

March 2007

Dear Friends,

European federalism, just as much as Europe, is at a crossroad.

As it becomes ever more likely that the national governments will search for a solution to the current crisis of the "constitutional treaty" in a watered-down treaty brokered through a classical intergovernmental conference (or alternatively that they will loose control of the direction of European integration altogether) UEF should seriously and urgently reflect on what to do next to avoid to find itself engaged in the middle of a campaign for a pan-European referendum on a Constitution that will no longer exist..

In view of such debate, we want to share our ideas and experiences with you and you find them summarized in the document attached to this letter. We represent a group of regional sections, local sections and individual activists that since a number of years have been actively campaigning for the creation of the first core of a European federal state within the enlarged Union. We believe this is the route the federalist movements should follow once the political phase started with the Nice summit and likely to end soon with a new treaty will be over.

We believe that, if the federalist movements don't take soon this chance for a strong and visible relaunch of their struggle for a European federation, they will enter into a stage characterized by the marginality and banalisation of their role, which would closely resemble the downward trend taken in the past by other international movements, such as the pacifist movement of the end of the 19th century - beginning of the 20th century or the federalist movements between the two World Wars. The first step to try and avoid a similar defeat is to become aware that it is a concrete possibility and consider the possible countermeasures to put into action. Only out of an open and clear debate can we lay the foundations for a relaunch of the federalist struggle.

We would be happy to discuss with you and other federalists the issues raised in the attached special issue of the European Letter, both in bilateral informal meetings or on the occasion of future seminars, starting from the one on the Garda Lake on April 27-29, or of Federal Committee meetings, starting from the one in April in Munich.

Looking forward to reading your comments and suggestions,

Yours sincerely

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