

Brussels, 11 May 2021

Dem Gozi

On behalf of the Union of European Federalists (UEF), I would like to sincerely congratulate you on your efforts to make the launch of the Conference on the Future of Europe a success on 9 May in Strasbourg. I was particularly pleased to hear the speeches of President Sassoli, Prime Minister Costa and President von der Leyen, as well as your interventions, all making clear your sincere commitment to this major pan-European democratic exercise.

As you may know, since President von der Leyen endorsed the idea and announced her commitment to organising the Conference in her first speech in Strasbourg in July 2019, the UEF has been constantly pushing for the Conference to take place. In fact, UEF has never stopped working for 75 years now for Europe and the European Union. Not only has UEF taken the lead when an opportunity of the kind has arisen, but we have also proposed and created opportunities, as the oldest European non-partisan, civic and transnational organisation, for a more integrated Europe since our creation in 1946 in Paris.

Only two years after UEF was founded, we helped organise the Hague Congress in 1948, the first federal moment of European history and attended by distinguished delegates from all around Europe. It is well known that the outcome of the Congress had a major impact on the Schuman Declaration of 9 May 1951, in which French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman clearly advocated for the *“foundation of a European federation indispensable to the preservation of peace”*.

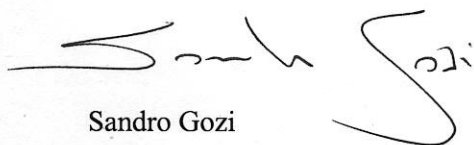
Since then, our organisation has grown exponentially. Today, we have national sections in 24 European countries and we have more than 25 000 members and activists committed to uniting Europe along federal lines.

On Europe Day 2021, with the occasion of the launch of the Conference on the Future of Europe, UEF, together with the Spinelli Group in the European Parliament and the European Movement International, relaunched an appeal named *“Our Federal Europe: sovereign and democratic”*. More than 450 European personalities have already signed the text in which we call for a Union that is both a community of destiny and values, and a model for the new world now taking shape. More than 450 distinguished people from all across Europe and a broad range of sectors say that *“now, as European citizens, we are eagerly awaiting the start of the Conference on the future of Europe, an event designed to bring together citizens, leading exponents of civil society, NGOs, trade unions, and representatives of national and European institutions, to debate and decide how to go about adapting our institutions in a way that will complete the building of our federal Europe”*.

I am writing to you today to request that UEF joins the Conference’s plenary as one of the eight representatives for social partners and civil society. I believe that our organisation can make a valuable contribution to the Conference’s discussions and the plenary’s work in the months ahead. We have many years of experience in the area of citizens consultation, supporting young people and promoting the European project throughout Europe. I am therefore asking you to take into account our long-standing efforts for Europe and our support in consideration.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and I wish you every success in this collective endeavour.

Best regards,



Sandro Gozi
President of UEF

Member of the European Parliament