

“TREATY CIAO!” – YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS PRODUCE A MAASTRICHT VERSION OF 2018’S SUMMER HIT



<https://youtu.be/6gc8dEEHJSM>

This summer, a musical resurrection surprised Europe: ‘Bella Ciao’ remixes rushed one country’s dancefloors after another’s. The song became originally popular during WWII and was sung by Italian partisans as their expression of their [resistance to fascism](#). A group of young Europeans from Maastricht decided to use this opportunity to draw attention to the political character of the original song and composed an own, Maastricht-dedicated version of the song: ‘Treaty Ciao!’

EUROPEAN UNITY IN MAASTRICHT

The slogan of the cover song ‘treaty ciao’ is a reference to the [Treaty on European Union](#) signed on 7 February 1992 also known as ‘Maastricht Treaty’. It established the European Union and is one of the most important documents in current European law. With the video being shot in the scenery of Maastricht, the wish for the ‘ever closer union among the peoples of Europe’ (as mentioned in the preamble of the Maastricht Treaty) to be continued and intensified is obvious.

“We wanted to express what our opinion on the current European Union is. In comparison to the second world war, we arrived at a great stage – but yet we’re politically stuck within national borders and boundaries” Thilo Buchholz, initiator of the project and currently part of [the section’s board](#) commented. “The term ‘treaty ciao’ does not express that we oppose the Maastricht Treaty or the European idea itself – but that the European national states have to advance and give themselves a true European constitution with rights for every of us citizens, establishing a federal republic of Europe.”

BELLA CIAO - A FEDERALIST SONG?

In fact, the original song ‘Bella Ciao’ and the European federalist movement have something in common. Just like the song has its roots in the Italian antifascist movement, [Altiero Spinelli](#), one of the founding fathers of the EU, wrote the ‘Ventotene Manifesto’ during his time in prison because of his opposition to the Italian fascists. He is counted as one of the most inspiring people for the European federal movement.

Fighting nationalism in order to establish a true democratic European federal republic is the very essence of the then established Union of European Federalists and Young European Federalists. “Thematically, Bella Ciao fits perfectly in what we do: Call for peace and freedom on our mission for a more stable and secure world – which we seek to be brought about by among others a more democratic Europe with solidarity as one of its key values”, Buchholz concluded.