

Schuman 2.0 Declaration Contest

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“World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it. The contribution which an organized and living Europe can bring to civilization is indispensable to the maintenance of peaceful relations. Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity”¹.

It is now time to boost such concrete achievements and prepare a new vision for the future.

The Europe of the past experienced divisions and wars, but was also the place of civilization and renaissance. The Europe of the present experiences differences and populisms, but is also a place of peace and culture. The Europe of the future has the unique opportunity to learn from the past and from the present to become a better place to live.

We envisage a Europe that builds upon the experience of the past to create a better present and to prepare a better future for all, and particularly for the young generations. A Europe which respects national identities and cultural diversity and promotes the added value of the European perspective for such identities and diversity in the world.

We envisage a Europe where people trust each other, where Countries trusts each other, simply because they share a common vision, they share common values, and they share common objectives.

We envisage a stronger Europe capable of gaining full control of its present and its future and to give the European Citizens full control of their present and their future in a highly competitive and unstable world.

We envisage a Europe that exploits the experience of extraordinary times to learn how to prepare better ordinary times, creating a more resilient organization, improving quality of life, ensuring societal wellbeing, fighting against inequalities, establishing a new and common health policy, fighting against the adverse effects of climate change, reducing threats and social vulnerability.

We envisage a Europe where digital tools and new technologies represent opportunities that will never become a threat, and where citizen’s privacy is protected as a fundamental component of both quality of life and democracy.

¹ From the original Schuman Declaration.

We envisage a Europe where education, training, scientific research, technological development, innovation in all sectors of society represent the enabling forces for a better quality of life.

We envisage a Europe where interacting with nature in a responsible, coherent and respectful manner can help creating the condition for a better present and for a more sustainable future and where resilience can help creating the condition to better respond to all unforeseen and extreme events.

We envisage a Europe that confirms and demonstrates that economy is not the only driving force and where a new idea of solidarity can emerge. A Europe influential enough to establish new relationships with neighbour countries and with the rest of the world, beginning with Africa. A Europe that can become a model for other regions of the world and a model for global relationships.

We dream of a new vision for Europe to support a new vision for the future of the European Member States and of the European Citizens. We dream of a Federal Europe that is more than a simple aggregation of Member States. To achieve such results a European Union made by Member States has shown all its limits.

We need, now, a European Union made by the European Citizens and a European Parliament fully empowered to work toward such vision. We further propose that no excuses are introduced to limit the power of the European Parliament while pursuing such objectives. With this aim in view, we propose that the European Parliament urgently investigates the possibilities to create a Federal Europe, a Europe where the will of the European Citizens prevails over the will of European Member States. A stronger, more united, democratic and social Europe.

“The moment has arrived in which we must know how to discard old burdens, how to be ready for the new world that is coming, that will be so different from what we have imagined. Among the old, the inept must be put aside; and among the young, new energies are to be stimulated. At this time those who have perceived the reasons behind the present crisis in European civilization are seeking one another, and are beginning to string the loom upon which the future will be woven. Therefore, they are gathering the inheritance left by all those movements which worked to raise and enlighten humanity, and which failed because of their miscomprehension of the purpose to be achieved or the ways to achieve it”².

² From the conclusions of the Ventotene Manifesto