


The federalist congresses

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In the late 1940s, federalist initiatives followed on from each other in quick succession. Several congresses gave fresh impetus to federalist ideas. Many plans were drawn up along the lines of the European Constitution devised by the Federalists Alexandre Marc and Altiero Spinelli. They envisaged a Europe in which the States would be represented by a Senate, while a European Assembly, elected by universal suffrage, would exercise legislative power and scrutinise the activities of the European Government. Economic policy, currency and defence issues were among the areas of competence that they proposed to delegate to federal institutions, with health, education and the arts remaining in the hands of national, or even regional, authorities.