

## **European Movement International Resolution on a relaunch of the European project**

### **BACKGROUND**

*In May 2013, the European Movement Federal Assembly in Dublin adopted a resolution calling for the relaunch of the European project and, following this decision, the EMI has established, promoted and launched a civil society alliance for the renewal of European democracy, Europe+. Within this framework, the EMI and many of its member organisations have addressed the newly elected MEPs to ask them to propose institutional changes that will bring the EU closer to its citizens.*

*The time has now come to address the new European Commission and the heads of the EU's Member States to urge them to make sure citizens' concerns remain at the heart of EU decision-making and launch a new framework for discussions on the future of the EU to ground the European project in democracy, transparency; equality and solidarity.*

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- **To the European Commission: be ambitious and close to the citizens**

In view of the multiple challenges posed by the economic crisis and apparent lack of faith by citizens in the functioning of the EU institutions, the European Movement calls on the European Commission **to engage in a constructive dialogue with civil society**, to set itself ambitious goals for its new mandate and to work on topics that matter to European citizens.

- **To the European Parliament: set high standards regarding the efficiency of the implementation of policies, in the interest of European citizens and take the initiative to relaunch the European project, as was done 30 years ago with the Project of the Treaty of the European Parliament in 1984.**

The European Parliament must ensure it is addressing the topics that will show a real improvement in the lives of EU citizens, rather than focussing on subjects of minor or specific interest that will enhance the feeling of the EU being bureaucratic.

Furthermore, in order to be efficient and to give positive results that European citizens will see, the EU needs to be more effective in its organisation and policy making. Therefore, the EU has to stop working on consensus scenarios (the lowest common denominator approach), in order to take clear positions. EU citizens need to understand and see the added value of the EU in their daily lives, beyond the freedom of movement.

The Parliament should therefore prepare a proposal for the initiation of a new Convention, according to Article 48 of the Treaty of Lisbon, in order to clarify the future of the EU and to promote a more integrated EU.

The debate must be relaunched and a new European project must be drafted in association with civil society organisations, creating clear positions on the evolution of the EU with the buy-in of the institutions of the EU (Parliament and Council). This Convention should work on the content and policies of a more politically integrated EU. States not wishing to join this more integrated Union could decide to stay out of it but could not impede others from going further.

- **To the European Council: take your responsibility and get out of the current status quo, as was done with the Laeken declaration in December 2001.**

European Heads of State and Governments need to take note of the extent of the European social and economic crisis and take steps to remobilise citizens: Europe needs to get out of its current 'status quo' that nurtures growing disinterest and eurosceptic sentiment amongst citizens.

The European Movement calls on the Heads of State and Government to follow the new political process, which will be launched by the European Parliament and which will make the EU more effective, more inclusive, and more democratic.

- **To the European Movement Network: Support Europe+**

It is essential to the success of this project, which calls for a new vision for Europe, that it be undertaken collectively.

The Europe+ alliance is the best platform to lobby for a new European Project and the EMI therefore calls on its members to support the Europe+ process, by allocating resources to its development and use its space to voice demands related to EU evolutions that will be needed in order to implement these proposals.