

## **ACTION COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE - PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR A EUROPEAN DEFENCE UNION, FOR A EUROPEAN FEDERATION**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 the European Parliament, echoing the “Memorandum on a European Defence Union”<sup>1</sup> issued by the reconstituted Monnet Action Committee for the United States of Europe, called the European Council to activate the different provisions of article 42 of the Lisbon Treaty to setting up a European Common Defence.

This will pave the way for the creation of an autonomous European Defence System (EDS), endowed with its chain of command and in charge of territorial defence. Such an EDS will not be dependent on the will of the current US President, and it will operationalize the mutual assistance clause foreseen in article 42.7 of the Treaty.

Therefore, we fully support this urgent call for action by the European Parliament in view of the meeting of the European Council of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025. We ask President Costa and the High Representative to propose to the Member States the activation of article 42.2 TEU for the establishment of the said Common Defence. If unanimity is not reached, we call for a large group of Member States to establish the proposed EDS on the basis of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), foreseen in article 46 TEU. This institutional PESCO shall remain open to all Member States willing to join.

We must remind Member States that a European defence cannot be reduced to the different rearmament proposals, something that could also result in waste and inefficiencies if not properly coordinated at the EU level. There will not be a proper European Defence Union without the required political, strategic, and operational dimensions.

We also must emphasize that any viable European Defence Union also requires overcoming the national vetoes and the intergovernmental approach, thereby ensuring the proper parliamentary and democratic control of the EDS. Therefore, we remind the European Council of its legal obligation to follow up on Parliament’s proposal to reform the Lisbon Treaty in a federal direction, and call to President Costa to urgently address the matter with the Member States.

The massive citizen’s demonstrations of 15<sup>th</sup> March that have taken place in several European cities, from Rome to Tbilisi, confirm that there is a strong popular sentiment in support of freedom, democracy, European integration, and Ukraine’s resistance, and against Putin’s and Trump’s imperialism, and their allies in Europe. We call on the European peoples to sway their national leaders and choose to unite in a federation, and we ask on the European Council to hear these strong voices.

Finally, we commit ourselves to foster the popular mobilization for a more united Europe in the run up to the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Schuman Declaration.

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<sup>1</sup> [PR | It's time for a European Defence Union. A Memorandum of the Action Committee for the United States of Europe - Union of European Federalists](#)