UEF Newsletter April 2011

Dear Friends,

What a Congress! The European Federalists confirmed their mission as a political movement committed to the creation of a real European Union. More than 200 participants, members of national UEF chapters, Young European Federalists (JEF), representatives of European and international federalists' movements as well as observers engaged during three days on current EU issues and on strengthening the ties with fellow Federalists. After a short period of collecting pictures, writing minutes and documents C we offer
you today, not only resolutions and content, but also a bit of the mood we were in during a long weekend. Find video captures, pictures, the new Executive Bureau with the reelected President MEP Andrew Duff and a lot to read from the XXIII European Congress of the UEF. We hope that you will find new inspiration and ideas for engaging in our cause, where ever you are at the moment. Enjoy reading!

Sincerely yours,
Christian Wenning
UEF Secretary General

UEF NEWS

Follow European Federalists on Facebook!

You might have noticed that recently we have done a spring cleaning and have removed our numerous Federalists' groups on Facebook! This change is due to Facebook 'pages' having better interactivity than 'groups',
and a desire to unite all our followers and those interested in the European Federalism in a single virtual location.

If you want to follow our updates, share your ideas on how to achieve the federal unity of Europe and engage in a debate with other European Federalists, please join our official page – European Federalists!(www.facebook.com/european.federalist)

XXIII UEF EUROPEAN CONGRESS

The 23rd European Congress of the Union of European Federalists took place on 25-27 March 2011 in the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. The Congress, held every two years, is the general assembly of UEF, which determines the UEF
policy, elects the UEF President, modifies provisions of the statutes and elects the Federal Committee members. This year federalists gathered under the slogan "Federal Europe – Time to Decide" to react as a united federalist force to the latest twists and turns in the tale of economic government. Keeping in mind that EU is facing an urgent dilemma about its strategic direction, the UEF worked to steer decisions towards deeper integration, a stronger Union and a more efficient democracy. Read the complete report and retrieve the resolutions adopted…

Adopted Resolutions

European Federal Union, Time to Decide
Resolution on the European Union Enlargement
Resolution on Foreign Security and Defence Policy
Resolution on a common European Energy Policy
12 theses for a Federal and Democratic Europe
Establishing of Spinelli Chairs
Internal call on a UEF Financial Taskforce
Internal Resolution on a Federalist Training Policy

Election Results

With an overwhelming majority of votes British Liberal MEP Andrew Duff was reelected as the President of the Union of European Federalists.
The federal committee of the UEF also elected new members to the presidium: Paul Frix, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Massimo Malcovati, four vice presidents: Philipp Agathonos, Andrey Kovatchev, Guido Montani, Heinz-Wilhelm Schaumann, and ten new bureau members: Till Burkhardt, Jean-Guy Giraud, Francesco Ferrero, Andrea Kdolsky, Bettina Kümmerle, Nikos Lampropoulus, Paolo Vacca, Catherine Vieilledent, Elina Viilup and Nikola Zivkovič. See the complete list of the election results…

Photos

See pictures!

We have also created the UEF XXIII European Congress gallery on Flickr. You can

join the group and add your pictures taken during the Congress! Be the first to share your pictures!

Video

Click on the following links to watch the viedos: - Political Commissions, XXIII UEF European Congress, March 26, 2011
- XXIII UEF European Congress, 25-27th March 2011 in Brussels
- Video address by Viviane Reding, Vice-President of the European Commission to the XXIII UEF European Congress

Speeches

Click on the links and listen to speeches by :
- Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament
- Mario Monti, European Commissioner 1995-2004 and President of Bocconi University.

NEWS FROM SECTIONS

XXV National Congress of UEF Italy

The XXV national Congress of MFE (UEF Italy) was held in Gorizia on 11C13 March, 2011, with the participation of more than 200 delegates from 105 local sections, under the slogans "Yes to the European Federation, to govern European economy, to have a European foreign and security policy, for a fair and sustainable development, to contribute to peace and justice in the world". The Congress was preceded by a round table, chaired by the President of MFE, Lucio Levi, on "What kind of Europe could face the challenges of economic crisis and globalization?". Several members of the Italian and European Parliaments participated. Read the full report...

Report on Federal Union annual conference

Federal Union's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and annual conference was held in London on Saturday 19 March 2011. Read the full report...

The committee was elected at the AGM. Richard Laming elected as chair, Lawrence Fullick as Treasurer and Brendan Donnelly as Secretary. There are three Deputy Chair posts still to be filled from among the ordinary committee members, the elections for which will take place at the next committee meeting scheduled for 9 May 2011. See

the full list of the elected committee...

Next MFE Central Committee Meeting

The newly elected Central Committee of MFE will meet in Rome on May 7. It is going to discuss the results of the UEF Congress and will elect the members of the National Board and the Chairpersons of the different offices.

PAST EVENTS

UEF Belgium: "From the Single Act to the Treaty of Lisbon: prospects for a federal Europe"

On Wednesday 9 February, 2011, the Belgian section of the Union of European Federalists with the support of the Altiero Spinelli Institute for Federalist Studies organised an apéroCdebate "From the Single Act to the Treaty of Lisbon: prospects for a federal Europe " at La Piola bookshop in Brussels. The debate was started by writers Davide Caci and Fulvio Gambotto, who presented a book about the life and youth of Altiero Spinelli (1907C1986), one of the founding fathers of European Federalism (author of thManifesto di Ventotene, 1941), former Italian Commissioner (1970C1976) and member of the European Parliament (1979-1986). The book, entitled "La nebbia e il granito. Come ho tentato di diventare Altiero Spinelli" (Fog and Granite. How did I try to become Altiero Spinelli) and focussing on the Spinelli's youth and the basis of his political message, was written using comic strips with a purpose of reaching out a wide and young target audience.Virgilio Dastoli, former Assistant of Altiero Spinelli in his years as member of the European Parliament, took part as a keynote speaker in the panel. The presentation of the book was followed by a debate on the relevance of Altiero Spinelli's political message in the light of recent EU institutional developments. About 60 participants attended the event, which was realised with the support of the European Commission – Program Europe for the Citizens, in the framework of the project "European Lunches: European challenges and Citizenship". An interview on the debate has been realised by the Radio Program "Europe and You" and broadcasted by many local radios in Belgium, France and Congo.

FUTURE EVENTS

Debate “The State of the Union after the Lisbon Treaty”

Education and Culture DG

On 30 April, 2011 at 3 pm, the Belgian section of the Union of the European Federalists in cooperation with The Fondazione Mario e Valeria Albertini is organising a debate “The State of the Union after the Lisbon Treaty”.
Guest speakers: Pier Virgilio Dastoli, CIME President and Philip Agathonos, UEF Vice-President
Venue: Palazzo del Turismo, Via Porto Vecchio 36, Desenzano des Garda, Garda Lake (Italy)
For information and registration contact Luisa Trumellini (l.trumellini@libero.it)

The debate will be realized in the framework of the European project “Les Midis de l’Europe: Enjeux Europeens et citoyennete”, with the support of the EU Program “Europe for Citizens”.

Call for participants: "Strengthening European Participatory Democracy"

UEF Bulgaria, along with JEF and the National Student Confederation invites young people to participate in the international training course "Strengthening European Participatory Democracy" to be held in Sofia from 1C8 May, 2011. The Lisbon Treaty gave the EU a set of tools to tackle more effectively the key concerns of the citizens and its implementation is an excellent opportunity to further engage the young citizens with the European project. With the ongoing changes and their unavoidable impact on the whole EU decision making process, it is necessary to be proactive and understand the challenges and opportunities of the time to come. Through panel discussions, working groups, lectures, plenary sessions, simulation games and information market the training course will provide young people with knowledge and skills for active participation in the democratic life of the union. The political, social, economic and cultural aspects that the course addresses will contribute to shape a vision how to strengthen European democracy and reaffirm the concept of active European citizenship. The participants will acquire competences about how to develop activities fostering European citizenship and practical knowledge how to communicate the EU to the young citizens. The ideas and knowledge generated during the course can be used by every participant and be implemented at local level The rich social program, including horse ride in Vitosha mountain (optional), parties and sightseeing trip to the Rila Monastery, one of the most significant and picturesque monuments on the Balkans, will enable the participants to feel the atmosphere of Bulgaria - an-ever evolving and modern country with great cultural heritage and traditions, dating back from Roman and Byzantine times. PARTICIPATING CONDITIONS
Age: 18-30; no age limit for speakers
Countries: EU Member states
Costs: 70% of Travel Costs will be reimbursed (up to 230 Euro)
Fee/person: 75 Euro participation fee/person
Board & lodging: covered by the organisers
Deadline for applying: 24 April 2011!!!
FOR MORE DETAILS AND APPLICATION FORM contact
uefbulgaria(at)scas.acad.bg

MFE Training seminars

Traditionally, several regional centres of MFE organize spring training seminars for students in collaboration with GFE (the Italian branch of Young European Federalists).
The following ones are already scheduled:
• the seminar of Lombardy, April 29 C May 1, in parallel with a twoCday international seminar organized in collaboration with UEF Belgium
• the seminar of Tuscany, July 16C23 in Pian dei Carpinelli, Italy
• the seminar of Veneto, August 1C6 in Neumarkt (A)
• the seminar of Piemonte will be held in Bardonecchia next autumn, in a date yet to be confirmed

JEF NEWS

The Young European Federalists (JEF) have released the new issue of their bi-weekly Newsletter JEF-INFO. To find the full version of the newsletter at the homepage of JEF Europe, click here.