

Jan Peter Schoffer Petriček

President

on behalf of:

Pulse of Europe-Canarias

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The Schuman Declaration 2.0

I Demographics

In the year 1900, Europeans represented 36% of the world's population, 70 years ago (in 1950) this figure was still 21%. One hundred years later, in 2050, according to UN estimates, the European Union will represent just 5.4% of the world's population - less than Nigeria's.

II Europe's voice

It is well known that Europe punches below its economic weight in the international arena. Europe's states are threatened by marginalization, and this for the simple reason of demographics. In a world of great competition between world powers, no single European country is able to successfully defend its interests without partners. This can only succeed by "pooling" individual sovereignty. Pooling does not necessarily mean losing sovereignty. On the contrary, it means restoring sovereignty that has already been lost and thereby regaining the previously lost influence of the nation state. If we Europeans speak with one voice, we can be sure that this voice will be heard. In this fashion, not only can we stand up to the constant attacks on our narrative – the European values –, we can also act as a shining example in the international arena by a European Alliance vigorously upholding, promoting, and defending the principles of democracy, protection of minorities and the rule of law.

III Challenges

The challenges that we are currently facing are all, practically without exception, of a transnational nature: migration pressures, environmental concerns such as air pollution or over fishing and pollution of the seas, energy security, tax evasion and optimization (offshore tax havens), money laundering and international drug trafficking, climate change, the threat to global free trade and pressure from trading partners and competitors. Today nation states are not in a position to overcome these momentous challenges single-handedly or to successfully defend themselves against the all too current intimidation and blackmailing attempts.

IV European Federation

If we wish to continue the incredible European success story, and defend our European way of life, i.e. a libertarian and democratic way of life with social rights and economic advancement opportunities for everyone, Schuman's vision of a European Federation (which he formulated 70 years ago) not only makes sense, it is absolutely essential. Only in a strong and efficient European alliance will we be able to secure the right balance between freedom and security, tolerance and order, prosperity and fairness, and not be overrun by authoritarian state economies. We need a European Federation with a directly elected European Union President at the top.

V European democracy

The way to a European Federation must be founded on a true parliamentary democracy. Europe is the cradle of democracy. In the end, the European voter must be able to decide for him or herself how the European house should be built. This means though that we need a uniform European election law, combined European lists, direct candidates in electoral districts, true European parties with lead candidates, as well as Union-wide party programmes. Let's have the courage for more European democracy!