U.E.F. NEWSLETTER N° 36

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1. FOREWORD BY BERND HÜTTEMANN

For the English version of this foreword please go to:
http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/Bernd_vorwort_EN.doc

Was wir von der deutschen EU-Ratspräsidentschaft erwarten können…

Die deutsche EU-Ratspräsidentschaft im ersten Halbjahr 2007 läuft langsam warm, aber die heiße Phase wird noch folgen. Mit dem Frühjahrsgipfel u.a. zur Energiepolitik und dem 50. Geburtstag der EU mit der so genannten Berliner Erklärung am 25. März werden die Schlagzeilen und die Erwartungen zunehmen. Im Juni, im kurzen Zeitfenster der französischen Wahlen, wird nichts anderes als eine „Lösung zur Lösung" der Verfassungsfrage erwartet.

Derweil häufen sich die Anfragen zum Thema deutsche Ratspräsidentschaft. Selten gab es in Deutschland ein so großes Interesse an der nationalen Performance in der EU.

Wie so oft in der Europapolitik gibt es hierbei eine Brüsseler und eine nationale Sicht. Dabei werden die Erwartungen an Ratspräsidentschaften oft künstlich überhöht. Alle wissen, dass Präsidentschaften kommen und gehen – alle halbe Jahre. Die Agenda der deutschen EU-Ratspräsidentschaft basiert zu einem großen Teil auf den „left-overs" der vorangegangenen Präsidentschaften – so wie es dann für die anderen Partner der neuen

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Trio-Ratspräsidentschaft Portugal und Slowenien gelten wird. Hinzu kommen natürlich aktuelle Ereignisse, die immer wieder kreatives Abweichen von ursprünglichen Plänen erfordern. Somit konzentrieren sich die Einflussmöglichkeiten des Vorsitzes stärker auf die Vermittlung zwischen gegensätzlichen Positionen und weniger auf die rücksichtslose Durchsetzung eigener nationaler Interessen.

Die Bundesregierung nutzt die Ratspräsidentschaft auf zwei Wegen, die nicht unbedingt mit einander korrespondieren. Einerseits legt sie größten Wert auf eine verbesserte europäischen Öffentlichkeitsarbeit – vor allem im zunehmend europakritischen Deutschland. Hierbei ist es ihr wichtig, dass die Bundesregierung und die Kanzlerin „gut dastehen". Bundeskanzlerin Angela MERKEL soll ihr eigenes europapolitisches Profil sichtbar machen, durchaus in der Tradition von Alt-Kanzler KOHL. Die mediale Inszenierung der deutschen Ratspräsidentschaft ist dabei durchaus eine Chance, der deutschen Öffentlichkeit die europäischen Politikprozesse in ihrer Relevanz zu vermitteln. Insofern ist diese Art der Öffentlichkeitsarbeit nützlich und legitim.

Einen unnötigen Schatten auf die deutsche Ratspräsidentschaft wirft derweil der nicht für Außenstehende obskure Logo- und Fest-Streit zwischen Bundesregierung und Europäischer Kommission. Während der gesamten Ratspräsidentschaft darf (!) von Seiten der Bundesregierung das Logo „Gemeinsam seit 1957" nicht benutzt werden. Begründung: das eigene Präsidentschaftslogo könne in das Hintertreffen geraten. Bitten der EU-Kommission und des Europäischen Jugendforums und der Stadt Rom, auf dem Fest am 25. März Programmteile gemeinsam zu gestalten, werden mit starken Worten abgeschmettert. So sagte ein hoher Regierungsvertreter vor italienischen Diplomaten, dass sich die Bundeskanzlerin nicht vor den Propagandakarren von Frau Wallström spannen lasse. Großmutters Geburtstag ist wahrlich leichter zu organisieren.

Deutschland muss aber nicht nur eine „gute Figur" machen, sondern auch die europäische Integration wieder auf die Schiene bringen. Und da sind die Möglichkeiten auf Grund der alten intergouvernementalen Methoden und des Zeithorizontes schlicht begrenzt.

Die Diplomatie läuft unbeeindruckt von diesem Geplänkel derweil auf Hochtouren. Das Bundeskanzleramt und das Auswärtige Amt sitzen den so genannten Sherpas (siehe Blog unseres JEF-Europa-Präsidenten http://blog.jan-seifert.de/?p=36) vor, die die Berliner Erklärung und die Verfassungsroadmap vorbereiten sollen. Das politische Berlin und einschließlich der kleinen Opposition im Bundestag ist von diesem althergebrachten Verfahren europäischer Entscheidungsfindung nicht negativ abgeschreckt. Irgendwie müsse man ja den Sack aus 27 Flöhen zusammen bringen. Offene Prozesse und eine größere Rolle des Europäischen Parlamentes oder gar der nationalen Parlamente werden nur leise eingefordert. Auf die Berliner Erklärung werde man sich schon irgendwie einigen, schwieriger sei da schon der Gipfel im Juni.

Und die Europa-Union? Sie hat schon vor der Ratspräsidentschaft in 8 Punkten ihre Positionen umfassend dargestellt: http://www.europa-union.de/index.php?id=1005#c14116 (englisch/deutsch).

Zur Berliner Erklärung bereitet die Europa-Union Deutschland derzeit mit ihrem neuen Präsidenten Peter Altmaier einen eigenen Aufruf vor. Der Aufruf wird auf der Bundesausschusstagung der Europa-Union am 17. März in Berlin der Öffentlichkeit und den Freundinnen und Freunden der UEF-Schwesterverbänden vorgestellt.

Die Europa-Union Deutschland wird sich an der europaweiten Kampagne der UEF beteiligen, mit der die Unterstützung der Bürgerinnen und Bürger für ein konsultatives Referendum für eine europäische Verfassung eingeworben werden soll. Der offizielle Startschuss für die Kampagne fällt ebenfalls am 17. März in Berlin. Dort wird die UEF dem Bundesausschuss der Europa-Union die Kampagne vorstellen. Ferner ist eine gemeinsame Pressekonferenz der Präsidenten beider Organisationen, Peter ALTMAIER und Mercedes BRESSO, geplant. Die Europa-Union will damit den Europäischen Föderalisten eine Steilvorlage zu liefern. Am Ende des Tages sollen die ersten tausend in Deutschland gesammelten Unterschriften präsentiert werden.

Am 25. März, auf dem Europa-Fest, wird die Europa-Union gemeinsam mit der UEF einen eigenen Stand betreuen, um ihre Thesen den Bürgerinnen und Bürgern direkt zu vermitteln.

Die Europa-Union Deutschland wird im März verstärkt ihre Internationalität heraus stellen. Gleichzeitig soll mehr als nur die Fachöffentlichkeit von den überfälligen bürgernahen Reformen der Europäischen Union überzeugt werden.

Es ist die Zustimmung der Bürgerinnen und Bürger zur europäischen Integration, die nach der deutschen Ratspräsidentschaft zeigen wird, wie erfolgreich die Deutschen wirklich waren. Und nicht vergessen: nach der Präsidentschaft ist vor der Präsidentschaft.

Bernd HÜTTEMANN
Generalsekretär der EUD

2. PAST EVENTS

National Committee for the celebrations of the centenary of the birth of Altiero Spinelli 6 December 2006, University "Sapienza", Rome,

Mr President of the Republic, Members of Government and Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The celebration of the centenary of the birth of Altiero Spinelli (1907-2007), wanted by the Italian Government, proves how the ideal of European political unity and supranational federalism are becoming part of the Italian and European cultural heritage. Nonetheless, Europe is still divided on many issues. Thus it is our duty to remember Spinelli also to light the difficult road that still lies ahead.

Landing on the Island of Ventotene and, ideally, in the city of democracy, Spinelli not only left behind him the communist ideology, to which he had been loyal from his youth to fight fascism, but also the nationalist ideology, because he understood that the sovereign national State, the main cause of two world wars, could no longer represent the framework in which to conceive a future of peace and progress. Long ago in 1941, in the most desperate phase of the war, the *Ventotene Manifesto* spread, among those who resisted Nazi fascism, the idea that the new dividing line between conservation and progress passed between those who would commit themselves to the building of a European Federation and those who would continue to pursue, in vain, the values of freedom, democracy and socialism, within the national framework. In an interdependent world, in which no national government can expect to have sovereign control over society, technology and economy, the acceptance of national frontiers as a limit to political action means to favour the conservation forces. The European integration process clearly highlights this contradiction. The countries of

the European Union, despite the fact that they have made important steps in the building of a supranational State, have not yet had the courage to carry out the decisive step: the creation of a European federal government, responsible for foreign and economic policies. They are therefore continuously forced to fight the rebirth, in new forms, of ancient nationalist demons and they no longer have the strength to oppose the corporative demands with the pursuit of common wellbeing. National democracy is languishing, because European democracy is lacking. Yet, a look beyond Europe, as new continental giants like China, India and Brazil break into the international scene, should convince Europeans that, by remaining divided, they will soon lose their dignity, identity and independence. Those who do not understand the course of history, will be overwhelmed by it.

In order to achieve his political project, Spinelli founded, in secrecy, in Milan, in 1943, the European Federalist Movement and, in 1946 in Paris, the Union of European Federalists. It was his firm belief that the federal unity of Europe should ensue from a popular movement. A Federation is a democratic union of democratic states. Europe cannot be built without the active participation of its citizens. The pressure of federalist and European movements is necessary in order to prompt the calling of a European Constituent Assembly, just like the Americans did in Philadelphia. On the basis of this model of action, in 1951, thanks to a brave initiative, Spinelli managed to convince the Italian government that the French proposal for a European Defence Community (EDC) was not feasible without a Constitution and without a European democratic government. A Constituent Assembly was actually called. However, the project of the Political European Community failed due to the French refusal, in 1954. It was a momentous defeat for the federalists, who for many years were not able to take up the initiative. Only thirty years later, in 1984, as deputy in the first European Parliament elected by universal suffrage, did Spinelli manage to have the Treaty for European Union approved of. It was a new Constitutional project. Nonetheless the Parliament did not have sufficient authority to support the project and the national governments refused it. Spinelli was thus defeated a second time.

Fate did not allow Spinelli to resume the battle. The federalists did, by exerting firm pressure on the European Parliament and on the national governments, in a Europe that was now facing the new problems created by the break-up of the USSR. Thanks to this pressure, today, the third project for a European Constitution exists, even though it has evident faults and is hovering between life and death. What keeps it alive is the fear that without a Constitution, Europe will fall apart.

However a true will to relaunch the project is not yet perceivable. Spinelli would say that, to overcome the crises, one should trust in the will for unity of the European people. The European Constitution is the victim of the national battles for power. In order to avoid new national traps, those who want to resume the path must propose a European referendum on the European Constitution when the next European elections take place in 2009. The citizens could thus express their opinion, on the same day, in all Union countries. This is the direction that the more Europeanist parties of the European Parliament are also taking.

Spinelli's teachings go beyond Europe. The 14 February 1984, after the vote on the Treaty of the European Union, in one of his last speeches, Spinelli addressed the European Parliament saying: "If the ideas within this text had never existed in the minds of the great majority of this Parliament, I would not have been able to put them in. I have simply practised, as Socrates, the art of maieutics. I was the midwife who helped the Parliament to

give life to this child". Like Socrates, Spinelli was an authentic revolutionary, because the unification of Europe is a peaceful revolution. European unity cannot be achieved through violence, but only with the strength of reason. Those who really desire peace must build supranational institutions. In a world where blood is shed almost daily by wars and massacres, a world afflicted by mass poverty and threatened by an irreversible ecological crisis, it is absurd to maintain the division of humankind in sovereign tribes. The policy of division belongs to the past. The new way of doing politics consists in the constant building of the unity of peoples, from different nations, religions and cultures. If Europe gives itself a supranational Constitution, one day humankind may decide its future on the basis of a Cosmopolitical Constitution. With Socrates, humankind learnt the art of the rational search for truth. With Spinelli, it can learn the art of building peace.

By Guido MONTANI
President, Movimento Federalista Europeo

UEF France Congress,
27 January 2007, Lyon

The UEF FRANCE invites all the European citizens to take part in the collection of one million signatures all over Europe for the holding of a pan-European referendum on the European Constitution in June 2009.

On 27 January 2007, militants of the U.E.F. France assembled in national congress in Lyon renewed their leading authorities. The new national Commission was elected. Its bureau is already active and working. Here is its provisional composition: President, CHAUVIN Jacques; Vice President, David SOLDINI; Treasurer, Dominique THORY; Federal Secretary, Michel MORIN. The other members will be elected during the next national Commission's meeting.

A wide-ranging debate made it possible to adopt a summarized text for the general policy resolution. It was adopted with a vast majority and without any negative vote. A second unanimously-adopted motion reflected the support given to the standpoints taken by the Young Europeans-France.

In short, faithful to their specific vocation within European movements, the federalists continue to call for the creation of a democratic European federation by the direct mobilization of the European citizens. The European citizens need a democratization of the Union which would reflect the expression of their sovereignty and would open the way for a constituent process. This only will make a true federal constitution possible to obtain.

The U.E.F. France will thus organize, at its local level, the campaign for the collection of one million signatures on the basis of the European-levelled decision taken by the UEF Congress in Vienna in June 2006. Taking into account the suitable French political period, the UEF France will challenge the candidates to present the UEF proposals for this 2007-2009 period which remain crucial for the future of the political union of Europe.

By Michel MORIN
Secretary General UEF France,
Member of the UEF Bureau

Debate organised by UEF Groupe Europe:
"Research, Quality, Competitiveness
European Union Technology Policy for the Information Society"
1 February 2007, Brussels

This evening debate, organized by the federalist partners in Brussels, presented the competitive challenges that Europe is facing and suggested a long term strategy to make European products and services competitive in the world market, despite the labor costs and high standard of living within the EU.

At the core of the evening was Professor STAJANO's presentation of his book "Research, Quality, Competitiveness. European Union Technology Policy for the Information Society" which was published in 2006. The book provides a detailed description of the EU policies on research, innovation and technology by emphasizing common objectives of greater competitiveness and sustained (and sustainable) growth. It includes an introduction to the history, founding principles, institutions, and activities of the EU and an overview of the 27 member states and of the candidates for accession. An appendix includes distance-learning materials and a rich CD-ROM, including extended readings, country-specific data and other materials for producing course notes and visuals. A previous version was published in Italian in 2004.

After the presentation, the approximately 20 participants had to discuss the issue and to put questions to the author.

Symposium "A European-wide referendum on the European Constitution - political and legal problems", 9 February 2007, Florence

On 9 February, the Robert Schuman Center for advanced studies in relation with the Movimento Federalista Europeo (MFE-UEF Italy) and the Commission's representation in Rome, held a symposium entitled "A European-wide referendum on the European Constitution – political and legal problems", at the European Institute in Florence. All the speakers invited (see http://www.mfe.it/doc/Colloque_EUI_070209.pdf link to programme) took part in the event, including the German Secretary of State Peter Altmaier (President Europa Union Deutschland). Professor Jacques Ziller chaired the conference together with Paolo Ponzano (chief adviser of the European Commission's President regarding Institutional matters) and drew the final conclusions.

Various discourses were held that day, namely by Professor A. Auer on the non-democratic character of national referendums on European matters (an opinion which was shared by most of the participants), by Prof. Renaud Dehousse on the inconvenience of the referendum instrument for Constitutional revisions, as well as by Clemens Ladenburger on the legal basis that can be used for a European referendum.

At the end of the seminar (the results of which will be put together in a publication), Prof. Ziller drew various conclusions, which were presented by Paolo Ponzano at the Citizens Forum organized by the European Parliament's information bureau the following day and at which several European deputies (Tajani, Sacconi, Casini, Sbarbati, Musacchio, Guidoni) and national deputies (V.Spini) were present. The forum gave its support to the call for the organization of a European consultative referendum on a revised text of the Constitutional Treaty, to be held at the time of the next elections of the European Parliament.

The symposium concluded that new national referendums on a revised Constitutional text are unavoidable in some countries for either legal (Ireland) or political (Denmark) reasons if there is a transfer of competences to the EU. Moreover, some governments have made political commitments to their electorate that will be difficult not to respect. The state of the discussions on a revised Treaty text, on which the German Secretary of State gave some information, leads to the conclusion that it will be difficult to avoid new national referendums. However, such national referendums wouldn't really be democratic as 1) a large amount of the electorate would express itself on national issues rather than on the substance of the European text; 2) a

possibly negative response may possibly make a majority of the population responsible for the failure.

Having taken these conditions into account, the participants examined the legal foundations which would allow for a European referendum and came to the conclusion that the most solid base, namely article 22 of the Treaty establishing the European Community (TEC), would require a unanimous decision from the Council on the Commission's proposal but also a ratification of all the Member States, and this would be extremely difficult to achieve by the June 2009 elections.

Consequently the participants considered that a more realistic approach would be to organise national referendums, coordinated on a European level. A possible decision in this direction would require a decision from the Member States assembled within the European Council, as well as national legislative acts (mostly for countries such as Germany where most experts believe that a new law for constitutional revision would be necessary). Such "a potential decision" should restrict itself to "harmonizing" the date of the consultation (e.g. the week of the European Parliament elections) and the content of the question to be asked of the voters, the rest being left to national legislation. If it came to pass that a European ballot organised in all the Member States turned out to be impossible (due to the unanimity rule involved in the decisions taken by the European Council), it would then be conceivable to decide on the holding of national referendums only in the Member States where such referendums have to take place for juridical or political reasons.

By Samuele PII
President of JEF-Italy

For the original French article please go to: http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/UEF_report_colloque_070209.doc

3. FUTURE EVENTS

UEF Belgique & Groupe Europe discussion on "EU Energy and Climate Policy" 22 February, 2007

The discussion which coincides with recent developments in the European Commission's climate and energy policies will be introduced by Mr. Eberhard RHEIN, a member of UEF-BE, Honorary Director General of the European Commission, Analyst of the European Policy Centre and a Trustee of Friends of Europe. The discussion will focus mainly on CO2 emissions and what measures should be taken on a European level if the fight against climate change is to be successful.

Mr. Eberhard RHEIN argues that CO2 emissions can be brought down to zero by the end of the century if the world takes drastic measures in three main areas: Heating, transport and electricity. The EU must lead by example in the fight against climate change by adopting much more stringent measures than in the past 15 years. One measure which could have an immediate drastic effect on the way businesses and households use energy could be to impose a climate tax compensated by lower income and VAT taxes, forcing increased investment in alternative technologies.

To read the invitation please go to: http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/Discussion_RHEIN__2_.doc

8th International Garda Seminar 27-29 April 2007

This year the 8th the annual International Garda Seminar, organized by the Lombardy section of the Movimento Federalista Europeo will discuss: Fifty years after the Treaty of Rome, is there still the need and a chance for the "United State of Europe"?

For more information please go to the future events section of the UEF website: http://www.federaleurope.org/index.php?id=3368

Launch of Speak-Up Europe in Germany Berlin, 16 March 2007

One week after the European Council's energy summit (8-9 March), the Europa-Union Deutschland will organise a trial debate on European energy policy.

Following the established pattern of Speak up Europe events, the audience will be asked to vote in favor of or against today's European energy policy. Looking at aspects such as competition, ecological sustainability and sustainability of supply, the experts will discuss whether a high quality standard is more likely to be reached by a European solution or by national policies.

At the beginning and at the end of the experts' presentations, they can express their judgment by showing the red or green card. Finally, they will be able to question the expert speakers and put forward their own views on the issue.

The debate will be one of several "Europa kontrovers" events and will be held on the afternoon of 16 March at the "Europa Haus", Unter den Linden in Berlin.

Please click for the draft programme: http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/Programm_Rededuell_Energie.doc

Next UEF Federal Committee 21-22 April, Munich

The next UEF Federal Committee will be held in Munich on 21-22 April 2007.

Main focus of the meeting will be the European launch of the referendum campaign. Details of the road ahead will be discussed and planned, and potential partner organisations will be invited.

The FC will be preceded by a seminar on the afternoon of Friday 20 April revolving around the European Constitution and social aspects.

More detailed information about the seminar, the FC agenda, the location and the travel reimbursement conditions will be sent to the members shortly, and will also be available on the UEF website.

European Youth against the dictatorship in Belarus 18-19 March 2007

The Young European Federalists (JEF) invited all sections and friends of the UEF to take part in the JEF Belarus action that is being organised for the second year in a row. Last year statues in 23 European cities were gagged, symbolically prevented from speaking, much like current situation for many inside of Belarus. This year even more youth organisations, NGOs and networks are expected to support the action making it as strong as possible!

For more information, please click here: *visit the www.jef.eu or contact belarus@jef.eu*!

4. NEWS FROM THE UEF BUREAU

Meeting of 3 February, Brussels

Friedhelm FRISCHENSCHLAGER gave a brief report about the activities of the past months. Since the last Federal Committee at the end of November, the Secretariat's work mainly focused on the closure of the budget 2006, the preparation of the application for

the Commission grant 2007 and the preparations of the Speak up Europe events.

At the centre of the meeting were the preparations of the campaign for a European-wide referendum. Florian RODEIT, coordinator of the currently 6 campaign groups, gave a progress report of the various teams. Francesco FERRERO, from the team responsible for the gathering of signatures ("One–million-team") participated in the meeting as guest speaker and gave an impressive presentation of the preparations within his team. The political and formal as well as the technical and financial requirements of the online-signature collection were analysed in detail. Furthermore, the preparations of the campaign launch (see section 3 and 5 of this Newsletter) were discussed.

In response to the German Presidency's initiative to organise closed meetings of Sherpas (see Foreword) working on the Berlin declaration, the Bureau decided to write an open letter in which the UEF asks the German Presidency that the Sherpas consult and include civil society organisations in their work.

Concerning the next FC meetings, the Bureau decided to organise the spring meeting of the UEF FC in Munich (more information in section 3) and to possibly hold the second FC of the year in the Czech Republic. The Munich FC of 21/22 April will be preceded by a seminar on Friday 20 April, revolving around Social policies.

The Bureau was happy to accept an application by a group of Finish federalists to be recognized as UEF Finland. The Bureau will recommend the group to the FC at the next meeting so that the UEF will soon consist of 23 organisations, provided that the FC follows the recommendation of the Bureau.

Last but not least, Bruno BOISSIERE reported on the last meetings and the developments within the European Parliament's Federalist Intergroup (more information under section 9).

5. THE CAMPAIGN FOR A EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION

A European Leadership to Relaunch the Constitutional Process

The unification of states requires a collective leadership. The will of a few countries can be decisive. The founding fathers of the United States of America mainly came from Virginia and from the State of New York. The initiative for the founding of the European Community was a Franco-German one.

Today, the relaunching of the constitutional process in Europe depends on the determination with which a few of the countries that have already ratified the European Constitution, will commit themselves to complete the work begun with the Convention. The moment for the relaunching has come. Public opinion is in favour. According to the *Eurobarometer*, 66% of the French and 59% of the Dutch are now in favour of a "new European Constitution". Furthermore, 68% of the Europeans want a common foreign and security policy.

The basic issue does not concern the difficulty in improving the European Constitution. Actually, a consensus on the amendments – which should be agreed on by the European Council with the European Parliament, in order to justly take into consideration the legitimate claims which came forth in the course of the national ratifications – has been emerging. The main course is to separate the strictly constitutional part from the one dedicated to the policies (part III). The real problem, the issue that requires a true leadership of countries determined to go

ahead, is the ratification method. If there is a return to national ratifications, one can be certain of failure. The unanimous ratification of 27 countries is an illusion or naive giving in to a Eurosceptic manoeuvre. The only way out is a European ratification of the European Constitution. In fact, this result can be obtained by means of a consultative referendum in all the Union countries linked to the European elections in 2009. The Constitution will come into force if a majority of citizens and states of the Unions approve it.

Since this proposal will certainly raise the objections of the Eurosceptic governments – even though they say they want the Constitution, in truth they oppose its approval – the countries which intend to adopt it must clearly tell their citizens what the stakes and the alternatives are. Finally, the citizens must decide. The Constitution is not an end in itself, but an essential means for the building of the political Union; in other words, a European government, capable of speaking with a single voice, as far as foreign policy is concerned, and of implementing policies that guarantee prosperity and security. Since this task was left to the national political powers during the ratification phase, the European Constitution was perceived by European citizens as a many-headed monster, each head corresponding to a Union country and to the different political forces in each one. A European debate did not take place, because no European leadership defended Europe's reasons.

In order to fill the void, the governments who are determined to bring the constitutional process to its conclusion should commit themselves to the implementation of a few projects that can point out a clear pathway. The Constitution must inaugurate a new phase of European construction. The phase of pacification among European nations is reaching its completion with the enlargement. To achieve this objective a negative integration was enough: just the knocking down of the frontiers among European peoples erected by nationalism was sufficient. Now, the phase of positive integration must start, that of the active policies. The European parties must intensify their role as mediators between citizens and the European government, transforming the anxieties and aspirations of citizens into effective policies.

For some of these policies a speedy agreement among the countries of the European avant-guard can be reached, because they have already been discussed and approved of in their main lines, both by the European Council and the European Parliament, but not put into practice. The most important are the following:

1. to implement the Lisbon Strategy – that is, an economy founded on knowledge and innovation – within one year of the ratification of the European Constitution, the countries of the European avant-guard should commit themselves:
- To the creation of a new European social fund for workers affected by globalisation and job displacement, as has been proposed by the Sapir Report (2003). This fund would guarantee a grant of 5.000 euros per worker, besides the national unemployment benefits, equivalent to about six months of the average minimum wage, for one million workers. The total, to be funded by the European budget, will be equal to 0.05% of the European GDP.

- To the creation of a European Institute for Scientific Research, in order to bridge the gap between European Universities and the world centres of excellence. An average funding of 20 million euros for 50 European Universities corresponds to one billion euros a year to be funded by the European budget, equal to about 3% of the Structural funds (according to a proposal of the Institut Montaigne).

2. In order to implement an effective foreign and security policy, within one year of the ratification of the European Constitution, the

European avant-guard countries should commit themselves:

- To putting a Rapid Reaction Force of 60,000 men at the disposal of the European Foreign Ministry. Italy can carry out a decisive role in promoting the relaunching of the European constitutional process. It is one of the founding countries. It asked for the European Convention and has already ratified the Constitution. During the Lebanese crisis last summer, it has proved how it is capable of promoting brave initiatives in foreign policy, when a true European concern is at stake. If the Italian government shows the same determination in suggesting a European referendum and in supporting, with the countries available, a set of policies that envisage what a European government could do, the majority of European citizens will approve of the project of a European Constitution.

By Guido MONTANI
President Movimento Federalista Europeo

Constitution campaign launch

The next stage of the UEF/JEF campaign for the European constitution will be launched in Berlin on Saturday 17 March 2007.

The aim of the campaign is that there should be a consultative referendum on the constitution held in every member state of the EU on the same day as the European elections in 2009. A consultative referendum is the means of breaking through the logjam in the intergovernmental negotiations and national ratification of the constitution. Rather than being left to the politicians, UEF and JEF argue that the European people should decide.

The latest Federal Committee resolution setting out the strategy is here:
http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/PC_I_resolution_and_petition__2_.doc

An article on the background to the campaign is here:
http://www.federalunion.org.uk/news/2006/060917strategyandaction.shtml

And a description of the options facing the European Union is here:
http://www.federalunion.org.uk/europe/0611PolicyCommentary.pdf

The European launch of the campaign will take place in Munich at the occasion of the next UEF FC on 21-22 April. The UEF's members and friends from partner organisations will be invited. Federalist activists will thus be working with people from other organisations to win the backing and involvement of NGOs and civil society for this campaign. They will also be aiming to collect the signatures of 1 million European citizens who support this demand.

By Richard LAMING

Campaign needs translators

Dear multi-lingualists!

We would like to ask you to make available your excellent language skills to the UEF!

We are now preparing the website for the referendum campaign. The aim is to have as many languages as we can get ready by 17 March, when the campaign will be launched in Berlin.

At the last FC we already started to set up a new working group for translations. If you are willing to do some translations, please send a short message to Leah CHARPENTIER (leah.charpentier@gmail.com) indicating also from which and to which language you feel comfortable translating. Please keep in mind that we prefer native speakers for each language.

Thank you for your time and consideration and hoping to welcome you as a member of the translation group, we remain with best wishes,

UEF European Secretariat

6. SPEAK UP EUROPE

UEF Speak-up Europe events kick off

The UEF Speak up Europe campaign finally started the ball rolling!!! The first UEF Speak up events took place in January in Greece, Austria and Slovakia and all turned out to be a great success. The campaign now seems to have gotten off the ground, many events will follow in the next following months and the Newsletter team will keep you posted.

For more information please go to: http://www.federaleurope.org/index.php?id=4914

"No more borders within Europe: Youth exchanges through European projects" 24 January 2007, Mouzaki, Greece,

The Union of European Federalists (UEF) in cooperation with the European Movement and the Centre of European Political and Economic Studies organised a debate in the framework of the ¨Speak up Europe¨ campaign on Wednesday 24th January 2007 in the amphitheatre of the High School in the Municipality of Mouzaki (central Greece). 134 students participated in this debate which subject was "No more borders within Europe: Youth exchanges through European projects".

This subject is of high importance for many reasons. The main objective of youth exchange projects is to give young people the possibility to acquire knowledge and experience that will probably constitute one of the foundations of their future development. These exchanges bring in contact teams of young persons with different background from two or more countries, providing them the possibility to meet, discuss and deal with various subjects, while simultaneously experiencing different cultures.

Pr. Kleanthis SIRAKOULIS (Lecturer in the department of Project Management – Member of European Movement) was chosen to be the moderator in this debate. Speakers included Eythimios BAKOGIANNIS (Vice President of International Relations of the National Youth Council), Korobilias GEORGE (Member of Team Europe), Lemos FILIPA (Erasmus Student in the University of Thessaly), Dimitrakopoulou VASILIKI (Student in the Department of Economics Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

The debate started with a showing of the "what has Europe ever done for us" animation and was followed by a pre-debate voting on the following question "Do you believe that your participation in youth exchange projects could help you in your future life?" which was posed by the moderator. The green cards (positive) were the majority (26 were red-negative), something that shows that even if young people don't have the chance and the right information in particular subjects, they believe that projects like these can affect positively their professional, social or personal life. The moderator then gave the floor to the speakers and the chance was given to the audience to react or to ask questions. The debate closed with the final voting of the audience (all cards green except 5) which seemed to convince more people of the audience that youth exchanges can positively affect young people's future lives.

Thessalia TV, a local Thessalian TV channel covered the debate. The sponsors of the debate were the NEOS AGON newspaper and the High school of Mouzaki.

By Afrodite POULIOU

"The advantages and disadvantages of Slovakia's entry in EMU", 30 January 2007, Bratislava

Entering the European Monetary Union is not straightforward or effortless; it's a rather challenging task to fulfill all the demanding economic requisites required by the convergence criteria. Up until now only 13 countries have replaced their national currency with the euro and few other Member States are waiting in line to join the club. Slovakia is one of the countries that is tipped to join the EMU in 2009 and considerable attempts are currently being made by the national authorities to attain this goal that is seen as an important factor in the stabilisation of the European market and the creation of jobs. Efforts in this domain need to extend beyond economic policies. Citizens need to be made aware of the changes that the adoption of euro will bring and all those myths about the common currency need to be deflated.

This is exactly what UEF in cooperation with JEF and EurActiv have done by organising a debate in Bratislava on the advantages and drawbacks of euro.

The panel of speakers during the Slovakian debate

The event took place last Tuesday, 30th of January at the EU Commission representation to Slovakia and it was aimed at discussing and debating the benefits and disadvantages of Slovakia joining the EMU. The debate was part of the recently launched Speak Up Europe Campaign and gathered more than 40 participants that were welcomed by Mr. Branislav SLYSKO, the EU Commission representative. Later, after the welcome speech, the audience was given the chance to interact with experts on EU Economic issues from "Team Europe" that was especially set up by the EU Commission representation for such events. The innovative methodology used during the event involved pre- and post-voting procedure on whether Slovakia will benefit from adopting the common currency or not. Consequently, the audience was split over the question but a clear majority found the idea of having an economy operating in few years time in euros sympathetic.

The two hour debate was followed by a reception where the participants continued the discussion and still tried to persuade the sceptical side of the benefits of the single currency!

By Ecaterina MATCOV

To know more about the Speak up Europe events or to see the events pictures, go to: http://www.federaleurope.org/index.php?id=4914

7. PERIOD OF REFLECTION

"Friends of the Constitution" meet in Madrid 26 January 2007

In an attempt to help the German EU presidency, the foreign affairs ministers of Spain and Luxembourg prepared two conferences on the European Constitution. Spain and Luxembourg were the only two countries that ratified the EU constitution by

referendum and wanted to take an initiative that would give the constitutional process an added boost.

The first meeting held in Madrid on 26 January was open only to the 18 countries which have already ratified the Constitution. Official representatives of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain took part. The German government chose not to send a full representative as it expressed the need to remain neutral in this process given the fact that Germany currently holds the EU Presidency. Ireland and Portugal also sent observers even though they have not yet ratified the Constitution.

During the meeting the participating government representatives agreed on a series of aims which they subsequently released in a joint statement. The statement repeated some of the benefits of a European Constitution but mainly sent out the message that the current text of the Constitutional Treaty, signed in Rome in October 2004, can be adjusted but will not be abandoned. This came as a response to recent proposals to scrap the Constitution altogether or to break it down in to a so-called "Mini Treaty."

Although the government officials present stated they wanted to listen and work together with the other Member States, many of the non-invited members felt targeted. The Dutch Foreign Minister Bernard BOT stated that he felt as if these countries were "ganging up on the Netherlands and France."

In response to the widespread criticism to the meeting in Madrid, Luxembourg's Foreign Minister, Jean ASSELBORN explained that there was no intention on the part of any of the participating Member States to alienate anyone or force decisions but felt it best to cancel the second meeting in Luxembourg. German government officials, who attempted to play down the possible negative effects this meeting may have had on the constitutional process, backed the decision to cancel the second meeting in Luxembourg. The meeting was originally scheduled to take place just prior to the 50th anniversary celebration of the Treaty of Rome on 25 March, during which the German Chancellor Angela MERKEL is meant to present the so-called Berlin Declaration.

It is clear that the issue of the European constitution is a contentious one but presents a vital step in the direction of a more coherent, economically and politically integrated Europe. The meeting in Madrid has however shown, yet again, that such a vital and politically binding step will require unanimity among the Member States.

By Vincent van der HEIJDEN

Letter from the UEF President to the European Heads of State who gathered in Madrid on 26 January 2007

Prior to the Madrid meeting, UEF President Mercedes BRESSO sent a letter to all European Heads of State who gathered at the "Friends of the Constitution" event.

In her letter, the President stressed the need for a European Constitution as "a pact between citizens and States". She urged pro-European governments not to "show themselves timid and on the defensive" and requested the Heads of Government:

1) to submit to the European Council a request to convene a new European Convention with a limited mandate in order to change only the more sensitive parts of the Constitution,

2) to engage themselves so that the new project of the European Constitution is

submitted to the European citizens in a consultative referendum, to be held at the same time as the European elections in 2009, simultaneously in all European countries, and

3) to engage themselves so that the European Constitution comes into effect if a majority of citizens and a majority of States have approved it.

If you would like to read the full letter, please go to:
http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/Letter_to_the_heads_of_govt.pdf

End of the period of reflection, a plethora of opinions, time for decisions!!!

After the set-back to the constitutional process following the French and Dutch "no" referenda, the European Council called for a period of reflection, during which a broad debate should take place. This debate would involve citizens, civil society, national Parliaments as well as the European institutions. Nevertheless, the ratification process continued in several Member States. Since October 2004, 18 countries have ratified the Constitutional Treaty.

A few weeks after the beginning of the German Presidency of the European Union, Angela MERKEL announced "the period of reflection is now over. Until June we have to come to new decisions."
But the opinions among the 27 Heads of States and Governments on what to do next with the EC Treaty differ. The two main questions that remain unanswered and that promise to be the toughest challenges for the German Presidency will be to find a way to reach a compromise on the substance of the text as well as on the way in which to ratify it. Do we need an entirely new negotiated text, the same Treaty with additional protocols, a revised three part Treaty, a mini-Treaty or no Treaty?

Even though there is no consensus at this stage on the process, a 2/3 majority of the Member States has already ratified the European Constitutional Treaty and has made clear during their last fast-timed meeting in Madrid, that they were in favor of a completed text and against a cut down one. Although this meeting was seen by some as controversial as some of the European countries were explicitly excluded from it, it shows that the EC Treaty is certainly not dead. Angela MERKEL will have to come with convincing ideas on the European Constitution at the occasion of the Berlin Declaration (25 March) to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the European Union.

Several obstacles need to be overcome. Strong opposition will have to be dealt with. Poland or for example the Czech Republic fear that the EU may become a super state by means of a supranational Constitution, and that they may lose their influence in the newly-designed decision making process. Poland openly rejects the current European Constitution and is expected to provide its own text and conditions by the end of February 2007 while the Czech President, Mr. Vaclav KLAUS openly criticizes the Constitutional project.

Should there be an agreement on a new text, the 27 member states would still have to deal with the sensitive topic of the ratification process. Should the text be ratified through parliaments and referenda, a pan-European referendum on the same day as the European elections or should referenda be rid of all together?

So far there is no consensus on that issue and that one finds a great deal of different opinions among European politicians. While socialist candidate to the French Presidential election, Ségolène ROYAL talks about a new French referendum, Angela MERKEL seems to show no real support to the idea of putting the text to a referendum. Commission Vice

President Margot WALLSTRÖM recently stressed the need to involve civil society in the Constitutional project and voiced concerns towards Angela MERKEL's decision to keep the Constitutional discussion among experts by holding bilateral consultations involving only governments.

Whatever the way to the final European Constitution may be, it must involve the citizens, otherwise the proclaimed goal of creating a democratic Europe is simply empty words.

By Christophe de NIJS

8. EUROPEAN ENLARGEMENT

The EU welcomes: Bulgaria and Romania

The German presidency of the EU began on the 1st of January, 2007, but it's the accession of two new countries, especially, which is most likely to be remembered. Here are some facts and figures that make up the new European Union.

Conforming to the Treaty of Nice, the institutional adoption is the following:

Concerning the weighing of votes as granted by the Council, Romania has been granted 14 votes (one more vote than the Netherlands), becoming the first of the "middle-small" Member States (just behind the "big six"), whereas Bulgaria has received 10 votes, the same number as Sweden and Austria.

The total number of votes jumped from 321 to 345. In virtue of declaration n.21, the threshold for a qualified majority must now be 255 votes out of 345 or 73.91% (it was 72.3% in the EU of 25) the minimum number of votes needed for a blocking minority is now 90 votes, or 26,09% (the rate was 27.7%, before 1 January 2007). This evolution implies a much greater difficulty in the adoption of a European decision, seeing as a blocking minority is easier to obtain;

On the level of the European Commission, Mrs. KUNEVA – Bulgarian commissioner with the "consumer protection" portfolio – and Mr. ORBAN – Romanian commissioner with the "multilingualism" portfolio – bring the total number of commissioners to 27;

In the European Parliament, Romania has 36 deputies (18 less than Spain and Poland and 9 more than the Netherlands) and Bulgaria has 18 (the same number as Austria). The total number of European deputies has passed from 732 to 786 and only three of the main political groups (PPE, PSE, ALDE) have gained new members.

In two consultative committees, the Committee of Regions and the Committee of European Economic and Social Affairs, the total number of members has gone from 317 to 344.

Finally, in all of the cases in which the total number of members depends on the total number of Member States (the Court of Auditors, the Court of Justice, the European Investment Bank), the total number goes up by two units. What will be the impact of this enlargement on the ways in which the EU and its institutions function? What impacts will it have on the effectiveness of governance of Europe? It is difficult to say…

Admittedly, it is probably the last enlargement which will have been achieved with the help of a simple *compatible adaptation* of the existing institutions. What exactly are our leaders waiting for to propose the creation of a new system of governance in Europe which is efficient, just, more democratic, transparent and participative?

By Michele CIAVARINI AZZI

Europe in 2020

An extract taken from the article "Europe in 2020: what's the prognosis" by Richard LAMING

Enlargement: Why should countries join the EU? Bear in mind that in a world of increasingly free trade, the economic difference between membership and non-membership of the EU is going to shrink, but the political difference between membership and non-membership is going to grow.

The EU is going to be less a tool for solving economic problems - most of the solutions lie either globally or within individual member states - and more of a tool for solving political problems. If we want to get a new environmental policy started, such as REACH for the testing of chemicals, it will take a power the size of the EU to get the world's chemical companies to comply. All around the world, the chemical industry is looking at the EU policy and preparing to adapt to it.

We could discuss the details of the policy if you like, but the point is that if Europeans want any kind of policy like this, they have to do it together. The taxation of airline fuel is a good example of where something could be done. The EU as a whole would be big enough to force changes in the 1944 Chicago Convention, whereas no individual member state could possibly do so on its own.

So, the reason for joining the EU is to get a hand on the levers of power, particularly at the global level.

By 2020, my prediction is that Croatia and some other western Balkan countries will have joined, possibly Norway and Iceland, but not yet Switzerland or Turkey.

To read the full article, please go to:
http://www.federalunion.org.uk/news/2007/070129europein2020.shtml

9. NEWS OF THE FEDERALIST INTERGROUP

FEDERALIST INTERGROUP
For a European Constitution

Meeting of 15 November

On the Agenda: **1**. Intergroup initiative concerning the centenary anniversary of the birth of Altiero Spinelli, **2.** Plan B: How to save the European Constitution?

Exchange of opinion with Andrew DUFF, author of the pamphlet Commentary by Pervenche BERES: Andrew DUFF's Plan B: could it be a solution for France?

The session was opened by Carnero GONZALEZ who invited Bruno BROISSIERE, Secretary of the Intergroup to present his initiatives for the intergroup in relation to the birth of Altiero SPINELLI

Bruno BROISSIERE noted that 2007 will be a year of European celebrations for the Intergroup, with the 50th anniversary of the treaty of Rome and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Altiero SPINELLI, founder of the intergroup, initiator and Rapporteur of the constitutional treaty project. Bruno BROISSIERE encouraged the Intergroup to seize this opportunity to organize a demonstration to evaluate how the treaty of 14 February 1984 applies to the debate about the constitutional process today.

Andrew DUFF was then invited to present his plan B. DUFF believes that an entirely renewed Constitution would not be accepted by the governments of the EU. Parts of the 2004 text which were not particularly controversial should be preserved, those being parts one and two. The third part needs to be

renegotiated. Since France seems to be scared of being "fixed" for the next 50 years, they need to be shown that politics can be flexible.

After this initial introduction, Andrew DUFF laid out some specifics concerning the substance matter of five policy areas: 1. Governance of the European Union, 2. The social model, 3. The environment, 4. Enlargement, 5. The financial system

The plan was then discussed and commented on by Andrew DUFF himself as well as György SCHÖPFLIN Carlos CARNERO GONZALEZ Pervenche BERES Johannes VOGGENHUBER, Dariusz ROSATI and Proinsias DE ROSSA.

To read the full French version please go to: http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/CompteRendu_11_2006.doc

Meeting of 13 December

On the agenda: The constitutional debate after the elections in the Netherlands: ways forward? The meeting was opened by Andrew DUFF who welcomed the participants and reflected upon the recent electoral campaign in the Netherlands and invited the Dutch Members of the European Parliament, who were invited as guests to the Intergroup, to speak.

Social Democrat (PvdA) Thijs BERMAN stated that he regretted that all parties which campaigned for the Constitution lost seats during the recent electoral campaign. The social democrats lost 25% of their seats, partly due to the fact that the EU was not discussed during the campaign. Pro-constitutional parties, like his own labour party (Partij van de Arbeid) were reluctant to deal with big issues such as globalization because they feared losing voters. Bringing up issues beyond local politics was a risk not just for Socialists but also for the Green Party and the left Liberals.

Socialist (SP) Erik MEIJER brought up the fact that the Netherlands is one of the oldest members of the EU and chances are slim that they would exit as some of the populist parties say. The No-vote was the result of a public reaction against the EU acting as a single nation, bringing up the basic European problem of federalism and confederalism. The Dutch expressed the need for a small-scale, decentralized economy. MEIJER supports a short version of the constitution, limited to parts one and two which would be a short declaration of the common values of the EU. He stated that 62% of the Dutch population voted against the Constitution, which is even more unpopular today.

Andrew DUFF, as a federalist sees the Constitution as a reformist project. He believes that by blocking the Constitution, the Netherlands has in fact blocked the EU .

Jules MAATEN, member of the Dutch liberal party (VVD) and Joost LAGENDIJK, member of the Dutch green party (GroenLinks) both made statements which reflected on the current political atmosphere in the Netherlands and how it does not favour pro-constitutional parties.

A debate followed involving the speakers above as well as Jean-Luc DEHAENE, György SCHÖPPFLIN, Vittorio PRODI and Thijs BERMAN. Andrew DUFF mentioned the need for the Intergroup to draft a declaration as the Parliament has declined to seize a resolution. The Federalist Intergroup's Secretary Bruno BOISSIERE mentioned the second commemoration concerning Altiero SPINELLI and how the Intergroup should think of actions concerning his commemoration.

To read the full version, please go to: http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/Minutes_13Dec06__2_.doc

10. LETTER TO THE EDITOR/ COMMENTS

The long path to a European Referendum?

Report from a meeting in the
European University Institute (Florence)

The demand for a European referendum is becoming more and more popular. However, there is little agreement on how a European referendum can be conducted and what consequences it will have. Accordingly, twenty high-level academics and experts from the European institutions met last week in the European University Institute in Florence, to discuss political and legal obstacles to a European referendum. The debate proved that many questions concerning the introduction of a European referendum remain open.
It is important to put the discussion about a European referendum in the perspective of the traditional federalist struggle for a democratic European federation. In 50 years of European integration, the EU has not yet succeeded in overcoming the democratic deficit. Many important decisions are taken behind closed doors by high-level diplomats, not by the elected European politicians. Citizens neither understand EU decision making, nor do they feel involved. The solution is easily found but very difficult to implement: The EU needs to be transformed into a supranational parliamentary democracy, based on a strong European parliament, a European government and elements of participatory democracy. This requires institutional reforms, the strengthening of the European democratic infrastructure (strong European political parties and European political foundations) and the formation of a European public sphere, in which truly pan-European debates take place. A European referendum can play a role in this development. It would give citizens the chance to participate actively in deciding on the policy of the EU. Further it could provide the arena that is necessary for pan-European debates to take place.

However, the discussion in Florence has shown once again the difficulties. First of all there are numerous legal restraints. Representatives of the European institutions and other legal experts agreed that it would be very difficult at the current stage to find a legal base for conducting a European referendum. To introduce such a legal base would most likely require a treaty change, which is not very advisable in times when the European Constitution is not yet ratified. The introduction of a European referendum would also force several member states to change their national constitutions. Participants in Florence doubted that a legal base on the European level can be found or can be introduced and that the national constitutions are amended, before the EP-elections in 2009 take place.

Besides the legal view, also the political implications were discussed. Since neither the European Commission nor the European Parliament has the means to organise a referendum, the conducting of the European referendum would remain to the member states. Learning from previous referenda about European issues, where mainly national topics were discussed, strategies have to be developed to ensure that the referendum is actually pan-European.

How to count the votes in the referendum remains another open question. It would be desirable that a European referendum is won, if the majority of the Union citizens vote in favour, independent from the different results in the member states. But for many years to come, the governments of those states, where a majority of the population has voted against the question, will have political difficulties to justify the ratification of the respective document. Looking further ahead, one should also consider whether the European referendum on the European Constitution is a unique exercise or whether a European referendum should be introduced in general. In case of the latter, it is important to discuss

which questions can possibly be put forward for a European referendum. A European directive on abortion, lowering the voting age to sixteen, introducing a European environmental tax?

The conference in Florence was useful because very concrete questions concerning a European referendum were raised. The Campaign for a European referendum is important to bring European federalist together in their struggle for a democratic and federal Europe. But for the campaign to be successful, the UEF has to be able to answer the open questions in a satisfactory manner.

By Jan Kreutz,
Member of the Federal Committee

If you want to comment on articles or issues which featured in our Newsletter, you can send your letter to info@federaleurope.org and we will publish your comment here.

11. CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

- 22 February: EU Energy and Climate Policy, UEF Be&Groupe Europe, Brussels http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/Discussion_RHEIN__2_.doc
- 2-4 March: XXIII National Congress MFE, Rome *http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/Programma_solo_Congreso.doc*
- 2 March: Centennial anniversary of the birth of Altiero Spinelli, MFE, Rome *http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/Programma_celebrazione_Spinelli_per_stampa.rtf*
- 16 March: Speak-up Europe, Berlin
- 17 March: Launch of Referendum Campaign & EUD Federal Council, Berlin
- 31 March: AGM, Federal Union, London
- 20 April: Seminar preceding FC, Munich
- 21-22 April: UEF Federal Committee, Munich
- 27-29 April: 8th International Garda Seminar

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The UEF, founded in 1946, is an independent and non-governmental European organisation, campaigning for a federal Europe. Since April 2005, it is presided over by Mrs. Mercedes BRESSO, President of the Italian Region of Piedmont, Member of the EU Committee of the Regions.

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