U.E.F. NEWSLETTER N° 46

INDEX:

1. FOREWORD BY JOAN MARC SIMON

2. PAST EVENTS

- UEF-Congress, 10/11/12 of October 2008, Paris, France
- Exchange on UN Parliamentary Assembly hosted in European Parliament, 4th and 5th of November 2008, Brussels
- Federal Union reunites with world federalists, 6th of September 2008, London
- Annual Congress of the UEF.be, 13th of September 2008 in Brussels, Belgium

3. FUTURE EVENTS

- JEF and UEF activists in Madrid during the PES Council meeting on 1st of December, Spain

4. UEF IN THE PRESS

- Federalists call for a new international monetary system by Andrew DUFF
- Bronislaw GEREMEK, an activist of European democracy by Guido MONTANI
- Czechs raise the stakes on Lisbon by Andrew DUFF
- International jury including Andrew DUFF and Gerard ONESTA selected EU woman of the year
- Sarkozy is right a European government is necessary, but ....

5. CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

1. FOREWORD BY JOAN MARC SIMON

Looking for the European Obama…

We are living times of rapid change. Crisis of different nature -financial, environmental, humanitarian…- are hitting not only our continent but the whole world. At the same time new winds of hope are blowing from the other side of the Atlantic; the election of Barack Obama as new president of the United States together with the spontaneous reaction of joy that most world citizens experienced is a clear sign that the dark times of unilateralism and confrontation might have come to a halt.

We Europeans know very well that big changes come from times of crisis; the European Union itself is the dramatic result of the biggest tragedy of the 20th century. The many crisis the world is facing today contain a huge potential for change in the right direction, but let's not fool ourselves; the challenges ahead of us are colossal and they will require the collaboration of all of us, people and countries to shape this new world order, able to provide us with lasting peace and sustainable prosperity we all want.

The come-back of the US to multilateralism is to be welcomed but we Europeans have to do our homework if we want to be able deliver. I believe the European Federalists are well equipped with powerful and sensible proposals to address the challenges. The last congress of the UEF held in Paris, 10-12 of October delivered several useful policies which effectively tackle the current challenges the EU is facing. For a summary, please click **here**

All these ideas go in the direction of strengthening the democratic character of the Union and reforming it so that it can successfully contribute to a better European and world governance.

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The new wave of multilateralism that we are entering means that the EU will have the opportunity to finally find a partner in its endeavor to take on binding decisions on climate change, trade, regulation of financial markets… however, as federalists we have to reflect on whether multilateralism is enough or we want to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in the reform and/or creation of world institutions.
Effectively, multilateralism only works when there is political will, without political will only a solid institutional framework can bring progress. The European Union is the perfect example of how without a solid political will it is possible to advance thanks to the legislation and jurisprudence elaborated by the EU legislative and judiciary.

However, the EU needs a democratically legitimised executive able to draw a political line for the Union. In the US Barack Obama is expected to personalize the American new vision; who is going to play this role in the EU?

Most of the challenges the EU is facing today are not European anymore, they are global. Security, climate change, financial crisis, immigration… they are global challenges that need to be tackled globally. For this purpose the EU needs an European Government, a common foreign policy and solid institutional structure to tackle them but it also needs a functioning world governance that today is badly missing.

During the 4th and 5th of November the UEF collaborated with the Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly -UNPA- which celebrated its meeting in the European Parliament. Initiatives like the UNPA go in right the direction to create the embryo of a World Parliament that one day should be able to decide on binding policies.

UEF also participated in the World Federalist Movement Council meeting in The Hague on 6th and 7th where federalists from all over the world shared experiences. It is highly inspiring to see how from the Japanese to the Argentinian or African world federalists we share a common project. The result of the World Federalist Movement is campaigns such as the Coalition for an International Criminal Court, Responsibility to Protect or the above mentioned UNPA campaign.

But coming back to Europe, the European Federalists have 6 vibrant months ahead of us with the European Elections Campaign and the continuation of the Who is Your Candidate Campaign. In the search of the European Barack Obama, we will be present in the next Congress of the European Socialist Party in December in Madrid asking the party to nominate their candidate for president of the European Commission. The election of Obama in the US shows how important and motivating is the election of the head of the executive. Finding the European Obama is not a technical detail, it is the difference between having a European project or not having it.

Let me conclude by announcing that the newly elected executive bureau led by Andrew Duff will meet in December to prepare the strategy for the European Parliament elections, may you have suggestions for the bureau please submit them to the secretariat before November the 30th.

Federalist greetings,

Joan Marc Simon

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2. PAST EVENTS

UEF-Congress, 10/11/12 of October 2008, Paris, France

The UEF Congress from the 10 until the 12 of October in Paris was attended by more than 200 delegates and observers. Federalists from all over Europe came again together to discuss federalist issues under the title:

For a Europe of citizens

June 2009: give us a choice!

This years congress elected Mr. Andrew DRUFF, MEP and Chair of the Federalist Intergroup, as President of the Union of European Federalists. Vice-presidents are Mr. Philipp Agathonos, Mr, Guido Montani and Mr. Heinz-Wilhelm Schaumann. For the new bureau, please click here.

The Congress delegates set the political parameters for the next 2 years by adopting and discussing several political resolution during the general assembly and numerous political commissions.
The Congress also noticed that the UEF plans to implements several campaigns in the frame work of the European Parliament elections in June 2009.

For more information, please click **here**

Exchange on UN Parliamentary Assembly hosted in European Parliament, 4th and 5th of November 2008, Brussels

Representatives of non-governmental organizations and stakeholders of the Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) from around 15 countries gathered in the European Parliament in Brussels on 4th and 5th November for an exchange on the campaign's progress within the past year, an outlook onto the coming activities and to discuss political questions.

The meeting included a Round Table consultation and an evening reception with invited guests in which several members of the European Parliament participated. The official host of the conference, the European deputy Jo LEINEN, said in his words of welcome that "the aim is to end the current democratic deficit on UN level and to control governments in their decisions". As an example, Mr LEINEN stressed the "immense importance" of global parliamentary monitoring in the field of climate regulations. Considering the current global financial crisis and its repercussions on the global economy, Neena Gill MEP pointed out that "the timing of the meeting is really opportune." "We need greater global governance but also real legitimacy. The citizens feel disconnected," Mrs Gill stated.

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At the reception, co-hosted by the **Campaign for a UN Parliamentary Assembly** and the **Union of European Federalists**, the Vice-President of the European Parliament, Edward MCMILLAN-SCOTT MEP, underscored the parliament's longstanding support for the cause of a UN Parliamentary Assembly and also referred to the welcome message by the European Parliament's President Hans-Gert PÖTTERING, published the day before. Graham WATSON MEP highlighted the campaign's achievements since its launch in April 2007, mentioning in particular that it is now already supported by almost 550 elected representatives from around the world.
One of the conclusions reached at the meeting was that a UNPA would be complementary to the Inter-Parliamentary Union's valuable task of enhancing the role of national parliaments in international affairs.

For more pictures, please click **here**

Source: www.UNPAcampaign.org

Federal Union reunites with world federalists, 6th of September 2008, London

By: Richard LAMING

After 43 years of separate existence, Federal Union, the UK section of the UEF, finally reunited with its world federalist equivalent, the Association of World Federalists. The AWF had been founded by members of Federal Union back in 1965.

Negotiations over the reunification had been going on all summer, and their culmination was a meeting held in London on Saturday 6 September at which the reunification was agreed (with only one dissenting voice).

The day opened with a seminar addressed by Michael Burgess, professor of federal studies at the University of Kent, and Keith Best, chair of the AWF Council and of the WFM Executive Committee. Michael Burgess outlined the values and principles that underlay the federal idea and identified three areas where there had been a distinctive British contribution: the Philadelphia convention; devolution in the United Kingdom; and its influence on the thinking of Altiero Spinelli. Keith Best warned that it was easy to think that every development in global governance was a form of federalism, when often they are not. That is why those that unmistakeably are, such as the International Criminal Court, were so valuable.

The political debate was followed by a business session in which the terms of the reunification were agreed. The statutes of the new organisation are based on the former statutes of Federal Union, although with specific posts for Deputy Chairs to make sure that neither European nor world federalism is neglected in the future workplan. Elections for a new committee will be held at an AGM in March 2009: until then, the organisation will be led by a committee

composed of all the existing members of the two previous committees. The organisation will preserve the name Federal Union, which it first adopted in 1938, and will be a member organisation of both the UEF and the WFM.

Finally, the workplan will focus on federalism at UK, European and global levels, with a particular interest in issues where different levels overlap. For example, there cannot be a serious attempt to manage the global economy unless the eurozone has more effective arrangements for external representation. The political logic behind this realisation has been a major factor in bringing the European and world federalists back together again.

Annual Congress of the UEF.be, 13th of September 2008 in Brussels, Belgium

At its annual **Congress on 13 September**, the Union of European Federalists (UEF)-Belgium elected **Michele Ciavarini Azzi** as its President, **Paul Frix** as Vice President and **Domenico Rossetti di Valdalbero** as Secretary general.

The political debate was introduced by UEF Secretary General, Joan Marc Simon, and focused on the current political situation in Europe: the effects of the Irish referendum in June 2008 on the ratification process of the Lisbon Treaty and on the integration process as such; the next European elections in June 2009, and EU perspectives after the EP elections. The UEF "Who is your candidate campaign" was presented as a major contribution to the EP elections' campaign.

Moreover, Michele Ciavarini Azzi stressed the role of the AGORA within the European Parliament to deepen the link between the EP and civil society; he announced a new phase in the cooperation with the Belgian section of the European Movement and presented new political initiatives to be run with the political parties, in the frame of the EP elections.

Domenico Rossetti di Valdalbero mentioned the success of the "Why Europe" seminar on EU leadership in Social and Environmental Affairs. The importance to continue the pedagogical campaign on what the Federalist model can bring has been stressed. In that sense, a major tool is the education program "TRAINEUROPE" (see www.aede.eu), which has been finalized last year by UEF-BE together with AEDE, the European Association of Teachers.

Finally, the Congress welcomed Paul Frix, Francesca Nastri and Severine Lerate as new members of the Board.

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N° 46 – September - November 2008

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3. FUTURE EVENTS

JEF and UEF activists in Madrid during the PES Council meeting on 1st of December

In the framework of the ***Who is your candidate?*** campaign for a transparently and democratically elected president of the European Commission, UEF and JEF are organizing a public action in Madrid on **December 1st** during the meeting of the Party of European Socialists (PES) in the Spanish capital.

The PES Council meeting will bring together political leaders from the PES, intellectuals and PES activists who are interested in exchanging their views and opinions, in order to find new ways of promoting the socialist and social democratic values and policies all over Europe.

And the federalists want to be there present on the spot to lobby those leaders and remind them of our ideas of a more transparent, democratic Union of citizens.

For further information please contact secretariat@federaleurope.org or call +32 2 508 30 30

4. UEF IN THE PRESS

Federalists call for a new international monetary system

By Andrew DUFF

In the light of this weekend's G20 summit, Andrew Duff MEP, President of the Union of European Federalists, calls for the creation of a new international monetary system on the basis of a world standard.

In a statement today (Thursday), Duff says:

"The full scale of the financial and economic crisis has now become apparent. While European governments have done well to act jointly in the last weeks to re-capitalise Europe's banks, concerted action must now be taken on a global scale and on a genuinely multilateral basis.

"The summit should lay the foundations of a new international monetary system that would manage the relationships between the world's major currencies. The powers of a reformed IMF should be boosted to enable it to scrutinise and supervise the macro-economic policies of the industrialised world. The eurogroup should have single unified representation at the IMF.

"External supervision of the EU's economic and monetary policies would put useful extra pressure on EU governments to control their deficits more strictly. World leaders must be bold and clear-sighted in addressing issues of global economic and financial governance. The EU, led by President Sarkozy, should take the lead.

"At home, supervision of credit institutions should be reinforced at the EU level, and made much more transparent. Risk management cannot be left to market forces.

"The eurozone should be readied to expand more rapidly than expected. Over the

medium term it will be essential once again to respect the disciplines of the Stability and Growth Pact -- but from now on there must be real political measures to reform the structure of the least competitive European economies."

Bronislaw GEREMEK, an activist of European democracy

By Guido MONTANI

Bronislaw Geremek (1932-2008) deserves to be remembered by the federalists because his life is an exemplary demonstration of how a sincere democrat, thanks to his coherent and constant commitment to active politics, managed to follow the difficult course that led him to the natural harbour of European federalism, starting from a Europe divided by the Cold War.

Geremek – who survived because he escaped from the ghetto of Warsaw during the second world war – could have been satisfied with his academic success. He was an internationally renowned historian of the European Middle Ages. Nonetheless, he was not, because he felt obliged to actively support Solidarity against the oppressive Polish and Soviet communist regimes. He also went to prison for a short period under general Jaruselski's regime. After the end of communism, he became the Foreign Minister of a democratic Poland and, in that position, he realised how important it would be for his country to become a member of the European Union in order to consolidate feeble Polish democracy. After the eastern enlargement of the Union, Geremek took part, as a member of the European Parliament, in the construction of European democracy, to link the fate of his home country with that of other European countries more closely. From this position, he bravely reported the demagogic and persecutory attempt of the Kaczynski government against citizens who were suspected of having cooperated with the previous communist regime. Geremek, as a sincere liberal and democrat, was ready to denounce the violations of individual freedom, wherever they came from.

During this difficult political journey, Geremek advocated democratic and patriotic positions, but not federalist ones. On the contrary, as Foreign Minister he initially defended the principle of national sovereignty, maybe as the heritage of the past condition of Poland which, in the framework of the Comecon, considered the safeguarding of national sovereignty the only line of defence against the hegemonic politics of the USSR. However, he was able to rid himself of this viscous past. His independent discovery of federalism is an exemplary demonstration of how a democrat, devoted to his cause, without compromises with national power, finally recognises the need for the Union to be transformed into a federation.

There are two episodes, happened shortly before his death, which show without question Geremek's convergence of thought with European federalism. The first, which clarifies the cultural background within which his political action can be understood, is the evaluation of the process of European unification and in particular, of the enlargement, which he expressed during a recent conference in Milan (16 June 2008). Geremek claims that "unlike national communities, Europe is a community of choice". With this comment, he demonstrates how he deeply understood the mystification generated by nationalism, for which one is Polish, French or German by birth, as if nationality were a natural fact and not the imposition of a sovereign power. The national state imposes a closed and monolithic identity, which is incompatible with other identities. The European Union frees citizens from this cultural prison, widening the range of their life choices. Europe has allowed the young generations, those who have no memory of the wars and concentration camps, to conceive their future in an open space without borders. Europe, as Geremek

correctly remarks, "is a community in which, more than anywhere else, citizens have the chance to say that they want to live together".
As far as the enlargement is concerned, Geremek refutes the thesis of those who claim that it is the cause of the weakening of the European spirit and of the birth of Euroskeptic populism. Rather, this cause should be sought for in the return of nationalism in new forms, whereas the enlargement must be considered a success, for the purposes of the advancement of European integration. As a matter of fact, Geremek observes, it is even more evident today, in the Europe with 27 members, than it was in the more limited Union, that there is no progress if the principle of unanimity in decisions is not overcome. "Even though at times it is necessary to accept that one's own Country represents a minority relating to this or that issue of European interest, the majority vote would be the expression of this community of interests".
The second episode concerns his reaction to the negative outcome of the Irish referendum on the Treaty of Lisbon, which Geremek considered necessary to allow the Union to face the present day challenges. As a matter of fact, in his opinion the Treaty would have enlarged the range "of the community method which has been the basis of all the EU successes". In order to overcome the obstacle of the Irish "No", Geremek proposed, as had the Italian federalists shortly before, the organisation of a European referendum on the occasion of the next European elections. "What cannot be implemented on the basis of existing treaties – Geremek claimed – can be submitted to popular consultation at a European Union level, organised on the same day in all member countries. One or two precise questions concerning the European voting system, an informing campaign on the theme, a debate throughout Europe on the issue, and the Europeans would be called to vote (it could be done on the occasion of the next elections for the European Parliament): the Council and the Parliament would know what to do after a similar consultation" (see *Le Monde,* 28 June 2008). This proposal, mainly aimed at his colleagues in the European Parliament, seems to have fallen on deaf ears. Not all Members of European Parliament have the same courage and freedom of thought. Nonetheless, concerning this, it is worth recalling a remark by Jean Monnet: "When an idea corresponds to the need of its time, it no longer belongs to the men who invented it and it is stronger than those who must fulfil it". The need to overcome the gap of confidence between citizens and European institutions is clearer and clearer. One can thus hope that the proposal for a European referendum to call European citizens to decide on the future of the Union will not be dropped and that it will be imposed on European politicians.
Geremek accurately pointed out the heart of the matter that needs to be solved by Europeans and he made brave proposals to overcome the impasse in which European construction finds itself. His goal was realistic, it conjugated interests and ideals: he proposed to "federate Europeans in common policies which place the focus on European interest". A tragic fate has prevented him from asserting and achieving his political aim. But, if an avant-guard group of European democrats, within and outside the European Parliament, commits itself to continuing his lucid march towards supranational democracy, the European Federation will come into being.

Czechs raise the stakes on Lisbon

By Andrew DUFF

All being well with Europe, the Treaty of Lisbon would now have been ready to come into force on 1 January. All is not well. Sweden has been lazy, and will only complete its parliamentary ratification process next week. The Polish president refuses to sign the ratification instrument

despite the fact that his parliament has ratified the treaty. The German president is constrained from signing until a challenge in his constitutional court has been seen off. The people of Ireland saw fit to reject the treaty last June in what has come to be seen as their first of two referendums on the matter. And ratification by the Czech Republic has stalled irritatingly.

The Czech problem matters because its government takes over the presidency of the European Union for six months on 1 January. One of the main jobs of the Czech presidency will be to help Ireland implement the plan, supposedly to be agreed by the European Council in December, to salvage the treaty. So instead of being part of the solution, the Czechs have become part of the problem. The Czech presidency will lack all credibility and authority unless and until its government secures the ratification of Lisbon.

In good times, a weak EU presidency may not matter very much. These are bad times, and we are fortunate to have had France's superman President Nicolas Sarkozy in charge since July. The contrast with Mr Sarkozy's successor, Czech prime minister Mirek Topolanek, could not be greater. It is a contrast sharpened by the entirely coincidental arrival on the scene of America's own superman, Barack Obama, with an agenda of change. To many, Europe's leadership will seem to be going in just the wrong direction at a time of acute global crisis - mumbling 'sorry, no, we can't' as it leaves the stage.

It is not that middling sized countries such as the Czech Republic cannot run good EU presidencies: many have. And there is a good crop of energetic Czech ministers entirely capable in normal circumstances of managing the routine business of the EU Council and of properly being held to account in the European Parliament.

The issue is, rather, whether the Czech Republic has yet come to terms with its membership of the EU. As the first of nine ex-Warsaw Pact countries to take the helm of the Union, the question has rather wide ramifications. Last week in Prague I heard one leading Czech senator liken Mr Sarkozy's mini-summit, at the height of the financial meltdown last month, to a 'gathering of the four Powers of Munich' - that is, Messrs Chamberlain, Daladier, Hitler and Mussolini in 1938. The author of this slander against the current crop of Europe's top leaders was a senior member of the governing Civic Democrats (ODS). The remark produced no reaction at all from other Czech senators, most of whom seemed to be labouring from deep illusions about the Lisbon treaty heard otherwise only on the wilder shores of rightwing europhobia.

One has come to expect the parliaments of former communist states to be assertive. Slender majorities and febrile political parties make governing difficult in Central Europe. The Czech senate has raised a petition in the constitutional court against the Lisbon treaty, requesting a judgment on whether the EU treaty conforms with the constitutional character of the Czech Republic 'as a sovereign, unitary and democratic, law-abiding state'. The notoriously eurosceptic Czech president, Vaclav Klaus, founder of the ODS, has joined the case against the 'dead document' of the treaty and the 'useless document' of the Charter of Fundamental Rights (which Lisbon makes mandatory). In a somewhat erratic submission to the court, Mr Klaus inveighs against the creation of a European federal state, which, he asserts, will be advanced by Lisbon. He attacks some general principles of European integration, including that of European citizenship. For Mr Klaus and his fearful senators, it appears that democracy can only be national and sovereignty is not to be shared. They reject the concept of deepening interdependence between EU member states.

The President of the Republic has mounted a veritable attack on Czech membership of an EU governed by the Treaty of Lisbon. Mr Topolanek's government has made a full and fluent response to the constitutional court which should be able to convince any fair-minded judge that the Czech national interest

is best served by strengthening rather than weakening the EU. The court's judgment is, alas, postponed until 25 November while President Klaus goes on a state visit to Ireland.
In Dublin Mr Klaus intends to raise the stakes by (outrageously) meeting the anti-European demagogue Declan Ganley, who led the 'No' campaign in the first Irish referendum. Mr Ganley is trying to woo the ODS into joining a parliamentary group of rightwing nationalist MEPs after next June's European elections.
Mirek Topolanek, meanwhile, needs to work hard on his party and parliament. A critical Congress of the ODS is to be held on 6 December, at which the party will decide on whether to link the deployment of the US anti-missile radar system with the Lisbon treaty. In the parliament, where the radar issue divides government and opposition, a three-fifths majority is needed for the treaty ratification in both Houses.
The government should focus on how the Treaty of Lisbon improves on the present Treaty of Nice. It can promise always to ask parliament's permission before agreeing in the European Council to the deployment of the treaty's flexibility clauses which allow for more qualified majority voting. It must explain and defend the principle whereby the Union only enjoys competencies expressly conferred on it by treaty. It should keep the ODS party firmly within the ranks of the mainstream centre right in the European Parliament.
Above all, the Czech government must shatter the widespread delusion that if Lisbon is sunk there will be something better around the corner. There won't. Lisbon is as good as it gets for Czechs and us fellow Europeans. If Mr Topolanek does all this he will rescue his term as EU president. If he does not, the four Powers of Munich may be back with a vengeance.
Andrew Duff MEP is President of the Union of European Federalists (www.andrewduff.eu).

UEF supports Monica Luisa MACOVEI as Woman of Europe 2008

UEF President, Andrew Duff, participated in the jury that elected the Romanian exMinister of Justice as Woman of Europe 2008. Andrew Duff voted for the winner on the meeting held Wednesday 12th of November in Brussels for her dedication to build a European Justice system in Romania and fight against corruption.

Romanian anti-corruption campaigner Monica MACOVEI saw off competition from 11 other women to land the award, the aim of which is to encourage the involvement of women in European affairs.

MACOVEI, an ex-minister of justice in Romania, currently works for the UK government as a consultant on justice reforms in EU candidate countries.

But it was her efforts in rooting out political corruption in her own country which won her the plaudits of an international jury, including MEPs Andrew DUFF and Gerard ONESTA.

Presenting her with the award, a gold broche, POTTERING said she and the other candidates were a "symbol and model for women everywhere" and that she could be proud of her achievements.

He said the EU was making efforts to promote gender equality but more was needed, particularly by the EU institutions.

MACOVEI described the award as a "great honour" and praised the other candidates who came from 11 different countries.

Dedicating the prize to "all Romanians who believe in the rule of law", she said, "Tackling corruption has been the most challenging

thing in my life but I will continue because I believe in zero corruption."

Each of the 12 shortlisted candidates was given five minutes to make a presentation to the jury in parliament on Wednesday.

This list was reduced to three candidates, who included MACOVEI, Lithuanian journalist Zuokiene AGNE, who has campaigned for children´s rights, and academic Saulle Maria RITA, a judge on Italy´s constitutional court,who was listed for her work in promoting human rights.

MACOVEI told the jury that tackling corruption in Romania had been a "very, very challenging and difficult" task, not least because the country's politicians and top officials used to enjoy "virtual" immunity from prosecution.

French politician Nicole FONTAINE, a former president of parliament, praised the "high quality" of the candidates, saying, "They are all outstanding and amazing women and picking a winner has been very difficult."

Her comments were echoed by DUFF, who said,"It was an interesting selection and a fair reflection of the contribution made by talented women across Europe."

He pointed out that the plans he has put forward for transnational lists for next year's European elections emphasise the importance of gender equality.

ONESTA, a vice president of parliament, said, "The fact that one of the candidates is the only female among the 15 judges on Italy's constitutional court illustrates the scale of the gender problem."

The award has been given each year since 1987 by the International Association for the Promotion of Women in Europe. The jury consisted of MEPs, journalists, NGO representatives and academics.

For more information please visit this link: http://www.theparliament.com/latestnews/news-article/newsarticle/eu-woman-of-the-year-hailed-by-parliament-president/

Source: www.TheParliament.com

Sarkozy is right a European government is necessary, but ….

By Guido MONTANI

In his speech to the European Parliament, President Sarkozy acknowledged that the financial crisis "requires reform of European institutions" and that Europe needs an "economic government" because "we have a money, a central bank, a single monetary policy, but we do not have an economic government worthy of the name."

President Sarkozy has dealt with determination the emergencies that the Union had to face in Georgia and on financial markets. He was able to affirm in world politics the European point of view, but only after exhausting negotiations with other governments. Now, he recognizes that Europe needs an economic government. In truth, Europe needs a real democratic government, because:

- citizens have a right to know who decides in Europe, have the right to choose who should govern them and have the right to change the government if they were governed badly;
- Europe needs a European Foreign minister who speaks to the world with one voice;
- Europe needs a Minister of Economy and Finance to flank the European Central Bank in the management of the European economy;

- Europe needs a Minister of the Environment that promotes the ecological conversion of the economy with a coherent economic plan for sustainable development.

Whoever proposes a European government should be aware that:

- the European government must be democratically accountable to the European Parliament and European citizens, who must decide with their votes who governs them;
- there will be no European foreign and security policy until national governments retain the veto right on European issues;
- that there will be no real European economic and environmental policy as long as the European government is not endowed with fiscal powers, to feed an autonomous European budget.

The European federalists ask, as a first step towards a European government, democratically accountable to European citizens, that the European parties designate a candidate for President of the European Commission in the European elections in June 2009. Citizens should be able to choose with their votes not just a party, but also those who will be responsible for implementing EU policies.

5. CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

- Congress of the UEF Germany, 21st and 22nd of November 2008, Saarbrücken, Germany
- JEF and UEF activists in Madrid during the PES Council meeting on 1st of December, Spain
- Next Bureau meeting, 6th and 7th of December in Brussels, Belgium
- Spring Federal Committee, 18th until 19th of April 2009 in Brussels, Belgium
- European parliament election, 4th until 7th of June 2009
- Ventotene Seminar, 30th of August until 5th of September 2009
- Autumn Federal Committee, 24th and 25th of October 2009 in Brussels, Belgium

The UEF Newsletter is a free monthly service prepared by the European Secretariat of the Union of European Federalists (UEF) with the financial support but not representing the opinions of the European Commission.
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The Union of European Federalists (UEF) is a non-governmental European organization, campaigning for a federal Europe. It consists of 20 constituent organizations and it has been active at the European, national and local levels for more than 50 years.

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