

Bonjour

Welcome to edition number 42 of the newsletter of Stand Up for Europe.

### **The support committee broadens again !**

Brando Benifei, 30, European Federalist, is one of the youngest MEPs and is from La Spezia, Italy. He has been chair of European affairs for the Young Democrats and Vice-President of ECOSY (youth organization of PES) for 4 years and was part of the PES working group which originally drafted the European Youth Guarantee. His main fields of legislative work in the EP are Employment and social affairs and Foreign affairs. He is co-chair of the Youth Intergroup and vice-chair of the Disability Intergroup. Among his parliamentary activities in the Committee of Employment and Social Affairs, he was responsible for key legislative and non-legislative reports on the social inclusion and integration of refugees into the EU labour market; youth employment policy such as the Youth Guarantee and the Youth Employment Initiative; digitalisation and rights of persons with disability.



**Véronique De Keyser also joins the support committee !**

Véronique Marie Alice Henriette De Keyser, was born in 1945 in Brussels. She is honorary professor at the University of Liège and honorary member of the European Parliament.

Graduated from Psychology at the ULB in Brussels (1968) and PhD in Psychology of work at the ULB as well (1974), she was researcher in psychology at the ULB (1968-1984). During all her active life as scientist, she stresses in her writings the bad conditions faced by the workers, especially under the flexibility of work regime. She wrote hundreds of articles and several scientific books. She received the price of honour of the "Chevalier de l'Ordre".

Member of the Socialist party, she entered the European Parliament in 2001 for a first mandate. She became then Member of the Foreign affairs committee and the Environment Committee. She fought hard against the US intervention in Irak and spot her commitment to the Arabic world and the Middle East by defending human rights and women's rights. She will travel several times to Syria and Palestine and in all the countries of the Mashrek.



## **Stand Up's General Assembly Took Place on the 3rd of December !**

Many of you came out to the Press Club on Saturday the 3rd of December morning for our open session. After several opening speeches and the presentations of our various movements, we had a great panel on the theme of citizen engagement in the European debate with three of our distinguished guests: Pierre Defraigne, President of the The Madariaga - College of Europe Foundation, Pierre-Emmanuel Noël from the European Investment Bank and Paul Goldschmidt, a former director at the European Commission. The moderator was Jacques de Ridder, a Stand Up board member.

Then, during the afternoon, we discussed the future of our own movement. The main objective of this 6th Convention of European Federalists was to "Federate the Federalists." We were able to reach that goal as the GA let us officialise that fusion and elect a new Board and new administrators to take charge of the new organisation that combines the work of our three groups.

The new Board is composed as follows:

Administrators:

Bàlint Gyévai- Secretary General

Jacques de Ridder - Treasurer

Pietro de Matteis- Vice-President

Richard Laub- President

Board Members:

Alain Deneef  
Anita Seprenyi  
Catherine Guibourg  
David Zuhlke  
Fernanda Neutel  
Georgios Kostakos  
Hubert Heine  
Jules Bejot  
Katharina Kuckla  
Lorenzo Sparviero  
Mauro Casarotto  
Michel Caillouët  
Nicolas Hamon  
Romain Gustot

Join our working groups launched after the GA by replying to this email:

- Federalist Charter
- Meeting of European Youth
- Writing of the Stand Up Manifesto
- "Students for Europe" student network
- Social media networks

Find our Convention Press Release [here!](#)

Find the General Assembly minutes [here!](#)





## Stand Up has already accomplished a lot!

- Constitution of a Support Committee composed of over 80 people from a number of different areas (including art, culture, entrepreneurs, politics, science, etc.) who will promote Stand Up's project.
- Growing the number of members (already over 900!)
- Developing our movement on social media (already more than 53 000 followers on Facebook!)
- Crafting several themes on the key issues of our movement
- A strategic partnership with the European Society for Defence to promote a common European defence policy
- Sending out monthly newsletters
- Creating an Editorial Committee to craft white cards and tickets in the press
- Creating partnerships with trans-European groups, web sites and debates on European affairs (Vox Europ and Euractiv)
- Creation of the Students for Europe university groups/societies
- Launching local Stand Up chapters
- Organising conferences and debates
- Creating the *Nouvel Européen* ([www.lenouveleuropeen.be](http://www.lenouveleuropeen.be)), an e-magazine aiming to promote the advantages of a European federation for citizens through fictional articles inspired by current affairs
- Preparing a citizen's initiative on the refugee crisis, with the goal of getting over a million signatures so that the proposal can be debated by the European Parliament
- Working with BOZAR to create a work of art uniting 27 European artists (one per country) which will symbolise European unity and solidarity, rich in its diversity
- Launching a federalist public awareness campaign - federalist parties and movements, currently quite divided, should be uniting their forces to step up their presence in debates over the future of Europe

**Le Nouvel Européen : the media to follow ! This week, an article on**



« When MEPs' bells get rung," published the 12th of December 2016 in Le Nouvel Européen.

« Olaf Frederiksson, President of the European Parliament, measured the reach of the message and decide to initiate a completely original policy that would reinvigorate the Parliament's communication policy. Now, each MEP will be forced to spend an entire week each month "on the ground" in a country that isn't part of their constituency to visit the cities and the countryside on the understanding that, in the future, a ban will be introduced on the stacking of European mandates with national, regional and local mandates."

To read the article, [click here](#) !

### **Stand Up trending in the Press !**

« Federalism and populims : Europe against herself » article by Richard Laub, President of Stand Up for Europe, published in l'Echo on the 15th of December 2016 !

"All democratic regime, like any other social and human reality, rests on a certain number of paradoxes. When a political institution is smooth, uniform, transparent and completely rational, totalitarianism is never far. Democracy, especially in her various forms across Europe, is a happy counter-example: the paradoxes that she carries reflect those of the human condition, with her share of shadows, contradictory interests and differing interpretations of the state's role. She takes it upon herself to combine the diverging interests of the different parts of an organised society in a vague concept that is the sovereign people, as opposed to an elite and a caste secretly working against her. She embraces complexity and strives to manage it to the best of her abilities. Wallonia's recent hesitation to back the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) has clearly demonstrated this."

To read the article, [click here](#)!



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### **Follow the evolution of our movement!**

Each month, you can find the big trends and stats of our movement by [clicking here !](#)

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### **Reminder to pay your membership fee!**

Dear member,

In order to carry on with our activities and reach the goals of our grassroots movement, Stand Up for Europe, which we keep you updated on through our monthly newsletter, we need your help. The membership fees we get from you are our only source of finance.

That's why we are asking you, if you have not done so already, to please send in your membership as soon as you read this message.

That fee has been fixed at 28 € per member (5 € for students). You can pay through our website ([click here](#)) or by directly sending a transfer to the 001 7047618 62 (IBAN BE51 0017 0476 1862 and BIC GEBABEBB) account.

We are confident that you understand the importance of the regular membership fees to continue the growth of our association.

We are extremely thankful for your support and your engagement. We couldn't do it without you.

If you've already paid your membership fees, feel free to ignore this reminder.

As well, if you want to further your involvement in our movement, we are happy to say that we are actively seeking people to take charge of local chapters in your community.

We await your return on this point.

Sincerely,

Bàlint Gyévai  
Matteis  
Secretary General  
President

Richard Laub  
President

Pietro de  
Vice-



### **Europe seen from underneath !**

Dear friends,

The last few months have been difficult for Europe: Brexit, the rise of populism, the refugee crisis, terrorist attacks, nationalist tensions in the Eastern countries, signs that make us worry about the coming year. We shouldn't get discouraged. Instead, we are as determined as ever to fight for the creation of a federal Europe. More than ever, Europe needs to be defended. More than ever, the European federalist project is an antidote to demagoguery and decline. More than ever, we need to reinvigorate the European project, to feed it with a strong political programme. More than ever, together, we need to build a Europe of people. We with you an excellent 2017, full of projects and proposals which will lead Europe to greater integration, greater social justice and a liberating dynamic full of energy. Make your voice heard through Stand Up for Europe and together, let's build the European society of tomorrow.

Happy New Year.

The Stand Up team.



We want your opinion !

If you have questions, ideas, complaints or compliments to send us, just reply to one of our articles.

We would be more than happy to answer you.

Don't hesitate to react, because... we want to hear from you!

We reserve the right not to publish any comments that are offensive or that don't respect the principles of democratic pluralism. Comment is free within the limits of respect for the integrity of others and ideas.

Thank you for your support for Stand Up - you make this project live and grow !

The Stand Up for Europe team: <http://standupforuseurope.eu/>

STAY CONNECTED

