

Motion adopted by the National Congress of the French Union of Federalists (Paris, 12 and 13 June 1948)

Caption: The National Congress of the French Union of Federalists (UFF), held in Paris on 12 and 13 June 1948, adopts a motion calling for the urgent establishment of a European Parliamentary Assembly.

Source: Fédération. Revue de l'ordre vivant. dir. de publ. Richard, Max. Juillet 1948, n° 42. Paris: Imprimerie de la Seine. "Motion adoptée par le congrès national de l'Union française des fédéralistes", auteur:UFF , p. 9.

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The Congress of the French Union of Federalists, intending to continue the work undertaken by the European Congresses in Montreux and The Hague,

— noting the initial partial achievements with a view to a European economic union being established by the governments concerned,

— believing, however, that such achievements are not sufficient to guarantee peace and prosperity,

Affirms that only a European society based on federalist principles is capable of withstanding the arbitrary nature of national or partisan power and the pressures of economic feudalism;

Points out that such a society requires the participating states to transfer part of their sovereignty to a supranational body.

Accordingly, the Congress declares:

— that Europe must be founded on a respect for human rights and communities, recognised in a Charter enacted in advance of any political integration,

— that such a Charter must be safeguarded by a supreme court of justice, an authority above all other national and European powers, to which individuals and organisations must be able to make direct appeals,

— that that supreme court must be one of the fundamental institutions of the European Federation, the other elements being:

assemblies representing nations and communities,

a group of operational bodies constituting the federal executive body,

— that those institutions should be defined in a European Constitution which will determine the scope of the federal powers.

In order that those objectives may be achieved, the Congress calls for:

— a European Assembly to be convened as a matter of urgency,

— that Assembly to have full powers to declare a European Federation and to draw up an organisational plan for European institutions, to be submitted to each of the countries concerned for approval,

and invites the French Parliament to adopt, before the parliamentary recess, a resolution indicating that France intends to participate in such an assembly and that the government is authorised to establish contact with the governments of the other European countries for that purpose.

The Congress calls upon Parliament to determine the composition of the French Delegation to the European Assembly, appoint its representatives on the Assembly and decide the economic, trade union, cultural and local bodies to be allocated seats. The Congress emphasises that those bodies should subsequently be called upon to select their own delegates.

The Congress declares that, if the parliaments of Europe delay in providing for the appointment of the European Assembly, the federalist groups are ready to convene European parliamentary bodies capable of forming a standing preliminary parliament.