

JOINT STATEMENT

EUROPEAN BUDGET: EUROPEAN COUNCIL MUST FINALLY RISE TO THIS HISTORIC MOMENT!

The realization of the European recovery plan proposed by the European Commission and supported by the unprecedented initiative presented by the German Chancellor and the French President ultimately depends on a consensus of the European Council. The Europa-Union Deutschland (EUD) and the Union des fédéralistes européens (UEF) – France, the German and French sections of the Union of European Federalists, call on the Heads of State and Government to rise to this historic moment.

Ophélie Omnes, President of UEF France, and Rainer Wieland, president of Europa-Union Deutschland: *"We must seize this opportunity to build a powerful and united Europe to turn our backs on a Europe weakened by divisions and allow a collective revival of the continent"*.

The EUD and UEF-France welcome the solidarity initiative proposed by the Commission and supported by the Franco-German couple. Omnes and Wieland: *"The European recovery plan will strengthen Europe's sovereignty. It can reunite the Europeans if it combines solidarity and solidity. It has the merit of restoring to the Commission a central role that will make it possible to overcome an intergovernmentalism that is no longer convincing"*

UEF France and Europa-Union Deutschland underline that the recovery plan will have to be accompanied by the creation of genuine own resources for the Union.

"Providing Europe with own resources will in fact make it possible to reduce its dependency on the national contributions of the Member States to the European budget, which are the main points of tension for the reluctant States. By transferring to the Union own resources from, for example, an internal carbon tax on fossil fuels, a financial transaction tax or a digital tax, it will eventually be possible to reduce these contributions without affecting existing Commission expenditure in the Member States."

The EUD and UEF-France call on all heads of state and government to agree as soon as possible on the proposal made by the European Commission, with the support of the French and German governments, including the creation of own resources for the Union, in order to meet the task of overcoming the current economic and continued long-term political crisis.

The UEF - France and the EUD are the German and French sections of the Union of European Federalists, a pan-European, non-governmental political organisation dedicated to the promotion of European political unity. It was founded shortly after World War II, in the belief that only by uniting into a European Federation could the states of Europe overcome the divisions of the past and ensure a future of peace and economic prosperity. The UEF promotes federalism as the optimum way to organise European unity in a way that is democratic and effective while preserving the diversity of our European countries.