

A FEDERAL EUROPE, SOVEREIGN, SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL IS MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER - THE ROLE OF THE FEDERALISTS AHEAD THE CONSTITUENT PROCESS

Submitted on 14th of November 2022 by Domènec Ruiz Devesa, Francisco Aldecoa Luzárraga, Alejandro Peinado García, Gloria Vara Giner

The Federal Committee of the Union of European Federalists (UEF),

- having regard to the *Ventotene Manifesto of 1941*,

- having regard to the *Laeken Declaration on the future of Europe* of 15 December 2001,

- having regard to the *Manifesto Our federal Europe: sovereign and democratic* launched on 9 May 2021 by the Spinelli Group, UEF and the European Movement International (EMI),

- having regard to the UEF Resolution adopted by the UEF Congress: *Our Federal Europe, Sovereign and Democratic* on 4 July 2021,

- having regard to Article 48 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU),

- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 4 May 2022 on the *follow-up to the conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe*,

- having regard to the report of 9 May 2022 on the *final outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe* (the Conference),

- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 9 June 2022 *on the call for a convention on the revision of the Treaties*,

- having regard to the *Proposal of a Manifesto for a Federal Europe: Sovereign, Social and Ecological*, adopted in Ventotene on 29th of August 2022 by the Spinelli Group,

A. Reiterating the extreme concern

- for the drama of the situation caused by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, with its repercussions in terms of security and international relations, with its brutality and cruelty that take us back to scenarios that we in Europe had hoped to have erased forever;

- because of the seriousness of the economic fallout of the conflict in Europe, particularly related to the energy crisis, which even threatens the functioning of the Single Market;

- 33 - for the impact that the redefinition of global geopolitical trade and economic relations
34 is bound to have on the EU;
- 35 - for the worrying rise of nationalism and extremism within the European Union
- 36 - following that the current Treaties entered into force on 1 December 2009 and during
37 these years the Union has faced unprecedented transnational challenges as climate
38 change, Brexit, covid pandemic or the blatant war of aggression provoked by Russia in
39 Ukraine,

40 **B. Stresses**

- 41 - how, in this context, the political-institutional reform of the European Union can no
42 longer be postponed so that it can become a political entity capable of acting more
43 effectively and democratically ,based on a double legitimacy of European citizens and
44 Member States;
- 45 - how this reform passes through the overcoming of the current intergovernmental
46 mechanisms that subordinate every decision to the reaching of a consensual agreement
47 between the governments of the member states, paralysing the Union in many cases
48 due to the inevitable divergences between immediate and narrow national interests.
49 That is why the time has come to entrust the elaboration and defence of the European
50 interest to independent supranational institutions to truly promote the EU general
51 interest as their objective;

52 **C. Therefore reiterates**

- 53 - the urgency of a federal Europe, sovereign and democratic, social and ecological - a
54 necessary condition to protect the values and interests of Europeans - and thus to
55 initiate a thorough reform of the Treaties that also paves the way for a true
56 Constitution and a full Federation.

57

58 *The Federal Committee of UEF recalls in this regard*

59

60 A. Recalls that the last Convention on the Future of the European Union was established by
61 the European Council in December 2001 as a result of the Laeken Declaration more than 20
62 years ago,

63 B. Recalls that on 9 May 2022 the Conference on the Future of Europe finished its work and
64 presented its conclusions, including legislative proposals and the call for a new Convention;
65 whereas in addition to legislative proposals, the opening of a process of wider institutional
66 reforms is needed in order to implement the Conference's conclusions and strengthen the
67 mechanisms of citizens' participation;

68 C. The conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) and the will that
69 emerged particularly in the final part of its proceedings with a clear demand for a Europe:

- 70 - more effective and democratic, with stronger and more citizen-involved European
71 institutions;
- 72 - more united in its democratic and fundamental values and in guaranteeing equal
73 opportunities and inclusive societies for citizens in life, education and training, and
74 work;
- 75 - equipped with instruments to make citizen participation effective and constant;

76 D. Considering the proposals contained in the final Conference report, with particular
77 reference to those elaborated by the Working Group on European Democracy, from which
78 it emerges:

- 79 - the need to reform the EU in a federal sense, clarifying the competences and roles of
80 the different levels of government, transforming the Council into a true second
81 legislative chamber, giving effective powers to the European Parliament in legislative
82 and budgetary matters;
- 83 - the need to overcome unanimity voting, replacing it with qualified majority voting;
- 84 - the importance of uniforming and reforming the European electoral law in order to
85 create a genuinely European political confrontation and participation, establishing
86 transnational lists for the election of a number of MEPs on a European basis and
87 strengthening the system of *Spitzenkandidaten* (heads of the lists) to elect the President
88 of the European Commission;
- 89 - the need to reopen the debate on the Constitution, to set our common values and
90 agree on the rules of decision-making of the European Federation;
- 91 - the request to start the process of convening a Convention aimed at reforming the
92 Treaties towards a Constitution;

93 E. Considering the commitment made to this effect also by the leaders of the European
94 institutions at the closing ceremony of CoFoE;

95 F. Considering the contribution of the federalists to the achievement of these results through
96 their campaign on the CoFoE platform and their contribution to the work of the conference;

97 G. Recalling that in 2023 we will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the European Congress
98 celebrated in The Hague in 1948,

99 H. Recalls that new policies and new constitutional provisions are necessary in the interests
100 of all EU citizens, as a way to strengthen the EU capacity to act and its European public sphere;

101 I. Recalls that, after the adoption of the European Parliament's resolutions of 4th of May and
102 9th of June, the Council has delayed the transmission of the activation of article 48 of the
103 Treaty on the European Union (TEU) to the European Council until at least spring 2023;

104 J. Recalls that, on October 18 2022, the General Affairs Council decided not to forward the
105 Parliament's amendments to the European Council and not to notify the national Parliaments
106 until the work of the Parliament on the issue of Treaty reform is completed.

107 K. Recalls that, taking into account that even if there is a majority in the European Council for
108 the activation of the article 48 TEU to reform the Treaties it will be very difficult to hold it in
109 a pre-election year.

110

111 *Remember,*

112 that in any case, the question that the European Union cannot evade is that of redefining itself
113 on the basis of different levels of integration that reflect the will both of those states and
114 peoples that wish to limit themselves to the current integration and of those that are in favour
115 of establishing a political Union;

116 - that such a redefinition implies either that an agreement is reached on the new
117 structure - i.e. that those opposed to political integration do not block those who
118 want to build it - or that, in the absence of such an agreement, the group of states and
119 peoples that want to deepen the union go ahead anyway, with a constitutional and
120 political break-up, and renegotiate the new relationship at a later date;

121 - that in both cases a driving role of the European Parliament is needed as well as an
122 alliance of likeminded governments and political forces (within not only the European
123 Parliament, but also the national parliaments), which can then expand once the
124 dynamic and federative process is set in motion;

125 *Reiterates*

126 - that the role of the federalists at this stage is to support the pro-European forces
127 within the EP to continue the fight for the Convention, while also preparing for the
128 2024 European elections, which could offer the opportunity for a Union-wide debate
129 on a new constituent process.

130

131 *The Federal Committee of the UEF:*

132 1. Welcomes the achievements and the leadership of the European Parliament in the
133 Conference and the resolutions of 4th May and 9th of June;

134 2. Stresses the importance of this opportunity at a strategic moment in the federalist battle,
135 also in order to bring federalist demands and proposals into the debate on the reforms that
136 the EP intends to prepare for the Convention;

137 3. Calls in a European federal Constitution in order to establish a genuine European
138 democracy, from an institutional point of view by abolishing unanimity in Council and
139 extending co-decision with Parliament in all the policy areas (including more competences
140 developing the right of Initiative and the right of inquiry of the EP);

141

142 *Therefore, the UEF FC proposes in order to achieve this:*

143 1. The organisation of a new European Congress coinciding with the 75th Anniversary of the
144 Hague Congress alongside the EMI with the goal to renew the federalist roadmap ahead the
145 Convention;

146 2. To request to the Spinelli Group and the AFCO Committee to prepare its new Report on
147 the amendments on the Treaties as quickly as possible, and to include all the amendments (or
148 a new Constitution with the same purpose) needed to:

149 - implement all the proposals of the Conference that require Treaty change, including the
150 establishment of a European referendum;

151 - provide the Union with adequate powers with regards to energy, foreign, security and
152 defence policy to respond adequately to the geopolitical and energy crisis sparked by the
153 Russian invasion of Ukraine;

154 - include a transitory and final clause, that the reform of the Treaties will be ratified by the
155 European referendum with a double majority:

- 156 ○ in the first place, a majority of European citizens voting in the referendum;
- 157 ○ in the second place, a national majority in a majority of member states shall be needed
158 for the reform to enter into force.
 - 159 ■ It would enter into force only in those states where there is a national majority
160 in favour.
 - 161 ■ In states where there is a majority against it, they shall vote again within 6
162 months to decide whether to ratify or leave.

163 3. Advocates for the establishment of an interparliamentary Conference in 2023 under the
164 Spanish Council presidency in coordination with the COSAC starting in 1st of July 2023 and
165 composed by the European Parliament and the 27 national parliaments to discuss the EP
166 report before its final approval;

167 4. To approve such comprehensive Treaty reform draft by European Parliament on 9th of
168 May 2023, so that it would be extremely difficult for the European Council not to convene a
169 Convention.

170 5. To work at the European level through the Spinelli Group to get the European Parliament
171 to take other initiatives drawing attention to the Council's legal and political duty to bring
172 before the European Council the request to launch a Convention; these could also (but not
173 exclusively) include initiatives involving the citizens who participated in the Conference and
174 joint initiatives with national Parliaments;

175 6. To set up, through the national sections, Spinelli Groups and Intergroups for Europe in
176 their respective parliaments, linked directly with the Spinelli Group in the EP also to converge
177 in the call for a Convention;

- 178 7. To call the Convention to be convened by the European Council at its June 2023 meeting,
179 or at a special ad hoc meeting that could be convened over the summer.
- 180 8. To work for the 2024 elections to be, in the wake of this process, a moment of open and
181 democratic debate on the re-foundation on federal bases of the European Union and on the
182 need to arrive at a Constitution for a federal Europe, sovereign and democratic and to
183 establish a genuine European democracy;
- 184 9. Calls for a Constituent Convention to be organised right after the 2024 European
185 Parliament Elections and for a leading role of the European Parliament on the basis of the
186 Conference conclusions;
- 187 10. Firmly believes that based on the Constituent Convention outcome the European
188 Parliament should adopt a constituent role in order to propose a Federal Constitution.

AMENDMENTS

Domènec Ruiz Devesa and Alejandro Peinado García	
Line number(s):	1-3
Original text	Amended text
A FEDERAL EUROPE, SOVEREIGN, SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL IS MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER - THE ROLE OF THE FEDERALISTS AHEAD THE CONSTITUENT PROCESS	A FEDERAL EUROPE, SOVEREIGN, SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL IS MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER - THE ROLE OF THE FEDERALISTS AHEAD OF THE CONSTITUENT PROCESS
Explanatory statement (optional):	

Domènec Ruiz Devesa and Alejandro Peinado García	
Line number(s):	58
Original text	Amended text
<i>The Federal Committee of UEF recalls in this regard</i>	<i>The Federal Committee of UEF recalls, in this regard,</i>
Explanatory statement (optional):	

Domènec Ruiz Devesa and Alejandro Peinado García	
Line number(s):	60-62
Original text	Amended text
A. Recalls that the last Convention on the Future of the European Union was established by the European Council in December 2001 as a result of the Laeken Declaration more than 20 years ago,	A. That the last Convention on the Future of the European Union was established by the European Council in December 2001 as a result of the Laeken Declaration more than 20 years ago,
Explanatory statement (optional):	Textual coherence

Domènec Ruiz Devesa and Alejandro Peinado García	
Line number(s):	63-67
Original text	Amended text

<p>B. Recalls that on 9 May 2022 the Conference on the Future of Europe finished its work and presented its conclusions, including legislative proposals and the call for a new Convention; whereas in addition to legislative proposals, the opening of a process of wider institutional reforms is needed in order to implement the Conference's conclusions and strengthen the mechanisms of citizens' participation;</p>	<p>B. That on 9 May 2022 the Conference on the Future of Europe finished its work and presented its conclusions, including legislative proposals and the call for a new Convention; whereas in addition to legislative proposals, the opening of a process of wider institutional reforms is needed in order to implement the Conference's conclusions and strengthen the mechanisms of citizens' participation;</p>
<p>Explanatory statement (optional):</p>	<p>Textual coherence</p>

	<p>Domènec Ruiz Devesa and Alejandro Peinado García</p>	
<p>Line number(s):</p>	<p>76-78</p>	
<p>Original text</p>	<p>Amended text</p>	
<p>D. Considering the proposals contained in the final Conference report, with particular reference to those elaborated by the Working Group on European Democracy, from which it emerges:</p>	<p>D. The proposals contained in the final Conference report, with particular reference to those elaborated by the Working Group on European Democracy, from which it emerges:</p>	
<p>Explanatory statement (optional):</p>	<p>Textual coherence</p>	

	<p>Domènec Ruiz Devesa and Alejandro Peinado García</p>	
<p>Line number(s):</p>	<p>93-94</p>	
<p>Original text</p>	<p>Amended text</p>	
<p>E. Considering the commitment made to this effect also by the leaders of the European institutions at the closing ceremony of CoFoE;</p>	<p>E. The commitment made to this effect also by the leaders of the European institutions at the closing ceremony of CoFoE;</p>	
<p>Explanatory statement (optional):</p>	<p>Textual coherence</p>	

	<p>Domènec Ruiz Devesa and Alejandro Peinado García</p>	
<p>Line number(s):</p>	<p>95-97</p>	
<p>Original text</p>	<p>Amended text</p>	

F. Considering the contribution of the federalists to the achievement of these results through their campaign on the CoFoE platform and their contribution to the work of the conference;	F. The contribution of the federalists to the achievement of these results through their campaign on the CoFoE platform and their contribution to the work of the conference;
Explanatory statement (optional):	

	Domènec Ruiz Devesa and Alejandro Peinado García	
Line number(s):	98-99	
	Original text	Amended text
G. Recalling that in 2023 we will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the European Congress celebrated in The Hague in 1948,	G. That in 2023 we will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the European Congress celebrated in The Hague in 1948,	
Explanatory statement (optional):		

	Domènec Ruiz Devesa and Alejandro Peinado García	
Line number(s):	100-101	
	Original text	Amended text
H. Recalling that the new policies and new constitutional provisions are necessary in the interests of all EU citizens, as a way to strengthen the EU capacity to act and its European public sphere;	H. That new policies and new constitutional provisions are necessary in the interests of all EU citizens, as a way to strengthen the EU capacity to act and its European public sphere;	
Explanatory statement (optional):		

	Domènec Ruiz Devesa and Alejandro Peinado García	
Line number(s):	102-104	
	Original text	Amended text
I. Recalls that, after the adoption of the European Parliament's resolutions of 4th of May and 9th of June, the Council has delayed the transmission of the activation of article 48 of the	I. That, after the adoption of the European Parliament's resolutions of 4th of May and 9th of June, the Council has delayed the transmission of the activation of article 48 of the	

Treaty on the European Union (TEU) to the European Council until at least spring 2023;	Treaty on the European Union (TEU) to the European Council until at least spring 2023;
Explanatory statement (optional):	

	Domènec Ruiz Devesa and Alejandro Peinado García	
Line number(s):	105-107	
	Original text	Amended text
	J. Recalls that, on October 18 2022, the General Affairs Council decided not to forward the Parliament's amendments to the European Council and not to notify the national Parliaments until the work of the Parliament on the issue of Treaty reform is completed.	J. That, on October 18 2022, the General Affairs Council decided not to forward the Parliament's amendments to the European Council and not to notify the national Parliaments until the work of the Parliament on the issue of Treaty reform is completed.
Explanatory statement (optional):		

	Domènec Ruiz Devesa and Alejandro Peinado García	
Line number(s):	108-110	
	Original text	Amended text
	K. Recalls that, taking into account that even if there is a majority in the European Council for the activation of the article 48 TEU to reform the Treaties it will be very difficult to hold it in a pre-election year.	K. That, taking into account that even if there is a majority in the European Council for the activation of the article 48 TEU to reform the Treaties it will be very difficult to hold it in a pre-election year.
Explanatory statement (optional):		

	Domènec Ruiz Devesa and Alejandro Peinado García	
Line number(s):	111-116	
	Original text	Amended text



<p>Remember, that in any case, the question that the European Union cannot evade is that of redefining itself on the basis of different levels of integration that reflect the will both of those states and peoples that wish to limit themselves to the current integration and of those that are in favour of establishing a political Union;</p>	<p>That in any case, the question that the European Union cannot evade is that of redefining itself on the basis of different levels of integration that reflect the will both of those states and peoples that wish to limit themselves to the current integration and of those that are in favour of establishing a political Union;</p>
<p>Explanatory statement (optional):</p>	