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## Calling for a European convention

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7 Resolution submitted by: *JEF-Europe Political Commission 1*

8 Resolution adopted by consensus of the Federal Committee of JEF Europe

### JEF Europe,

#### Concerned

- 9 • That a growing number of citizens question the benefits of European integration  
10 and the idea of an ever-closer union, do not feel represented by EU institutions or  
11 are turning to euro-sceptic and nationalist parties;

#### Considering

- 12 • That the EU urgently needs a democratic renewal and to strengthen its internal  
13 and external abilities to meet current and future challenges;
- 14 • That the increased use of the intergovernmental method in the past years has to  
15 be counterbalanced by enhanced involvement of citizens and their  
16 representatives at the European level;
- 17 • That the Lisbon Treaty provides a small margin to strengthen the EU but does  
18 not allow for a deepening of integration, and to increase the democratic  
19 legitimacy and accountability of EU politics, as it would be necessary;
- 20 • That JEF Europe is calling for a constitutional convention to elaborate a federal  
21 constitution and to put it to a vote in a pan-European referendum (JEF Europe  
22 Political Platform 2013);
- 23 • That in the current situation there are different opinions among member states  
24 about the future of European integration, from reservations regarding a strong  
25 EU to deeper integration;

#### Aware

- 26 • That the EU commits itself to involve citizens and representative associations in  
27 all areas of EU action (Art. 11 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU));
- 28 • That the convention method is the ordinary treaty revision method (Art. 48 TEU);
- 29 • That the Lisbon Treaty merely outlines its revision process, thus giving space for  
30 political decisions regarding the process and the objective of the revision;



## **Convinced**

- 31 • That citizens should have a stronger voice in EU politics and that the upcoming  
32 treaty revision process should be accompanied by a broad public debate and  
33 closely involve civil society;
- 34 • That the convention method has the potential to strengthen the democratic  
35 legitimacy of the European integration process by involving citizens in the treaty  
36 revision process and illustrates their responsibility for the future of Europe;
- 37 • That the EU has to complete the economic, fiscal and political union outlined in  
38 the “Blueprint for a deep and genuine Economic and Monetary Union” (submitted  
39 by the European Commission in 2012) and find answers to the questions raised  
40 in the analytic note “Preparing for next steps on better economic governance in  
41 the Euro area” (submitted by the three Presidents in 2015);

## **JEF Europe therefore**

### **Calls**

- 42 1. On the European political parties to start a public debate on the European and  
43 national levels on the future of Europe, present their visions to the citizens and  
44 elaborate programmes for the convention;
- 45 2. On the European Parliament to initiate the treaty revision process by elaborating  
46 concrete proposals for completing the economic, social, fiscal and political union;
- 47 3. On the European Council to convene a convention to further develop the  
48 proposals of the European Parliament;
- 49 4. To launch the treaty revision process without undue delay;
- 50 5. To exploit as part of this process all possibilities to strengthen the economic and  
51 political union within the current treaties;

### **Urges**

- 52 6. That the convention should be composed of Members of the European  
53 Parliament and national parliaments, representatives of the national governments  
54 and the European Commission;
- 55 7. That the convention should take into account the political will of civil society by  
56 closely and formally involving a wide range of civil society organisations  
57 representing the diversity of European society, including the European youth;



- 58 8. That the convention should meet in public, all relevant information about the work  
59 of the convention should be published in an easily accessible and transparent  
60 way and that the convention should promote digital dialogue with citizens;  
61 9. That media in all member states should closely follow the convention and  
62 continuously inform the citizens about its work;

### **Claims**

- 63 10. That the convention should elaborate a strong and comprehensive legal  
64 framework, which allows enhanced EU policies, corresponding to the internal and  
65 external challenges, and ensures sufficient democratic legitimacy and  
66 accountability;  
67 11. That the following intergovernmental conference (Art. 48 TEU) should respect the  
68 result of the convention as the legitimate expression of European citizen's  
69 political will;

### **Expects**

- 70 12. The new legal framework to be a milestone towards a genuine European  
71 federation.