



CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER 01/07

English language news about the European referendum campaign
www.europeanreferendum.eu

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ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

On 21 April 2007 the campaign for an EU-wide consultative referendum on the European Constitution was officially launched by the Union of European Federalists (UEF) and the Young European Federalists (JEF). The goal of this campaign is to collect at least one million signatures in support of a European referendum to be held on the same day as the next European elections in 2009.

WHY DO WE NEED THIS CAMPAIGN?

An effective European Union must be democratic and founded on popular consent. Therefore any European Constitutional Treaty should be submitted to a consultative referendum of the citizens in all European states on the same day as the European elections in 2009, with a positive result if it is supported by a double majority of citizens and states of the Union.

To read more about the campaign visit the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section at our website www.europeanreferendum.eu.

WHAT'S AT STAKE AT THE EUROPEAN SUMMIT?

The heads of government of the 27 EU member states will meet in Brussels on 21/22 June. Their summit meeting will decide the way forward for the European constitutional treaty. This campaign has been launched with two key demands:

1. COMMIT TO A EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION

The European Council should keep to the idea of a European constitution and reject the minimalist alternative of a mini-Treaty. The previous constitutional treaty was ratified by 18 out of 27 of the member states and received 55 per cent of the votes cast by citizens in the four referendums that were held. This is a mandate for progress, not for retreat.

There will be negotiations between now and the end of December to agree a new text for the future of the European Union. In order to deal with the challenges that Europe faces, this text should be ambitious. It should be faithful to the constitutional treaty, and faithful to the idea of Europe.

Read the statement by Mercedes Bresso, president of the UEF here: <http://www.federaleurope.org/index.php?id=3327>

Read the statement by JEF-Europe here: <http://www.jef.eu/index.php?id=1374>

2. COMMIT TO A EUROPEAN REFERENDUM

The decision about the future of Europe is not just a matter for the heads of government alone. It should be a matter for all European citizens.

That is why the campaign also calls on the European Council to agree to submit the results of their negotiations to a consultative Europe-wide referendum, which should be held in every European country on the same day. Democratic aims can only be achieved by democratic means. That means a European referendum and not a European summit.

If you agree that Europe in the future should be united and not divided, and if you agree that European citizens should be entitled to take this decision, then you can add your support to the campaign.

Visit our campaign website at www.europeanreferendum.eu

And tell your friends!

ACTIVITIES

23 March: CAMPAIGN KICKS-OFF IN ROME!

On Friday, March 23rd, during the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Rome Treaties in Palazzo Madama (Italian Senate), the European Federalist Movement (MFE – UEF Italy) launched the Campaign for collecting a million signatures to demand a consultative referendum on the European Constitution.

The event has shown the general support surrounding the proposal for a European referendum, which is increasing within the political forces. This proposal is quickly gathering more and more support among the citizens, who welcome favourably the perspective of involving the European people in the process that has to give Europe a Constitution, effectively summarised in the slogan of the Campaign: "Let the European people decide!".

Read more about it here: <http://www.taurillon.org/Campaign-for-a-European-Referendum-kicks-off-in-Rome>

21 April: MUNICH LAUNCH AND STREET ACTION

The European referendum campaign was officially launched in Munich during the Federal Committee meeting of UEF with discussion in the Bavarian parliament, featuring Mercedes Bresso, president of UEF, Claudia Roth, president of the German Greens and Paolo Ponzano, Director of the Task Force on the future of the Union and Institutional Matters.

In the city centre members of JEF-Germany organised a street action collecting signatures for the campaign. To read more about the action and see the photos go to <http://www.jef.de/>.

16 June: JEF PAN-EUROPEAN ACTION DAY

Whereas several of Europe's leaders are talking about burying the European constitution alive, JEF has got a solution: *Let the European People decide!* Together with UEF we are supporting the 1 million signatures in support of a pan-European consultative referendum on a (revised) European constitution – www.europeanreferendum.eu

The action will take place Saturday 16 June - just one week before the Summit and a few days before Merkel concludes the German Presidency - i.e. straight in the spotlight!

We hope you will join in so that jointly we can send a strong message to the summit! Please contact asa.gunven@gmail.com to let her know that you are taking part in the action and to get further information and material.

And good luck!

SUPPORTERS UPDATE

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, president of the European Convention, signs our petition during a street action in Rome, Italy marking the 50th anniversary of the Rome Treaties.

Gérard Onesta, French MEP from the European Greens and Vice-President of the European Parliament officially supports the European referendum campaign and spreads the word about it in his newsletter.

Jürgen Habermas, the famous German philosopher in favour of a Euro-wide referendum; read the interview at <http://europeanreferendum.blogspot.com>

PRACTICAL UPDATES

THE COUNTER: on June 13 we have reached more than **7000 signatures!**

LANGUAGE VERSIONS: the referendum website is now available in the following languages: English, French, German, and – **new** – in **Italian** and **Finnish!** Czech, Esperanto and Slovenian will follow next week while many others are still in the pipe-line...

HOW CAN YOU HELP THE CAMPAIGN?

1. Sign the petition yourself

The first thing is obviously to sign the petition on www.europeanreferendum.eu yourself.

2. Tell friends and family

There are many, many ways in which you can promote the campaign. The most basic thing is obviously to tell friends and family about the campaign. Don't get on their nerves – and don't force anyone to sign. But if you tell many people around you, you might be surprised by how many people are actually sympathetic to our campaign and our ideas.

3. Link to europeanreferendum.eu

If you are running your own website or even a blog you can make a very valuable contribution to the campaign: Publish a banner for the campaign. You can download two different banners on the campaign website. If you want you can even add the banner to your own E-mail signature – we know that this is something for the very committed.

4. Donate to the campaign

This is a self-financing campaign. Therefore we are highly depended on financial support by individuals. Your financial support will help the campaign to attract more publicity. You can donate to the campaign through PayPal: even a small donation of a few euros helps the campaign, but obviously large donations will help more. There is a button on the website from which you can directly reach our PayPal site.

5. Join the campaign groups

Campaigning actions will be taking place in the following countries/cities on Saturday 16 June 2007:

Barcelona, Edinburgh, York, Athens, Lisbon, Vienna, Graz, Turin, Cagliari, Castelfranco, Verona, Padova, Prato, Bucharest, Berlin and many more.

Please contact your nearest JEF/UEF sections for more details.

Ongoing campaign groups: if you want to help out with translating the website into other European languages and/or help develop our communication feel free to contact us.

WHO'S ON THE ORGANISATIONAL TEAM

Campaign officer:

Peter Matjašič

Campaign coordination:

Hanneli Ebding
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HOW TO CONTACT US

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