

# CITIZENS CONVENTION FOR A FEDERAL EUROPE

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### The Wish

Europeans want a European Union that knows how to protect its citizens from problems caused by the shifting balance of power in the world. A Europe that is a true community and that does not allow itself to be played off against each other by national or nationalist interests. A European Union that concentrates on caring for a handful of common interests, that guards and preserves the sovereignty and cultural identity of the Member States and that does not interfere in everything that the Member States are better placed to do themselves.

### The Urgency

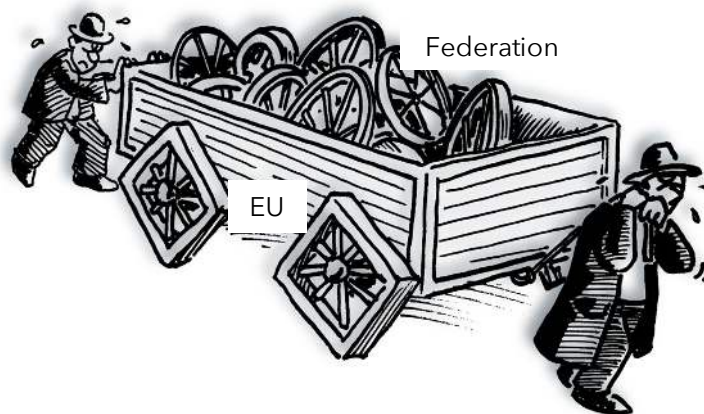
The reality is different. The European Union cannot control the advancing national sentiments that threaten the unity of the Union. Sentiments fed by an EU-lack of respect for the sovereignty of Member States. It cannot withstand the pressure of the shifting balance of power in the world. Its prosperity is affected by the anarchy of trade wars. It has no control over autocrats - from within and outside the EU - who mock Europe's liberal democracy with divide and rule. Problems such as terrorism, refugees from wars and disasters, banking crises and global warming are waiting in vain for a common European approach

Why is that? The answer is simple: the European Union is wrongly constructed. She has the wrong engine. Its administrating system is officially called intergovernmental governance. This has worked well for a number of years since 1951, but with the arrival of more and more Member States and the increasing number of external problems leading to internal conflicts, it has now reached the end of its political life cycle. That is because his basis - the Treaty of Lisbon - is full of systemic errors. This foundation is too weak and requires constant repairs. But that will not work. System failures have two characteristics: they cause the system to implode or explode sooner or later. And any attempt at repair only makes it worse.

### The Challenge

That Treaty, as the engine of the EU, is no longer capable of achieving unity and cooperation. We need a new operating system to guarantee the centuries-old need for a united Europe. The only form of state that can fulfill the above wish is a Federation. And this must find its basis in a Constitution. Just as it happened at the end of the 18th century in America. It has thus become the most powerful country, holding together 50 sovereign states and serving as a model for other federations that already house 40% of the world's population. Instead of federalizing Europe, European political leaders waged wars for more than 200 years. Dozens of attempts at federalization failed. But one attempt has never been made: take as a best practice the success of the Philadelphia Convention (1787) - the birth certificate of the American Federation. That is the challenge. We are now going to do this in the Netherlands by organizing a Citizens' Convention for a Federal Europe. That Convention makes a Federal Constitution for Europe and submits its draft to the

people of Europe. Just as the Philadelphia Convention did in 1787. Then we will be freed from this image:



### The Questions

Replacing a dysfunctional engine with a new one is not something you can do just like that. Unless you realize that he has been running since 1951 with the advent of the European Coal and Steel Community.

Would it not be time to provide the European Union with a form of governance that would respond to the huge problems it is facing? Of course, this challenge raises quite a few questions. To name a few:

- Do you really have to exchange that operating system?
- What will it make us better and happier?
- How, then, can we create a Constitution for a Federal Europe?
- Who should be in charge of the whole process of change?
- Will we then be stronger than the United States, Russia and China?
- How do you prevent it from becoming a superstate that engulfs the participating countries?

### The Invitation

We would like to answer these questions - and others - in a conversation with a small circle of people who would like to support our initiative morally and possibly financially. If you would like to be part of this, you are hereby invited. It is an informal gathering in a living room, aimed at gaining the support of people who want to work as ambassadors for a renewed Europe. A Europe of which we can be proud again.

If you would like to receive more information first, we would be happy to send you an email with a booklet of about 30 pages designed for the organization of the Convention. Including the financial set-up. In addition, on the website <https://samenwereld.nl/federal-europe> you can find everything you would like to know about the weakness of today's intergovernmental Europe and the strength of a federal Europe.

For the time being, contact can be made via [leoklinkers@me.com](mailto:leoklinkers@me.com). Or \* 31-(0)6-20.08.35.86. In our response we inform you on which day and where a living room conversation takes place. It is time for Europeans to regain pride in Europe: "Europe will be a Federation or will not be".

## The Princess

You see a dancing lady as a watermark. That is Europe. In Greek mythology, Europe was a young princess. Zeus - the boss of all Gods, sitting on his throne on Mount Olympus - liked her when she danced with her girlfriends on the beach. He walked down the mountain, turned himself into a white bull to prevent his wife Hera from realizing what he intended to do, seduced Europe into clambering on his back, swam to Crete - piece of cake for a God - took on his own shape again and had a lot of fun with Europe. Is it not time for the Greeks to enjoy Europe again?



On behalf of the Foundation Citizens Convention o.c.

Leo Klinkers, PhD

co-author European Federalist Papers

co-founder Federal Alliance of European Federalists

co-founder Foundation Citizens Convention o.c.