1. FOREWORD by Friedhelm FRISCHENSCHLAGER

Dear European Friends,

2005/2006 was a turbulent political period for the EU, during which the UEF had to both manage its routine work and cope with changes in its presidency and bureau. The Congress in Vienna in July and the last FC in November provided the UEF with an agenda in which the priorities for the next 2-3 years have been clearly laid out.

From a political point of view, the campaign for a referendum on the EU-Constitution and Plan-D represent two extremely important issues for the UEF. If we wish to succeed in these projects, we must go beyond our usual strategies of lobbying and mobilising the political class. We have to mobilise our fellow European citizens in favour of pro-European aims such as the Constitution and discourage them from engaging in xenophobic and nationalistic aims.

Visible success in these activities is heavily linked with the internal reform of our existing structures and capacities. We have to see Plan-D as an opportunity through which we can improve communication, not only with
our partners but also in and between our constituent organisations.

I applaud those who have already committed themselves to taking on an active role in these efforts through their participation in working groups, steering committees and through lobbying. I encourage and will support those who have not already done so.

The coming months and years will be crucial for the UEF and the European project at large. We have a responsibility to make sure that they are a success. Please support the UEF on both a national and European level. Europe needs us – right now!

Yours truly,

Friedhelm FRISCHENSCHLAGER
UEF Secretary General

2. UEF FEDERAL COMMITTEE

Federal Committee Meeting
25-26 November 2006, Brussels

Almost 80 delegates and observers from all over Europe came together for the second Federal Committee (FC) of this year. The meeting began on Saturday morning with the sessions of the three Political Commissions (PC): PCI, “Towards a European Constitution?”, focussed on the relaunch of the constitutional process in general and on the preparations of the referendum campaign in particular. PCII, “Internal Policies of the Union” discussed European employment and energy policies, while PCIII, “External Policies of the Union” discussed the crisis in the Middle East, and the role the EU should assume in the region.

In the opening of the plenary session President Mercedes BRESSO gave a political report in which she stated that the campaign for a European referendum will be of crucial importance to the relaunch of the constitutional process.

Former FC delegate and one of the founding members of the UEF, Jean-Pierre GOUZY, accepted the invitation to talk about the creation of the UEF. In his speech Mr. Gouzy outlined some of the most important phases and individuals that helped shape the UEF as we know it today. He also raised the idea of placing a sign on 9 rue Aubers in Paris in commemoration of the UEF’s foundation.

To read the French original of the speech, please click here:
http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/1SpeechJPGouzy.doc

Friedhelm FRISCHENSCHLAGER outlined the European Secretariat’s work since the last FC, which centered on the Hertenstein-Seminar, the preparations of Speak up Europe and the referendum campaign.

Ten constituent organisations and several individual members had responded to the Secretariat’s call for the submission of written reports on past and future activities. Some also briefly presented them to the plenary. Many of the reports included activity plans for the referendum and Speak-up Europe campaigns. The full reports can be found at:
http://www.federaleurope.org/index.php?id=5198
The idea of working-groups composed of FC members, who would help the European secretariat and integrate FC members more in day-to-day tasks was introduced. For the time being, six working-groups have been set up: 1. Membership development, 2. Internal communications, 3. External communications, 4. Finances, 5. Website development and 6. Translations. Several members have signed up to one or more of the groups, but further inscriptions are more than welcome (for more information: http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/Working_groups_EN.doc).

The afternoon debates mainly revolved around the referendum campaign. Some delegates voiced their doubts as to whether a new convention revising the current draft constitution should be called for, as this bears the risk of losing federalist elements gained in the current draft. Other delegates stressed the need to tackle internal reforms before launching the referendum campaign. There was a general agreement that partnerships needed to be created with other pro-European organisations and that there should be no cooperation with Euro-skeptics. The President concluded by stating that a small convention with a limited mandate for amendment would provide the best opportunity for the necessary dialogue prior to a consultative referendum.

On Saturday evening, the delegates and friends went for a joint dinner and later especially the young delegates enjoyed some karaoke.

On Sunday morning the plenary adopted five resolutions. The first resolutions submitted to and adopted by the delegates reconfirmed the Congress’ decision to implement the consultative European-wide referendum on the revised constitution at the occasion of the next European elections in 2009. The delegates also voted on the content of the petition text. The campaign will be launched at the occasion of the Third European Citizens’ Convention, which will take place on 17 March 2007 in Berlin.

The plenary further adopted a resolution on energy, in which the request for the creation of a European Agency on Energy was made, and in which the need for energy to become a WTO competence was stated, as well as the competences the EU would gain once the constitutional treaty had come in to force. The plenary also agreed to adopt a resolution on the EU response to the crisis in the Middle East. Moreover, a resolution on the need to focus on employment issues was adopted as well as a motion against tendencies of racism in Europe. The full texts of these resolutions can be found at: http://www.federaleurope.org/index.php?id=5285

The treasurer Anders EKBERG provided a brief financial report of the past two financial years and presented the draft budget for 2007. The budget was adopted by the delegates.

Florian RODEIT presented the state of preparations of the campaign for the European-wide referendum on the constitution. Six project teams had been set up: 1-Million-Group (collecting the signatures), Communications, Finances, Partners, Political and Action (in charge of the campaign launch in Berlin).

The last point of the agenda was the presentation of the last developments within the Speak up Europe project. So far the project has already increased visibility of the
UEF, and consequently increased the chance of future applications.

Further information as well as pictures of the event can be viewed at:
http://www.federaleurope.org/index.php?id=5285

The next Federal Committee of the UEF is scheduled to take place next spring, most likely in the second half of April. Location and exact date will be announced as soon as possible.

3. PAST EVENTS

**Federal Council of the European Movement International, 2-3 December 2006, Helsinki**

The contrast between the UEF’s Federal Committee meeting this November and the International European Movement’s Federal Council seven days later in Helsinki could not be greater. While the UEF event was characterised by lively debates, the IEM’s corresponding meeting seemed a very staid occasion.

Nevertheless, valuable decisions were taken, the most important being a proposal by Honorary UEF President John Pinder and colleagues for Europe to take the lead on climate change, starting with a seminar to be held in the European Parliament with participants from the EU and India. Topics would include establishing north-south institutional arrangements and participation by developing countries in the EU’s Emissions Trading Scheme. Other resolutions covered the need for EU policies to support developing democracies and to promote the concept of “Equal Citizenship”—that is, gender equality in all social, political and professional activities.

Debates in the full sessions were very limited, possibly because the resolutions had already been discussed in working groups. One group led by former UEF President Jo LEINEN discussed the likely future of the draft EU Constitution and the need to exclude those Articles in Part Three which merely re-state paragraphs from previous treaties.

No vote was taken on whether or not to support the UEF’s million signatures petition for an EU-wide consultative referendum but it was clear from soundings taken at the IEM Steering Committee that members were not comfortable with the idea. Once bitten, twice shy? After the French and Dutch results that would not be surprising.

By John PARRY

**UEF End of the year party 29 November 2006, Brussels**

On Wednesday 29 November 2006, the UEF organized an informal end of the year get together. This celebration was a chance to gather “federalist forces” one last time before starting a challenging New Year 2007. The UEF invited all of its Brussels-based members, partners, friends, and Members of the European Parliament.

The reception took place in the art gallery at the entrance of the UEF Secretariat and was attended by around 50 people from all age groups.

To see this event’s pictures, please go to:
http://www.federaleurope.org/index.php?id=5320
Two day seminar on the future of federalist action and Europe
25-26 November 2006, Besançon

On 25-26 November, the Committee for a European Federal State held the first “Ideas Workshop on the future of federalist action and Europe” in Besançon. The meeting has been attended by thirty five federalist participants coming from France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Hungary. Members from other pro-European organizations which share the belief in a federal Europe also participated.

On Saturday 25 November, Paolo VACCA, member of the UEF Executive Bureau, introduced the debate through making an analysis of the European situation and of the challenges faced in promoting the federal evolution of the 27 Member State European Union.

Yves LAGIER, president of UEF France, read a message sent by the former MFE-France President Jean Pierre GOUZY, in which it was stressed that: “The creation of a federation is the primary reason for the existence of European federalists. This federation, if these words make any sense, implies a federal state.”

On Sunday 26th November the participants discussed ways in which Europeans could concretely address the statement made by Jean MONNET, who asserted that “the European Economic Commission, the Council, the Assembly, the Court are certainly a prefederal model, but not the very organs of the European political federation that would be born on a specific act of creation requiring a new delegation of sovereignty. Here, one would need to invent something new”. The debate has been introduced by Frédéric Le JEHAN, member of UEF Alsace, and by Franco SPOLTORE, member of MFE Lombardia, whose contributions, as well as those of others can be accessed by following: http://www.euraction.org/tools/besan06/besontr.

During the debate a general consensus emerged on the need to relaunch the process of the European political unification, which was initiated by a group of countries, specifically the six founding member states. They planned to build a European federal state open to all the other countries of the Union who were ready and willing to join.

In order to contribute to the promotion of such an initiative, the participants agreed to commit themselves to the circulation of documents and appeal to the Committee for a European federal state among the political class and to plan specific public actions in some French towns next year.

By Franco SPOLTORE

Seminar on the future of the European Constitution
18 November 2006, London

On 18 November 2006, Federal Union organised an event on the future of the European constitution. The speakers were Andrew DUFF, Member of the European Parliament (MEP) and Liberal Democrat of East of England, Wayne DAVID MP (Labour, Caerphilly), and Michael SIEBERT, member of the political section of the German embassy in London.

The three speakers expressed different and conflicting views on the future of the European constitution, reflecting not only dissimilarities in their political perceptions but also different institutional positioning and responsibilities.

Andrew DUFF’s speech outlined two categories of solutions which are discussed at all levels of European governance. The first one is related to Nicolas SARKOZY’s ‘cut
and paste’ solution, keeping the essential ingredients of the original constitutional treaty and promising that the fundamental issues of reform will be addressed in the future. The second category, in which Andrew DUFF placed himself, proposes the exploitation of the crisis through the improvement and modification of the original treaty. While doing so, the concerns of the people in France, Great Britain and the Netherlands should be taken into account.

The second speaker was Wayne DAVID, who talked about the future of the European constitution from an intergovernmental perspective. He is currently member of the European Scrutiny Select Committee of Westminster, which, by its nature, holds a critical stance towards the legislative output of Brussels.

He advocated that the fundamental reason why the people of France and the Netherlands rejected the constitutional treaty was the reality of “a contrast between the leaders and the led”. He also said that the proposed constitution was far too radical for the people of Europe to accept. What was necessary, therefore, was to build on the existing treaties, aiming to address the issues of ordinary life such as unemployment, climate change and migration. The process of writing and ratifying the constitution was, in his words, an “abstract esoteric debate” which did not concern the general public.

Michael SIEBERT talked about the process that will be followed by the coming German presidency in order to resurrect the European constitution. Approaching the end of the German presidency, the German Chancellor will be feeling the pressure to propose a road-map for the adoption of a new constitution. To do so, she will be meeting with all the European heads of state, trying to reach a compromise. As Michael SIEBERT put it, “some states will have to compromise more than the others” to achieve a positive outcome.

By Emmanouil VRENTZOS

A Plan to Relaunch the European Constitution
17 November 2006, Milan

The European Federalist Movement, in co-operation with the Milan offices of the European Parliament and the European Commission, organised a debate entitled “A Plan to Relaunch the European Constitution on November 17th, in Milan. The round table was introduced by Guido MONTANI President of the MFE, and Paolo PONZANO, main advisor to the European Commission on institutional reforms. The other speakers were: Pier Antonio PANZERI, member of the European Parliament (MEP); Gianluca SUSTA, MEP, Patrizia TOIA, MEP; prof. Ruggiero CAFARI PANICO, University of Milan and prof. Bruno NASCIMBENE, University of Milan. Some of the members of the Italian Parliament invited to the round table did not come due to the contemporary vote on the financial law in Rome.

The debate was mainly devoted to the crisis created by the No vote on the Constitution in the national referenda in France and The Netherlands. All the members of the European Parliament agreed on the proposal put forward by the UEF to launch a pan-
European referendum on the occasion of the next European elections in 2009. The political position of the MFE presented to the round table is summarised in the letter sent to President BORRELL that you can find here:

by Guido MONTANI

**Book presentation: L’Europe, notre État souverain en devenir**
9 November 2006, Brussels

Published by the Belgian section of the UEF, the book *L’Europe, notre État souverain en devenir*, (“Europe or Future Sovereign State”), is an important contribution to the debate on the future of Europe, focusing particularly on the perspectives of the Constitutional Treaty and on citizens’ participation.

The articles are written by both European federalist activists and European political personalities such as Mr JUNCKER, Mr LEINEN, Mr HERMAN, Mr GEREMEK, Mr DAVIGNON, Mrs BERES Mr. DEPREZ, Mr de DECKER and others. The texts reflect the pedagogical campaign run by UEF-Belgium in the last four years, aiming at getting the citizens actively involved and trying to influence the various steps of the political integration, thus stressing the historical need of a European Constitution and of a Federal Europe.

The book attempts to answer four questions: What are the objectives of the European project? What are the borders of the European Union? What are the ambitions of its foreign policy and of its safety? What is the future of its economic and social model?

L’Europe, notre État souverain en devenir was presented to the press on 9 November 2006 (see www.uef.be).

In its introductory statement, Jean-Jacques SCHUL, Vice-President of the UEF.be pointed out that today Europe has to leave behind the contradictions which make it so unpopular: "the enlargement before deepening, the Economic and Monetary Union in which one federalizes successfully the monetary part by leaving the economic part under national authority".

During the presentation, Jo LEINEN, President of the Constitutional Committee of the European Parliament, stated that: "The European federalists are the only ones to have a clear vision of the Union: it is not only a space, a single market but a political union where national sovereignties have to be exerted jointly ". He continued by recalling that "the Nice Treaty is not enough and that the idea of a Constitution must be kept".

Gérard DEPREZ, Member of the European Parliament, underlined the three major problems of the EU which are very well illustrated in the UEF.be book: first of all the disenchantment: the euro - and in particular the Euro zone - did not meet the European citizens' expectations ("weak economic growth and important unemployment rate"); secondly, the need for a pause in enlargements ("people do not believe in
something which does not have an end)"; lately, the globalisation inspires fear and the EU does not seem to act enough to defend the European citizens ("Chinese imports, immigration, terrorism").

On the "European Constitution", both Mr LEINEN and Mr DEPREZ agreed on the priority that must be granted to the reform of the ratification system. They said: "As soon as a majority (to be defined) of states and a majority of the population of the EU is in favour of the text, it should be adopted".

The book *L'Europe, notre Etat souverain en devenir* can be obtained for 10 € on request to info@uef.be. Info: Domenico ROSSETTI, Secretary-General of UEF.be (D.Rossetti@uef.be).

By Domenico ROSSETTI

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**Annual General Meeting of UEF-Belgium French speaking section**

*17 June 2006, Brussels*

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on 17 June 2006. The 2005 budget, the activity and political reports, as well as statutory changes have been approved. The name of the organisation is now UEF.be

Bureau members 2006/2007:
- President: Michele CIAVARINI AZZI
- Vice-President: Jean-Jacques SCHUL
- Executive director: Claire LODOR
- Secretary general: Domenico ROSSETTI di VALDALBERO
- Treasurer: Ivan GOVERS
- Communication manager: Yannick BOLLATI
- Honorary President: Hubert de VIRON

For more information, please go to: www.uef.be or write at info@uef.be

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L’Assemblée générale s’est tenue le 17 juin 2006. Ont été approuvés les comptes 2005, le rapport d’activité, le rapport politique, ainsi que les modifications statutaires. L’association s’appelle désormais UEF.be

Conseil d’administration 2006/2007 :
- Président : Michele CIAVARINI AZZI
- Vice-Président : Jean-Jacques SCHUL
- Administratrice Déléguée : Claire LODOR
- Secrétaire général : Domenico ROSSETTI di VALDALBERO
- Trésorier : Ivan GOVERS
- Responsable communication : Yannick BOLLATI
- Président honoraire : Hubert de VIRON

www.uef.be
info@uef.be

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By Michele CIAVARINI AZZI

**4. FUTURE EVENTS**

*Séminaire d’Automne des Fédéralistes de Rhône Alpes 9 December 2006, Jean Moulin University, Lyon*

This seminar will mainly be dealing with three different matters:

The first topic of these discussions will be dealing with the raising of nationalism in Europe and will analyze and discuss it from an economic and political point of view. Important questions such as: Is “ economical patriotism” a road to old nationalist ideas or is it an answer to the security needs, among them economic, expressed by the European citizens towards globalization? Should we build a European economic patriotism? Will it rally the European citizens to the European construction process?

The second topic will be addressing the role of the media in the European construction and will tackle issues such as: How can traditional
writing and its links with the other media still play a role in the construction of a European citizenship feeling.

The third and last topic will be dealing with the Constitutional process of the EU. Will the United States of Europe be created through a Constituent assembly? By what other ways can it be created? Those are questions that will be discussed during this autumn university organized by the Rhône Alpes federalists.

To read the program, please go to: [http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/181106_UAF_PROBLEMATIQUES_2006.pdf](http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/181106_UAF_PROBLEMATIQUES_2006.pdf)

To read the official invitation, please go to: [http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/181106_Invitation_1_SAF_2006.pdf](http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/181106_Invitation_1_SAF_2006.pdf)

**Europa-Union Conference & Congress 9-10 December, Syke-Bremen**

The Europa-Union Deutschland (EUD) is celebrating its 60th anniversary this month. Festivities will take place in Syke where the EUD was founded in 1946. A conference on Saturday will commemorate past events and discuss current questions on the future of the European Union.

The conference, with the central theme: “German European Council Presidency and the Future of Europe,” will be followed by the annual EUD Congress in Bremen on Sunday. Current President Elmar BROK will resign, and Peter ALTMEIER is the candidate for his succession.

The European youth parliament and JEF will have parallel meetings on both days. During the weekend, young and old will unite as they celebrate the 60th anniversary of EUD and prepare for the German presidency.

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**Creation of the Altiero Spinelli Committee**

Francesco RUTELLI, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Vice President of the Italian Government, has created a committee to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the birth of Altiero SPINELLI (1907-2007). The European Federalist Movement is represented in the committee by its president, Guido MONTANI.

Many events are planned for the next year. Among the events organised by the MFE will be: (1) a seminar in the Italian Parliament in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign affairs devoted to Spinelli’s thinking and action; (2) a day devoted to Spinelli and the European Constitution, which will take place in Paris, London, Berlin, Vienna and Geneva; (3) a series of Spinelli days to be held in Italian towns, organised by the local sections of the MFE, and finally; (4) the Federalist Intergroup in the European Parliament, which will asks for a special session devoted to Spinelli and the European Constitution.

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5. THE CAMPAIGN FOR A EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION

**Regional Council of Piemonte demands to let the European people decide on the Constitution**

The Regional Council of Piemonte (the parliamentary assembly of the Region) met in an open plenary on Tuesday 5 December in the framework of Plan D activities, in order to discuss with the citizens of the Region the present situation of the European Integration, the stalemate of the Constitutional process, and the possible ways to reopen it.

Many prominent members of UEF, including the UEF President, Mercedes BRESSO, who is also the President of the Region, UEF Vice President Sergio PISTONE and others, spoke in front of the assembly to recall the UEF
proposal of letting the European people decide about their future by means of a EU-wide referendum.

At the end of an intense discussion, the Regional Council adopted with an outstanding majority an agenda in which it «demands to the Governments of Europe and the European institutions: to convene a new Convention with the task of revising Part III of the draft European Constitution, and to submit its proposal to the citizens by means of a pan-European consultative referendum to be held on the same day of the European elections in 2009». According to the Council, «the revised Constitution should enter into force if a double majority of states and citizens approve it. This will be the occasion to let the European people decide which Europe they want».

The text will be sent to the other Regional and City Councils in Italy, so that they can discuss and eventually adopt similar documents. All UEF sections are invited to take analogous initiatives in their own countries.

By Francesco FERRERO

Introducing the Quotebank

Federal Union is delighted to introduce a new resource for the constitution campaign, the Quotebank.

The Quotebank is a resource for all federalist campaigners. It contains the key quotes and position statements from political actors on the future of Europe, all available at the click of a mouse.

The information on the Quotebank is searchable and is categorised in three ways:
- By country
- By issue (energy, agriculture, defence, etc)
- By role (national government, MEP, NGO, etc).
We ask to you to do two things:

Consult the Quotebank
To consult the quotebank, you can visit the website www.federalunion.org.uk/quotebank to find the information you need on what governments, political parties and NGOs have said about the European constitution and other European issues.

Contribute to the Quotebank
When you find relevant and useful quotes and statements, add them to the Quotebank. The value of the Quotebank depends on the contributions from activists. There are three ways to contribute to the Quotebank.

Preferably, (1) register as an author with the Quotebank, then send an e-mail to quotebank@federalunion.org.uk and you will receive a username and password – and then you can post new material on the site yourself.

Failing that, (2) post the information as a comment on an existing post – choose one that is relevant to the information you have.

As a last resort, (3) send it to quotebank@federalunion.org.uk and the editors of the site will post it for you.

Comments and feedback
The Quotebank needs your contributions, and it also needs your feedback. Please send any comments to quotebank@federalunion.org.uk.

by Richard LAMING

Four routes to the new Europe: possible solutions to the problem of the Constitutional Treaty

A new Policy Commentary published by the Federal Trust evaluates the various plans produced for the future of the constitutional treaty during the “period of reflection”. There are four basic analyses upon which the different plans are based.
Abandon institutional reform, and focus on policy delivery instead
The immediate reaction in a number of political quarters to the French and Dutch No votes was to call for the abandonment of the treaty process altogether. For some politicians, that remains the case. Instead, they call for the European Union to focus on policy delivery. Become better at doing the things that Europeans want, they say, rather than thinking about institutional reform.

Ask the French and Dutch to think again
The text of the constitutional treaty represents the European political consensus, which should not be abandoned lightly. The text has now been ratified in 15 out of the 25 member states, and the popular vote in referendums where they have been held is 26.7 million Yes votes against 22.7 million No. If France and the Netherlands are the countries out of step, then the onus is on them to come back into line.

Rewrite the text of the treaty
The main aspect of this new approach is to look again at the text of the constitutional treaty itself. Several different proposals have been made along these lines. Jo LEINEN, Member of the European Parliament, chair of the European Parliament’s constitutional affairs committee, has suggested that the text should be slimmed down by removing all those parts relating to policy areas which are not new.

Andrew DUFF, Member of the European Parliament, also a member of the constitutional affairs committee, suggests adding new articles on five areas – the economic governance of the union; Europe’s social model; sustainable development and climate change policy; enlargement policy; and the reform of the EU’s finances – to deal with the areas of difficulty and uncertainty that led people to vote No.

Both of these proposals are intended to preserve as far as possible the existing text of the treaty, which embodies a careful balance between the different institutions and also between the different member states.

Nicolas SARKOZY, on the other hand, has suggested a “mini-Treaty”, stripping out quite a lot of the former constitutional treaty text, and other proposals being floated are more restricted still, dealing only with foreign policy, for example.

Rethink the methods for ratification and entry into force
Rather than holding a series of national debates, the Union of European Federalists (UEF) has proposed that ratification of the new treaty should be by means of a European referendum, held everywhere in the EU on the same day. This would tackle the problem identified by Nicolas SARKOZY but from the opposite direction. He fears that the existing text cannot be ratified by the current method, and would therefore change the text: the UEF would change the method.

The last consideration in plotting a route to the new Europe is actually the point at which this article started: what happens if a member state votes No. Here again, the UEF has a suggestion. Assuming there is a double majority of member states and citizens voting in favour, the constitution should come into force in those member states that have voted Yes even if there are other member states that have voted No.

Conclusion
Whatever approach is adopted, it is necessary for each country to realise that its own participation in the European Union is a matter of importance for all the others. Whatever decisions European countries and European citizens take about the future of Europe, they have to take those decisions together.
6. PERIOD OF REFLECTION

Interparliamentary meeting
4-5 December 2006, Brussels

On 4-5 December, the second meeting of EU national parliaments and the European Parliament on the “Future of Europe” was held in Brussels. About 200 members of the European Parliament and of national parliaments took part in the two day meeting.

On Monday the three working groups discussed the challenges of the EU’s future concerning its financing, energy policy as well as its role in international conflict prevention. A broad majority of speakers agreed that reforms were essential to allow the EU to respond to citizens’ needs. Some objectives such as energy supply security or tackling climate change could only be achieved if the Treaties were reformed.

There was a broad consensus on the need to achieve a new constitutional settlement for the Union before 2009. Most of the 60 speakers that were given the floor during the debate on Tuesday morning expressed their wish for the draft Constitution to be the basis for discussion on future institutional changes.

Kurt BODEWIG (German Bundestag) stressed that two thirds of EU Member States will have ratified the Constitution by 2007: “Let’s recognise it: we must build on that,” he said. Jo LEINEN, Chair of the EP Constitutional Affairs Committee and former President of the UEF, stated it made “no sense” to renegotiate the current draft when 18 countries already ratified it as it is.

Some still argued that the NOs in France and The Netherlands could not be ignored. Hubert HAENEL (French Senate) said that while only two countries had explicitly rejected the text, public opinion was generally frustrated and stated. “Since Maastricht, from citizens' point of view, the EU seems to focus on its internal business: it is difficult to get people excited about that”. Other speakers stressed that the major challenge for Europe was to address social issues.

European Parliament President Josep BORRELL said in the press conference following the meeting that there had been widespread agreement on the need to preserve the major achievements of the constitutional treaty. He stated the meeting had thus been useful to prepare the ground for the forthcoming German Presidency, with which strong hopes of finding a way out of the constitutional deadlock are connected.

Paavo LIPPONEN, President of the Finnish Parliament was proud to announce that his country had just been the sixteenth Member State to ratify the Constitution and requested: "We should keep the Treaty in one piece and preserve its main contents".

The next Joint Parliamentary meeting will be organised under the German Presidency in the first half of 2007.

Launch event, EU Trade on trial
Brussels, 23 November

The Speak up Europe campaign was launched with much success at the Theatre Residence Palace. The opening debate entitled “EU Trade on Trial”, mainly brought out discussions about trade liberalization,
specifically with regards to the developing world.

Before and after listening to the debate, the audience was given the opportunity to vote in favour of or against European trade policies.

Some of the spectators changed their minds on what they saw as unfair European trade policies, after hearing the arguments put forward by David O’SULLIVAN (Director General of DG Trade). Others accepted that free trade is contradictory to fair trade, as was argued by Fouad HAMDAN (Director of Friends of the Earth Europe).

Could this latest ratification be a sign of better days ahead for the future of the Treaty? That’s what federalists like us are certainly hoping for. We will place tremendous faith in the German Presidency starting in a few weeks time. This new six-month term will most certainly be a tough challenge for German politicians and diplomats as most of the European leaders expect Germany to come up with a great idea to pull Europe out of the current Constitutional crisis. The member states will need to unanimously approve the Constitutional Treaty but can’t seem to come up with a unanimous decision on how to go about it.

Nevertheless, EU leaders are still hoping to be able to reach an institutional agreement by 2009, when a new European Commission will be appointed and a new European Parliament will be voted in. This 16th ratification will add more weight to the side of the Constitution defenders when they will have to come back to the bargaining table at the end of the German Presidency.

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**7. NEWS FROM THE FEDERALIST INTERGROUP**

**FEDERALIST INTERGROUP**

For a European Constitution

*Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2006 in Strasbourg*

The 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome

Invited as a guest speaker by the Intergroup, Borislaw GEREMEK declared that the Finnish parliament voted 125 in favour of the Constitution, 39 against with 4 abstentions.

For more information, please see the section “Press Releases” of this Newsletter.

**Finland Ratifies European Constitution**

Four weeks before the end of its European Presidency term, on 5 December 2006, Finland became the 16th member state to ratify the European Constitution (after: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain). Finland’s parliament voted 125 in favour of the Constitution, 39 against with 4 abstentions.

For more information, please see the section “Press Releases” of this Newsletter.
« Berlin declaration » should look like a “Messine II” and that the German Presidency must be backed in that way. According to him, the Berlin declaration will have to be made of two central ideas. The first one “Why do we want to live together?” is not sufficient and therefore must be completed by “What kind of Union do we want?”. The declaration will have to show the progress of the European construction, step by step and highlight its pragmatic characteristic (Single market, Schengen, etc.). The declaration should not be limited to an institutional approach. What matters, according to him, is the creation of a positive climate in which a positive vision of Europe is expressed.

Andrew DUFF mentioned that the Berlin declaration will have to propose a “new big project”

According to Jo LEINEN, the declaration should be brief and show the European success story to the European citizens.

The current situation of the Constitutional crisis

Borislaw GEREMEK stressed that even though the European Constitution is far from being perfect; everything has to be done so as to have a substantial Constitutional text by 2009. He placed all his hope on the German Presidency.

Alojz PETERLE, thinks nevertheless that it is necessary to improve the Constitutional project. He recalled as well that he is strongly opposed to the idea of a mini-treaty and thinks that as much as possible should be kept from the original Constitutional Treaty.

To read the original and complete minutes of this meeting (in French) please go to:

Minutes of the meeting
25 October 2006, Strasbourg

Can a mini-Treaty be the solution?
Alain LAMASSOURE is a political adviser of Nicolas Sarkozy on European Affairs. He welcomes the fact that the No votes in France and in the Netherlands have finally provided France with a political debate on the future of Europe. He said that Mr. SARKOZY’s speech in Brussels on 8 September 2006 can be considered as relatively new from a representative of the Gaullist family.

According to him, the EU-25 doesn’t work anymore and any solution to the Constitutional crisis will have to comply with two political demands. The first one is that we cannot afford another failure which means that we cannot take the risk of another failure. Therefore, it is important to avoid referendums which are by the way not compulsory except in Ireland. Moreover, the words Constitution and Constitutional will have to be abandoned. Secondly, it is crucial not to open the Pandora box concerning the work of the Convention. That’s why we will have to make a new Treaty that will necessarily have to be shorter than the actual one. This shortening will allow us to say that this new treaty is actually different and has only kept the added value of the Convention’s work. This Treaty will later have to be ratified by the 27 countries in a short time and should come into action within 2009.

Inigo MENDEZ de VIGO, who feels strongly about the need to support the French in finding a solution to the current crisis and thanks SARKOZY for opening up the debate in France. He feels however, that the word “Mini-treaty” is wrong. Moreover, if the latter focuses only on the institutional aspects of the Constitution, it will not be of any interest to the citizens.

Proinsias DE ROSSA thinks that the people want a more democratic and a more social
Europe. Any solution to the current crisis must pass through a “plus” for the citizens and not through a minus like the mini-treaty. He strongly doubts that a new IGC-27 can reach a better text. In order to gain the citizen’s support, there should not only be institutional improvements but also more transparency, democracy and a better social Europe.

Jules MAATEN stated that if the treaty had not been presented as a Constitution, the referendum would have been positive. The text will then have to be changed but a mini treaty doesn’t seem to be the best solution as it reduces the advantages contained in the actual text.

Concluding the debate, the session’s president Andrew DUFF said that we shouldn’t trust the Council. In order to avoid a second failure (the risk exists), we will have to improve the product and not only the marketing.

To read the original and complete minutes of this meeting (in French) please go to: http://www.federaleurope.org/fileadmin/files_uef/CompteRendu10_2006.doc

8. PRESS RELEASES

New Speak-Up Europe campaign puts EU Trade on Trial
Brussels, 24 November 2006

A new campaign, Speak-up Europe, launched yesterday by the Union of European Federalists (UEF), the European Movement International (EMI), Euractiv and the Young European Federalists (JEF), will engage thousands of European citizens at all levels in the new debate about Europe.

The opening event of the campaign was a debate “Trade on trial” held on 23 November 2006 with – amongst others - David O’SULLIVAN (Director General of DG Trade) and Celine CHARVERIAT (Head of Make Trade Fair campaign for Oxfam), moderated by Pat COX (President of EMI and former president of the European Parliament).

Around 300 people came together at the Residence Palace in Brussels. At the beginning and at then end of the experts’ presentations, the audience were asked to vote in favor of or against today’s European trade policies, by showing the red or green card. Finally, they were able to question the expert speakers and put their own views on EU trade policy.

The Speak up Europe campaign is part of European Commission Vice-President Margot WALLSTRÖM’s Plan-D programme for dialogue, democracy and debate. Speak-up Europe will consist of around 300 events in 25 countries throughout Europe using on-line tools, audio-visual elements and a series of European debates. The project was one of the few selected amongst the many applications submitted to the European Commission in response to the call for proposals within the framework of Plan D.

The UEF welcomes the success of this launch event and is confident that “EU trade on trial” was the beginning of a successful debate campaign involving European citizens.

UEF Secretary General, Dr. Friedhelm FRISCHENSCHLAGER stated: “Europe is at the moment facing a revival of nationalism, even xenophobic attitudes. The conviction of an efficient and powerful EU as a necessity to meet European and global problems seems more and more overshadowed by shortsighted national interests. With regards to this situation, confidential decision making procedures, political manipulation or mere EU propaganda are counterproductive.

Democratic openness as well as regular and understandable communication policies are
the way to gain citizens’ support and to increase the popular legitimacy of the EU. Plan D is an important step in this direction. UEF, JEF, EMI and Euractiv will concentrate their efforts to this aim during the next year. The event yesterday was a great event, and many more will follow.”

9. NEWS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Message from the Secretary General

The agenda for the next 2-3 years has been set by and the time has come for the UEF to start taking action.

Politically, we have two very important campaigns ahead of us: The campaign for a referendum on the EU-Constitution and Plan D, which can only be successful if internal reforms are implemented. Success in them will require some internal adjustments. We have taken some initial steps in this field and I wish to proceed by outlining the main tasks for 2007/2008.

First Priority: The campaign for a referendum on the EU-Constitution

Before addressing some organizational matters, some remarks of political importance: In the past, the UEF concentrated on influencing, lobbying and mobilising the political class with its federal aims on a European and national level. In the current political state of European integration, these strategies are no longer sufficient: The French and the Dutch rejected the European Constitution, despite the fact that it was ratified in their parliaments and all of their most important political parties campaigned for a Yes vote. We have to accept the fact that the parliaments of other EU member states will ratify the constitution with a broad majority, but we have to expect No votes in the case of referenda.

The UEF has to adapt its strategy to this new political situation: EU-projects are facing an increasing lack of public support from Europe’s citizens. Without a Constitution the EU can’t succeed in coping with internal and global challenges – and without the support of its citizens, the Constitution will not achieve democratic legitimacy.

Consequently, our first priority should be to mobilise our fellow Europeans in favour of a European Constitution.

Our aims are: (1) To collect at least 1 million signatures to urge the responsible EU politicians to adopt an EU-wide referendum on the Constitution, which is to be held at the same time as the next European elections in 2009. (2) To politically encourage citizens across Europe to raise their voices in favour of a Constitution and against the increasingly nationalistic and xenophobic attitudes that are associated with the EU27! (3) To alarm Europeans about the dangers of a national veto in a EU27.

The Bureau which met last on 7 October 2006, decided to install working groups, within the Federal Committee, responsible for the planning of activities. The Federal Committee of 25/26 November 2006 decided on the political text of the petition. More organisational steps are expected to be formed during the Berlin Convention on 17 March 2006, which will be followed by 12 months of signature collection activities. In 2008 the UEF will undertake political lobbying for an EU decision in favour of a referendum.

Linked to Referendum: Second priority - UEF participation in Plan D Activities

After the No-referenda the Commission recognised a clear divide in the relationship between the institutions and the citizens of the EU. Plan D was launched with the aim of improving political communication policies. EU citizens will be given a chance to better inform themselves and voice their opinions on
the constitutional process. Commissioner WALLSTRÖM also invited civil society organisations to participate by providing the financial means for activities which fit within the framework of Plan-D.

The UEF is one such participant and will use this opportunity to achieve some important aims:
1. The improvement of communication within the EU, which is crucial for further integration, e.g. for a better understanding of the necessity of an EU-Constitution.
2. To prove that pro-European civil society organisations are indispensable for the formation of European Citizenship.
3. To help secure the financial future of UEF, as the EU Commission is going towards project oriented financial support, rather than operational grants.
4. To prove, that UEF can be a reliable future partner. Plan D is just a first step of EU activities directed at increasing communication.

*These are enormous challenges lying ahead for the UEF. There are crucial preconditions for success:*

First of all: close cooperation between EMI, JEF, UEF
Plan D is a good example, as we managed a common application under the EMI umbrella with the distribution of the numerous activities in all EU member states. This is a model also for our Referendum plans.

Secondly: The establishment of Steering Committees for Referendum and Plan D activities:
On the Brussels-level, the UEF created a Referendum Steering Committee, which consists of Guido MONTANI, Florian RODEIT, Richard LAMING, Jan SEIFERT, Michel MORIN and Peter STREMPEL. We would like to extend our gratitude to them!
The Secretariat couldn't manage it alone. The UEF secretariat would greatly benefit from support given by a similar working group for Plan-D activities.

Thirdly: Regular meetings of the UEF Secretary Generals:
We have started with these meetings and it is important that we continue to do so, as all EU activities need coordination, mutual support, the exchange of ideas and experiences etc.

Fourthly: Mobilisation on the member state level:
In order to convince our own ranks we first of all have to involve our FC members, as they decide our priorities. They are responsible for the establishment of a core group in all of our member states. Through mutual support we have to find activists in those member states which have weak or non-existing UEF-structures! We are faced with the danger that we will only succeed in obtaining signatures in a very limited number of member states.

Fifthly: Active support from JEF and EMI in the EU-member states:
We need the support from our partners, especially in those countries in which we are weak. We hope that the EMI-FC in December will decide in favour of supporting a Referendum. However, contributions from pro-EU actors other than JEF and EMI in the member states are crucial in both campaigns. We have to reach out to parties, trade unions other pro-European organizations.

With this in mind, the planned Berlin Convention - which shall naturally remain a public event - should be used as a platform for the gathering of representative organisations that are ready and willing to participate in our campaigns.

*New challenges for UEF - Internal reform urgently needed*
To conclude, let me stress the need to tackle internal reforms one more time. The premises for the success of any activity are that the UEF:
- Transforms into a truly visible “supranational” European political movement
- Contributes to a stronger mobilisation of Europeans for a Federal Europe
- Goes beyond political lobbying activities for this aim
- Becomes an indispensable civil society partner of the EU institutions
- Tackles a leading, coordinating function among pro-EU civil society partners beyond JEF and EMI

To become a truly European-wide organisation:
- Sets up UEF sections where none exist yet
- Helps make weaker organisations become more active and visible
- And last but not least, financial resources need to be increased. The UEF has to raise more financial resources beyond EU grants.

Friedhelm FRISCHENSCHLAGER

The UEF Secretariat welcomes new intern

On the 30 October Vincent VAN DER HEIJDEN joined the UEF team at the secretariat in Brussels. Vincent is 22 years old and has recently graduated from the University of Toronto in Canada with a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and History. Vincent is fluent in Dutch and English and has a good working knowledge of French and German.

As an intern, Vincent has been responsible for the preparation and follow-up of the Federal Committee (25-26 of November in Brussels). Additionally, he is helping with the upkeep of the website as well as the newsletter.

10. MISCELLANEOUS

JEF Internship Offers

1-day-a-week stagiaire needed for JEF-Europe office in Brussels

JEF-Europe is offering a part-time, unpaid internship for the duration of two months (with a possibility to prolong). The successful candidates will be working during the whole of January and February 2007 at JEF-Europe’s office in Brussels together with the Secretary General.

The main tasks will be:
- Assisting with daily administrative tasks
- Assisting with the organisation of events and conferences in Brussels and Europe
- Updating of databases and internet site
- Contributing to the bi-weekly newsletter

Applications should be sent to info@jef-europe.net (“Internship vacancy”) until 15th December 2006. Please note that only short listed candidates will be contacted.

“Speak up Europe” stagiaire – Communication Officer

Overall Objective:
To assist with the “Speak up Europe!” campaign that JEF-Europe is jointly running with European Movement International (EMI). Its aim is to engage with young citizens on European issues that affect all of us. Methods involved are on-line tools, audiovisual elements and a series of local/national/European debates. By the end of the campaign, we should have a better idea of what the average European citizen wants and needs. Starting date: 8th January 2007

Main tasks:
- Project assistance with JEF’s activities inside the Speak up Europe campaign (Plan D)
- Project assistance of JEF’s European Vibes campaign
- Fundraising support for these activities  
- Assistance in the organisation of seminars and other campaign activities  
- Communication and support given to the member sections – in particular those participating in the project  
- Help out in the day-to-day management of the project  
- Day-to-day office work, including maintenance of the JEF-Europe websites and those inside the project framework

Applications should reach the JEF-Europe Secretariat by 9th December 2006. Interviews can take place between the 10th and 23rd December 2006. A final decision is to be taken until the turn of the year. For further information on JEF or on those internship offers, see the website at www.jef.eu or contact us at info@jef-europe.net

Vassilis STAMOGIANNIS  
Secretary General, JEF-Europe

**Letter to the editor**

If you want to comment on articles or issues which featured in our Newsletter, you can send your letters to our editors (info@federaleurope.org) and we will publish your comment here.

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**11. CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES**

- 9 December 2006: Séminaire d’Automne des Fédéralistes de Rhônes Alpes, Lyon  
- 9-10 December 2006: Congress of the Europa-Union Deutschland, Syke  
- 13 December 2006, 17:00: Meeting of the Federalist Intergroup, Strasbourg  
- 3 February 2007: UEF Bureau  
- 17 March 2007: Third European Citizens’ Convention, Berlin

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Secretary General, JEF-Europe

The UEF, founded in 1946, is an independent and non-governmental European organisation, campaigning for a federal Europe. Since April 2005, it is presided over by Mrs. Mercedes BRESSO, President of the Italian Region of Piedmont, Member of the EU Committee of the Regions.