

Activity Report (European Federalist Movement-Italy)

While the European Convention was drawing up the European Constitution, the activity of the Italian federalists concentrated on a Campaign for a European Federal Constitution. Five objectives were pursued:

1. to include the Charter of Fundamental Rights, adopted by the European Council in 2000, in the Constitution;
2. to submit all European legislation and budget to the co-decision of the European Parliament and the Council and to majority voting within the Council;
3. to transform the European Commission into a Federal Government ;
4. to submit to these legislative and executive powers all European policies, including Foreign, Security and Defence Policy, and to endow the EU with adequate own financial resources;
5. to exclude the right of veto in the Convention and over the procedures for the adoption and revision of the European Federal Constitution.

Only the objective 1 has been fully reached, while the objectives 2 and 3 have been partially achieved.

Thousands of signatures were collected on the appeal to the Convention. Moreover in the Convention a document, drawn up by the Spinelli Institute for Federalist Studies, outlining the cornerstones of a Federal Constitution was circulated. It received numerous appreciations by the members of the Convention.

Among the initiatives launched within the framework of the Campaign for a European Constitution, was a campaign on Article 1 of the European Constitution. It was proposed for the European Constitution to include language resembling Article 11 of the Italian Constitution: "Europe repudiates war as a means for settling international disputes and recognizes peace as a fundamental right of persons and peoples. Europe contributes to the creation of a peaceful and democratic international order; for this purpose it promotes and supports the UN strengthening and democratization process and the development of international cooperation." This campaign was supported by the Forum for Constitutional Democracy which operates within the European Social Forum and the Peace Round Table (a coalition of 500 global civil society movements and hundreds of local communities). Also this objective has not been achieved, since in the Draft Constitution peace is simply considered as an objective and not a value nor an individual right. But the campaign will continue, in order to amend the Constitution.

In spite of the poor results obtained, what has to be underlined is the fact that the Campaign for a European federal Constitution involved an increasing number of civil society organizations which found in the European Convention a historic opportunity for the promotion at international level of values such as peace, solidarity, democracy and justice. The abolition of war in Europe through a federal Constitution is perceived as the way leading to peace in the world. At the same time, the formation of a single European actor is understood as a fundamental change in the world state system, that can have a real impact on the US position and strengthen the authority of the UN and international law.

