



JEUNES EUROPÉENS FÉDÉRALISTES
JUNGE EUROPÄISCHE FÖDERALISTEN
YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS

EP03 A three-step plan towards the European Constitution

A European Constitution is needed to make a positive change in how the European Union is run. Following up on our resolution adopted in the Strasbourg Congress 2005, and bearing in mind the difficulties encountered by the European Council after the French and Dutch No votes, JEF Europe now calls for action!

What do we want?

2007 – Commit!

We call on the German EU Presidency in the first half of 2007 to take a decision on how to move on with the constitutional process. It is important to take action, and get the process back on track to show the capability of the EU to act in a difficult situation. We urge for an action-plan with concrete aims and goals. It should include a clear time-frame leading to a constitutional settlement alongside the European elections in 2009, based on the following criteria.

2008 – Revise!

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 Constitutional Convention right from the start but it was neglected by the following IGC in 2004.

Another secretive Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) simply won't 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.

2009 – Vote!

This 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 and “speculations” about other countries' election-results.

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.

Adopted by the Federal Committee of JEF-Europe in Athens, October 2006