

Why we need a Convention to change the Treaties

There are two crucial reasons why we need to open a Convention to reform the Treaties, by applying the ordinary revision procedure of Article 48 (2-5) TEU:

1. **the need to guarantee democratic participation.** Both the representatives of the European Parliament and the national Parliaments have the ability to influence the content of the revision. This makes the final text produced by the Convention not just the result of intergovernmental negotiations, but also a process where the representative body of European citizens can express its opinion.
2. **simplified revision procedures are limited and cannot be used to expand the EU's powers and competences:**
 - a. Article 48 (6) - avoids the opening of a Convention - cannot extend the competences conferred to the Union in the Treaties, so it cannot grant more powers in the fields of defense and external policies
 - b. Article 48 (7) - so-called passerelle clause procedures cannot apply to decisions in the fields of defense and the financing of the Union, and they would have no relevance for strengthening the mechanism for the protection of the rule of law embodied in Article 7 TEU.

Read more here bit.ly/3SYgxFO.

Watch the videos



The European Parliament's proposal to reform the EU Treaties

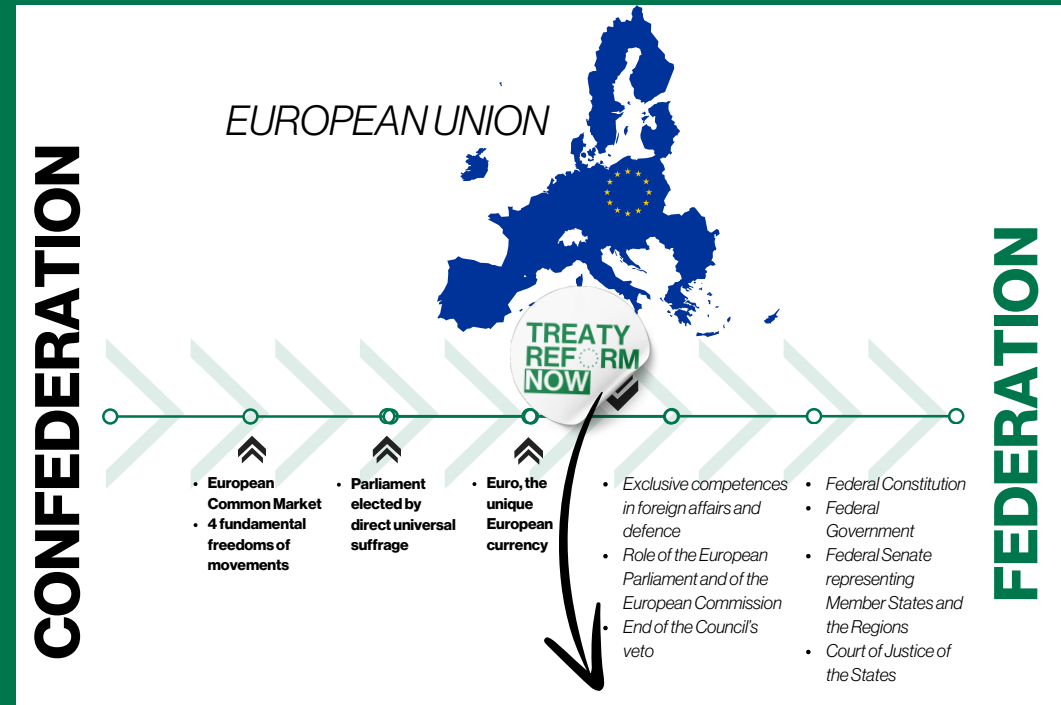


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TREATY REFORM NOW!

The campaign for a sovereign, federal and democratic Europe.



HOW EU TREATIES CAN BE CHANGED

- Europe is facing a dramatic moment in its history and is being called upon to respond to immense challenges to protect its citizens, ensure respect for its fundamental values, and defend freedom and democracy.
- The European Parliament, with the support of the Commission, has already taken action by calling for a Convention to reform the Treaties and has presented a report with its proposals in the autumn of 2023.
- UEF calls on the President of the European Council and the Heads of State and Government to take on their responsibilities at this crucial moment in the integration process and to convene a Convention for a substantive reform of the European Union as soon as possible

ORDINARY REVISION PROCEDURE

European Commission or European Parliament or Member States

may submit

Treaty reform proposal

to the

Council of the European Union

This proposal shall be submitted to

European Council

(decides by simple majority to examine the proposal)

CONVENTION NEEDED?



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Timeline

- March 2021-9 May 2022 The Conference on the Future of Europe was a unique opportunity for European citizens to engage with European and national institutions, as well as parliamentarians, to discuss the challenges and priorities of tomorrow's Europe. The objective of CoFoE was to develop a **document containing proposals to reform the current European Union**. Despite limited press and media coverage, 500,000 people actively participated, with the CoFoE platform being viewed about 5 million times over the course of one year. This initiative mobilized the European Parliament. On 4 May 2022, the Parliament adopted a resolution on the follow-up to the Conference, calling for a convention to revise the Treaties as provided in Article 48 of the TEU.
- 2 December 2022 During the follow-up event of the CoFoE, the Citizens' Panel Ambassadors - who also represented citizens in the Conference plenary - denounced the Council's silence and obstructionism.
- 14 September 2023 A draft report proposing a federal reform of the Treaties was presented to the Constitutional Affairs Committee (AFCO) of the European Parliament.
- 22 November 2023 **The European Parliament approved the report** on the proposals for the amendment of the Treaties drafted by Spinelli Group members Guy Verhofstadt, Sven Simon, Gabriele Bischoff, Daniel Freund, and Helmut Scholz.
- 18 December 2023 The Council of the EU played its part, thanks to Spain's leadership, and transmitted the European Parliament's request for the activation of Article 48 of the TEU to the European Council. **Europe now turns to the President of the European Council and EU national leaders to include the EP's request on the agenda of the next EUCO meeting immediately.**

UEF analysis and actions

In 2020, before the start of the CoFoE, UEF took action with an **Appeal for Our Federal Europe: Sovereign, Democratic, Solidarity** to call for the long-delayed initiation of CoFoE. This is why the European federalists actively participated in CoFoE: i) by publishing proposals on the conference's digital platform that called for the revision of the EU Treaties, including the EU's power of taxation, the abolition of the states' veto power, and the simultaneous granting of decision-making powers to the European Parliament; ii) by organizing numerous online and in-person events to promote their proposals. At the European level, the UEF participated in the work of the Conference Plenary, both with its own representative (its Secretary General) and through MEPs from the Spinelli Intergroup who support federalist positions within the EP.

After the end of CoFoE, UEF's actions focused on:

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

The proposal represents an extremely advanced federal reform project for the Union, capable of establishing a **democratically legitimized European sovereignty**. This important result was largely made possible by the debate that took place during the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) and the conclusions reached by CoFoE itself, which AFCO's proposal aims to follow up on.

This was a historic vote, marking the European Parliament's return to a leading role after forty years, since the draft Treaty inspired by Altiero Spinelli. It represents an effort to strengthen the political and decision-making architecture of Europe and make it a key player in addressing contemporary challenges. In support of this courageous initiative by the European Parliament, which aligns with the commitments made by the European institutions at the end of the Conference on the Future of Europe, the Union of European Federalists and its sections across Europe engaged with citizens in more than 30 European cities and online to inform them about the crucial vote.

The request for Treaty change must first be considered by the European Council because it is both urgent and necessary. The European Union lacks the essential tools to address the security and economic challenges we are facing. The Russian war against Ukraine and its interference, migration flows, the ecological and digital transitions, and enlargement all demand action. **More than ever, we need to reform our institutional framework, and the report offers several solutions.**