U.E.F. NEWSLETTER N° 37

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1. FOREWORD BY FLORIAN RODEIT, UEF BUREAU MEMBER

"For we know,
Europe is our common future"

The celebrations on the 50th anniversary of the signature of the Treaties of Rome in Berlin and many cities all across Europe have come-and gone. The historic achievement has been justly acknowledged on many occasions. But what remains from the festivities, and what can we expect for the immediate future?

What remains for us individually?
Encouraging and motivating experiences from our participation at the Europa Festival in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, or having felt young again while listening to Kim Wilde in Brussels – and many more memorable moments from the festivities all over Europe.

What remains politically?
Unfortunately the political remnants of this golden jubilee do not shine so brightly. It is impossible, of course, to make any qualified judgements on the historic relevance of the Berlin Declaration after only three or four weeks. Yet some things can be noted:

It was obviously unrealistic to expect a political message that would fulfil a federalist vision for Europe beforehand. This assumption certainly proved to be correct.

One aim of the Berlin Declaration was to produce a very short and readable text that would be able to communicate the positive idea of European integration to most European citizens. While the text is certainly very readable, one cannot seriously claim that the text has led to notable repercussions among Europeans so far. It will be interesting to see which efforts the European and national authorities are going to undertake to disseminate the message of the Berlin declaration in the following weeks and

UEF
214 D Chaussée de Wavre, B-1050 Brussels
Tel. +32 2 508 30 30, Fax. +32 2 626 95 01
e-mail: info@federaleurope.org
Internet: www.federaleurope.org

months. Will the text (or parts of it) ever be published in school books?

Another aim of the Declaration was to practice the confidential and target-oriented collaboration between the governments to prepare for the more crucial task of somehow saving the institutional reforms that were once part of the draft Constitution. It remains to be seen if this exercise was a worthwhile effort, but the immediate negative comments on the Berlin Declaration by some governments – even on the day of the signature in Berlin – leave room for scepticism.

So what can we as political activists do over the next months?
We could remain passive, observe the proceedings between the national governments, and be more or less hopeful. Or we could start our own effort of communication with our fellow European citizens. For this purpose the UEF will launch the campaign for a consultative European referendum on the European Constitution in Munich on April 21st. Initial experiences demonstrate that the topic of the campaign is very appealing and easily stimulates interesting debates on the street.

I can only encourage each reader to try it out for her- or himself. Download some of the tools that will be available over the next days on www.europeanreferendum.eu and use them at your public actions – for example during Europe-week in May. Be ready for some genuine interest and participation from visitors, participants or passers-by.

Besides public activities you can (or should), of course, sign the petition on the website and make the website known to your friends and family.

And last but not least it would be great to see many of you in Munich on April 21st and 22nd for the official campaign launch. We can promise you an interesting programme in an interesting city (for details please see section 3. "Future Events" of this newsletter)

By Florian RODEIT

2. PAST EVENTS

UEF Belgique round table debate on EU's 50 years anniversary at Brussels' Book Fair

Brussels, 2 May 2007

On 2 March 2007, UEF Belgium in collaboration with the UEF-Groupe Europe organized a debate on the contribution of the great European figure that was Fernand HERMAN. This debate took place in the framework of the celebrations of the Treaty of Rome anniversary and was held at the occasion of the book publishing "Europa Patria Mea", released in 2006

Philippe MAYSTADT and Ferdinando RICCARDI

The debate was held at the Brussels' Book Fair « Foire du Livre de Bruxelles » and was moderated by Ferdinando RICCARDI, editorialist at Agence Europe. Among the participants, one could find many academic and politic personalities that had collaborated, at some point, with Fernand HERMAN.

Among those, one could distinguish Philippe MAYSTADT, President of the European Bank of Investment, François ROELANTS du VIVIER, President of the Belgian Senate Commission for Foreign and Defence Affairs, Pierre DEFRAIGNE, director of Eur-Ifri, Mario TELÒ, President of the ULB's Institute

of European Studies, Jean-Victor LOUIS, Distinguished ULB Professor, as well as Mario GRECO, Secretary General of the UEF-Groupe Europe and Michele CIAVARINI AZZI, President of the UEF.BE.

23rd Congress of MFE and 100th anniversary of Altiero SPINELLI

Rome, 2-4 March 2007

From 2-4 March, the 23rd Congress of MFE, the Italian branch of UEF, convened in Rome.

The morning of 2 March was devoted to celebrating the 100th anniversary of Altiero SPINELLI (1907-1986). The solemn ceremony was hosted in the mighty halls of the Campidoglio (Capitol Hill), where the Treaties of Rome were signed 50 years ago. The Honorary President of the Republic, Carlo AZEGLIO CIAMPI received from the hands MFE's President Guido MONTANI a prize entitled to Altiero SPINELLI, for his lifelong contribution to the European integration. The current President of the Republic, Giorgio NAPOLITANO, attended the ceremony, as well as some of the most prominent personalities in the Italian political landscape (including two Ministers of the Government, Tommaso PADOA-SCHIOPPA and Emma BONINO, several MEPs and MPs, and the Major of Rome). Many of them had the chance to express publicly their sympathy for the long-standing efforts of MFE, and for the new campaign for a pan-European referendum on the European Constitution.

Among the special guests were also UEF's President Mercedes BRESSO and UEF's Secretary General Friedhelm FRISCHENSCHLAGER. They both thanked the Italian federalists for the constant enthusiasm they transmit to the European level of the organisation, and stressed the importance of the Italian contribution to the referendum campaign. According to Mr. FRISCHENSCHLAGER, the campaign will be necessary to recreate confidence into the European institutions among the citizens, and to relaunch the presence of the UEF all over Europe.

The delegates reacted to this invitation adopting with a 3/4 majority a resolution which commits the organisation to devote the next two years to the referendum campaign. Support was also offered by the representatives of several Italian NGOs, many of which had attended the European Citizens' Convention in Genoa. The first occasion to put in practice this commitment was offered three weeks later by the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome, where the federalists were present in the streets with several stands and collected the signatures of hundreds of ordinary citizens and of many personalities including European Convention's President Valéry GISCARD D'ESTAING.

The congress was also the occasion, for the hundreds of delegates and observers, to discuss the next steps to obtain a European Constitution, as well as many other issues, such as the role of Europe on the world stage, the reform of the UN and of the other international organisations, the necessity of a European economic government, the importance of the European social model, and the future of the organisational model of the federalist organisation. At the end of the congress, Guido MONTANI and Giorgio ANSELMI were reconfirmed President and Secretary General of the organisation.

By Francesco FERRERO

Federal Union, the UK section of the UEF, held its Annual General Meeting

London, 31 March 2007

The opening speaker, on the subject of the EU's relations with Russia, was David CLARK, chairman of the Advisory Council

of the Russia Foundation and former government adviser. He described how the Russian government was using energy supply as a tool of its foreign policy, as seen repeatedly over the last few years in boycotts and price rises inflicted on its trading partners. Trade sanctions on other products were also imposed on different European countries from time to time. A second concern was the large and growing dependence of the European Union on Russian supplies of gas, a concern enhanced by lack of investment by the Russians themselves in expanding their capacity. Demand will soon outstrip supply if nothing is done. A third challenge was the tendency of individual EU member states to seek bilateral deals on energy with the Russian government.

Three suggestions for the future:

The EU should open up the prospect of membership to Ukraine, which would in turn force Russia to rethink its "sphere of influence" approach to its neighbours and also demonstrate that a closer relationship would be possible between Russia and the EU, too;

The EU should use its economic and competition powers to prevent a Russian energy hegemony from emerging in Europe;

Above all, the different member states of the EU should realise the importance of their collective interests in their dealings with Russia and adopt a common policy accordingly. Particular beneficiaries of this would be the eastern European member states that were currently being hung out to dry by their western neighbours.

Elections held after the lunch interval saw the following elected to serve for the coming year:

Chair: Brendan DONNELLY
Deputy Chair: Stephen HASELER
Treasurer: Lawrence FULLICK
Secretary: Richard LAMING

Other members of the committee: Satish DESAI, Ian HACKETT, John PINDER and Ernest WISTRICH. (George IRVIN, Patrick Mc NALLY, Keith TUNSTALL and Emmanouil VRENTZOS had been elected at the previous AGM to serve for two years.)

The afternoon debate, on the future of the European constitution, was introduced by Brendan DONNELLY, newly re-elected chair of Federal Union. He speculated on the kind of agreement on the constitution that might be acceptable to Gordon BROWN, likely to succeed Tony BLAIR as prime minister later this year. He did not expect that the British government would be willing to agree to a text comparable to that of the constitutional treaty of 2004, nor that it would end up being isolated from the other 26 governments. Most likely was British interest in a modest package of treaty amendments that could be presented as technical rather than political and ratified in parliament rather than through a referendum as a result.

However, there were many uncertainties, including the outcome of the French presidential election in May and the ability of Angela MERKEL to assemble an agreement at the summit in June.

By Richard LAMING

3. FUTURE EVENTS

UEF Speak up Europe Seminar
"Enabling Social Europe with a European Constitution?"
Munich, 20-22 April 2007

Within the framework of the Speak up Europe campaign, the UEF is organising a two day seminar in the heart of the Bavarian capital, the Bavarian Parliament in Munich.

Over 40 participants will come together to discuss the European constitution and how social aspects should be treated. On Friday afternoon UEF Vice-President Heinz Wilhelm SCHAUMANN, who organised the seminar together with the Secretariat, will welcome the participants and the guest speakers:

The Luxembourg Minister for Labour and Social Affairs, François BILTGEN, will speak about the Lisbon-Process and the European constitution and Dr. Roman MARUHN from the Center for applied politics of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München will discuss whether the European constitution will make Europe more social.

The federalist perspective on the issue will be at the heart of discussions during the second session of the seminar on Saturday, at which Jan KREUTZ, Assistant to Jo LEINEN, Member of the European Parliament will be the main speaker.

To view the programme, please click here: http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/FC/FC_Munich_21-22_April_2007/Seminar_programme_04_04_07.doc

UEF next Federal Committee
Munich, 20-22 April 2007

The next meeting of the UEF Federal Committee (FC) will take place in the Bavarian Parliament in Munich. About 60 delegates and observers are expected to attend the meeting, at the heart of which will be the planning and launching of the Campaign for a European Consultative Referendum on the Constitution.

On Saturday morning, Political Commission I "Towards a European Constitution" will discuss the legal and political aspects of the campaign, and the concrete steps ahead will be planned in detail. The main speaker will be Paolo PONZANO, Director of the Task Force on the future of the Union and Institutional Matters, set up by the Secretariat-General of the European Commission.

In the afternoon, the UEF President Mercedes BRESSO will open the launch event of the campaign to which all delegates, friends, the public and the press are invited. Amongst the panelists will be Ulla KALBFLEISCH-KOTTSIEPER (Vice-President of the Europa-Union Deutschland), Claudia ROTH (head of the German greens) and Michael LINK (member of the parliamentary group of the German Liberal party).

On Sunday, Eurooppafederalistit from Finland will apply for membership to the UEF, which, if successful, would increase the number of UEF sections to 22!

We still accept registrations and encourage all sections to be present at this important meeting.

To view all relevant documents, please click here:
http://www.federaleurope.org/index.php?id=5754 (English)
http://www.federaleurope.org/index.php?id=5777 (French)
http://www.federaleurope.org/index.php?id=5780 (German)

UEF public debate
The June 2007 roadmap –A new vision for the 'Project Europe'?
9 May, European Parliament, Brussels

After a lengthy period of reflection, the European Council is expected to agree this June on a roadmap paving the way towards a European constitutional framework. The 2009 deadline for "institutional reforms", as it was called in the March Berlin Declaration, seems to be set, but will this process deliver the hoped-for results? Will reforming the decision-making structures be sufficient to

UEF
214 D Chaussée de Wavre, B-1050 Brussels
Tel. +32 2 508 30 30, Fax. +32 2 626 95 01
e-mail: info@federaleurope.org
Internet: www.federaleurope.org

provide the badly needed new vision for the Project Europe?

Together with the Permanent Forum for civil Society, the UEF is organising an evening debate within the framework of the Speak up Europe campaign, highlighting the state of affairs on the future of Europe. The most likely scenarios for the way ahead will be discussed and some new and maybe inspiring ideas will be put on the table.

The event will be held on 9 May at 18.00 - 19.00 in the Eastman Building of the European Parliament. Speakers will be Elmar BROK (MEP, European people's party) and Jens-Peter BONDE (MEP, Independance/democracy group).

For more information and the registration form, please click here: http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/A_new_vision_for_Europe_-_9_May_2007.doc

Friends of JEF meeting in Berlin, 30 June/1 July 2007

Now it is confirmed: Former JEF members and Friends of JEF meet in Berlin from 30 June to 1 July 2007!

The European Movement International will have its Federal Council meeting at the same time in Berlin on Friday and Saturday. Many delegates might be former JEF-ers. It would be great if they could stay for the following exclusive Friends of JEF event.

On Friday there will be an international EU-briefing on the leftovers of the German Presidency and the forthcoming agenda of the rest of the Trio-Presidency (Portugal 2007 / Slovenia 2008). Organisation: http://www.europeanmovement.org

The event will take place in the Paulinenhof (yard of the Heinz-Schwarzkopf-Foundation) in the historic centre of Berlin (Mitte) near Hackescher Markt. In this yard the joint office building of the European Movement Germany, UEF Germany and JEF are located. The evening will have a character of a Biergarten combining party and political talks. And the night will be long...

On Sunday, a common boat trip on the River Spree, just 5 min from Paulinenhof, including "Katerfrühstück" (hangoverbreakfast) and sightseeing.

A modest participation fee of 56 EUR, covering the event in Paulinenhof and the boat trip will be asked for. For more information see: http://www.friends-of-jef.net/

4. REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

Launch of the Campaign website,
Berlin 17 March 2007

A new campaign for a European referendum on the European constitution was launched in Berlin on Saturday 17 March. The campaign calls for a consultative referendum on the constitution in all EU member states at the time of the next European elections.

The campaign website will invite one million citizens to register their support for the European referendum in the coming months.

Florian RODEIT presenting the website: www.europeanreferendum.eu

Among the first signatories were: Mercedes BRESSO, president of the Union of European Federalists (UEF) and president of the Italian region of Piemonte, as well as Peter ALTMAIER, president of Europa Union Deutschland and state secretary in the German federal foreign ministry.

UEF president Mercedes BRESSO said: "The future of the European Union is too important to be left to the heads of state and government alone. Citizens are using the new website to say that Europe needs a constitution and that they want the right to vote for it"

Europa Union Deutschland president Peter ALTMAIER said: "I encourage all those who wish to contribute to building Europe to visit the website and register their support. The idea of the European constitution is fundamentally a democratic one, so it is fitting that signatures of citizens should be collected in its support."

President of the Young European Federalists Jan SEIFERT, who is also backing the campaign, said: "We need a different method of ratification to break through the logjam in the constitutional process. That's why we need a European referendum. Purely national politics cannot deliver the Europe we need."

To read the full speech of UEF President Mercedes BRESSO, please click here:
Italian (original):
http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/EUD_Federal_Committee_BRESSO_speech_Italian.doc
In German:
http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/EUD_Federal_Committee_BRESSO_speech_German.doc

For more information on the Campaign, please click here:
http://www.federaleurope.org/index.php?id=5630 or go directly to
www.europeanreferendum.eu

Celebrating 50 years of the treaty of Rome,
Berlin, 25 March 2007

Over half a million citizens came together in the centre of Berlin around the Brandenburg Gate to celebrate the European Union's 50th birthday. Civil society organisations, European and national institutions exposed their work relevant to European affairs in a total of 78 information stands, street artists and international bands entertained the visitors, and culinary delights from many European countries could be enjoyed by the visitors.

A great opportunity for the UEF, the Europa-Union Deutschland and the Young European federalists to jointly expose and talk about our work. Between 12.00 am and 10 pm hundreds of people visited our stand and often stayed a while to talk about their visions of Europe, their observations and about the constitutional crisis. The visitors were especially interested in the campaign for a European-wide consultative referendum. Most of them gave their signature straight away, grateful to have an opportunity to support the European project and to make their voice heard.

UEF Stand at Berlin celebrations

It was a successful and joyful weekend. On Saturday evening, the Berlin Philharmonics made the starting shot by playing the European Hymn of Beethoven's 9th symphony. Thousands of people spent the night celebrating in Berlin's discos and museums. And whilst the heads of

governments of the 27 EU member states signed the Berlin declarations, the crowd of people „Unter den Linden“ showed that Europe is not only of interest to the politicians.

To look at more pictures of this event, please go to:
http://www.federaleurope.org/index.php?id=5745

5. SPEAK UP EUROPE

Kick off of Speak up Europe in Germany
Berlin 16 March 2007

The Europa-Union Deutschland launched their Speak up Europe events with an afternoon debate on the issue of European energy policies. The event took place in the offices of the European Commission delegation in the heart of Berlin and convened about 200 spectators.

Jürgen TRITTIN (Member of Bundestag for the German Greens and former German Federal Minister for the Environment) and Jürgen HOGREFE (EnBW Energie Baden-Württemberg and former editor of „Der Spiegel“) defended their positions in a trial debate in front of the 200 spectators.

Before the debate, the audience was asked whether it was better to have a European energy policy or not, and the large majority expressed themselves in favor.

To the left: Jürgen HOGREFE, to the right: Jürgen TRITTIN

The panellists discussed the European Commission’s Energy report, the ambitions of the German EU Council Presidency, and the development of a coherent European energy policy.

Jürgen TRITTIN referred to the conclusions of the European Council on 8/9 March, asking: “Will we have enough courage to implement them?” Jürgen HOGREVE also expressed concerns about the conclusions: “20% of renewable energy sources are a very ambitious target, but it won’t be reachable without nuclear energy.” Both speakers considered the climate change as Europe’s biggest challenge, bigger than terrorism.

At the centre of the debate was the question whether the energy goals of security of supplies, sustainability and competition could be reached in free markets. In the discussion with the energy experts it became clear that there is a conflict among the three goals. Whilst from an economic perception, low prices should be welcomed, because they strengthen Germany’s position in the competition, they will lead to more energy consumption.

Participants Voting on European Energy issues

This very lively debate was the first of the German speak up Europe events, which the UEF implements together with the European Movement, the Young European Federalists and Euractiv in the context of the “Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate.

To read more about the Speak up Europe campaign in Germany, please go to: http://www.menschen-bilden-europa.de/

To read more about the UEF Speak up Europe campaign, please go to: http://www.federaleurope.org/index.php?id=4914

6. NEWS OF THE FEDERALIST INTERGROUP

FEDERALIST INTERGROUP
For a European Constitution

Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome

Europe is healing itself from hostilities and division. Learning from the bitter experiences of the 20th Century, European states and citizens now foster human rights cherish the rule of law and work together to develop new forms of democratic governance. Former enemies are now loyal partners. Dictatorships and authoritarian regimes have been replaced by pluralistic liberal democracy. Equality of status is guaranteed for large and small states alike. Few areas of European public life are now untouched by the success of practical integration. And the peoples of Europe have more in common with each other than not.

The establishment of the European Economic Community played a key part in these developments, and the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome fully merits to be celebrated across Europe and in the wider world.

Throughout the post-war period, federalism has been a powerful driving force behind European integration. Federalists inspired the founding fathers of the European Union and have not ceased to work towards the goal of a close union of Europe's states and peoples in which no single level of government is subordinate to any other but all are coordinate. In 2007 the Federalist Intergroup of the European Parliament is also commemorating the centenary of Altiero SPINELLI who made a particularly important contribution to the constitutional development of the Union.

While Europe has achieved much since the end of the Second World War in creating and then gradually extending the political scope of unification as well as in widening membership of the Union, there remains much work to be done if the mission of the founding fathers is to be wholly fulfilled.

We Members of the European Parliament who are proud to call ourselves federalists believe that 2007 will be decisive for the success of the democratic project. We are convinced that the European Union needs to complete its constitutional process in order to be fully equipped to meet the demands of the 21st Century and the aspirations of a large majority of its citizens. With no constitution, Europe will lack internal cohesion and external strength, and the EU's development into a mature, post-national democracy will be impaired.

Europe's federalists commit themselves anew to the task of building a united, democratic Europe which will deliver peace, tolerance, prosperity and freedom to our own peoples and which may act as a beacon of hope worldwide.

To read the declaration in French, please go to: http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/Declaration_Intergroupe_Federaliste_50eme_TdRfin.doc

To read the press release, go to: http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/Federalist_Intergroup_Press_Release_6March_EN.doc

To read the press release in French, please go to:
http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/Communique_Presse_6mars_FR.doc

7. OTHER

5 to 12 - Europe is waiting for our leaders to take action

On Sunday 25 March, the presidents of the European Parliament, the Commission and the European Council will sign the Berlin Declaration to mark the 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome. The text sums up Europe's biggest achievements but also the necessity to push forward with the Constitutional project before the European elections in 2009.

5 to 12, Europe is waiting

Young activists across Europe have used the occasion to voice their concerns of urgency with the 5to12 action (www.5to12.eu). By putting up a huge banner on Berlin's famous Siegessäule JEF demands to move ahead with an ambitious Constitutional project and to hold a European referendum on the revised text in 2009.JEF-Europe president Jan SEIFERT, present in Berlin, commented on the Berlin Declaration and celebrations:
"A look at the contents and evolution of the Berlin Declaration offers a sad illustration of today's intergovernmental Europe. Important documents like the Berlin Declaration are still hammered out by diplomats ("Sherpas") behind closed doors and all elected politicians can do in the end is to rubber-stamp a done deal. What really concerns members from organisations like JEF is the incomprehensible absence of a reference to the citizens' movements that have continuously dared to stand up for Europe and involve other citizens in the discussions on its future. - Making Europe a project "by" the people is a corner-stone for its future democratic development – or indeed the lack of it. Activists from JEF, UEF and the European Movements have often been the key protagonists of European issues and some of them, like Altiero SPINELLI, have left their mark in the EU's history." remarked JEF president Jan SEIFERT.

"Independent of the shortcomings of the Berlin Declaration, it is JEF's priority to have Europe move forward with an ambitious Constitutional project. The best way to ensure a success is to refer back to the citizens and directly involve them through a European referendum in 2009. Our campaign www.europeanreferendum.eu will strive to gather support for this in the months to come." remarked SEIFERT.

"The development of the European Union is Europe's greatest achievement in the 20th century. Now is the right time and valid reason to celebrate Europe's successes with such grand activities. But it is also necessary to combine the festivities with a look towards the future. -Europe's main challenge remains: to tackle its democratic deficit and involve citizens directly in its further construction. This is why JEF has joined the campaign for a European referendum on the Constitution." the JEF president concluded.

Summer University on Federalism

From August 27th to September 14th 2007, under the auspices of the Swiss Confederation, the institute of federalism of the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) presents its summer University:

Federalism, Constitutionalism and Democratic Governance in Multicultural Societies, 19th session

To read the invitation, please go to: http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/summer_university_invitation.pdf

To read the program, go to: http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/Summer_university_program_2007.pdf

To consult the registration form, go to: http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/Summer_University_regform_07.pdf

To read the registration information, go to: http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/Summer_University_Registration_information.pdf

8. NEWS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Good bye

The UEF Secretariat would like to thank Vincent van der HEIJDEN for his tremendous work during the last months. He has given the most valuable support and we wish him all the best for his personal and professional future…in JEF ☺ .

UEF Welcomes new intern

On the 12th of March, a new intern has joined the UEF team at the secretariat in Brussels.

Heike NEUMANN is German, 22 years old and studies Political Science at the University of Bamberg. She has previously done an internship with the Europa-Union Secretariat in Berlin. In Brussels she is mainly in charge of helping us and our friends in Munich with the preparations of the Federal Committee. Heike will stay until the Federal Committee in Munich, taking place 20-22 of April; afterwards she will go back to university to continue her study.

9. CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

- 20-21 April: UEF (Speak up Europe) Seminar "Enabling Social Europe with a European Constitution" in Munich
- 21-22 April: UEF Federal Committee in Munich
- 9 May: UEF (Speak up Europe) Public Debate in European Parliament: Towards a European Constitution
- 30 June: Friends of JEF meeting in Berlin

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Editor: Friedhelm Frischenschlager & Hanneli EBDING
Newsletter Team: Hanneli EBDING, Christophe de NIJS
Contributions: Bruno BOISSIERE, Michele CIAVARINI AZZI, Christophe DE NIJS, Hanneli EBDING, Francesco FERRERO, Richard LAMING, Florian RODEIT

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.

UEF
214 D Chaussée de Wavre, B-1050 Brussels
Tel. +32 2 508 30 30, Fax. +32 2 626 95 01
e-mail: info@federaleurope.org
Internet: www.federaleurope.org