

Interview with Jean-Pierre Gouzy: the origins of his federalist commitment (Paris, 19 October 2007)

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[Étienne Deschamps] What about your federalist commitment, your European commitment — in what way is it linked to these journalistic activities?

[Jean-Pierre Gouzy] My European and federalist commitment is, of course, completely independent of that. Having served with the army for the duration of the war, I ended up in Paris, where I was into just about everything that was going on at that time and which seemed to me to be a sort of backlash against the dominating powers that I mentioned earlier, or it was, at least, expressed in a different way, according to points of view that were rather original; and it was as I made my way around Paris that I got to know two federalist organisations. The first consisted of a group of Socialists and federalists whose headquarters at that time were located on the Boulevard Poissonnière, with further premises on the Rue de l'Échiquier, the Rue d'Enghien and the Rue de Trévis — that area of the 10th *arrondissement* that borders on the 9th — and, independently of this first group, there was another group called *La Fédération* that was established at 9 Rue Aubert and which addressed federalist issues mainly from an internal perspective. These were people whose priority during this period was to fight against the Jacobin state, to demand greater local self-government, greater regional self-government, more freedom to choose an occupation, and so on and so forth, but which nevertheless very rapidly became swept up in the increasingly popular European movement.