europe: Sovereign, Democratic, Solidarity to call for the long-delayed opening of CoFoE.
- This is why the European federalists actively participated in CoFoE:
- i) with the publication on the digital platform of the conference, of proposals calling for the revision of the EU Treaties on the points of the EU's power of taxation and the abolition of the power of veto of states and the simultaneous granting of decision-making powers to the European Parliament.
- ii) They organised dozens and dozens of online and in-person events to make their proposals known.
- At the European level, the UEF participated in the work of the Conference Plenary, both with its own representative (its Secretary General, Anna Echterhoff) and through the MEPs of the Spinelli Intergroup who share federalist positions within the EP.

For a federal Europe, sovereign and democratic  
#moreEUROPEnow #toFedEU



2.462 hanno firmato. Arriviamo a 2.500.

Più firme aiuteranno questa petizione a ottenere una risposta da parte del decisore. Aiuta a portare questa petizione a 2.500 firme!

For a federal Europe, sovereign and democratic

Condividi su Facebook

Invia una email agli amici

Twitter ai tuoi follower

Copia l'indirizzo web

Union of European Federalists UEF Secretariat ha lanciato questa petizione e l'ha diretta a Executive Board of the Conference on the Future of Europe e a [3 altri/altre](#)

[Versione Italiana](#) | [Version française](#) | [Ελληνική έκδοση](#) | [Deutsche version](#)

Anna Echterhoff  
@AnnaEchterhoff

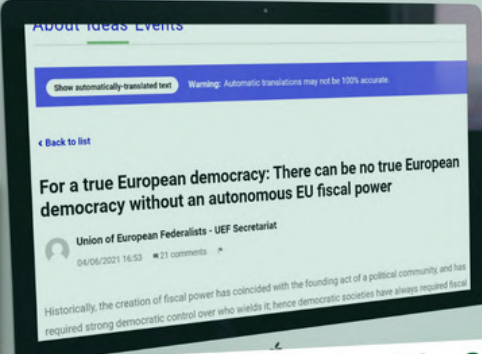
After the #CoFoE, the work continues: a process of Treaty change is necessary to realise the long-awaited reforms to the [EU](#) institutional architecture. Count on the commitment & support of [@federalists](#) and its local, regional & national sections across the [EU](#)!



Dubravka Sulica and 9 others

8:37 AM · May 11, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

11 Retweets · 2 Quote Tweets · 53 Likes



For a true European democracy: There can be no true European democracy without an autonomous EU fiscal power

Union of European Federalists - UEF Secretariat

04/06/2021 16:53 · 21 comments

Historically, the creation of fiscal power has coincided with the founding act of a political community, and has required strong democratic control over who wields it; hence democratic societies have always required fiscal

**Federalist proposal is part of the CoFoE proposal**

European Parliament should decide on the budget of the EU as it is the right of parliaments at the national level

Proposal n. 38, n. 4, "European Democracy"  
Proposal of the Conference on the Future of Europe

Co-funded by the European Union

## THE UEF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

5th Plenary Session of the COFE  
25.03.2022  
Workgroup on European Democracy



Union of European Federalists  
Union Européenne des Fédéralistes  
Union des Fédéralistes Européennes



Conference on the Future of Europe

# OUR CAMPAIGN|2022-TODAY

## RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE REOPENS THE DEBATE BETWEEN EU ENLARGEMENT AND DEEPENING

The year 2022 marked the return of war in Europe: in February, Putin's Russia invaded Ukraine, which is bravely defending itself with support from NATO countries, and forced the Russian army into a tough and unexpected positional war.

European countries, in order to deal with the emergency, unitedly support Ukraine's war effort, the reception of the large number of refugees, and energy policies aimed at reducing the dangerous dependence on Russian gas.

However, the economic crisis following the war showed the fragility of the system to react to sudden and disruptive shocks.

Moreover, the EU's derisory ability to influence its neighbourhood exposes its impotence in the field of defence and foreign policy.

The inevitable prospect of EU enlargement to the east - Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova - reopens the debate of accelerating the reform agenda of the EU institutions to handle the new, more complex and enlarged scenario.

UEF's action focused on participating in events in support of Ukraine (MoreEuropeNOW online event), promoting debates, video podcasts (such as the #EUROPAgegenCOVID format, awarded by the Austrian government in 2023) and reflections on the topic of EU deepening/enlargement, Europe's geopolitical role, European defence and with statements and appeals.



# OUR CAMPAIGN|2022-2023

## THE CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE ENDS, THE BATTLE FOR TREATY REFORM BEGINS

The European Parliament, after the end of CoFoE, immediately adopted a resolution calling on the European Council to open a European Convention to initiate treaty reform. However, the EU Council postponed the decision for a year by asking the EP to prepare a proposal for a new treaty.

The results of the Conference on the Future of Europe were a great success: because the proposals that emerged in CoFoE show that citizens are aware of the need for more Europe.

Moreover, the main federalist proposals, such as the one on the creation of an EU fiscal power, made it into the final proposals of the conference.

On the occasion of the event on 2 December, the CoFoE Citizens' Panels Ambassadors – who also represented citizens in the plenary of the Conference - denounced the Council's silence and obstructionism

To the European Council

2-12-2022

Subject: Usage of the CoFoE proposals.

Dear members of the Council of the ministers of the European Union.

Today, December 2nd, the citizen component of the Conference on the Future of Europe will receive feedback on the decisions made regarding the future use of the proposals elaborated. That will be welcome.

So far, we have struggled a lot to figure out what exactly each EU institution is planning to do with our work. The EU parliament kept us involved, especially after the 9th of May, and showed constant support towards our proposals. Therefore, we felt the necessity to write only to you and to the Council of ministers of the EU.

1 | 7



# OUR CAMPAIGN|2023

## CAMPAIGNING FOR TREATY REFORM



After the end of CoFoE, UEF actions focused on:

- (i) mobilising public opinion to support the outcomes of the conference;
- (ii) the collection of signatures on the European Petition to the EU Council (Respect the Will of the Citizens and CoFoE) to demand the launch of the Convention for the Reform of the Treaties and support the European Parliament in its reform efforts.

# OUR CAMPAIGN | 2023

## CAMPAIGNING FOR TREATY REFORM

### SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2023



On 14 September 2023, a draft report was presented to the Constitutional Affairs Committee (AFCO) of the European Parliament with a federal reform of the Treaties.

The proposal represents an extremely advanced federal reform project of the Union, capable of establishing a democratically legitimized European sovereignty.

This important result was possible largely thanks to the debate that took place during the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) and the conclusions reached by CoFoE itself, which AFCO's proposal aims to follow up on.

On Wednesday 22 November, the European Parliament approved the Report on the proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties drafted by Spinelli Group members Guy Verhofstadt, Sven Simon, Gabriele Bischoff, Daniel Freund, and Helmut Scholz.

This was a historic vote, which sees the European Parliament once again playing a leading role after forty years, since the draft Treaty inspired by Altiero Spinelli, in an attempt to strengthen the political and decision-making architecture of Europe to make it a protagonist of the challenges of its time.

In support of this courageous initiative by the European Parliament, which is in line with the commitments made by the European institutions at the end of the Conference on the Future of Europe, the Union of European Federalists (UEF) and its sections all over Europe met citizens in more than 30 European cities and online, to inform them about the crucial vote of Wednesday.

On 18 December, the Council of the EU played its part, thanks to Spain's leadership, and transmitted the European Parliament's request for activation of Article 48 TEU to the European Council. Europe now turns to Charles Michel and EU national leaders to immediately include the EP's request on the agenda of the next EUCO meeting.

The request for Treaty change has to be considered by the European Council first of all because it is urgent and necessary. The European Union lacks the indispensable tools to act in the face of the challenges of security and economic competition that we are undergoing. The Russian war against Ukraine and interference, migration flows, ecological and digital transition, and enlargement force us to take action. More than ever, we need to reform our institutional framework, and the report offers several solutions.



# OUR CAMPAIGN | 2023 ACTION SATURDAYS FOR EUROPE OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2023

AFRAGOLÀ - ALESSANDRIA - ANCONA - BASSANO DEL GRAPPA - BERGAMO - BRESCIA - BRUSSELS - BUDAPEST - FAENZA - FERRARA - GENOA - HAMBURG - IVREA - LATINA - LODI - LUXEMBOURG - MADRID - MAINZ - MEMMINGEN - MILAN - MONZA - PADUA - PARIS - PAVIA - PESARO - PINEROLO - PISTOIA - RUEGLIO - STRADELLA - STRASBOURG - TURIN - VALPOLICELLA - VERONA - VICENZA - ZWOLLE

# OUR CAMPAIGN TODAY

## MANIFESTO | FOR A FEDERAL EUROPE THE URGENCY OF OVERCOMING THE CURRENT TREATIES

APPROVED ON THE EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF BRUSSELS 2023

### ENLARGEMENT

The brutal aggression against Ukraine by Russia has created the need for accelerating the new enlargement, first of all to the Western Balkan countries, Ukraine and also Moldova and Georgia.

The challenge of including a further large number of members on the basis of a new, much more, geopolitical oriented and security-related vision implies the need to proceed in parallel with important institutional changes to make the decision-making mechanisms and structure of the European bodies adequate to ensure effective functioning with 35 or more members, without the risk of being paralyzed or weakened.

The European Union owes it first and foremost to the candidate countries - and once again first and foremost to Ukraine because of the tragedy it is experiencing - not to betray expectations with regard to EU membership and to offer participation in a solid project.

In this respect, the extension of the ordinary legislative procedure (which also implies the overcoming of unanimity and the right of veto) and the strengthening of the European Parliament and the European Commission, - indicate the indispensable conditions for making the Union work and being able to build a structure on several concentric levels of integration around the nucleus of the countries that form a political union.

**Read here the political Manifesto**  
**[bit.ly/3OVCNOP](https://bit.ly/3OVCNOP)**





# OUR CAMPAIGN TODAY

## MANIFESTO | FOR A FEDERAL EUROPE THE URGENCY OF OVERCOMING THE CURRENT TREATIES

### THE NECESSARY POLICIES

#### **1) the extension of competences and thus the possibility of political autonomy for the Union:**

- a) exclusive competences in the field of environmental policy and the protection of biodiversity - a very important step because environmental protection has cross-cutting applications over a vast number of other policies;*
- b) competing competences in energy, industry, civil protection, health and education;*
- c) strengthening foreign and security policy through the extension of majority voting in the Council;*
- d) creation of an initial core of the Defense Union through the creation of military rapid intervention units under a single integrated command;*
- e) extension of majority voting for the adoption of the decision on own resources and the multiannual financial framework to enable the Union to become the master of its own budget, which can be used to pursue its objectives and condition the actions of the Member States through conditionality policies along the lines of the NGEU;*
- f) introduction of majority voting in the Council to activate the flexibility clause under Article 352 TFEU in order to provide the Union with a subsidiary legal basis for the adoption of acts necessary for the pursuit of its objectives;*

[...] A number of changes to this end are necessary, which were also at the heart of the debate during the elaboration of the amendment proposals by the European Parliament:

#### **2) the consolidation of an essentially bicameral model and the strengthening of the European Commission (renamed 'Executive'):**

- g) extension of the ordinary legislative procedure to the majority of decisions, whereby Parliament will permanently exercise the role of political co-decider of the Union alongside the Council, which will have to take decisions by majority vote;*
- h) granting Parliament the power of legislative initiative and the right to initiate infringement proceedings before the Court of Justice if a Member State violates EU law;*
- i) reform of the appointment procedure of the President of the Executive, who becomes 'President of the Union';*
- l) selection of the President by the Parliament to be confirmed by a majority of the European Council;*
- m) decrease in the number of members making up the Executive chosen on a political basis by the President himself, taking into account demographic and geographical balance;*
- n) reform of the European Council, consisting only of the Heads of state or government and the President of the Union (i.e. the European Executive).*

# OUR CAMPAIGN TODAY

## MANIFESTO | FOR A FEDERAL EUROPE

### THE URGENCY OF OVERCOMING THE CURRENT TREATIES

*APPROVED ON THE EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF BRUSSELS 2023*

## SOVEREIGNTY, DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW

Under the current system, political sovereignty remains a prerogative - in the last resort - exclusively of the Member states; democracy (understood as citizens' control of the institutions exercising political power over decisions on issues that affect their lives) is essentially exercised at national level. It is the national parliaments that decide on matters at the heart of sovereignty (and the lives of citizens).

As it is often pointed out by the German Constitutional Court - but not only - the fact that sovereignty is exercised democratically only at the national level sets the limits not only of the European institutions, but also of the possibility to have a true European democracy in the current system.

This means that, in order to find effective ways of strengthening democracy and democratic participation at European level, the only possibility is to revise the current European political-institutional system introducing core fundamental reforms in order to set some federal mechanisms within the EU, making the direct relationship between citizens and European institutions effective (see A. Hamilton, *The Federalist*, n.15) and thus realizing an institutional change that is constitutional in nature.

This request is also what emerged from the CoFoE. Citizens are aware that some of the key issues at the heart of sovereignty can no longer be adequately governed by Member states and ask for a stronger EU, with more political powers, but also call for a deeper reform of the governance that enable citizens to control and influence the functioning of the European institutions that would regulate and affect their lives.

It is also necessary to stress that, at a time of deep crisis in democratic systems that are challenged by citizens' growing mistrust in democratic institutions - a mistrust also exploited by external autocratic powers interested in weakening Europe -, it is necessary to effectively increase the European citizens' political participation. [...]

The proposals for the amendments of the Treaties adopted by the European Parliament (which indeed is triggering the process of Treaty reform as the legitimate representative of all European citizens) are a first step aimed to achieve this goal in concrete terms by giving direct powers to the European Parliament and the European Commission under control of the EP.

Furthermore, the Court of Justice under these proposals would have its supervisory powers over the Member States increased.

The new procedure under Art. 7 TEU would provide for the possibility for the Council to denounce by a majority vote a violation of the rule of law in a member state, on which the Court of Justice would have to rule, imposing substantial fines if necessary.

The Court will also be able to hear preliminary appeals on the conformity of draft laws with the Treaties on the initiative of Parliament.

# OUR CAMPAIGN TODAY

## MANIFESTO | FOR A FEDERAL EUROPE

### THE URGENCY OF OVERCOMING THE CURRENT TREATIES

#### A COMMITMENT TO A FEDERAL EUROPE

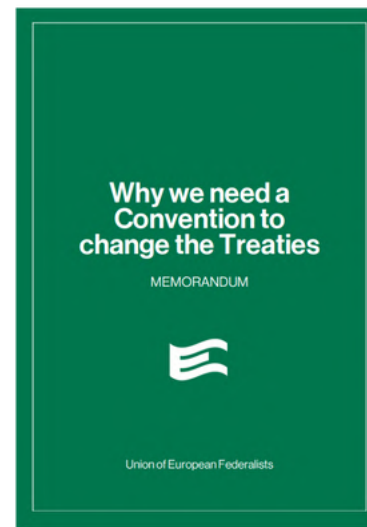
UEF therefore reaffirms its commitment to support the proposal made by the European Parliament for opening the revision of the existing Treaties, in order to meet the need to deepen the democratic capacity of the European Union and strengthen it in its power to act. [...]

In view of the European elections 2024, UEF calls on all political forces and candidates to subscribe to the commitment to a deep reform of the European Union in order to implement European policies that can guarantee citizens respect for their political, civil and social rights and contribute to the construction of a more stable, more peaceful, more cooperative and more solidarity-based world order.



FOR A  
**FEDERAL  
EUROPE**  
WHICH ACTS  
AND PROTECTS

#### “WHY WE NEED A CONVENTION TO CHANGE THE TREATIES”



The aim of this paper is to highlight that the reforms the European Union needs in order to be able to act effectively in areas where common policies are needed can be achieved only through the convening of a Convention, as envisaged by the ordinary revision procedure, and not through other instruments provided for by the Treaties. Neither the simplified revision procedures of Article 48(6) and (7) TEU nor the possibility (provided for in Article 49 TEU) of laying down adjustments to the Treaties on the occasion of the accession of new member States are indeed viable avenues for the effective and comprehensive reform that is needed today.







Read here  
[bit.ly/3SVgxFQ](https://bit.ly/3SVgxFQ)

*Memorandum sent to national parliaments and governments, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Council.*



# Campaigning for a federal, sovereign and democratic Europe since 1946

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