
U.E.F. NEWSLETTER
N° 48

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1. FOREWORD BY JOAN MARC SIMON

Dear friends,

Europe finds itself in elections time! The European elections have been the high time of European democracy during the last 30 years. Paradoxically, during this time the European Parliament has been seeing its power increase as the turnout to the elections decrease.

Unfortunately there is no reason to expect a massive participation in these elections and this should not surprise anyone: very little has been done during last 5 years to address the problems that keep the people at home on the date of the European elections. The only "substantial" change has been the constitution of European Political parties able to receive funding. Nevertheless, the European Parties still function as a sum of national parties and not as truly democratic pan-European parties able to campaign. We see how the campaigns continue to be national and on national issues. And if you have elections about the same usual topics to elect MEPs whose tasks have little to do with the topics of the campaign people get confused and just stay at home.

The European citizens don't see the importance of the European Parliament as co-legislator. This is mainly a communication problem but it is also due to the fact that

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from the capitals the EU is used as a escape-goat and its good acts are never acknowledged. The federalists have been actively denouncing the fact that the European elections are not linked to a political program or to a political direction in the EU. The [Who Is Your Candidate](#) campaign in which we were asking the European Parties to nominate their candidate for president of the European Commission was saying exactly that: people want to vote about power and in these elections they don't have this option.

However UEF stays committed to inform the citizens and to attract them to vote. For this reason we created the [UEF manifesto](#) for the EP elections in which we highlight the federalist solutions for the EU current challenges.

In this sense, the Federal Committee of UEF met in Brussels in April to define the new policies of the organization as well as to reform the organisation. As [reaction to the economic downturn the UEF](#) asks for a European recovery plan instead of the current summation of national recovery plans and launched an appeal to Germany and France to take the lead in pushing the European Commission to become an European Government responsible to manage a real European budget built on common resources and able to issue Union-Bonds.

At the international level UEF commits to work closely with the World Federalist Movement to reform the [world economic order](#).

All in all a good set of measures that lay out WHY and HOW federalism applies as a tool to solve the current challenges.

But the best ideas don't get far without the right communication and for this reason UEF has got up to speed in new technologies and the federalists have been very present in the

European media, in the European events and in the online sphere via facebook or twitter.

It is in times of crisis when the federalists have managed to be more successful in bringing Europe forward, therefore we will be seeing more federalist arguments in the next months. In the meantime federalists have to focus to bring as much European content to the European Parliament elections in order to have the best possible turnout considering the difficult circumstances.

Finally, UEF is working to prepare the new EU that will emerge from the new European Parliament and will continue to focus on getting the Lisbon treaty ratified by the end of 2009.

Lots of work ahead of us that I'm convinced we will face with success!

Federalist regards,

Joan-Marc Simon
Secretary General

2. PAST EVENTS

UEF Federal Committee meeting, 18th and 19th of April, Brussels

The UEF Federal Committee took place in Brussels on the 18th and 19th of April.

Around 100 Federalists gathered during 2 days in the Eastman Building of the European Parliament. They discussed and developed the general strategy of the UEF during the plenary debate adopted several of the handed in resolutions within the political commissions.

For the adopted resolutions, [please click here](#)

For pictures of the FC, [please click here](#)

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9th of May - UEF at the open doors day



UEF activists from the UEF European Secretariat, the UEF Belgium and the UEF Group Europe participated in the 9th of May celebrations at Place Lux in the framework of the open doors day, ready to raise the profile of UEF and to answer the questions of the numerous visitors.

During the very successful action, the activist handed out several brochures, books, leaflets and posters in the framework of the UEF EP elections campaign. Especially the [colorful posters](#) asking for a stronger Europe attracted many visitors, young and old.

3. FUTURE EVENTS

Friends of JEF meet in Paris this summer: 4th of July 2009

Dear friends and former JEF activists,

two years have passed since our last and glorious meeting in Berlin.

It is time to catch up again!

We are organising the next meeting of the Friends of JEF, our JEF alumni, on the weekend of the 4th July in Paris. You will find more information about the meeting in

coming weeks on our website <http://www.friends-of-jef.net/>. In the meantime, do not hesitate to start booking flights, trains and hotels. As usual there is an informal, social gathering of some people on the Friday evening but the main event takes place on Saturday, 4th July. In the early afternoon we will move to the Jean Monnet House outside of Paris, have a tour and picnic there - including a buffet and return to Paris later in the evening. Naturally, nightlife activities will follow and for Sunday there might be a boat trip on the Seine.

Any former JEF activist is welcome to participate. Further details will follow but please note down date and city in your agenda. We are looking forward to seeing you there! If you like to get involved in the preparation of the meeting, please email us at team@friends-of-jef.net!

The Friends of JEF Team

Presentation of the UEF and Federalist Intergroup in the new European Parliament

On 15th July a "Reception for Federalists" will take place in the newly elected European Parliament in Strasbourg.

The reception will be an opportunity to promote UEF and the federalist intergroup in the new European Parliament. All newly elected MEPs will be invited to attend and we will have presentations about the importance of European Federalism from the big political groups as well as the European Commission. It is a good opportunity for your section to contact national MEPs and make them join your organisation.

There are very limited spaces for representatives of the UEF sections.

If you are interested we ask you to contact the [secretariat](#) by 10th June and provide the

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names, date of birth and address of the people interested.

***European Citizens Consultation, UEF/JEF
Regional Debate on Youth Employment,
29th and 30th of October 2009***

In the framework of the European Citizens Consultation the UEF together with JEF will organize a regional debate on the topic of *Youth Employment: Challenges and Perspectives in Southern Europe*. The debate will take place on the 29th and 30th of October 2009.

The European Citizens' Consultations are run by a unique consortium of more than 40 European partner organisations, led by the King Baudouin Foundation (KBF), and co-funded by the European Commission under its "Debate Europe" programme, and foundations including the King Baudouin Foundation, Compagnia di San Paolo, the Robert Bosch Foundation, ING and funders at national level. The European partner organisations are European Movement International, European Policy Centre, European Journalism Centre and the European Citizen Action Service. The consultations have been organised under the patronage of the European Parliament.

As well as contributing to the political debate in the run-up to the June 2009 elections and feeding into the debate over how to respond to the global economic crisis, ECC 2009 is providing timely and relevant input for policy-makers as the EU begins work on a post-2010 successor to the Lisbon Agenda.

UEF and JEF organising the Regional Debates, with a particular focus on the MEPs newly elected in June 2009, ensure that the results of the consultations are disseminated and debated more widely.

ECC 2009 is part of an ongoing process to further develop citizen participation and

consultation mechanisms. It builds on the success of ECC 2007, which established a new model for citizen participation through the first pan-European participatory project to involve citizens from all 27 EU Member States in the debate on the future of Europe.

So far online fora attracted some 250,000 visitors and the ideas posted on them were fed into the national consultations held in the 27 Member States in March 2009, where citizens in each country discussed this question and agreed ten recommendations for action. These recommendations were then voted on by all the participants to choose their top 15.

The top 15 recommendations were addressed and discussed by 150 randomly selected citizens on the 11 of May with top EU decision-makers at the first European Citizens' Summit in Brussels. The Summit was the culmination of the first phase of the 2009 European Citizens Consultations.

The second phase will be complemented by the regional debates while one will be organised by UEF and JEF.

UEF will be able to provide you with further information anytime soon.

**4. 2009 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS
CAMPAIGN**

***Federalist campaigning – update by Asa
Gunven, UEF Campaign Coordinator***

Dear friends,

I will sum up the campaigning activities that are taking place in UEF this spring. Especially for those of you that were not present at the FC I encourage to take a look at UEF elections campaign posters and learn more about what is taking place! I would also like to invite all of you to share your campaigning activities both on this list as well as on our

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web by sending info and pictures to the office!?

UEF posters available

A new UEF poster is available! We have produced a multipurpose poster where everyone can put in their own message in their own language - the topics can range from the need of a stronger EU, a federal EU, Lisbon treaty, EU to act against global warming and much more.

Please find below a small brainstorming on slogans as well as the poster:

POSTER, please [click here](#)

SLOGANS, please [click here](#)

For those of you that did not pick up copies of the poster at the FC but would still like some just let us know your address (e-mail to secretariat@federaleurope.org) and we can send you some (color, A3)

Online campaigning presentation

At the FC we had a working group on campaigning where Jon Worth, former president of JEF and professional online campaigner, gave a great presentation on how to use Facebook and other social networks in campaigning. For those of you that missed the presentation you can find it at

<http://www.jonworth.eu/downloads/facebook-politics.ppt>.

In case you like to join the mailing list of the Working group feel free to contact me, as I am co-chairing the WG together with Francesco Ferrero.

Who is Your Candidate?

A very successful campaign is coming towards the end. In addition to the webpage

and the Facebook group where signatures have been collected, we have now had federalist actions at the PES Congress, PES Campaign Lunch press conference, the Green Congress as well as the liberal Campaign launch. Every delegate has been given our Agenda Change flyer urging them to nominate their candidate.

PES President Rasmussen was also asked at the campaign launch press conference for their candidate (replying they have not decided AGAINST nominating one) and Verhofstadt replied to the federalists at the liberal campaign launch that this was a very important issue to discuss in the Liberal Group.

It looks like EPP have de facto nominated Barroso, who is running a successful campaign on EU money. The PES said they will not claim the president event if they win the elections.

Even if we didn't get a contra candidate we have managed to raise a huge awareness of the demand inside the parties as well as in the media. The federalist have managed to push the issue for intense discussion at top level as well as spread awareness to the lower level of the parties where the knowledge of the possibility to nominate a party candidate was almost absent.

The ground is now prepared for the next elections where the federalists will stand at the forefront again!

Federalist Blog

<http://federalists.cafebabel.com/>

As you would recently read on this list the Federalist has had a great success in reaching new circles of readers through the [cafebabel.com](http://federalists.cafebabel.com) Federalist Blog -until now we have had over 2500 readers and we are among the top 10 from of the eudebate2009.eu platform! Moreover the

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blog has been added by the PES Press Team to their regularly send out so called Blog Watch and attracted a lot of attention.

Please keep on spreading the link to your networks and feel free to take part with articles and comments!

Federalist Online Taskforce

With 35 online activists from UEF and JEF, as well as 4 national FOT groups, we are starting to get our presence online improved slowly!

Every 2 weeks there is a call for action, including bullet points of argumentation on the topic. After this it is up to each activist to find forums, newspapers, blogs in his/her home country to write articles, comments or letters to the editor.

We have until now produced over 20 articles and 20 article comments across Europe.

If you want to join contact me at asa.gunven@federalists.eu! You can find a collection of European blog/media RSS feeds under

www.netvibes.com/federalists

Use it to keep track on European news and to find articles to comment!

Federalist Intervention Taskforce

With 35 FIT activists in Brussels following the UEF coordinated events agenda, we have until now attended over 2 events per week with federalist questions and intervention.

Besides the thousands of people reached in the audiences we have also manage to involve many decision-makers, such as Commissioner Margot Wallstroem, Belgium PM Van Rompuy, PES President Poul Nyrup Rasmussen and President of PES Women Zita Gurmai as well as Guy Verhofstadt, former Prime Minister of Belgium.

Maybe this efficient campaigning method, that only demands a couple of hours work for each person, is something to try out in your section?

I hope that this was an interesting update on the Federalist EP elections campaign 2009. If you have any further question please don't hesitate to contact me (asa.gunven@federalists.eu) or the UEF secretariat (secretariat@federaleurope.org).

Federalist greetings,

Asa Gunven

Action at ELDR Campaign launch in Brussels, 15th of April 2009

On 15 April, 2009 the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party (ELDR) launched their campaign for the coming EP elections. Federalist activists were there to ask them the same question as they had asked the Socialists in Madrid and the Greens in Brussels: "Who is your candidate for the President of the European Commission?"

The aim of these actions was to raise awareness on the idea that the European Parties should nominate their candidate and the need to make the European Commission more democratic.

As expected the launch did not present any candidate for the position of the Commission President, instead the leader of the Liberal Democrat political group, Graham Watson, was introduced as candidate for the position of the President of the European Parliament.

The federalist action was very successful, some hundred postcards were handed out asking for a Liberal candidate and we had interesting discussions with dozens of people, most of whom were very positive to the idea. Guy Verhofstadt, former Prime Minister of Belgium and Liberal top candidate to the EP

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received one of our flyers and responded: "This is a really important issue to discuss in the Liberal Group" - seemingly seriously considering the opportunity to still nominate a Liberal candidate and supporting the idea standing behind the federalist demand.

Federalist action at the EGP Congress in Brussels, 28th of March 2009

On March 28, 2009 activists of JEF and UEF participated in the European Greens Party (EGP) election congress in the European Parliament. The federalists asked the Greens to nominate their candidate for the position of the President of the European Commission.

The congress delegates found a federalist leaflet on his/her seat with a motion to insert a new Congress agenda point – "Election of the Green candidate for President of the European Commission". Previous to the official opening of the congress all delegates therefore had the chance to read the leaflets. The innovative action brought smiles on the delegates' faces as well as it started discussions on the topic among the delegates. The leaflets stayed on the tables of the congress participants for the rest of the day as a reminder to act!

For some pictures of the event, [please click here](#)

5. NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS

Constituent Assembly of the UEF section in Serbia was held on the 2nd of May 2009 in Belgrade

The UEF is very pleased to notify you that on the 2nd of May 2009 a Constituent Assembly of the UEF section in Serbia was held in Belgrade which adopted the new statutes of the association and elected bodies to represent the section at the next UEF Federal

Committee, scheduled for the 24th and 25th of October in Brussels.

The Executive Bureau of the UEF Serbia is currently setting up an activity plan for the upcoming period and will most probably submit an application to become an official UEF section in Serbia to the members of the Federal Committee in autumn.

The UEF international secretariat is sending its compliments to the UEF section in Serbia and wishes all the best for the future development.

For more information please contact, secretariat(at)federaleurope.org

Jean Luc Dehaene a rencontré le Groupe Europe de l'Union des fédéralistes européens, 16 avril 2009

Jean Luc Dehaene, ancien vice président de la Commission, ancien Premier ministre, a rencontré le 16 avril 2009 quelque 120 fonctionnaires communautaires dans le cadre d'un cycle de conférences co-organisées par le Groupe Europe de l'Union des fédéralistes européens et le syndicat R&D.

JL Dehaene estime que, depuis l'élargissement, la paix et la stabilité sont chose faite. Les crises (climat, énergie, finances, alimentation), par contre, imposent d'organiser la gouvernance mondiale. L'Europe peut jouer un rôle, comme elle l'a montré en matière climatique, et peut-être, si elle avance plus vite, dans la résolution de la crise financière.

Il faut aujourd'hui une **nouvelle Europe**, une Europe politique, pour relayer le marché intérieur. Elle passe par l'extension de la méthode communautaire. Le traité de Lisbonne met sur un pied d'égalité le Parlement et le Conseil des ministres comme deux chambres législatives. Il est le socle commun à 27. La voie du progrès après cela,

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sera par les coopérations renforcées. La non ratification ne pourrait qu'aggraver l'angoisse face à la mondialisation alors que le message fondamental est que l'Europe fait partie de la solution.

La Commission a connu un certain abaissement par rapport à la présidence qui définit presque le programme de travail. La règle tacite depuis Maastricht qui veut qu'à sa tête soit un ancien du Conseil des ministres n'est pas une bonne chose et le Conseil européen ne comprend plus le rôle de la Commission. L'autre problème est la taille de la Commission. A 31, le Collège risque de devenir un vaste Coreper, il ne fonctionne pas. Le président pourrait au moins hiérarchiser les portefeuilles.

JL Dehaene a répondu aux questions du public, en particulier sur les points suivants :

- La « politique de voisinage » est essentielle, notamment avec la rive Sud de la Méditerranée. Si le processus avec la Turquie réussit, il faudra préalablement un nouveau traité.
- Le budget européen a besoin de ressources propres, parce que c'est aussi un gage que le Parlement européen, qui vote actuellement les dépenses, devienne pleinement responsable.
- A propos de la gouvernance économique, il estime que les 5 milliards dégagés par la Commission sont un montant trop faible. J. Delors, avec le soutien du Conseil européen, voulait une capacité d'emprunt contra-cyclique dont les Ministres des finances ne veulent pas. Il faut renforcer la BCE car le taux d'intérêt n'est pas un instrument de politique économique.
- A propos de l'Europe sociale et de la fiscalité, les ressources humaines ne peuvent être considérées comme des moyens de production à qui il suffit d'assurer un salaire de survie (dit « ricardien ») mais il est vrai que les deux matières sont soumises à la règle de l'unanimité.
- Les mutations d'une société ne résultent

pas de décisions politiques mais des ruptures techniques. Les régulations mondiales s'imposent, sinon les divergences d'intérêts (par exemple, entre les USA et la Chine) pourraient dégénérer en conflits.

A propos de son profil en tant que possible présidentiable à la tête de l'une ou l'autre institution, JL Dehaene réplique qu'il a pour principe de ne pas répondre à des questions hypothétiques. Il s'afflige aussi de la faible participation aux élections européennes, mais l'Europe, comme le Parlement européen, a une faible visibilité.

Catherine Vieilledent-Monfort

***XXIV Congress of the Movimento
Federalista Europeo in Catania, Italy,
27th-29th of March 2009***

During three days the Italian federalists met in Sicily to discuss their strategy regarding the federalist movement, the status of the EU and elect the new board that will be leading the Movimento Federalista Europe.

The Congress elected a new Comitato Centrale which, following the decision of Guido Montani of not candidating again, elected Lucio Levi as the new President of MFE. The Comitato Centrale confirmed Giorgio Anselmi as Secretary General and Matteo Roncarà as treasurer.

The Congress of MFE had extensive participation of members of all over Italy as well as a good representation of personalities and young federalists and, once again, it successfully showed the importance and relevance of the federalists ideas and activism.

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6. UEF IN THE PRESS

UEF calls for mainstream parties to lift turnout by fighting hard

In an appeal to all the mainstream political parties, UEF President **Andrew Duff** MEP warned of the dangers of rightwing populism and ultra-nationalism unless the campaign for the European Parliament was fought hard.

In a statement today, Duff said:

"In most states of the European Union these elections to the European Parliament are being treated as relatively unimportant. That is a big mistake.

"If the mainstream parties do not fight this election hard, voters will turn away and be tempted to support populist and demagogic parties of the extremes. Low turnout benefits extremists; and the turnout will be low unless national political parties exert themselves, for once, to campaign on and about issues relevant to the future of Europe.

"There is no shortage of European issues relevant to the electorate: the economic crash and the climate crisis to name only two. The logical response to the challenges we face is to strengthen the role and efficiency of the European Union.

"The Treaty of Lisbon is certainly essential. But for the EU to have the capacity to work in the general public interest, the European Parliament has to become more popular. Low turnout means that Parliament's legitimacy will continue to be questioned by its nationalist opponents.

"This is the time for the main political families to invest heavily in the future of European parliamentary democracy."

Federalists call on political parties to campaign on Europe

The Union of European Federalists, meeting in Brussels on 18-19 April, has appealed to the political parties to intensify their campaigns in the upcoming elections to the European Parliament.

Speaking at the conclusion of the meeting, UEF President Andrew Duff MEP said:

"People will only turn out to vote for the European Parliament if they are provoked to do so by a hard-hitting party political campaign with a clear European dimension. This campaign has got to connect the things which interest people in their daily lives - today notably, employment and savings- with the politics of the European Union.

"Political parties should have the honesty to admit that narrow and disjointed national 'solutions' to economic recovery are at best insufficient and at worst counterproductive. Only a united European response to the economic crash will make a significant difference. This means, among other things, higher investment from the EU budget and European Investment Bank into productive, sustainable jobs.

"Candidates should also have the wit to campaign for the expansion of the eurozone and a single EU policy for the international monetary reform negotiations. Stricter supervision of the financial sector at the EU level is now inevitable."

Turning to the UEF's Who's Your Candidate? campaign -in which political parties were asked to name their candidate for the new Commission President- Mr Duff said:

"The campaign for nomination of candidates for president of the European Commission

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seems to be over. Mr Barroso has certainly been campaigning for his own renomination and, in view of the results, he has been successful. No other political party decided to put up a candidate. UEF can be proud to have at least stimulated a debate about this issue. The big breakthrough for political parties will come once we have a pan-EU transnational constituency for the election of a proportion of MEPs. This reform must come by 2014."

On the role of the UEF, Mr Duff added:

"The UEF stands ready to combat the rising tide of nationalism and xenophobia. At a time when federal solutions to Europe's problems are more clearly needed than ever, candidates from whatever political party are welcome to use us as a resource in their election campaigns."

Andrew Duff calls on federalists to define 'European interest'

In his key note speech to the Union of European Federalists on Saturday 18 April, Andrew Duff MEP will urge more attention to be paid to the definition of the common European interest. He will say:

"This is a dangerous moment for Europe when the collective leadership of the European Union is weak and demoralised. The Council presidency has virtually collapsed; the Commission and Parliament are in transition; and nobody has any idea what constitutional regime will apply to the EU in the future.

"So the political parties must not fail -once again- to rise to the big occasion of the European Parliamentary election campaign. If politicians fail to campaign, the European dimension of democracy will be imperceptible and turnout will remain low."

Andrew Duff, who is President of the UEF, will tell the meeting of the federal committee that the federalist organisation is ready to combat the nationalist forces in the campaign.

"Federalists have no reason to be intimidated by the rising tide of ultra-nationalist and europhobic opinion. The financial crisis, the economic crash, the problem of climate change, the international security situation all point to the need for more Europe more concerted leadership, more parliamentary control, and a greater capacity to act on behalf of the EU institutions.

"Today, the case for a federal Europe has never been more evident. Nationalism must be defeated. We must get to work to define more clearly the common European interest."

7. CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

- 4th until 7th of June European parliament elections
- 13th June, Meeting Executive Bureau UEF
- 15th July, Reception in newly elected European Parliament
- 30th of August until 5th of September, Ventotene Seminar
- 6th September, UEF Executive Bureau meeting in Ventotene
- 23rd October, Conference: "European Federal Government?" in Berlin.
- 24th/25th October in Berlin, Federal Committee
- 29th/30th of October 2009, European Citizens Consultation, Regional Debate on Youth Employment
- 6-18th December, Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen

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The UEF Newsletter is a free service prepared by the European Secretariat of the Union of European Federalists (UEF) with the financial support but not representing the opinions of the European Commission.

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The Union of European Federalists (UEF) is a non-governmental European organization, campaigning for a federal Europe. It consists of 20 constituent organizations and it has been active at the European, national and local levels for more than 50 years.

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