

2019-2020, new mandate, new beginnings

On 25.06.2019, a conference was organised on the EU Budget 2021-2027 with Gert-Jan Koopman (DG Budget) and Pierre Defraigne (CEO Madariaga, Hon. DGal) at a time when the MFF was still being negotiated. This is one of our standing topics, because we hold the budget to be key to the capacity of a united, sovereign EU. As usual, there followed a publication in GRASPE.

A delegation of the Group was **in Strasbourg for the EP Plenary** on 1-2.07.2019 and met the new MEPs, as organised by UEF, followed by a vast rally in front of the EP premises. Despite the rejection of transnational lists (by EPP), nominations in the EC and ECB were good and UvD confirmed a strong proEuropean coalition, with a commitment to organise a CoFE.

Conferences with the ECP (European citizens platform) were organised on “A Budget for the Europeans” on 19.12.2019 with Elena Marrez (DG Budget), on “Climate, Europe and You” with Pierre Larrourou 21.01.2020. On 2.12.2019 Virgilio Dastoli presented the prospects for the Conference on the Future of Europe.



2021

This was the end of a three year cycle (2018-2021) of working with the **European Citizens Platform**, <https://european-citizen.eu/archives.htm> launched by Graspe with Groupe Europe's active support, other partners being JEF, Ixelles cityhall, MVEPH, EU Logos, Piu Europa. The purpose was to help reinforce the European democratic framework so as to have the 450 million Europeans appropriate "their Europe" of solidarity, "a Europe which includes and protects" and allows them to assert their sovereignty in a more unstable world. Before each of the 7 citizens dialogue, questionnaires were circulated (on the budget, climate, citizenship, elections, migration).

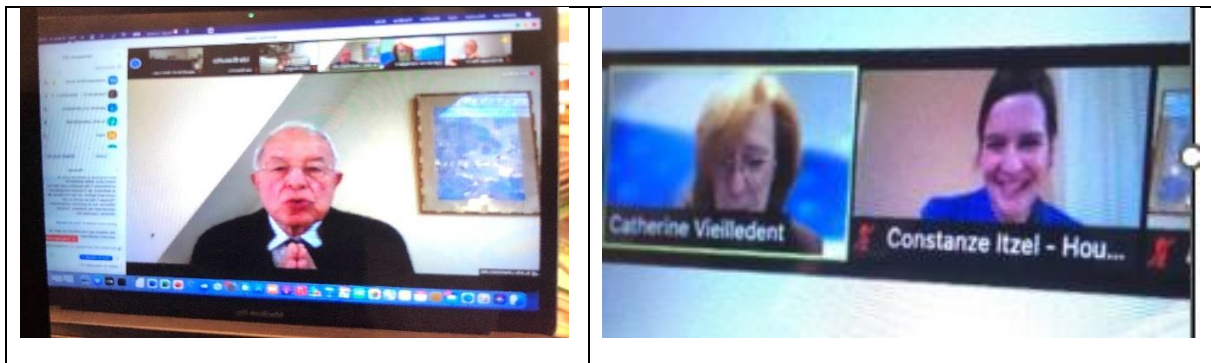
Topics high on the agenda was the CoFEU as promised but which was shortened and comparatively invisible, populism and democracy, European citizenship and participatory

democracy. On 22.09.2021, Paolo Ponzano presented to the Group his reflections and structured approach to the reform of the treaties.

At the Valencia Congress of UEF in July 2021, we managed to have a [Resolution on a corporate digital tax](#) adopted after a long advocacy work with the Federal Committee. There had been no UEF resolution on the issue that far.

In April 2021, to mark the landmark adoption of the Recovery Plan, we published a joint article (Catherine Vieilledent and JF Drevet) in Futuribles N°441 on “The Recovery Plan, a historical breakthrough, or There is no sustainable living below one’s means”.

On 25.10.2021, we had a public conference on “The Media Post Covid” with Gwendolyne Delbos-Corfield (MEP, Green), Iryna Leroy, Atos West Eur and Christophe Leclercq, Founder EurActiv at the headquarters of EurActiv. That was followed by a presentation of the conclusions in Graspe and an OpEd “The Media Post Covid, For A European Public Space”.



2022

On 12.01 « Is There a History of Europe ?, » with Alain Lamassoure, president of the Observatory of the teaching of history in Europe in the Council of Europe, honorary president of our group, and Constanze Itzel, Head of the House of European History. They debated on why Europe, faced with rival national histories, does not have a common narrative.

On 9.02, a second conference was held on the “Media for a European Public space”, for Radio Alma: with Quentin DICKINSON, former Head of European affairs Radio France, Guillaume KLOSSA, Founder of Europa Nova, and Christian MOOS, SecGen Europa-Union UEF, EESC Member.

In March, we were place du Luxembourg to demonstrate for Ukraine.



On 1.12, Paolo Ponzano reviewed progress of the CoFEU, whose recommendations had been adopted by the EP in May 2022.



2023 Enlarge/reform, yet again, getting ready for next EU elections

On 20 March 2023, we had a conference on “Is the Future of the European Union defined in the East?” With Nicolas Kuen, in charge of enlargement at the DG ENER, Gilles Lepesant, Dr of Research at the CNRS, expert on Central Europe and energy policy, and Pierre Mirel, expert on enlargement and the Balkans. They discussed Europe’s patient way for autonomy, resilience and the necessary reboot of its relationships in the neighbourhood.

On 20.09, the day after it was presented to the Council, we welcomed Olivier Costa about the report of the Franco-German Working Group on EU institutional reform, in the perspective of a new enlargement (online). He discussed the experts’ scenarios for an orderly structured reform of the EU.

On 23.10, we welcomed Jean Charles LEYGUES, former DGal Regional policies on « Conditionality, A technical or political tool ? », who discussed the lasting tensions between the Member States and the institutions, from the distribution of competences and respect of EU values. And why EU reform is urgent.

2024

Group Europe organized several high-level conferences, in hybrid format, on 20.02 with Luis Romero Requena, former Dr Gal of the Legal Service of the European Commission (2009-2020), on “**the rule of law in the EU, in what state?** » He reviewed the recent upgrade of rule of law mechanisms in the EU (2017-2020)



<https://federalists.eu/event/debat-elections-europeennes-2024-avec-les-tetes-de-liste-belges-francophones/>

We took part in the panel with representatives of European parties in Belgium, on April 25 on **the issues of the European elections** and a conference on 27.11 on “Trump return and the need for a European Federation – **Lessons learned from the Draghi, Letta and Niinistö reports**”, in cooperation with the UEF and the Belgian section.



[Lessons learned from the Draghi, Letta and Niinistö reports](#)

The events gave rise to publications in various media (Fédéchoses, L'Info France, Graspe, The Federalist Debate) <https://www.pressefederaliste.eu/-Fedechoses-no201-Juin-2024> - and <https://www.pressefederaliste.eu/-Fedechoses-no201-Juin-2024> - and <https://www.federalist-debate.org/current-issue> , including on social media:

We were at the **Schuman roundabout for the European election campaign** and on May 25 for the Brussels 20kms, and in **Strasbourg on July 17 for the constitutive plenary meeting of the European Parliament**, among a delegation from Brussels, Italy, France, etc.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064494740960>



Alain Lamassoure, honorary president of the Europe Group, former Minister and former MEP, was in Bordeaux on May 30 to debate the issues for the European elections and we alerted European citizens to the risk of a lost French vote for the elections: [la-campagne-et-lavenir-du-parlement-europeen-le-risque-dun-vote-francais-perdu](#)

Some have found the time and energy to contribute articles to the Federalist press and training courses intended for our colleagues, such as that of Paolo Ponzano on The distribution of competences in a federal Union on 28.11 (online), by JF Drevet “Expand the European Union? (the new components of an old dilemma)” on 19.09, or by myself on “Rule of law”, 23.05, in partnership with GRASPE.

UEF Group Europe was approved as an Associate Member Organization of the World Federalist Movement/Institute for Global Policy (WFM/IGP)

2025

On February 17, the Sec Gal was invited to present the European federalist movement to the AEPL group in La Hulpe, with interesting exchanges with the locals.

On 27.02, Defense was on the agenda and we listened to the vision of Jean Marsia (UEF Belgium) on the way forward, with a unified command and political union (with a new constitution).

On 23.02.2025, Juuso (JEF Finland) and Paola discussed the Niinisto report and his strategy for EU preparedness, civic mobilization and the alignment of existing capacities.

On 25.03.2025, we were in front of the European day to listen to a moving speech on the lessons of the Ventotene Manifesto, following the call by the journalist Michele Serra in the Italian press.



On 9 April, in cooperation with UEF Belgium (invited), we listened to the substantial presentation by Markus Ferber, MEP, vice president of UEF, on Competitiveness for a strong EU in a geopolitical world. His advocacy for Europe was strong, despite a nuanced analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the EU as it is today, in the light of the Letta and Draghi reports.

On 11.12, we listened to JF Drevet about enlargement, a topic he has been called to discuss in many different circles in Brussels and elsewhere.



JF Drevet on enlargement

Nicos was born that early January



All along, we continued to take part in actions in support of Ukraine and cooperated with EUMediaLab, a hub for journalists from neighbouring countries in the East.

2026

On 15.01, we organized a conference on “EU Digital Sovereignty, where are we?” with D. Devesa President of UEF, former MEP, L. Stirbat, EC Head of Unit for AI in Science, C. Leclercq, Founder EuropeMédiaLab (& Euractiv) at the Press club. The discussion focused on EU dependencies and the resulting systemic risks to its values and competitiveness. The EU’s legal toolbox was found impressive but control of digital technologies was also dependent on massive investment, waiting for a capital markets union.

With my most cordial greetings,

Catherine Vieilledent, General Secretary of the UEF Europe Group