



JEUNES EUROPÉENS FÉDÉRALISTES  
JUNGE EUROPÄISCHE FÖDERALISTEN  
YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS

Margot Wallström  
Vice-President  
European Commission  
Brussels  
Belgium

Brussels, 2007-06-13

Open Letter to the Heads of State, President of the Commission, President of the European Parliament

### **EU reform: The time for compromise is over – let us move forward with ambition**

Dear Margot,

People say that the future belongs to the youth. But in the coming days the tools to shape this future are in your hands. In view of the upcoming European summit we would like to remind you to keep our future Europe in mind when you discuss the long overdue reforms of the functioning of the European Union.

The Europe we have grown up in stands before challenges much different from the ones of the past. Europe today is facing a severe legitimacy crisis and many of our friends feel disconnected to Europe because they feel alienated by politics in general. We believe that it is high time to exchange word for action and give Europe a Constitution including the ambitious institutional reforms it needs and deserves. We ask you to give us the tools we need to face the challenges of our future.

The following are our demands for saving the European Constitution. Please take them with you to the European summit in Brussels!

- 1. 50 years of patchwork is enough!** The EU needs a fundamental makeover, not a mere make-up exercise. Thus the Constitutional Treaty must be the only starting point for an ambitious institutional reform and the outcome should be a single and comprehensible document that we can present and discuss with any high school class.
- 2. No IGC behind closed doors!** How do you expect anyone to engage in communicating your reforms if they have not been a part of the process? - Reforming the EU without involving the citizens and parliaments should remain a thing of the past. Do not give up the achievements of the Convention method and open both the meetings and the documents for the public and European parliaments!
- 3. Involve the citizens when changing the rule of the game!** Put the text to a consultative referendum to be held in all European countries on the same day as the European Parliament elections in 2009. Only a truly pan-European debate can help us to avoid the mistakes of the past ratification.
- 4. Give us the tools we need to tackle the challenges of tomorrow!** Only a targeted transfer of powers to the European level can give us the mechanisms needed to face up to climate change, new modes of energy supply and safety as well as pursuing a human migration policy.

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JEF is a supranational, politically pluralist youth organisation with about 35,000 members in over 35 European countries. The aim of JEF is to work for the creation of a European federation as a first step towards peace and a more free, just and democratic society. Our ideas are spread through international activities and youth exchanges, publications, public actions and co-operation with other youth-organisations.



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**5. Give us a strong voice in the world!** For us to influence the issues that will determine our future and in order to make a difference in the world we live in, Europe needs to speak with one single strong voice. Call it what you like, but the institution of the foreign minister is key to our role – or non-role – in the world.

**6. Protect our rights!** The Charter of Fundamental Rights is a bold commitment to the citizens of Europe and a strong element of our common identity – make it legally enforceable for all EU citizens.

Europe is at a cross road and you have the privilege to really influence its direction in the coming days. Let Europe reconnect with its citizens, let Europe stand united and say no to nationalist egoism and disintegration, let it tackle the great challenges we are facing today, let it do it with pride and let us do it “together”!

The Youth Summit from March 2007, representing youth from across Europe, supported this message. Now we ask you to pick the right turn and to put the common interest of future European generations first!

European wishes

Jan Seifert  
President JEF-Europe