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Motion

Proposer: Political Commission 1: Institutional Affairs and Governance

Title: **Regarding the European Federal Parliament**

Motion text

Regarding the European Federal Parliament

Resolution submitted by Political Commission 1: Institutional Affairs and Governance. Adopted by the Federal Committee in Cologne on 6 November 2016. Re-adopted by the Federal Committee in Budapest on 10 November 2024. Re-adopted by the Federal Committee in Athens on 1 November 2026.

JEF Europe,

- Emphasising that repeated requests from both the European Parliament and citizens to reform the Parliament's powers have been consistently ignored by the member states’ governments;

- Highlighting that a federal system must balance the representation of European citizens and member states;

- Stressing that there is currently an imbalance between the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament, as the former is the only legislator on politically sensitive policy areas where the special legislative procedure applies, as well as the only decision-maker in areas such as the Common Foreign and Security Policy;

- Further stressing that the Council of the EU frequently plays an obstructionist role, as it often looks for a consensus that satisfies all member states, even when this is not legally required, creating a hidden

veto, and highlighting that this behaviour is connected to the Council’s politically subordinate standing to the European Council;

- Acknowledging that a genuinely democratic European federation requires a European Government that derives its legitimacy from directly elected representatives of European citizens, and that the Spitzenkandidaten system strengthens such transnational democracy;

- Underlining that the European Parliament lacks the right of legislative initiative, which unreasonably prevents the EU's only directly elected body from independently proposing legislation;

- Highlighting the lack of transparency in decision-making processes and operation of the European Council and the Council of the European Union, since their meetings are not open to the public;

JEF Europe therefore,

Calls upon the member states to initiate a treaty reform that establishes the following structure and mandate for a Federal Parliament of Europe:

1. A federal bicameral system shall be established, in which the current European Parliament serves as into the lower house representing European citizens, and the current Council of the European Union is transformed into the upper chamber representing the member states;

2. Both chambers of the Federal Parliament of Europe, as well as the European Government, shall have legislative initiative [1];

3. The Federal Parliament shall have ultimate authority on legislation within European competences;

4. Both chambers of the Federal Parliament of Europe shall make their decisions using simple or absolute majority vote in all matters, except on matters of constitutional reform, which shall follow a separate procedure;

5. The lower chamber's representatives shall be elected through a mixed proportional list system of one EU-wide list (the so-called ‘transnational lists’) that is drawn up by the European political parties and one list for each national or regional constituency drawn up by the parties active there. Citizens shall have two votes, one for the EU-wide list and one for

the constituency list;

6. The European Senate shall have an equal number of representatives (Senators) from each member state. Senators shall be elected in accordance with a procedure determined by each member state;

7. If the two chambers of the Federal Parliament do not agree on a final version of the legislation, the leaders of both chambers will convene a common meeting (Conciliatory Committee) that shall include representatives of each parliamentary group from both chambers, as well as ministers in charge of related portfolios. This meeting may propose a common text that must be passed in that form by both chambers to be approved;

8. To safeguard the autonomy of national parliaments, the subsidiarity review mechanism [2] shall remain in place;

9. The roles of the opposition shall be guaranteed in both chambers of the Federal Parliament, notably regarding the oversight of the majority, the meaningful participation in debates and the contribution to the legislative process.

[1] The proposed right of legislative initiative for the European Parliament is explicitly mentioned in the European Parliament resolution approved on 22 November 2023 (2022/2051(INL))

[2] Article 5 TEU and Protocol No 2 grant national parliaments the right to submit a reasoned opinion within eight weeks of an EU proposal's transmission. This early-warning mechanism flags proposals that violate the treaty-defined division of competences, preventing subsequent litigation before the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Reason

This resolution renews JEF Europe’s position on transforming the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union into a democratic bicameral Federal Parliament. It calls for legislative initiative for both chambers, majority-based decision-making, transnational electoral lists and a transparent balance between citizens and Member States.