

FROM SYDON to THE IDEA OF EUROPE

Sydon, Gorty, Athens, the era from Cicero to Marcus Aurelius, cities along the Via Regia, St. Petersburg, Berlin, Venice, London, Prague, Lisbon, Serajevo, Budapest, Vienna, Trieste, Edinburgh, "Her journey was so remarkable, the whole landmass west of her home country is named Europa in honor of her" writes Stephen Fry in Mythos.

Hence, without losing sight of reality, we are obliged to imagine a common ideal how to live together by building on a common factual basis, a shared analysis framework and the making of compromises to resolve big issues. This all in consultation with citizens. Priorities must be focussed on achieving the goals of the European Union (or changing them), on concluding political agreements, the completion of unfinished business, strengthening democracy with its rule of law, debates, discussions and dialogues, and on individual freedom and social protection.

People outside Europe say "I'm from the US", "I'm from Africa", "I'm Rus", "I'm from China". Through our vision of the nation state as a cultural and political community there is no such binding factor for Europe. We say: "I'm Dutch", "I'm British", "Tsjech", "I'm from Poland, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Serbia, Belgium, Latvia,"

Can the European people find out a new movement from the humanities that provide mutual connection and gives truly satisfaction? So that eventually we will be able to say: *Nous sommes des Européens!* And if the member-states are willing to share sovereignty towards the EU concerning a number of key issues in order to resolve these and the EU could stand more visible and active in the member-states, will this, coupled to a common ideal how to live together, reduce a community deficit?

A Union is an organization with members who have the same goal in mind. However, the 'European authority' is nor a fully internationally recognized single political entity, neither a replica of a nation-state or central government, but a group of cooperating states that retain their independence. Many important decisions are made by the Council, often taking national interest into account. The view that the Commission then represents Europe and the Parliament the citizen may be correct, but can within such system, Europe ever become great? That is possible when the Council wants to invest in Europe and makes a turn with the help of a transgovernmental method and coordinated sovereignty.

Europe should fulfill the need to operate as a major power, acting between the US and China and play fully on the 'Grand Chessboard' to protect our prosperity and wellbeing and must:

- marshall herself a stronger international position by a more effective representation in IO's, by organizing European elections in which pan-European parties can participate (we saw eg. the pan-European political movement Volt take the bumpy road in creating a true European party), by acting a fully-fledged role of the EU in the world through a fully-fledged common foreign-, security- and defence policy, and by entering into political agreements for protection **(1)**, energy **(2)**, pollution **(3)**, the euro unit **(4)** and a social Europe **(5)**;

- ensure values that can serve world-wide;
- have a strong economy, connected to a concept of moral capitalism and a new model of socio-economic production, based on innovative digital techniques in which large numbers of people work together for the common good;
- have access to legitimate transparent institutions to settle matters, not through a Hobbesian performance, but a humanistic.

That desire must be radiated and, together with a fully fledged authority and monetary unit, be our roadmap for the era to come.

- Do we really understand what it means to have a territory? There are serious external and internal threats to fight. NATO has been challenged, there is no European army, no permanent seat in the UNSC, no effective control of our external borders. How are we going to protect our way of life?
- Energy is indispensable to all human or industrial activity. Europe needs a common energy policy.
- Approximately one third of all CO2 emissions due to human activity come from fossil fuels used for generating electricity. Europe, take care of energy-efficient houses, less 'old' fuels, more trains, fewer trucks, taxing aviation, CO2 collection and storage, and fast linking of energy networks.

We produce 311 million tonnes of new plastic annually, the plastic soup. Only collective approach is eligible to find and apply solutions for major cleaning.

- architecture should be resolved and the mountain of collective debt decrease
- In 2017, there were 112.8 million people in the EU-28 who lived in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE). That begs to work on improvement of the social system, to build on a new social contract.

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