

European Federalist Movement Netherlands (UEF NL)

Candidacy Presentation to the Federal Committee

Barcelona, 22 March 2026

Presented by Board Member of UEF NL Reinis Gijs



EUROPESE FEDERALISTISCHE BEWEGING VAN NEDERLAND

EUROPEESKE FEDERALISTYSKE BEWEGING NEDERLÂN

EUROPEAN FEDERALIST MOVEMENT NETHERLANDS

Welcome Address of President of UEF NL



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The Founding Board



Adrian F.H. Waschmann
President

Cultural curator, European policy advocate. Advisory board roles in Amsterdam's cultural sector. MA European Studies (UvA), European Parliament.



Anja Reimann
Treasurer

Head of Unit, Ministry of Economic Affairs. Ex EY-Parthenon. UN Policy Fellow AI. Programme Manager, Municipality of Amsterdam.



Kevin Klaren
Secretary General

European Studies student in The Hague. Managing membership intake and operational coordination.



Reinis Gijs
Board Member

Project management student in Zwolle. Directly Elected Federal Committee member, JEF Europe. Task Force Capacity Building.

Finn Gleichmann, President of JEF Netherlands — ex officio board member per Art. 12 of the statutes

Supported by JEF Netherlands — formal letter of support from President Finn Gleichmann and Secretary General Maximilian Allwright

UEF NL and JEF Netherlands

Building the federalist future together



Finn Gleichmann

President, JEF Netherlands

Spatial Planning student in Groningen. Founded JEF Groningen, led Communications for JEF NL. Believes in strong regions in a united Europe.

JEF NL Activities

- Formal letter of support for UEF NL reactivation
- Co-hosting events and outreach initiatives
- Active in community building, lobbying, and campaigns across NL
- Direct link to JEF Europe and Spinelli Group network

How We Crosslink

Double membership:

JEF NL members can become UEF NL members with one membership fee and UEF NL members under 35 can become JEF NL members

Shared intake:

Single Google Form for membership interest - no parallel systems

Joint programming:

Co-organised events, shared outreach, coordinated advocacy campaigns

Governance bridge:

JEF NL President holds ex officio position on UEF NL board. Reinis Gijs serves on both UEF NL board and JEF Europe Federal Committee.

A Founding Legacy

1947

Hendrik Brugmans co-founds the Union of European Federalists. A Dutchman at the helm from its inception.

1948

Congress of Europe in The Hague. The Netherlands hosts the foundational moment of European political integration.

1958

Nederlandse Federalistische Beweging formally established as a UEF national section.

1985

The Dutch section ceases activity. For nearly four decades, a founding member state has been absent from the federalist movement.

1991

The summit leading to the founding of the EU - Maastricht Treaty

2026

Europese Federalistische Beweging van Nederland is reactivated. A new generation picks up where Brugmans left off.

Why the Netherlands Matters

1951, 1957

Founding member

ECSC, EEC, Euratom — present from the beginning

#5

Largest EU economy

Punching well above its weight for 18 million people

3

Referendums against EU

2005, 2016, 2018 — yet 70%+ view EU favourably

The Paradox

A founding member state that benefits enormously from integration — yet where Euroscepticism has grown louder than in almost any other Western European country.

The Challenge

- Three referendums rejecting EU proposals
- Eurosceptic parties consistently polling 20%+
- Pro-European voice largely absent from public discourse
- No dedicated federalist chapter for 41 years

The Opportunity

- New government under D66 (Renew Europe) leadership committed to deeper integration
- Coalition agreement: abolish unanimity in EU Council
- 70%+ of Dutch citizens view EU membership favourably
- UEF NL can be the unapologetic federalist voice NL has lacked

Strategic Vision

2026: Build Alliances

- Signal to UEF Europe and Dutch institutions: UEF NL is back
- Strategic partnerships: De Balie, European Cultural Foundation, Clingendael Institute, Goethe-Institut Amsterdam, University of Amsterdam
- Multiplier effect: BeNeLux cooperation, cross-border with UEF Germany (NRW, Niedersachsen)
- At least one formalised partnership by autumn 2026
- Strengthened and stabilised membership growth

2027: Treaty of Rome 70th

- Alliance network from 2026 feeds directly into anniversary programming
- UEF NL presents a concrete plan: with whom, in what format, with whose participation
- A founding member state should be a stage for that conversation, not a spectator
- Visible contribution to the European public sphere in the Netherlands
- Strong advocacy campaign to promote the federal union on the 70th anniversary together with the partners in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and Italy

What UEF Gains

A founding member state returns

The Netherlands' absence from UEF has been a gap in credibility. Reactivation signals that federalism is alive where it was born.

BeNeLux multiplier

Natural bridge to Belgium and Luxembourg. Cross-border cooperation with UEF Germany through NRW and Niedersachsen.

Messaging laboratory

If federalism can be made compelling in a Eurosceptic founding state, that message travels everywhere.

Ready ecosystem

Randstaad hosts the European Cultural Foundation, strong think tanks, and a dense network of European institutions and civil society.

I took this photo in Amsterdam during election week.

On 18 March, I voted in the municipal elections as an EU citizen — because the Treaty says I can.

But I cannot vote for the parliament of the country I live in, pay taxes in, and call home.

You see three flagpoles: the European flag, the Amsterdam municipal flag — and between them, nearly hidden, the Dutch national flag. That is what EU citizenship looks like today: present at the European and municipal level, absent at the national. Our work is to change that — not by becoming Dutch, but by making Europe federal.

-Adrian F.H. Waschmann, UEF NL President



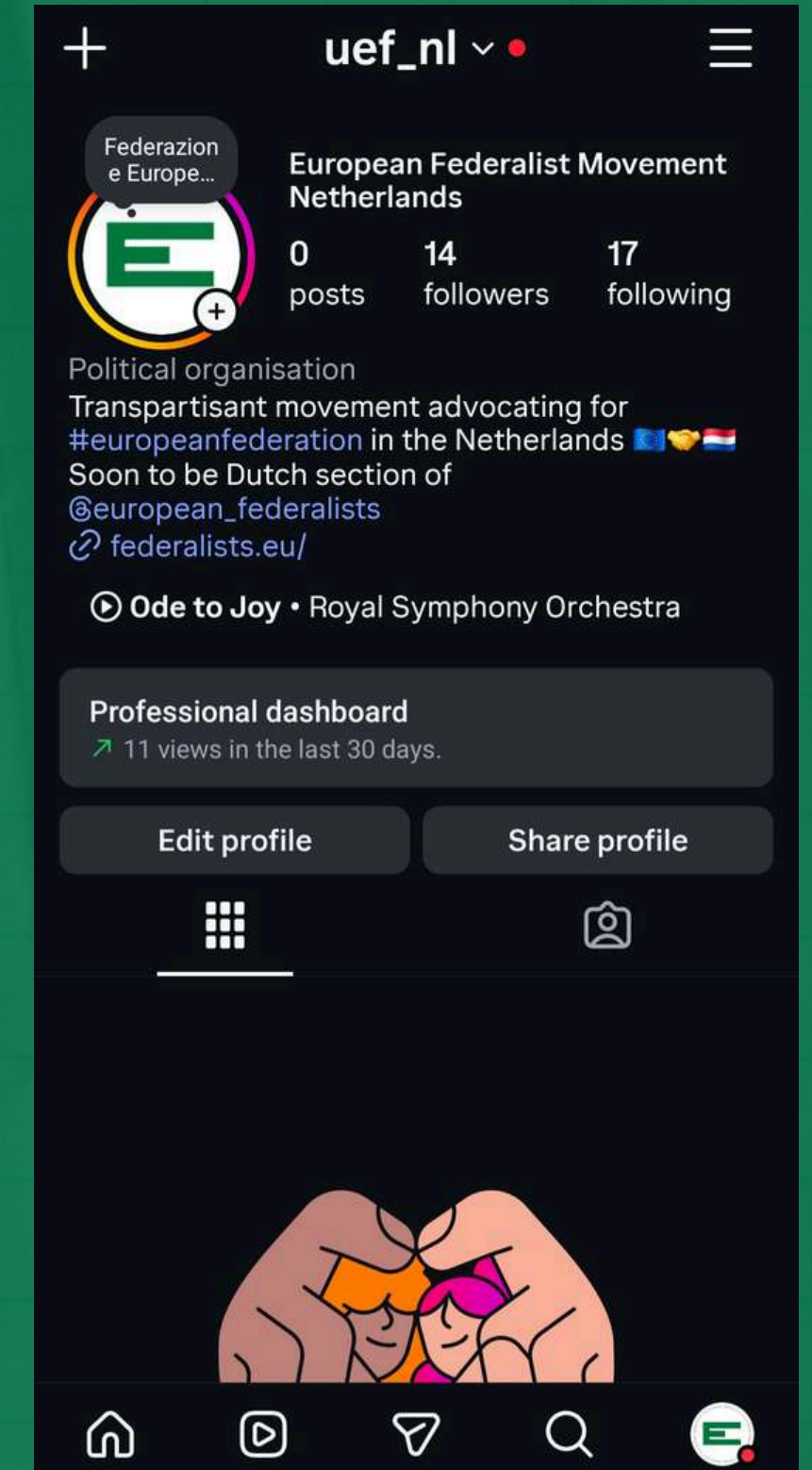
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