



JEUNES EUROPÉENS FÉDÉRALISTES  
JUNGE EUROPAISCHE FÖDERALISTEN  
YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS

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## CONTRIBUTION OF JEF-EUROPE TO THE ROME YOUTH SUMMIT

### Introduction

The European Union was created to provide peace, security and prosperity for its citizens. It has achieved much, but its performance falls still short of what its citizens are entitled to expect. Neither the European states alone, nor the European Union as it is today can any longer meet the challenges that confront them, first of all the management of the European economy after the birth of the Euro, the mass unemployment and the challenges of globalisation. It is more and more evident that we need a real democratic government of the European Union and a democratic and federal reform of all the Union's institutions. It is necessary to transform the European Commission into a real European government, to give the European Parliament real legislative co-decision powers on all matters, to make majority voting become the rule in the Council of Ministers, and to give the Union a single foreign, security and defence policy. In a word, it is time for a European Constitution to transform as soon as possible the European Union into a real European federation.

### The future of the Constitutional Treaty

A European Constitution is needed to make a positive change in how the European Union is run.

JEF welcomes the work done by the Convention on the future of Europe and appreciates its contribution towards making Europe more democratic. Therefore, JEF calls for all Member States to ratify this Constitution. Nevertheless, the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for the EU still has major shortcomings that a future Convention should amend.

After the French and the Dutch "No's", JEF still believes that the EU urgently needs a Constitution.

Taking into account the results of the French and Dutch votes, we recognise that the proposed Constitutional Treaty needs to be subject to revision based on the elements of true constitutional character. This had also been proposed by the Convention right from the start, but it was neglected by the governments in the following IGC in 2004.

Another secretive Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) simply will not do. Therefore, we call for a democratic and transparent Convention to discuss and propose these changes. The mandate to the Convention has to be clear: more democracy in Europe and more efficiency for the European institutions. We also call for advisory local and regional conventions in all countries involving civil society to give input into the European Convention. A re-convened Youth Convention should be set up to follow the process in parallel and involve young people and youth organisations throughout the process.

The slimmed down Constitution-proposal should be voted upon in a European referendum at the same time as the European Parliament elections in 2009. It is important that all countries vote at the same time, to guarantee a truly European debate and to avoid excessive focus on national issues.

Indeed, the European referendum offers the opportunity to get out of the unanimity deadlock that has been stalling Europe's integration over the last two decades. Once a double-majority of citizens and member states has been positive in the ballot, the Constitution shall come into force. Member states with a majority against can make up their mind within a certain time either to join the Constitutional Europe or to re-negotiate their status towards the Union.



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## **The EU in a globalising world**

In order to meet the challenges of an ever changing globalised world and play a more active role in international politics, the EU must complete necessary reforms and evolve further to become a true political union; a European Constitution would help achieve this aim.

The European Union is a successful peace project within, but cannot regard the peace project as finalised until all of the citizens in Europe enjoy living in peace in democratic societies. The EU must therefore play an active role in democratising and establishing peace in all of Europe.

Furthermore, the European Union needs to strengthen diplomatic negotiations in regions outside Europe passing necessary reforms within the Union ensuring a strong voice on the global arena.

JEF believes that the EU through its unique structure and policies can take the part as essential and diplomatic mediator on the world scene. The time has come for Member States to surrender traditional foreign and defence policy admitting the need for a united European effort.

Necessary reforms on the area of foreign and security policy have to take place. Therefore JEF calls for a Single Foreign and Defence Policy enabling the EU to involve itself fully in all layers of missions across the globe, from guiding democratic elections in Congo to peacekeeping missions in the Western Balkans.

A European army is a tool to promote and establish peace in regional conflicts. JEF reaffirms its belief that the European Union has an enormous potential in the field of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and alternative use of military or policing force. Furthermore, JEF demands all Member States of the Union, who are holding or advocating for a national permanent seat in the UN Security Council to instead aim for a single European Seat in order to enhance the global peace process.

## **Conclusion**

The main message JEF would like to pass on to the European leaders is the following:

- We need a pan-European referendum on the day of the European elections in 2009 to ratify the European Constitution
- We call on the German EU Presidency to present an ambitious and not a watered-down Constitution.
- We urge the European Commission, the Member States and the European Parliament to actively engage in this process and guarantee that the desired goals of Democracy, Dialogue and Debate don't end up to be empty phrases. It is important to take action now and show the capability of the EU to act.