



2

3

## 4 **Strengthening the economic and political union** 5 **within the Lisbon Treaty**

6

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

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

### **JEF Europe,**

- 9 • Considering that the EU urgently needs to be strengthened to cope with the  
10 continuing economic crisis, increasing social tensions, strong migration flows and  
11 alarming international conflicts;
- 12 • Persuaded that the economic, fiscal and political union has to be completed as  
13 outlined in the “Blueprint for a deep and genuine Economic and Monetary Union”  
14 (submitted by the European Commission in 2012) and in the analytic note  
15 “Preparing for next steps on better economic governance in the Euro area”  
16 (submitted by the three Presidents in 2015);
- 17 • Welcoming the many reasonable proposals to deepen European integration that  
18 have been debated in recent years (e.g. strong EU economic governance with  
19 increased democratic legitimacy, larger and independent EU budget based on  
20 EU taxes, instruments of financial solidarity);
- 21 • Acknowledging that the implementation of most of the proposals would require a  
22 revision of the Lisbon Treaty;
- 23 • Convinced that there is no time for political stalemate while preparing for a  
24 convention to reform the legal basis of the EU;
- 25 • Stressing that measures to be taken should not only present temporary  
26 improvements but must provide sustainable solutions in the long-term;
- 27 • Calling upon the EU and the member states to act now, exploit the margin and  
28 instruments of flexibility provided by the Lisbon Treaty and undertake all  
29 necessary measures that can be implemented within the current legal framework;

### **JEF Europe, claiming to strengthen the economic union,**

- 30 1. Stresses that the EU and in particular the Euro zone need to deepen integration  
31 in the fields of economic, social and fiscal policy;
- 32 2. Emphasises that healthy national economies are the basis of a strong economic  
33 union and that it is thus of individual and common interest to the member states  
34 that they restore the strength and competitiveness of their national economies by



- 35 implementing growth-enhancing structural reforms (e.g. regarding labour market  
36 or public service);
- 37 3. Calls upon the member states to reinforce their commitments regarding the rules  
38 of EU economic and fiscal governance;
- 39 4. Calls for further improvement of EU economic governance, by strengthening  
40 preventive, corrective and assistive instruments and ensuring democratic  
41 legitimacy of the decision-making process, to support economic recovery and  
42 prevent future economic crises and shocks;
- 43 5. Calls upon the EU and the member states to closely coordinate and increase  
44 their investments to stimulate European economy, emphasising that investment  
45 policy should not only focus on profitability but also on a sustainable European  
46 added value and enhance cohesion within the EU, particularly by supporting  
47 currently uncompetitive member states;
- 48 6. Calls upon the Eurozone member states to explore the possibilities offered by the  
49 Lisbon Treaty to create an additional budget for and paid by those countries to  
50 finance pan-European projects, without establishing burdens for other member  
51 states to join in;

## **JEF Europe, claiming to strengthen the political union**

### **By setting clear priorities,**

- 52 7. Assumes that the new structure of the European Commission has the potential to  
53 increase the efficacy of this key EU institution;
- 54 8. Calls upon the President and the Vice-Presidents of the European Commission  
55 to set clear political priorities and ensure coherent implementation within their  
56 cluster;
- 57 9. Demands that the European Commission invites the European Parliament and  
58 national parliaments to comment on its annual working programme;

### **By politicising the European Parliament,**

- 59 10. Stresses that a political union needs a vivid, differentiated and accountable  
60 political debate in the European Parliament;
- 61 11. Notes that the European Parliament is often perceived as a widely homogenous  
62 institution consisting of a grand coalition and some extreme representatives;
- 63 12. Assumes that the close stance of the two largest parties might have been  
64 adequate at the time the European Parliament was not of equal standing with the  
65 Council in matters of legislation, but that the European Parliament, having a  
66 stronger role in EU politics now has to ensure its representative function;



- 67 13. Calls upon the parties represented in the European Parliament to vitalise the  
68 political debate, elaborate alternative approaches in EU policies and show the  
69 citizens that their concerns are heard, taken seriously and considered in the  
70 process of parliamentary deliberation;  
71 14. Calls for more visible public debates among the parties, which have had a  
72 positive effect on political awareness of the public before the European elections;

### **By strengthening the European Parliament,**

- 73 15. Considers that EU economic and fiscal governance, particularly the monitoring of  
74 national budgets, being a very sensitive issue, merits increased democratic  
75 control by the European Parliament;  
76 16. Convinced that the European Parliament should also be involved in the debate  
77 on European investment policy and growth-enhancing structural reforms;  
78 17. Calls upon the European Commission and the Council to conclude an inter-  
79 institutional agreement with the European Parliament to closer involve the latter  
80 in EU economic governance procedures;  
81 18. Calls upon the European Parliament to make active use of its inter-institutional  
82 agreement with the European Commission on the right of initiative to stir the  
83 submission of legal proposals by the European Commission;  
84 19. Calls upon the European Parliament to increase the democratic legitimacy of its  
85 composition by elaborating a proposal for a uniform procedure for the election of  
86 its members (Art. 223 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union);

### **JEF Europe, claiming to use the political momentum,**

- 87 20. Notes that Europe is about to realise the strength it already has if the EU and  
88 member states work closely together in a spirit of mutual trust and solidarity;  
89 21. Underlines that the economic crisis and the current challenges in foreign policy  
90 have created a historical momentum that has to be used to strengthen the  
91 internal and external abilities of the EU;  
92 22. Calls upon all its members and partners to move Europe forward and campaign  
93 together for a stronger economic and political union in the short term and –  
94 through a treaty revision process – in the medium or long term while thinking  
95 ahead towards a genuine European federation.