Crossroads Europe Project - *Policy recommendations* formulated during the event organised in partnership with **UEF France**:

"Europe in the World" - Strasbourg, June 2021

This initiative was organised by the Union of European Federalists - Europe with the support of the Union of European Federalists - France and the local section in Strasbourg on 18 and 19 June 2021. The following recommendations are the result of the debate sessions of 18 and 19 June 2021.

First thematic session: "The relationship between the European Union and the Council of Europe: Je t'aime, moi non plus...
The European Union and the Council of Europe are two international organisations that have developed strategic partnerships throughout their history. However, their relationship is not always easy and competition between the two organisations is visible on several major policies.
Issues at stake:
- Strengthen partnerships and improve relations between the European Union and the Council of Europe.
- To be more effective in actions in favour of democracy, the rule of law and human rights.
- To better coordinate the policies of both organisations.

1) Support the European Union's membership of the Council of Europe
The European Union must respect its commitments under the Lisbon Treaty, sign the European Convention on Human Rights and thus join the Council of Europe.
The Union must strengthen its cooperation with the Council of Europe in the field of human rights, rule of law and democracy. It should let the Council of Europe act in those areas where it is more effective and has more expertise. The European Union must help the Council of Europe to improve the effectiveness of its actions.
The European Union's policies on human rights, democracy and the rule of law must also be built on the basis of the standards established by the Council of Europe in order to act in a complementary manner and to strengthen co-operation within the Council of Europe.
There is a need to strengthen coordination and dialogue between the two organisations. The conventions and recommendations of the Council of Europe (cybersecurity, women's rights, etc.) should also be implemented in the European Union. The European Union should sign the conventions in the field in which it wants to cooperate with the Council of Europe.

2) Create a right of option for British citizens to retain their EU citizenship
British citizens residing in the European Union should be given the opportunity to choose whether or not to retain their EU citizenship and the rights that go with it. This would be tantamount to creating a residence-based EU citizenship for British citizens living in an EU country for several years. Thus, these British citizens would not need to apply for the nationality of an EU Member State to retain their EU citizenship.

Second session: "Is Europe in a trade war?

The world in which Europe is evolving is an unstable one. Economic sanctions are making a comeback in international relations and some observers do not hesitate to describe relations between China and the United States as a real "trade war". What is Europe's place in international trade? Should Europe prepare for the trade war?

Issues at stake:
- Strengthening the European Union's commercial power and its position on the international scene
- Strengthening the EU's resilience to global economic shocks
- Preparing for the deterioration of trade relations with major world powers (China, USA, India, Brazil, etc.).

3) Abolishing the veto in the Council
The right of veto in the Council of the European Union must be ended. Decisions should be taken by a majority vote of the ministers of the member states. Indeed, this veto right prevents the development of many European public policies, in particular in strategic areas such as economic and fiscal policy, the development of a genuine European social policy, as well as a genuine European policy on foreign affairs, security and common defence.

4) For a real federal budget for the European Union
A single currency cannot function economically without a federal budget. It is essential to strengthen the European budget by providing it with sustainable own resources, enabling the development of investments and guaranteeing common solidarity mechanisms to prevent global economic crises.

5) Sustaining the European Union's common borrowing capacity
We need European public investment to finance major European infrastructure and innovation projects, especially in the context of economic recovery after the COVID-19 crisis. Debt pooling should help us to better withstand global economic shocks. It gives us the capacity to invest to rebuild European industries, to finance infrastructure and to boost innovation.

6) Providing the European Union with own resources
In order to finance the European budget on a sustainable basis, and to decouple it from national contributions, it is necessary to create new, permanent own resources for the European Union. They will make it possible to finance the repayment of common loans, which finance our investment capacity.

Third session: "Discussion with members of the Spinelli Group. The Conference on the Future of Europe: an opportunity to change Europe?
The Conference on the Future of Europe was launched on 9 May 2021. Citizens are encouraged to participate in this unique initiative of participatory democracy. However, several civil society organisations are alerting the institutions to the uncertainties that remain regarding the timetable of the Conference and the treatment of the final proposals.

Issues at stake :
- Making the Conference on the Future of Europe a success with a significant participation of European citizens

- To ensure that the proposals made by European citizens are taken into account to reform the European Union in depth
- To push the institutions to engage in a real reform of the European institutions

7) Right of initiative for the European Parliament
The European Parliament does not have the right of initiative. It cannot initiate European laws. However, elected by direct universal suffrage, MEPs are legitimate to carry the voice of citizens through European law proposals. The European Parliament must be given a right of initiative, which will also make it possible to change the balance of power between the European institutions and thus strengthen the position of the Parliament.

8) Reforming the European treaties after the Conference on the Future of Europe
We must not be afraid to open the debate on the reform of the European treaties at the end of the Conference on the Future of Europe if the proposals made by the citizens require a modification of the treaties to be implemented.
This is the only way to ensure that the citizens' proposals formulated in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe will be taken into account and will be the subject of an in-depth reform of the European Union's policies and the European treaties if necessary.

Fourth session: "What defence for a powerful Europe?
European defence is at the heart of discussions in the European institutions. The strategic changes in the US ally under the Trump presidency have prompted Europeans to rethink their strategic positioning and to consider strengthening European defence. However, not all member states agree on the form European defence should take.
Issues at stake :
- Developing the European Union's strategic autonomy
- Preserving the security of Europeans and their interests in the world
- Pooling Europeans' military capabilities

9) For the strategic autonomy of the European Union
A genuine European foreign affairs and defence policy must be built for the strategic strengthening of the European Union. The coordination of the foreign policies of the European states is necessary and must be more integrated into the Community policy. European defence policy must be developed both in terms of the European Union's industrial policy to develop the common capabilities of Europeans (pooling of equipment, European innovation for military equipment, etc.), and in terms of operational strategy to mobilise its military capabilities in a coordinated manner.
European defence must take its full place within NATO. However, the European Union must build strategic autonomy to promote its own agenda on the international scene. The European Union must be independent in thinking about its security and defence, and no longer be dependent on the United States.

10) Create a common European military capability
The Eurocorps treaty must be integrated into the European Union treaties to create a minimum European military capability. This troop would be the embryo of a real European army, an armed force

that could be mobilised in the priority theatres of operation for the European Union. This operational capacity would offer the possibility of strengthening our joint military interventions and supporting military missions abroad.

11) For an ambitious European space policy

It is necessary to invest in space and to develop the European Union's space policy to boost innovation. In particular, we need to develop our space surveillance capabilities to guarantee the security of European installations in space and to avoid spying on European satellites by other world powers.

12) For a European nuclear deterrent

France is the only state that has a European nuclear deterrent. It must negotiate with other European states and the European Union to pool the French nuclear deterrent to guarantee the security of Europeans and share the costs of deterrence. It must be the cornerstone of a common strategic autonomy and support a strong common defence and security policy.

13) Give the EU a permanent seat on the UN Security Council

As the global situation becomes increasingly unstable, the European Union must develop a common foreign affairs policy. It must participate in promoting and strengthening multilateralism. To this end, it must have a stronger presence in the United Nations. The EU Member States must request a permanent seat for the EU in the UN Security Council. They must first delegate real foreign policy powers to the EU.

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