

Summary of my paper to be given for our meeting  
« Federate the Federalists » FAEF. Palazzo Isimbardi Milano.

## Introduction

By working several years both in the Ministry of agriculture in France and in the European Commission, I have come to the following conclusions :

-as regards policies, Cooperation between member states and european institutions increase the quality of debates and proposals and provide a certain transparency

-But the present state of european institutions is unable to reply to the challenges of to day

### I Political situation regarding Europe, the case of France :

The referendum on the European Constitutional Treaty which took place in 2005 following the decision taken by the sole President Jacques Chirac for its own political interest at national level, has been a good picture of the links between french people and Europe. 3 observations :

#### **1-We are not born european citizen, we become it !**

The numerous debates which took place in 2005 all over in France have shown a considerable lack of knowledge of the french people regarding the european institutions. 13 years after, the situation has not significantly improved, the education of the french youth under the aegis of « the Ministère de l'Education Nationale » is still mainly national, and education on Europe keeps to be at its minimum. There will be no future for Europe without the participation of its european citizens by a better understanding/training/participation through political powers and elections.

**For FAEF :** a component of education on Europe is crucial and will accompany the set up of a Federal Constitution.

#### **2-the new political context of Europe to day : the traditional opposition left/right tends to be replaced by a confrontation national identity/european identity**

The debates on the ECT in 2005 were premonitory of the political situation of today: The revendications of the left and far left parties were exclusively focussed on a more Social Europe without paying the mere simple attention to the question of european values ( democracy, human rights) brought by the European Chart of Fundamental Rights. For the first time in France, left and far left parties mixed their voices and votes with the ones of far right parties, joining together in a No to the ECT, giving indirectly credibility to the far right vocabulary. The expression « The people again the Elites » appeared at this occasion. 13 years after, the rising of populism and the participation of far right parties in governmental coalitions of several european countries are well established and could be for long...

**Facing the new debate national sovereignty /european sovereignty FAEF brings a particularly adequate and adapted reply.**

**3-Which reply to populism ?** The absence of visible social european policies by governments and european institutions is not the only reason to explain the rise of populism. The weight of the european history has to be taken into account : weight of the unconsciousness and the words we repeat like ' sleepwalkers » without consciousness. If the phenomenon of populism differs form the 30's, to be noted that the words are the same : ostracized migrants, defense of a Christian Europe, revendication **of the rights of the Nation as a group against the individual Human rights, recognized by the EU.**

**For FAEF recalling the drama of nationalism of the european history ( 2/3 of the dead of the second worl war died in Europe) is crucial in order not to pave the way of repeating the history.**

**II In this heart of darkness, a few shining points :**

1-Federalism has never been in the french DNA, however the declaration of 9 of may by Robert Schuman was a call to set up the bases for a European Federation. The situation of Europe in 1950 was not easier than today. The example of the cooperation between policial leaders of this time could be used as a strategy ( for example Jean Monnet » feeding » political leaders).

2-When some political leaders ( Macron, Juncker) are promoting « More european sovereignty », « Europe as a global actor », it is time to propose to the public a concrete federal constitution.

3-If the european federalist movements are the guardians of the temple of federalism, from Luthian to Spinelli, they have in the meantime the responsibility to propose a federation adapted to the needs of today. Europe of founders fathers has to become Europe of creators sons and daughters. European Movemants have to federate their energies with new and young citizen movements, around the promotion of a common federal constitution which will be an added value during the campaign of the european elections.

4-One sector would be particularly important to mobilise : the associations and NGO's wourking in the field of migrations. More collaboration with europeans movements would be suitable in order to define concrete proposals of european policies on migrations. Should the sector of migrations be a key priority for FAEF development ?

5-Last but not least, the cultural field should not be neglected when promoting a federal constitution for Europe. It is in Milano and then in Paris, that Giorgio Strehler one of the most creative director of theater developed his mission, of uniting european people trough art and theater. In this respect, the play 'We the european people » which puts on stage actors from different european countries quarelling between federalist and nationalist ideas should be of interest for anyone ready for more european adventure with more égalité, liberté, fraternité !