

# “Proud to be European, now and in the federal future”

This document shows what the FAEF (Federal Alliance of European Federalists) stands for.



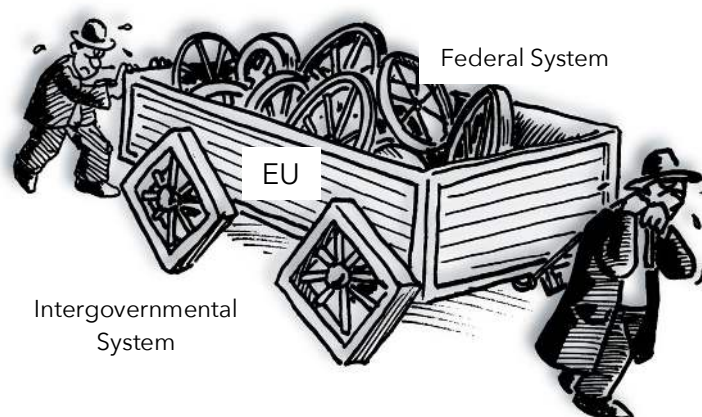
*We want a European Union that really knows how to protect its citizens from the continuous challenges that the globalized world creates. A Europe that proves to be a federal community and not an instrument at the service of national interests. This by ‘simply’ making it clear what limited set of common interests should be taken care of by a federal body, while all other matters remain within the sovereign domain of the member states. Our motto is “Europe will be a federation, or will not be”.*

## **Do we as Europeans have a problem?**

The people and parliaments of EU-member states feel threatened regarding their own sovereignty and cultural identity. Their conclusion quickly is: Brussels is the problem! However not the institutions nor the European Parliament in Brussels is the problem; the intergovernmental administrating system of the EU is the prime problem! We strongly feel that a constitutional federation is the most appropriate one to save each states’ sovereignty and cultural identity. A federation is not a super state that absorbs the member states’ sovereignty. Instead, it produces extras, like taking care of common interests that cannot be taken care of by individual countries. We strongly believe that once the common interests are defined, the European energy can be put in creating a stronger Europe, instead of bargaining and levelling out national interests only.

## **Europe already is a strong continent to be proud of!**

Europe, both its long term achievements and its cultural diversity is something definitely to be proud of. All European countries come from a huge range of different cultural and historical backgrounds and yet we manage to overcome many European crises. Europe is more than a free common market. It stands for a strong moral and democratic basis including strong civil rights, freedom of speech and gender. **However**, Europeans throughout the EU are in majority ‘not that proud to be European’, particularly when it comes to the *functioning* of the EU, being it’s intergovernmental operation. It is a mainstream thought that a lot of European crises could have been solved in half the time it took now. Only if it would be more clear and agreed upon what is to be decided at a federal level and what is to be decided by sovereign member states. Rightly so, many see the current intergovernmental system as illustrated below:



“The intergovernmental EU was successful, but no longer is!  
The federal solution is available but not recognized”

## **How will we the Federal Alliance of European Federalists, reach our goal of a proud and strong United States of Europe?**

The EU today resembles the US before 1787. The Confederal Treaty 'Articles of Confederation' of 1777 granted all the power to the 13 states. Almost exactly as Europe now each US-state then focused on its own internal affairs, being quarrelsome against other states and vulnerable to external threats. For the United States, the solution was a federal Constitution in 1787. That constitution described the sovereign rights and responsibilities of State governments and of the Federal government.

*"The true nature of federalism is: vertical division of powers that creates shared sovereignty, grants a federal body the power to take care of common interests, while the member states remain sovereign with respect to all other decisions. Including their specific cultural identity".*

The scenario of "Europe will be a federation, or will not be" differs completely from the many failed efforts to federalise Europe so far. It resembles as much as possible the successful approach by the Convention of Philadelphia (1787).

We envision the following:

- a) organizing a Convention with a small number of Europeans (56) in The Hague,
- b) making a federal European Constitution (based on the draft 'European Federalist Papers' <sup>1</sup>),
- c) distribution of this new Constitution to the people of Europe who vote Yes or No,
- d) declaring a federation, as soon as a majority of the people of 9 countries have ratified it.

First the many federal movements in Europe should federate under the principle: 'federate the federalists'. Their task is to implement strategic plans to inform and educate the people of Europe about federalism. If a majority of the people in nine countries ratify, their parliaments can establish a so-called 'enhanced form of cooperation' according to the Treaty of Lisbon and enter the Treaty as one federation. When all countries ratify, the rules of the aforementioned Constitution will deal with the required procedures to set up the United States of Europe. We see too little leadership at political level throughout the member states of Europe. We are deeply convinced that the only way is this bottom-up approach. A democratic voting system will bring the necessary tipping point so that we soon will move to a United States of Europe.

### **We would like to make this dream also yours!**

The 1<sup>st</sup> step of our bottom-up grassroots approach is informing and educating the people about the basics and the need for a Federal Europe. The 2<sup>nd</sup> step is holding the above mentioned Convention in The Hague. Once the contributions are at the needed level, this Convention will be held within two months. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and last step is organizing the voting in all the 27 or 28 European Countries.

So far only volunteers were involved. In order to structurally mobilize and coordinate all activities and marketing efforts, we need to set up an effective and efficiently organized central office.

**For this we need your support. This support can be your time, attention and/or your financial contributions.**

**Please get in touch with us via our website or call +31 (0)6-43-379-790! A strategic plan is available.**

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<sup>1</sup> Please see: <https://samenwereld.nl/federal-europe>