



Declaration by the European Movement International on the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome

Inspired by the Federalist vision of the European Congress of the Hague in 1948, comprising forty one National Councils and twenty two International Member Organisations.

Celebrating Achievement

The European Movement International believes that the Treaty of Rome should be commemorated as the practical expression of a visionary project for Europe which wholly vindicates the courage and decisiveness of its founding leaders and members. It promoted a deep network of relationships and mutual dependence between its participating states and altered the political, economic and psychological outlook of a generation, replacing anxiety and fear by a sense of common purpose and hope.

We celebrate and commend the dynamic of enlargement that for the first time on a truly pan European scale witnesses so many European citizens united around a shared and freely chosen vision of Europe founded on a sustained and creative reconciliation among its peoples and states.

We assert that these achievements were neither inevitable nor pre-ordained but required determined leadership imbued with a strong sense of the common European good. Such resolve is no less important for the future than it was in the past.

We insist consequently that the statement of this generation's level of European ambition should be high and urge the European Parliament, the European Commission, member state parliaments and governments, the social partners and leaders of European civil society, building on the values and goals set out in the Preamble to the Treaty of Rome, to rise to this challenge.

Seeking a new Consensus

We call on the member states together with the European Union institutions to settle their differences over the constitutional future of the Union by urgently rebuilding a consensus that conserves the innovative substance and progress represented by the new treaty and thereafter by campaigning for that outcome with



increased commitment, skill and determination for its acceptance by public and parliamentary opinion.

We commend in particular the core elements of the 2004 Treaty which would enhance the democratic quality and capacity of the Union to act effectively at home and abroad and would ensure respect for fundamental rights. We insist that these elements should not be diluted.

We express the hope that the German Presidency of the European Union and its immediate successors will take the decisive and necessary steps to secure the ratification of the essential features of the constitutional Treaty necessary to equip the Union to meet the aspirations of the large majority of its peoples and its future needs.

21st Century Model of an open Global Society

We believe that based on its values and capacity to act the European Union can be a 21st Century model of an open global society, a Community of law, peaceful, free, democratic and tolerant, at ease with itself and its neighbours, respecting human rights, individual dignity and cultural diversity; committed to a rules-based multilateralism, promoting transparency and accountability, practising subsidiarity, solidarity and sustainability, guaranteeing security at home and contributing to security abroad. It also can be a beacon of hope to those who share its values and aspirations.

Internal Challenges

We note that a significant part of the Union's internal self expression has been regulatory in form and economic in content yielding prosperity through the single market and the single currency but also observe that a segment of popular opinion seeks reassurance that the contemporary European project is an authentic political vision for a modern society and not only a platform for markets, economism and technocracy.

We recognise that as Europeans we live in a shrinking and increasingly interdependent world, challenged by the pace and consequences of globalisation, by ageing demographics, by climate change, by resource scarcity and raw material competition and by new security risks from energy supply to international terrorism, crime and trafficking. Anxieties provoked by these challenges must be acknowledged honestly and addressed.



We stress therefore the need, through concrete actions, for the EU 27 to convince public opinion inside the Union that its collective wisdom and political will to act is capable of creating an effective system of economic governance, sustainable social solidarity and security guarantees adapted to and fit for our times.

External Challenges

We are disturbed in the international context by the scale of the development gap between rich and poor nations, its associated poverty, famine and disease, by the extent of poor governance, failed states, unsettled conflicts, by the widespread absence of respect for fundamental rights, by the rise in terrorism, intolerance and fundamentalism and by the drift towards unilateralism.

We acknowledge the Union's leadership on the North/South Partnership, the Millennium Development Goals, climate change and global warming, its leading role as the world's largest donor community of untied non military aid and of humanitarian food aid and its increasing commitment to global crisis management and conflict resolution.

We firmly believe that the Union must act with more unity of purpose and visibility if it is to contribute its full potential as a good global actor relative to its size, capacity and values; furthermore we contend that for its dedication to effective multilateralism respectful of the United Nations to prevail the Union must commit to a deeper and more substantial international engagement.

Perspectives

We promote a Citizens' Europe that is accessible and accountable. We eagerly await the establishment of the Citizens' Right of Initiative and call for greater investment of effort and resources in creating a European civic infrastructure that builds bridges between individuals and communities in areas such as exchanges, twinning and volunteering, thus giving a more human face to the Europe of values.

We express our appreciation for the Community Method of decision making in so far as it privileges the search for the common good over the reconciliation of the balance of national interests.

We call for full respect and implementation of the freedom of movement of goods, services, capital and people by and within the EU27.

We propose that a vision of the European Union dedicated to achieving these many objectives is worthy of support especially in the financial and budgetary domain and



consider on this the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome that the time now has come to secure the financial autonomy of the Union.

Conclusion

As the European Movement International we commit ourselves anew to the task of building a united Europe which will deliver peace, tolerance, prosperity and freedom to our peoples and to the wider world, to an enlightened Europe determined to succeed, a wise Europe capable of delivering and a modernised Europe in harmony with the needs of the times.

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