

Brussels, 13th December 2024

António Costa
President of the European Council
European Council
Rue de la Loi 175
B-1048 Brussels
Belgium

Dear Mr. President António Costa,

We hope this message finds you well. It was very nice to meet you in La Toja in October alongside our common friend Josep Borrell. Allow us to begin by extending our heartfelt congratulations on your appointment as President of the European Council, a position of immense importance for the future of Europe at this critical moment. Please be assured that you have our full support and confidence as you start this new mandate. A new institutional cycle has begun, and we are particularly pleased by the spirit of collaboration you have already demonstrated with your esteemed colleagues: Ms. Von der Leyen President of the European Commission, Ms. Metsola President of the European Parliament.

We are writing to you in view of the meeting of the European Council of 19-20 December 2024.

We are grateful that as President of the Union of European Federalists, and President of the Young European Federalists, we have been in contact with your predecessor, who responded to us on 15 July 2024, following several letters advocating for democratic path towards treaty reform, in line with Parliament's proposal of November 2023. These efforts were undertaken in partnership with our historic allies, including the Spinelli Group, the pan-partisan federalist group in the European Parliament, and the European Movement International. Despite these efforts, the European Council has yet to address the crucial issue of treaty reform, as highlighted in the said European Parliament's report on "Amendments to the Treaties," adopted over a year ago on 22 November 2023. It is high time to make European democracy progress, and European citizens' voices heard.

The difficulty of embarking on such a change for the EU is almost as high as the importance of this institutional step - which is indispensable for creating the conditions for an organic and democratic

discussion on the reform of the European Union, particularly in view of enlargement. Please, allow us to respectfully reiterate the request that the European Council at the very least takes note at its next meeting of the said report, that has officially triggered the reform procedure set out in article 48 of the Treaty on the European Union, as a first step towards addressing the matter the soonest.

We would also like to emphasise that the urgency of reviewing the functioning of our EU institutions has also been highlighted in the Mario Draghi's report on the future of competitiveness in Europe and the call for a united union is very clear in the Enrico Letta's Much more than a market report and Sauli Niinistö's Safer together report. As Charles Michel noted in his response to us, the Council intends to address this topic "at the most opportune moment." We strongly believe that moment is now.

In closing, we express our gratitude for your attention and reiterate the trust that we, as federalists and European citizens, place in your leadership. We sincerely believe in your capacity to be at the height of this historic moment. The future of Europe is at stake, and we count on your authority to steer the debate on the much-needed internal reforms in view of enlargement and European security and defence in the most effective and, above all, democratic way,

Yours faithfully,

Domènec Ruiz Devesa

President of the Union of European Federalists (UEF) and MEP 2019-2024

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