



JEUNES EUROPÉENS FÉDÉRALISTES
JUNGE EUROPÄISCHE FÖDERALISTEN
YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS

“I want my flag back!!!”

JEF Europe pan-European Action 12th/13th December 2007

- JEF Europe (Young European Federalists) has initiated a pan-European Action to take place throughout Europe to coincide with the official signing of the Reform Treaty.
- In 2005 the European Constitution was rejected by French and Dutch voters. Since then, European leaders have been faced with bringing Europe out of a deep political crisis. The result: a rather modest version of the European constitution, downsized, and stripped of any constitutional or political dimension.
- The European symbols have been scrapped, not to be mentioned in the final text that will be signed on 13th December. The Euro - written to be the official currency of the Union, is the only “survivor” of Article IV-1 (The symbols of the Union) of the rejected Constitution.
- European symbols such as the anthem and the flag are symbols that all Europeans, from Lapland to the Algarve can identify with. They unite our peoples and nations and they strengthen the principle of solidarity.
- Europe is more than an economic union. Our symbols contribute to the shaping of a true political union, of a European ethos and even identity.
- The European Union is based on the principles of unity, peace, freedom, solidarity, democracy and respect for human rights. Through our common symbols, we transmit our values throughout the world.
- Europe will not be united by force but by conviction. It’s by giving people a sense of belonging that a union of citizens will advance. Legal treaties alone will not unite our peoples. We have made Europe. Lets now make Europeans!
- JEF Europe demands that European symbols are taken seriously. We ask that our symbols are acknowledged in the legal context of the EU and call on our leaders not to sideline European citizens in the construction of Europe.



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The Symbols explained

Flag

The European flag is the symbol not only of the European Union but also of Europe's unity and identity in a wider sense. The circle of twelve golden stars on a blue background represents solidarity and harmony between the peoples of Europe. Both symbols represent completeness and unity. The number of the stars does not correspond to the number of EU Member States, the flag therefore remains unchanged regardless of EU enlargements.

Anthem

The melody of the European Anthem comes from the Ninth Symphony composed in 1823 by Ludwig van Beethoven. For the final movement of this symphony, Beethoven set to music the "Ode to Joy" written in 1785 by Friedrich von Schiller. This poem expresses Schiller's idealistic vision of the human race becoming brothers – a vision Beethoven shared.

Without words, in the universal language of music, this anthem expresses the ideals of freedom, peace and solidarity for which Europe stands.

9th May

On the 9th of May 1950 in Paris the first move was made towards the creation of what is now known as the European Union. On that day, against the background of the threat of a Third World War engulfing the whole of Europe, the French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman presented his proposal on the creation of an organised Europe, indispensable to the maintenance of peaceful relations. He read to the international press a declaration calling France, Germany and other European countries to pool together their coal and steel production as "the first concrete foundation of a European federation.

Motto

"United in diversity" is the logo that represents Europe as a continent with many different traditions and languages, but also with shared values. It was first established through an unofficial process in 2000. It was selected from entries proposed by school pupils and submitted to a special website on the Internet. It was then accepted by the President of the European Parliament, Nicole Fontaine.

JEF Europe (Young European Federalists)

JEF is an organisation of young people from all over Europe who share a vision of a united, federal and democratic Europe. It brings together people at local, regional, national and European level to campaign for a federal Europe based on the values of peace, democracy and the rule of law. We organise seminars, conferences, campaigns, street activities and lobbying activities to work for the goal of a European federation.

www.jef.eu