

Schuman 2.0 Declaration

The 9th of May. Today is the day for taking action, today is the day for remembering our common past, today is the day dedicated to all the achievements of the past seventy years and of all the goals that we still have to realize, above all the full realization of the Federal idea.

The condition of federal Europe will not be completed “all at once”, an idea that was conceived not by a single man but by a number of different men and women coming from every corner of the continent, from different social contexts and different time periods. The idea of a federal Europe, which, even though we have made huge steps forwards we have not yet realized, this concept that can allow the small European states to be competitive on a global scale in an ever-changing scenario, the idea of a federal union where a member state will no longer try to stop bills that could damage its interests even though they would be in the others’ interests.

Today’s Europe is the combined results of the past seventy years, the accomplishments ideated and dreamed by our pioneers and founding fathers, politicians and thinkers like Konrad Adenauer, Alcide De Gasperi or Robert Schuman.

These achievements have helped to strengthen the relations between member states and of the trust the people have in European institutions. For instance, the introduction of the shared currency, the Euro, in 2002, the cooperation in issues like forest fires with support between states and the consequential mobilisation of firefighting means, the collaboration during the present terrible Coronavirus pandemia with all the aids exchanged between States for helping others, and not least one of the most well-known achievements of the last 35 years the free movement of people decided in the Schengen Agreement and accepted nowadays by 22 member states of the European Union and seven other border states.

But Europe is not only the sum of its successes, it also has its failures. To name but a few: the migrants blocked on the Greek island of Lesbos, who arrived on European soil but could not reach the continent due to the disorganisation and the unwillingness of many member states to accept them; the collective amnesia about refugees escaping from catastrophic wars in their homelands dying in the Mediterranean Sea every day, who we remember only in case of huge tragedies; it is also the Europe of those people who, because of precarious employment and economical uncertainty have no thoughts about a united Europe because too occupied with day to day survival.

The Europe of achievements and of new challenges for the future cannot be fully realized until the second Europe, that of the people left behind is forgotten no longer

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and until those citizens in difficulty are not only protected but will actually be on the same level of the people with all their rights preserved in Europe.

The people arriving across the European borders must be considered as and called New Europeans and not as immigrants coming from another state; the nomenclature used around the continent must be that of acceptance and not of hostility.

Future Europe must be able to make the voice of its members heard as a single one, we must put aside our divisions in order to make our diversities and complexities a valuable resource, along with the humanity of our people; without, however, forgetting our common past, one full of tragedies that we cannot afford to dismiss.

75 years ago Europe began the reconstruction of its states and their democratic institutions from the ashes into which a “fratricidal” war had reduced it, and looked towards its future.

70 years ago Robert Schuman on this day proposed his plan for reshaping our Continent and our communities: his goal was to avoid the re-explosion of a conflict that would have led to further destruction of our cultural, civil and economical society.

Today we should look back at him not only as an example but also because many of his ambitions have not yet been realised; in the next years we must listen to him again, we must go back to his aspirations and to those proposed by his “fellow” Europeans.

We must remember that what we have obtained today has not been done easily or quickly and, looking to the future, as stated by Altiero Spinelli and Ernesto Rossi in their “Ventotene Manifesto” “The road to pursue is neither easy nor certain. But it must be followed and it will be!”

Vive l'Europe Unie
Long live United Europe
Viva l'Europa Unità

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