

EUROPE!

▶▶ *A Generation Ahead*

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The Young European Federalists (JEF) present the international youth meeting "*Young people from the enlarged European Union debate on the Future of Europe*". 200 young Europeans will gather in Athens, Greece, on 11-13 April to take part in the shaping of a bigger and better Union. The event is the second large-scale initiative under the project "Europe! A Generation Ahead". Its aim is to foster a pan-European debate on the Future of Europe, involving as many young people as possible.

Highlights include:

Friday, 11 April 2003

17.00 h – 20.30 h, Old Parliament

- Opening session, greetings from D. Bakoyanni, Mayor of Athens,
- Panel discussion with Greek Convention members

Saturday, 12 April 2003

9.30 h – 20.00 h, Athens University

- Working groups

15.00 h – 17.00 h, Syntagma square

- Information activity on the enlargement and the European Convention, presentation of the exhibition of JEF

Sunday, 13 April 2003

10.00 h – 13.00 h, Old Parliament

- Presentation of reports from the working groups



Young European Federalists



**Organised with the support of the
European commission**

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The New Europe we want

There is a saying that a person should get to know one's motherland and just then would really love it. In our world of falling borders we can apply this thought to Europe - the common home we share. We are all proud to be Europeans, but can we say that we know our motherland?



Europe is changing. The old continent, formerly divided into East and West, is heading towards a more promising and united future. New Europe is emerging. For the first time in its history the once Union of six opens its doors to ten new members, mostly former communist countries. For the first time the European Union is going to have a Constitution and seeks solutions for the future through a public debate. Young people don't want to stay out of this process!

If you feel young by heart and spirit, come to Athens in the middle of April and join us in our efforts to build New Europe! More than 200 young Europeans will be there to express themselves and present a new approach to the question "What should Europe look like?" They will take part in the international meeting "Young people from the enlarged EU debate on the Future of Europe" to prove that it is the youth, who has the ambition and resources to move Europe a generation ahead.

The event will bring together participants from the EU member states and the candidate countries to work shoulder by shoulder on the shaping of their own future. Being in the shoes

of the politicians on sensitive issues like competences, principle and values of the EU, the role of national parliaments and European action in the world is a difficult, yet challenging task. The youth of Europe is not afraid to take on the challenge!

The city of Athens will surely create the best atmosphere for fruitful debates. On 16 April, when the Accession Treaties with the new EU member states will be signed, the sunny capital of Greece will turn into a symbol of the historic act of enlargement. Young people from all over the continent will be there in the eve of the event to show their belief in the impetus the future members will bring.

European youth is also eager to take its message to the streets. With information leaflets, presentations, polls and games some two hundred young federalists will be at Syntagma (Constitution) Square and will try to persuade the people of Athens that the building of our common future concerns every citizen.

The impulse of European youth can be the driving force of this process. No other generation has such a feeling of the European spirit as young people, and their efforts to contribute to the shaping of the future of Europe deserve your attention.



Europe! A Generation Ahead – not just a political initiative

In order to promote the ongoing debate on the **Future of Europe** and the work of the European Convention, JEF Europe has decided to launch a Europe-wide Convention project. The overall aim of this project is to initiate and foster a pan-European debate on the Future of Europe involving as many young Europeans as possible.



With this project, we encourage the Youth of Europe to make contributions to the European Convention. However our action is not restricted to the political field, but also extends to the cultural and societal one, as we consider that the notions of European values and culture cannot be disregarded in the debate on the future of Europe.

This long-term project (from October 2002 to November 2003) is based on an innovative range of events, to take place all over Europe. Activities are organised at local, regional and national level by the respective sections of JEF Europe. JEF Europe itself organises two large-scale events, with young people coming from all over Europe. Additionally, the value of the project lies in its high European dimension and the interlinkage between all the organised activities. Furthermore the project guarantees that a true European public debate, mobilizing a great number of young people, is playing a role of high importance in the Future of Europe debate.

The principal goals of the project are therefore:

- To set up an open discussion forum for young people coming from all over Europe
- To **link** the general debate on the future of Europe with **specific approaches** and impact from the respective local backgrounds of young people
- To underline and **promote the importance** of the ongoing issue of the enlargement and its societal and institutional consequences
- To **create networks** among youth organisations promoting the European ideals jointly on the grassroots' level
- To **inform** young people about the ongoing Convention on the Future of Europe
- To **contribute** to the work of the Convention by reporting on the results of the various phases of the project

For more information on the project and the organised events consult:

www.constitutional-convention.net

The patrons of the "Europe! – A Generation Ahead" project are Jean-Luc Dehaene, Vice-President of the European Convention and Pat Cox, President of the European Parliament

The project day by day



The preparation of every event begins with months of hectic work in the office in Brussels ...



Almost ready! Just final instructions to the chairs of the working groups



The participants are already here, eager to express their vision on the Future of Europe



Hard time for them, too. Piles of documents to read for the working groups, debates and learning from each other



The results are ready. Now the easiest part comes – games with the public ...



... and parties, of course! It's always great to relax after busy days

The event is organised by the Young European Federalists



The Young European Federalists (JEF) is an organisation of young people, who share a vision of united and democratic Europe. In the last 50 years it has engaged itself in working for the creation of a European Federation, based on peace, democracy and the rule of law.

JEF brings together people at local, regional, national and European level to campaign for more just and free federal society. Federalism proposes that all decisions be reached by democratic institutions at the most appropriate level, that all persons, affected by a decision, take part in making it.



That is why the Young European Federalists warmly welcome the launch of the Convention on the Future of Europe as a real opportunity for a more radical and long overdue reform of the European Union and a chance for the citizens to participate in the debate on their common European future.

The aim of JEF is to involve as many young people in this process as possible. Through international seminars, debates, conferences and campaigning work in countries all around the continent, we wish to bring Europe closer to its youth. JEF events turn into an incubator for ideas. It welcomes knowledge and will from all over the world and stresses the need to learn and build upon differences.

"We live in Europe and we want to discuss with it and participate in its construction. The new, enlarged Europe should become our Europe!"

JEF is an autonomous youth organisation, which has no party political affiliations or commitments. It is active in a total of 35 states and has approximately 25 000 members throughout Europe.



Friday 11 April 2003

- 10 h 00 – 15 h 00 Arrival and registration of participants
Hotel COSMOS, 12–15 Victoros Hugo street
- 17 h 00 – 18 h 00 Registration for the conference at the Old Parliament
- 18 h 00 – 20 h 30 **Official Opening** - Greetings from:
Dora BAKOYANNI, Mayor of Athens
Nikos LAMPROPOULOS, President of JEF Greece
**Presentation of the mid-term results of the Convention Project
(National debates)**
Panel Discussion with
Paraskevas AVGERINOS, Convention member
Alison WESTON, President of JEF Europe
Debate with the participants

Saturday 12 April 2003

- 09 h 00 Athens University*
- 09 h 30 – 13 h 00 Plenary : introduction to working groups and working methods
Meeting in working groups
Each working group will discuss key articles of the draft Constitution produced
by the European Convention
- 13 h 30 – 14 h 30 Picnic in the Syntagma park
- 15 h 00 – 17 h 00 **"European market", Information Action on Syntagma Square**
Public campaign activities (European puzzle, voting stand, etc)
Informational stands about the enlargement and the Constitutional Convention
National Sections present their activities
Presentation of the Exhibition of JEF
- 17 h 30 – 20 h 00 Meeting in working groups
Final remarks and conclusion of the working groups' discussions

Sunday 13 April 2003

- 10 h 00 – 12 h 00 Meeting in plenary at the Old Parliament
Presentation of the reports from the working groups
Discussion
- 12 h 00 – 13 h 00 **Closing address by:**
Michael PAPAYANNAKIS, President of E.M Greece
Ellen Trane NØRBY, Vice-President of the Youth Convention
- 13 h 00 End of meeting

To be confirmed*