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Mouvement Européen

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“Building the Europe of the Future Together”





Index

Congress of the Hague 2008: Our future will be what we make of it	4
Positioning the European Project at the heart of the 21st Century World	6
For a more democratic and participative Union	10
How to promote a European identity?.....	15
Waiting for a real European information	18
For a Europe of solidarity and equal opportunities	20
Annexe 1 : 60 Ideas for Europe	24
Annexe 2 : Agenda	31
Annexe 3 : List of Participants	35
Annexe 4 : The Montesquieu Institute	38
Annexe 5 : Partners et Sponsors	38

Congress of The Hague 2008: Our future will be what we make of it.

The future has not been written; it is for us to write it.

Writing the future is what the 800 or so participants did at the Congress of Europe assembled at The Hague from the 7th to the 11th May 1948 under the chairmanship of Winston Churchill. It is they who have driven forward and forged our present.

Out of a combination of pragmatism, idealism and innovation they sunk then the foundations upon which two generations of Europeans have built by degrees, stone by stone, treaty after treaty, the juridical, democratic and institutional framework of what has become the European Union.

To write the future, or at the very least, to influence its writing, is also what, sixty years later, the 500 or so delegates called together once again at the Hague for a Congress organised by the European Movement to celebrate the anniversary of its founding meeting wanted to do. As the President of the European Economic and Social Committee, Dimitris Dimitriadis explained, it has not been 'simply a reflection on the past, but rather – above all in fact – a reflection on the way in which we can build the Europe of the future and on what it should be'.

Sixty years ago, facing the full brunt of the 'Cold War', the Europeans attending the Congress at The Hague had called out: 'The time has come to act in proportion to the danger'. The 2008 delegates have done the same, their call taking the form of 'Sixty Ideas for Europe', debated and ranked in order by representatives of European civil society.

These are the ideas which measure up to a different danger to that which emerged from World War II, but a danger which implies responses and initiatives at European level.

The danger from now on is identified for many European citizens as coming from globalisation, unemployment, immigration. It is carried over into the reservations of citizens about Europe which have been crystalised recently in three successive referenda. Out of this the salutary reminder from a 'Young European of the Year', the Dutch Paul de Kuijer: 'We must not ever regard the successes of European integration as being definitively guaranteed.'

At the beginning of the 21st century, the danger is therefore there. Very different from what it was at the time of the founding Congress at The Hague but just as real.

Convincing people, certainly, but also and above all listening to them! The central message addressed by those attending the Congress of 23rd and 24th May 2008 is that the European Union must open itself to the expectations of its citizens and respond to them. Committing themselves at the same time to continuity and change, the declaration from the participants is that to exorcise the danger, Europe has need of its Europeans!


Their message is: 'The time has come for the Union to sink its roots into the mother-soil of Civil Society and not interact just with political, economic and intellectual elites.' So that its nearly 500 million citizens can take full hold of the European dream and involve themselves in it in order to create the Europe of to-morrow which they want. Out of a participating Europe of this kind could be born a combination of dreams and facts which in the end will build and reinforce a lasting and durable edifice.

'We, the people of Europe' must become the driving force of the idea at the base of the pursuit of the construction of Europe - and the ideals of which it continues to be the bearer. Or, to put it as Hans-Gert Pöttering has done: 'Our future will be what we make of it.'

The European Movement thanks warmly all those who have contributed towards making a success of this Congress, and in particular, the Institut Montesquieu, without which this final report and the DVD could not have seen the light of day.

A handwritten signature consisting of several parallel diagonal lines on the left, followed by a horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

Henrik H. Kröner
Secretary General

A stylized handwritten signature with a large 'P' and 'C' connected by a horizontal line, and a long diagonal stroke at the bottom right.

Pat Cox
President

Positioning the European Project at the heart of the 21st Century World

The Hague, 1948. Almost eight hundred people - few women came at the time - assert that «the time has come to lead an action as big as the threat» by uniting Europe. In the context of the two blocs then settling into place, they dare to say that «the destiny of Europe depends on it»...

The Hague, 2008. Almost five hundred people – men but also a lot of women this time - paraphrase their predecessors. In a world of globalisation, a politically and economically integrated Europe is a huge factor for peace. «As Europeans, we have a shared interest in leading common actions and a common desire to build a globalisation which agrees with our European values» says Hans-Gert Pöttering, the President of the European Parliament, and he also said in the Ridderzaal : «Our responsibility is to make the world in the 21st Century a better place for all.»

On the same level, José Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Commission, makes a deeper statement. For him the European project «is not only for Europe» but also «for the world», as it is true that «we are with and for the world» and that «more than ever we are relevant for the rest of the world.» Why? Simply because «we are confronted with global challenges and in order to answer them we need global answers», not «unilateral answers». And yet, adds the President of the Commission, «the European Union is in a better position than anyone else in the world to offer and not to impose such solutions».

This diagnostic is confirmed by Lluís Maria de Puig : «In our multi-relational, multi-cultural and multi-religious world, we are all inter-dependent. We cannot look for individualistic solutions to challenges which concern the whole world» observes the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Yet, in terms of dialogue and cooperation between sovereign States, the European Union is today a model for the world. We need to persevere on this road which was taken 60 years ago. For the European Union itself. And for the world as a whole.

«I will maintain» is the motto of the Netherlands. Europe has excellent reasons to use it for itself and to reap the harvest of its recent history. President Barroso explains that the Union must now develop «a paradigm of opening» by acquiring the conviction that globalisation is not separated from it but is «a vocation of Europe in the 21st century.» Dimitris Dimitriadis, president of the European Economic and Social Committee, shares this analysis completely and outlines its negative side: «the solution is not to close our borders and to isolate ourselves. We must be proactive in our vision of globalisation and take the leadership», otherwise «we will lose



our position in the globalised world» and will not be able «to keep our social model».

Many elements blur into one another to encourage Europe and Europeans to stay on the road they have been taking since the aftermath of the Second World War. Why? Notably because «in today's world, there is no internal dimension and no external dimension, everything is connected». Thus, President Barroso agrees that when the discussion is on growth and employment in Europe, we also talk about trade, and, for example, the relationship between the European Union and China. In this context, where everything is linked and globalised, he adds that «even the biggest Member States cannot make a difference on an isolated basis». Selfishly, the European countries would be making a mistake if they came to renounce the principles which formed the foundation for their relations for the last 60 years.

It is all the more true that Dimitris Dimitriadis is right, according to José Manuel Barroso, when he states that, in the context of globalisation, «a defensive attitude is not the best one». For the President of the Commission, the Union must 'try to protect its interests in an pro-active way» which means that instead of withdrawing in on itself as some people would like it, «the Union should ask others to be as open as it is» and to take inspiration from European norms in terms of social model, workers' rights, social dialogue, environment laws.

Specifically, the Political Workshop assembled during the Congress placed highly in its list, in sixth position amongst the priorities voted,

the idea which would enable the Union to set up a leadership in the fields of energy and environment. «Europe should lead the world in the use of sustainable energy. With its capacities to develop new technologies, the Union has a moral duty to help other parts of the world to engage in the same way», as it was summed up by Michael Stabenow, the rapporteur of the Workshop.

The European Union already accepts this moral duty. According to President Barroso we only need to take a look at the struggle against climate change, a domain in which «without a European leadership, we will not win the challenge». Yet, what can we see today? It is because of the Union's determined action that Australia ratified the Kyoto Agreements, and that the two candidates to the White House – McCain and Obama – have agreed to take up the challenge more. The Union, says President Barroso, plays the role of a prompter in an efficient way. And it is not over: Just as with the Steel and Coal Community at the time of the Schumann Declaration, «I believe that energy and climate change can produce a similar drive towards a better integration in Europe and in favour of the world» if the Europeans lead the debate and the action in these matters predicts the President of the Commission.





In the same state of mind, President Pöttering reminds us that for centuries, «Europe was the centre of creativity»: artistic creation, new ideas, scientific discoveries... «Today, in the context of globalisation, it is essential to invest in the future by giving priority to knowledge: we have to invest in people in people and education, dynamise R&D. It is the key to our prosperity in the 21st century» adds the President of the European Parliament, before saying that the Union, ideally placed today to lead the transition towards sustainable development, will be able to «give globalisation a human face».

But the Member States have to give the European Union the means to do it. «If we want to be efficient, really matter, we need more political coherence» reveals President Barroso. With Hans-Gert Pöttering, he estimates that this is what the Lisbon Treaty promises. Yet, despite the further necessity to provide the «institutional capacity for action», even more important is «to have the will to act». Without it, it will be

impossible to realise the vision of the future of the President of the Commission: «Europe of the future must have a strong voice on the international stage», a voice «which helps to make the world better». Without it, it will not be possible to «promote our values, defend our interests and» by our action «generate the creation of a fairer and longer lasting global order».

Concretely, does this mean that the Union should have a permanent seat at the Security Council at the United Nations? Not necessarily: The Political Workshop dropped this idea from 3rd to 14th position in its list of priorities. All the members of this Workshop agreed, on the other hand, that, even without a proper seat, the Union should agree to speak with one voice on the international stage, «at the Security Council and elsewhere».

The Political Workshop voted to put second in its priorities the concept of an European Defence Policy, (an idea which at the beginning of its debate was only placed in 19th place), and the possibility, for the Union to lead military actions to defend its values, notably respect for Human Rights, outside its borders. A participant from the civil society expressed it best during the TV debate: We need to take a verbal stand in favour of these values and maybe boycott commercially countries not respecting them. «We must also have military means» in order to back up our message.

The Dutch Minister for European Affairs was not enthused by the idea of a military Europe. “We should not focus too much on the military side of things” reacted Frans Timmermans who was

in favour of a more pragmatic approach. “The question is: Are we going to coordinate better, are we going to stop duplicating and wasting tax payers’ money on an incredible scale?” he added. He also said: “We talk a lot about the cost of the Common Agricultural Policy, but I fear that, because of duplications and of means we do not need anymore, we would waste more tax payers’ money in the field of defence...” Wisdom would require that “we should increase the coherence of our military efforts” and to act in this field “more like the European Union”. For Frans Timmermans, the number of officers one comes across at the Ministers’ Council of the European Union suggests that the awareness of the necessity has increased...



For a more democratic and participative Union

Having more interactions between the European Union and its citizens is the first priority adopted by the Political Workshop organised during the 60th Anniversary of the Congress of Europe. When there is a big doubt in terms of participation for the 7th European elections hanging over our heads, the message is not wasted nor superfluous.

Through this demand what is really being asked is a fundamental question: Is the democratic system prevailing in the Union satisfactory? Rather: Does it meet the citizens' expectations? The question is important to the extent that can now be reflected in it: "The danger of underestimating the differences of perception and appreciation of the European integration process between European political decision makers and the people", as Paul de Kuijer, Laureate of the Young European Prize of the Schwarzkopf Foundation in 2007 explained. And the young Dutchman argued: "Being deeply convinced of the pertinence of carrying on the integration process is not, in a democratic society, a legitimisation for an additional integration 'per se'. The direct and indirect support of Europeans is, from this point of view, essential for an acceptance of European integration".

During the Political Panel, Graham Watson, president of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats in the European Parliament, reproached a participant from Milan for having said that the European Union was not democratic. "If it isn't, it is only in the sense that we only partially

understand parliamentary democracy" he answered back. And (arises from) the belief that the European Parliament has no powers. He is of course right. However, the danger described by Paul de Kuijer is very present. The Dutch and French "No" – and since the Congress of the Hague, the Irish "No" - have concretised it cruelly.

What can the Union do to put an end to this threat? For the President of the European Economic and Social Committee, the answer is clear: "We must engage in a permanent civil dialogue" on European politics and visions of the future, in order to change them into reality with the support of citizens. Whilst happy with the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty which improve representative democracy, which give more powers to the European Parliament and to national parliaments thanks to the subsidiarity principle, Dimitris Dimitriadis still wanted to add: "However, as representative democracy is a key element in a modern democratic society, there are structures outside the parliamentary sphere which must be reinforced to create a Europe of the People".

And the President of the Committee offered this credo:

"I firmly believe that major democratic gains can be had if we involve more civil



society in the elaboration and political decision process". Hence the importance in his eyes, of maintaining the article 8B which, in the Lisbon Treaty, opens the way to participative democracy.

As European integration remains a success, but many citizens do not really care, why not integrate more non-governmental organisations in the political process? The Christian Democrat MEP Elmar Brok is not hostile to this idea, and he quotes the Citizens' Agora on climate change held at the European Parliament.

José Manuel Barroso takes advantage of this to set a few things right: "I know that the Commission has a reputation for bureaucracy, but at the Commission, we listen directly to many organisations from the civil society and universities when we prepare legislation. And to say it frankly, we are more open than many national administrations". Hence the firm conviction of the President of the Commission that "for citizens or organisations who want to take part in the process, there are ways".

Meanwhile, the uneasiness subsists and it could be worse if too many European citizens do not vote for the next European elections. How to avoid the worst?

The Political Workshop did not keep the idea that the next Commission

should be the expression of the political majority to come out of the next European elections. On the other hand, the idea that all European political parties should publicly state who is their candidate as President of the Commission before the vote, has won over many participants. According to the Political Panel, all the European political families are ready to carry out this "political and pragmatic leap of faith" which does not require "any Convention, any treaty, any legislation". But the current situation is not perfect, and for several reasons.

First of all, deplors Philippe Lamberts, Vice-President and spokesperson of the Greens, the European elections are, for the moment, "a series of national elections", nothing else. The Greens are much more in favour of "one election, one vote on the same day in all the countries" - Philippe Lamberts also dreams of "a European electoral district, at least for a part of the European





parliament". Why this small (r)evolution? "Having common elections will forge something we have in common" argues Mr Lamberts, adding that it is by doing things together and at the same time that citizens will share a common political culture.

Secondly, because, in order to make the situation better, we need to shake the European consciousness of national parties. President of the European Liberals, Annemie Neyts does not mince her words on this matter: "We all know that our national political parties have a tendency to consider European affairs as second class, or as a chapter they add when all the others are written". The former President of a Belgian party says that they have, up until now, 'insufficiently integrated the European dimension in their activities, (which is) the reason why it stays marginal, foreign..."

The Belgian socialist Anne van Lancker makes the same statement and draws the conclusion that the solution lies in a "Europeanisation" of the so called actual European elections: "the first thing to do is to try to create a pan-European political party, with a common platform, a common programme".

Today, European political parties do exist, but national parties are always taking advantage of or exploiting the European elections. And we know the results. Shouldn't we then inverse the process? Philippe Lamberts thinks so: "We must increasingly build a political class which must be capable of defending the different political projects in several countries, having people who really are the incarnation of different political identities throughout Europe". Today, adds the spokesperson of the Greens, each political 'family' has a few, "but not enough".

To start this democratically virtuous Europeanisation, introducing, for each party, the person who would be running as prospective President of the Commission, would give, according to Wilfred Martens, president of the European People's Party, "a more human face to the European elections", to "personalise them".

President of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats at the European Parliament, Graham Watson draws the same conclusion with a slightly different approach: If the Liberals and Democrats win the European elections, the chances are bigger that one of them becomes the



President of the Commission, “but we cannot guarantee it”. Why? Graham Watson explains: “Because the Heads of State and Governments meet in a closed session, a bit like a conclave electing a pope. It is only after a few hours that a white smoke appears and then we know what their proposal for the President of the Commission is”.

And Graham Watson asserts: “People do not want that anymore! They want to know in advance who to elect, who is the man – or I hope, the woman – they would send to the top with their votes”.

Isn't this evolution hypothetical? For Wilfried Martens, “it all depends on the influence” that European political parties “have on Prime Ministers”. Clearly, it is tough. And there are also doubts from Jose Manuel Barroso. Is this idea

really pertinent? Isn't there a danger of confusing one idea with the other? The President of the Commission is not far from thinking that there is a danger linked to a potentially fatal analogy: “The Commission is not identical to a national government and the Union is not an integrated political system” as is the case with the USA, Germany, France or the Netherlands.

President Barroso demonstrates:

- As a Prime Minister I had been elected with my party and had chosen my Ministers. At the European Commission, I work with members of my own political ‘family’, but also with several socialists and liberals. So it means that we are a great coalition. This is why, at this stage, it is really hard to have completely free elections as if they were in the framework of a national political democracy. We are in a democratic system because the European Parliament is directly elected by citizens and the Commission is responsible before it, but we are not exactly a national democracy...

Does this mean that a European vote for the candidates proposed by the different European political formations is to be avoided, or is it possible? Jose Manuel Barroso compromises: “If there are elections on this basis, let's do it”. And the President of the European Parliament answers: “Let's do it step by step!” Which means that we should first apply the Lisbon Treaty and then “we will be able to think about the democratic future” of the Union.





However, other elements must be taken into account, such as the recrimination

of a Latvian participant at the TV debate : «The Commission's "Plan D" is "full of instruments to communicate the information from the base to the top", but "only vague notions" of the manner in which "the information should be passed on to the political leaders". Anne van Lancker took the occasion to say that we should develop a purely and strictly European political sphere, in the EU

sense, not in the national sense like it is today: "It is necessary to travel in Europe in order to go from bottom to top, to draw out citizens' ideas, to try to understand what their demands and their fears are in order to come up with a common electoral programme". And understanding what the Poles think, how the Portuguese act, why the French and the Dutch said "No", all this can only come from talking, by being in the field.

Which means that political parties could – should – be the real makers of a more participative democracy. Which makes the President of the European Economic and Social Committee right when he decides that "communication with citizens is crucial", but not through punctual information campaigns, but with a "real dialogue" working both ways...



How to promote a European identity?

There is a worrying, irrefutable perception widely spread in the Union. Christophe Midol-Monnet, a journalist, sums it up brutally, through the light shed by the “Education and Culture Workshop”: “Here, in the Hague, two out of three voters abstained at the last European elections. Because here, like anywhere else, the voter is not concerned with Europe. He lacks a feeling of belonging, or of definition of nationality, because Erasmus students, compared to the rest of the voters, are still a minority even if they are more than a million”.

Among 450 million citizens, the European dream remains that of a small elite, of a cultured minority. Tamas Boros, a Young European of the year, confirms it with brutality and lucidity: “Pro-Europeans are only a sub-culture in Europe. We are the fan club of Europe. This is why our

mission is to share our knowledge of Europe and to share what the European Union offers with the people who are not members of the fan club...”

The challenge we are faced with is to forge a shared European culture and to promote the sense of a European identity. Jose Manuel Barroso, as a disciple of the Swiss thinker Denis de Rougemont, reminds us that the latter saw the community of culture to be built as the melting pot of an “diversified identity”, of a “not unitary unity” which means a “a culture a the same time common and diverse”. According to Prof. Dusan Sidjanski, it implies that the “intercultural dialogue” remains “a fundamental priority for the political decision makers and for the European citizens”.

Doesn't today's context reveal more of a national and/or regional identity surge than a pan European one? Ieke Van der Burg is right when she says that “a purely national identity tends to disappear”, and she adds “when you go to the United States, people see you as a European, not as a Belgian or a Dutch person”. But the French, the Belgian, the Dutch or the Pole going to the USA, in China, in Cameroon or in Australia, do they feel European in their heads?

All agree that the solution comes from the younger generations. Hence, the president of the European Liberal Party, Annemie Neyts, thinks that the initiative of the Young European Parliament is precious because “it shows young





people identify themselves with Parliaments – national, European, general assembly of the United Nations - take an interest, and consequently learn to respect them". The Belgian parliamentarian would like to see a "book of common history" in the countries of the Union, on the model of the one written by German and French history teachers.

However, the members of the Education and Culture Workshop agree that a more important revolution is required, and Christophe Midol-Monnet summed up the very important message with this formula "it is by education, education from kindergarten, that it is necessary to develop and promote a real feeling of European belonging". Why not organise European civic instruc-

tion classes in all primary schools in the Union? This is the most important priority for the Education and Culture Workshop. It is also necessary to add, as a participant in the Workshop said, that "school is where languages are learnt, a learning we must encourage, again and again, so that bilingualism becomes a rule, or the minimum required".

A question however, remains: what can motivate the young today? For Wilfried Martens, the answer is evident: "It is necessary to convince the young that, in a world that is becoming increasingly globalised, their economic future, the future of their political system has no other alternative than Europe". And the President of the European People's Party added: "We must tell the young: your future is Europe, there is no other alternative!"

Vice-President and spokesperson of the Greens, Philippe Lamberts says that "a European identity will not be created from bottom to top, from Brussels". Learning languages in school and Erasmus are example to be followed. Tamas Boros agrees but only if the European Union manages to speak to a greater number of people: "We need a Europe where university students can enjoy the Erasmus programme not only according to their financial background; where people who don't have a European social network and don't speak the Euro-language can be candidates for the European Union's funds; where the Union's institutions agree to have as partners non-governmental organisations which are not fully European"...



Waiting for a real European information



Sensitise citizens to the European dimension in order to create a public space proper to the European Union. This is not only the responsibility of European political leaders (Euro-deputies, Commissioners or national Ministers) during their time at the "Justus Lipsius" asserts Hans-Gert Pöttering. And the President of the European Parliament added: "It is also the responsibility of political leaders on the national, regional and local level, because Europe is our common ambition".

This strong message from the Anniversary Congress of the Hague introduced another one, not less important: Television must, in Europe, play the role of a relay, of activation of the public sphere which belongs to it on a national and/or regional, sometimes local level.

Does it mean that the participants to the Education and Culture Workshop advocate the creation a European TV channel? More the opposite. They all agree with the analysis from Jose Manuel Barroso: Because, amongst other things, of the language diversity: " We must promote European subjects in national media", and it is true that the solution will come from "the taking up of European subjects by national or regional media in Europe". Christophe Midol-Monnet, journalist and rapporteur of the Education and Culture Workshop, confirms that the main wish of the participants " is to see more European content on all channels, including, and mainly for children", subtitles also having "good effects on opening the minds of viewers".

The television medium has, in a way, its back against the wall. The President of the European Parliament, Hans-Gert Pöttering, puts it positively: " We have to ask the media to take into account the increasing importance of European politics and of the institutions which generate it". Joost van Iersel, member of the European Economic and Social Committee, says the same thing but in a more negative and doubtful way :

“How can you guarantee or make sure that the perceptions of the population and of the media conform more to the real developments and to the real performance of the European Union, instead of leaving a empty space for all forms of reluctance?”.

“decentralisation” to be added to the “Plan D” without neglecting national and regional media, because it is essential, in his eyes, to “go towards each European everywhere in the European space”.

President Barroso could have answered that the Commission is about to launch an initiative aiming to federate channels everywhere in the Union so that they would project the basis of a sort of European public service in terms of European information. It is in order to do so that the President of the Committee of Regions, Luc Van Den Brande, insisted on a 4th D for



For a Europe of solidarity and equal opportunities

In the Nieuwe Kerk, a voice comes up, firm and passionate. Jacques-Rene Rabier, who worked with Jean Monnet in the 1950s, talks in the name of the association ATD- Quart Monde and asks for the creation of “an European Observatory of great poverty”. In the following minutes, the President of the European Movement International, Pat Cox, said he would add the idea to his agenda.

For many Europeans, the Union in 2008 is not a haven of prosperity anymore. Enlargement creates fears, so do globalization and immigrants. A Finn, member of the Young European Parliament, underlined the huge difficulties for young people in accessing the job market. All those fears, (the priorities put forward by the Economic and Social Workshop reflect them), the uncomfortable place reserved to women at the head of them. “Between equality as a European norm and reality, the gap remains” says the vice president of the Association of Women of Southern Europe. Yet, “promoting women’s rights is not only a moral obligation anymore, it is an economic necessity” reacts Frans Timmermans, the Dutch Minister for European Affairs: “If we do not allow women to take a greater place in our economy at all levels, it will lose from it”.

The prospects are not all bleak though. Hence, Jose Manuel Barroso states that the unemployment figures – although remaining “a personal tragedy” – are at their best for the last 15 years. So the fear which exists “in some countries

because of the last enlargement” seems incongruous to the president of the European Commission, and he answers with pro-active arguments: “The fact that there are 27 member countries is good for growth. Today, in some member countries, the reduction of exported goods towards the USA is compensated for by the growth in exports inside the Union. (...) Enlargement is not responsible for a loss of jobs in old Member States: It creates jobs in Europe! It needs to be said. And it is not only good for the so called elite, but also for all workers”.

Is everything fine in brave new Europe? It would be an illusion to believe it says Graham Watson, president of the Liberals and Democrats in the European Parliament, pointing an accusing finger towards capital cities: If we do not have a dynamic economy throughout the European continent, it is because some governments do not want to exploit the Lisbon Strategy, which consists in “a gradual liberalisation of our economies which would create investment, growth and jobs”.

This diagnostic is shared by Dimitris Dimitriadis, the president of the European Economic and Social Committee. “If everyone agrees on the objectives of the Lisbon



Strategy, there remains a gap between rhetoric and reality. The real problem is to set things in action, which is often incomplete or not adapted. The Union's institutions are not the only ones responsible: Practical problems will not be solved from a desk in the Berlaymont building; the governments must take their share of responsibilities. There should be less talking and more action!"

National and regional political leaders – some more than others - are reminded of what their duties are. The President of the Liberals and Democrats adds it is true that the Strategy is "essential", if only to "keep our level of growth" in the face of the actual international financial and economic crisis. Without forgetting that its essence, to make the European economy more competitive, is "for the young if they want to find jobs they are qualified for".

For the participants of the Economic and Social Workshop, two of the principal priorities should be to develop policies in order to sustain entrepreneurship and innovation. Dimitris Dimitriadis adds: "We must create a climate which

would encourage people to innovate, to seize opportunities and possibilities out of the challenges which at first glance could appear as a threat.

It is primordial that we change our state of mind and our culture towards entrepreneurship" in order to manage to "preserve our social European model – which is

an example for other parts of the world". The President of the European Economic and Social Committee concludes by calling for a saving effort: "To liberate our potential, we must focus on education and life-long learning. The latter, permanent training and education are the only solution if we are to be in tune with globalisation and to be able to adapt to changes in the short and long term".

This time, it's the President Barroso who nods. For him, "we need to build a Europe of opportunities and of solidarity where innovation and education are at the top of the political agenda". And he adds: "Europe is a leader and innovates when its schools and universities fully discover the potential of their young", which can only be brought about by a reinforcement of justice and social cohesion.

However, is the Union making enough efforts for young Europeans? Not so sure. The president of the Young European Federalists, invites the Union to have, at the head of the Erasmus programme, a strong and clear message for "all youth, not only students" because, as he reminds us, we need to learn lessons out of the French referendum – the same from the Dutch one and since then from Ireland - where a majority of young people voted "No". Hence the question asked by a Dutchman, member of the Young European Parliament: "What can you do to build a Europe which would not be something for a few young Europeans, but for all of them?"



For President Hans-Gert Pöttering, it is important to know that it is thanks to the European Parliament that the budgets for the Erasmus and the life long learning programmes, as well as other programmes for young Europeans, have increased after the budget cuts operated by the European Council. And the president of the European Commission underlined the fact that “1.7 million have so far benefited from the Erasmus programme” and “they will be 3 million in 2013”.

Meanwhile, it is true, says the President of the European Parliament, that other programmes exist, notably the one aimed at young people wanting to work abroad, and that “they should be helped more in the future”. But, to Hans-Gert Pöttering, the Union should not be the only one doing so: “It is not only the responsibility of the European Union, but also the Member States and/or cities like the Hague which also have budgetary means and which are close to people and can help them”.

After having announced that the Erasmus programme would be broadened to include humanities in the autumn, the President of the Commission follows in his footsteps: “As the President of the Parliament said, one cannot ask the European Institutions to pay for everything because the budget is limited”. And Jose Manuel Barroso confirmed what the President of the Parliament had said: “Nothing prevents governments, regions or cities from investing in exchange programmes, not only for students but also for workers”.

However, for others, the problem is even more complex. For Philippe Lamberts, vice president and spokesperson of the Greens, “the fundamental problem in Europe is that our education system does not produce enough qualified workers”. It would be wise then “to invest more in our education systems” in order to create manpower for the millions of jobs available.

And even that will not be enough adds Anne van Lancker, a Socialist MEP: “Everyone knows that even if we make more efforts to integrate people who are still excluded from jobs, we will still be lacking workers. Which means that in the long term we will need a system of economic migration”, says this MEP who is also President of the Belgian section of the European Movement, and she then adds that “there is a majority of people in the European Parliament who are aware of it and are ready to back it up”.

Really? That is not the feeling that came out of the Economic and Social Committee according to Krystof Bobinski: “We must stop immigration from other countries”. The President of Fundacja Unioa & Polska then sums up: “The preoccupation concerning jobs, unemployment is translated into one demand: the European Union needs migratory policies on a European level”.

But Anne Van Lancker will not change her mind, and she invites political leaders to act “in an intelligent way” concerning the problem of economic immigration: “I do not think you can only give a blue card to well educated intellectuals and university teachers from third world countries”.



President Barroso confirmed that this question would be at the heart of the next European Council next October. He agrees but for other reasons: "As we have a common space for free movement, it is not rational to have different national answers to the challenge of immigration". And the President of the Commission sends a clear warning: " I hope that European leaders will show leadership and a sense of responsibilities in order to really reach a common approach in terms of immigration and integration, (...) otherwise we will see populism and xenophobic phenomena increase and reinforce themselves" ..



Annex 1

60 Ideas for Europe

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL

1. Putting women's rights on the agenda Narrowing the gender pay gap, improving women's representation in political life, encouraging parental leaves for fathers, fighting against the trafficking of women and children.
2. Migration policies European policy on migrations should not focus primarily on restrictive measures but consider also the economic and social development of the countries from which migrants come from and of the EU. It should also adopt a clear standpoint on the status of economic refugee.
3. There is no future for Europe without an effective guarantee of the fundamental rights of women and men All candidates for the European Parliament and all European institutions should undertake to promote effectively the fundamental rights of women and men, including real gender equality, as guaranteed by the Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.
4. Wire transfers in the EU Wire transfers between banks of different EU countries should be made easier and less expensive. Within the Eurozone they should be free of charge.
5. Economic policy coordination The exclusively monetary framework of the ECB needs to be counterbalanced with stronger and better economic policy coordination.
6. Protecting the environment The EU should set an example in protecting the environment, a.o. by helping the transition to clean, safe and sustainable energy sources, promoting their use, and aiming at a 100% renewable energy target.
7. Raising the EU budget The EU should raise its own resources, especially in view of its recent inclusion of 12 countries with fewer resources, by bringing in corporate tax, enlarging the VAT contribution, and also setting an example in developing supranational environmental taxes to combat climate change. In this context, the UK rebate should be progressively phased out.
8. Common migration policy Next to the international status of refugees where the international conventions have to be respected, there should be a common European immigration policy. A European Blue Card valid for the whole EU/EEA area should be introduced for economic immigrants. The yearly quota and profiles should be fixed in function of the real shortages on the European labour market. It should also only be used as last resort, when intra EU-migration or extra efforts on training and education cannot respond adequately to the real shortage.
9. Entrepreneurship for Education and Inclusion Offer young people from diversified social and cultural backgrounds the possibility to act as volunteers in social projects, to be based on 3 principles : a commitment to serve the community, an individual step forward through

- training, and a career break to develop a personal project.
10. Harmonization of EU member states social policies The EU should promote equal rights and comparable standards of living in all member states, as well as foster equal opportunities through harmonized social policies and a common welfare model.
 11. A “white paper” on improving living and working conditions Great differences in work-life conditions among EU countries should be analyzed in order to define common goals and strive toward harmonization.
 12. Protect Europe’s natural and historical heritage Europe should more actively respect its natural wealth. Our natural environment is a key element for our well being, for our development, as well as our built environment. These days, marvelous landscapes are destroyed by various man-built atrocities which prevent the local population from enjoying the original beauty of those places and of their way of life. It is Europe’s responsibility to protect its natural heritage with more active policies.
 13. Social protection for labour mobility As work mobility and the possibility of changing jobs are essential for both individual development and the smooth operation of the single market, a European social security mechanism should give unemployment compensation for a limited period of time to people who change jobs.
 14. Further reforming the CAP CAP must deliver more environmental outcomes. Therefore more funding should be diverted into rural development schemes and in the longer term the current two-pillar system of support should be replaced by a single fund for sustainable land management.
 15. A focus on innovation In order to remain competitive, Europe should focus on what it does best and devote more resources, in particular out of the EU budget, to education, R & D and innovation.
 16. Climate change, energy efficiency and heritage The conservation and re-use of the existing building stock could contribute importantly to mitigating climate change. Incentives to encourage the conservation and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings should thus be urgently developed by EU institutions and member states.
 17. After Lisbon, what? After 2010, the EU needs to review the Lisbon strategy and its results and adopt a new focus on combating poverty.
 18. Corporate social responsibility The EU should continue to encourage a culture of Corporate Social Responsibility by companies and help bridge the communication gap between companies, institutions and non-profit organizations.
 19. Protection for children and victims of domestic violence The EU should take an active part by setting common rules to ensure strin-

gent protection of children and their rights: preventive measures against child abuse and domestic violence.

20. A European goal for the 21st century Europe needs new clearly focused missions: reverse the climate change and environmental degradation and combat international terrorism.

EDUCATION & CULTURE

1. Developing the European identity at school Integration strategies such as the educational policy incorporating the EU into school curricula will favour the development of a European identity.
2. Universities for Europe Universities are far too disconnected from Europe. There are many personal relations between professors and students across Europe, but what is lacking is an involvement of the Universities as Institutions –rectors, boards, faculties – in European integration. What is needed is a pro-active approach regarding European integration.
3. European Cultural Institute We should create a European Cultural Institute which would underline the unity and the common cultural links that exist between all the European countries.
4. Status of student Wouldn't it be possible to have one type of student card in the whole EU, as it is with health care (EHIC)?
5. Education – Creating a European consciousness To create an EU consciousness, it would be a great thing to generalise exchange programs at all educational levels. This would be one way of developing relations between citizens of the EU. School trips to visit another school could be considered as an efficient way of developing EU consciousness for primary, secondary schools as well as colleges.
6. European values and cultural diversity The EU should help in the preservation, appreciation and respect for the diversity of peoples, knowledge, customs and languages identities - while recognising common and shared European values.
7. A common educational grading system. EU citizens have the right to study anywhere in the EU and although there is the 'Bologna process', designed to help streamline the educational systems of the Member States, one essential aspect is missing : a universal grading system.
8. The EU at the Olympics I hope to see EU Member States in Beijing carry the flag of the EU alongside their own national flag as a symbol of our unity in 2008. This could send a good message to Euro-sceptics when they see the EU gaining an estimated third of the gold medals on offer.
9. Intercultural dialogue The intercultural dialogue implies communication among people that come from different national, social, religious, generational and similar living environments. The purpose is to encourage the reflection about diversity that we connect to particular associations with language, ethnicity, society, culture or religion in everyday life.

10. **Teaching Europe** The EU should ensure that part of each country's national curriculum, in both schools and universities, requires a section on Democracy and European Citizenship, to ensure a greater understanding of the EU, its history, and its opportunities.
11. **Boost Erasmus, Socrates and Galileo programmes** If we don't increase the exchanges under these programmes, we can't hope for a true European awareness amongst citizens. We need to increase the budget of these programmes and dedicated organisations in each Member State should provide information about them.
12. **Linguistic diversity** The E.U should promote linguistic diversity means by actively encouraging the learning of the widest possible range of languages in schools, universities, adult education centres and enterprises (smaller & larger European languages + major ones in the world).
13. **Make 9 May a European public holiday** Making 9 May, the anniversary of the Schuman declaration, a common public holiday across the EU would be a small, but significant step forward towards building our European identity, as it would help everybody remember what we have achieved over 50 years of European integration.
14. **European Youth Forum** Lots of policies affect the youth, like Erasmus and Leonardo grants, facilities to learn other languages in the EU, and the mobility of students and young workers. However, these aids are not enough. In each Member State, a European Youth Forum should open a debate with the presence of a European actor. Young people should visit the EU institutions and young immigrants should be integrated.
15. **The European cultural heritage** Europe should adopt a global strategy to protect and enhance its cultural heritage. The memory of Europe is the link between all citizens of Europe and it has to be the launch pad to reinforce the feeling of a European citizenship.
16. **Education on European issues** The EU should show more commitment to educational promotion regarding European issues, e.g. through the expansion of existing educational EU programmes as well as the incorporation of the European integration process as a central topic in the national school curricula.
17. **Exchange projects and EU citizenship** Exchange projects need further support to encourage young people to recognise the importance of their EU citizenship in the global context.
18. **Better knowledge of Europe** A better knowledge of E.U countries and their neighbours (through easier and better paid first job access, more scholarships and getting to know national values and traditions in every country), is necessary to reduce our fear of difference, for a better future for our children.
19. **For a European civilian service!** As an

alternative to the military service and/or just after high school, young people should be offered the possibility to work for non profit organisations or public organisations. The work could deal with culture, the protection of the environment, humanitarian aid, etc. The purpose is to create a broad and shared sense of collectiveness and to diffuse the European identity.

20. EU Television. There is a need for a European TV network available for all with programmes, sport and documentaries in original versions with subtitles. It would provide cultural and historical information to forge a common EU identity.

POLITICAL

1. More interaction between the EU and its citizens. The EU should become more interactive, citizen friendly and inclusive, recognizing the growing significance of regional approach and identity. New and innovative information techniques should be used to improve communication with citizens and especially with young people. Specific attention should be paid to gender issues, which are frequently neglected.
2. EU common defence policy and military actions EU "soft power" doesn't seem sufficient for facing today's international issues. The common defence policy should ensure that the EU has the ability to engage in peacekeeping missions under a UN mandate when needed.
3. EU peacekeeping and humanitarian aid The

EU should show more commitment in the fields of international peace-keeping as well as humanitarian aid during catastrophes.

4. European citizenship should be developed in the context of the Charter of fundamental rights The Charter will become legally binding with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.. European citizens should have the same standards of legal protection from the charter anywhere in the Union and the opt-outs for the UK and Poland should be phased out as soon as possible.
5. Human rights protection in the EU The EU institutions have to act to protect human rights equally for citizens and residents of the EU. As a goal to be reached in the near future, all people residing within the borders of the EU should acquire the same rights.
6. EU leadership in energy and environment. European citizens want the EU to take the lead when it comes to social, energy and environmental standards on a global level.
7. European citizenship and representative democracy The June 2009 European elections should be the main target for all EU programmes related to communication, participation and civic education.
8. EU voice at the global stage Europe should develop a strong voice on the global stage with common foreign and security policies that promote peace, security, democracy and respect for human rights, acting as a strong role model across the world, while recognizing the

- importance of the nation state.
9. EU aid, diplomacy and military action In a global world, it makes sense for the EU to take greater responsibility in the fields of military action, foreign aid and diplomatic relations. The EU should be able to speak with one voice on a global level to defend its values.
 10. Election of the EC president The President of the European Commission could be directly elected by universal suffrage at the same time as the European Parliament elections (in a separate vote).
 11. European Union Citizen Centre "Strasbourg or Brussels" To avoid working costs of the European Parliament it would be wise to have the parliament in one location. We could thus use the other location facilities for a European citizen centre where citizens could be informed but also participate and propose ideas, hold conferences and invite certain EU politicians.
 12. Energy and Climate Climatic alteration is the greatest challenge humankind has to confront. It is of a crucial importance that Europe remains the leading force in the international negotiations for we can only hope to encourage others to take actions with a positive European example and a true reduction of the emissions.
 13. A European passport We could introduce a universal EU passport to be held alongside national citizenship. This could be used to give special status to non-nationalised mi-grants and other disenfranchised groups. It might ease the burden on border and customs officials and also have a symbolic value abroad as a reminder of our common heritage and future.
 14. The EU should have one seat in the security council of UN It is important that the citizens see that the EU is an important global player: it should have a coherent foreign policy decided by qualified majority and be represented in the security council.
 15. More influence for EU citizens The EU should increase opportunities for European citizens from all walks of life to participate more actively and directly in policy-making through regular citizen Plan D-type participatory projects, debates, public hearings, etc. at EU but also at regional and national levels.
 16. Give coherence to the electoral rights attached to the free movement of European citizens The right to vote and stand in all elections and in referenda in another EU member state should be secured for EU citizens.
 17. Climate change and energy security The EU should be given stronger powers to develop a common energy policy and ensure that Member States live up to the commitments they have made at European level.
 18. The European elections of 2009 and the need to inform citizens about the EU As few Europeans make use of their right to vote for the EP, we should plead for various information

campaigns the months before the European elections and consider them as the perfect context to remember the European citizen about the importance of Europe and its Parliament. Financial means should be made available for that.

19. National parliaments for European democracy Democracy need not stem only from the European Parliament : national parliaments should be understood as part of a broader EU constitutional order and be better involved in EU affairs as they have the most direct electoral tie with the European citizens.
20. Participatory democracy EU citizens should be addressed more effectively and the European public space strengthened with the creation of an interactive website (administrated by the EP) where citizens could participate in debates on the ongoing legislative processes and activities of the EU. The citizens' AGORA could be given an inter-institutional character and made permanent.

The full texts of the ideas can be consulted on the Blog "60 Ideas for Europe":
www.speakup-europe.blogactiv.eu

Annex 2 : Agenda

I. EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

FRIDAY 23 MAY 2008

08h30 – 10h00..... Registration

Venue: Nieuwe Kerk, Spui 175

A. PLENARY SESSION (10h00-12h45)

In the presence of **HRH Prince Constantijn**

10h00 – 10h15..... Welcome speech, **Pat Cox**, President of the European Movement International.

10h15 – 11h00..... Voting

11h00 – 11h10..... **Robert Manchin**, Chairman and Managing Director, Gallup Europe Europe in the eyes of the European Citizens: Images of Europe as reflected in public opinion polls

11h10-12h30 Europe's challenges, an open debate with **Michael Zeeman**, Essayist and broadcaster, **Jean-Pierre Gozy**, former participant of the Congress of Europe in 1948, and **4 Young Europeans of the Year** awarded by the Schwartzkopf Foundation.

12h30 – 12h45..... Results of the votes

12h45 – 14h00..... Lunch

B. WORKING GROUPS (14h00 – 18h30)

Debating 60 ideas for Europe.

1. Workshop "Political Europe".

Venue: Nieuwspoort Press Centre, Lange Poten 10

Keynote speaker: **Elmar Brok**, MEP (EPP-ED Group/CDU)

Moderator: **Riivo Sinijarv**, President of the European Movement Estonia

Rapporteur: **Michael Stabenow**, Correspondent for the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

2. Workshop "Economic and Social Europe"

Venue: Diligentia Theater, Lange Voorhout 5

Keynote speaker: **Maria Joao Rodrigues**, Professor of European Economic Policies, Institute for European Studies, Free University of Brussels

Moderator: **Ann Mettler**, Executive Director and co-founder, Lisbon Council

Rapporteur: **Krzysztof Bobinski**, President Fundacja Unia & Polska

3. Workshop "Education and Cultural Europe"

Venue: Town Hall Library, Spui 70

Keynote Speaker: **Dusan Sidjanski**, European Centre of Culture

Moderator: **Gijs de Vries**, Senior research fellow, CSCP, Clingendael Institute

Rapporteur: **Christophe Midol-Monnet**, Deputy News Editor, European Magazines, France, EuroNews

C. RECEPTION (19h00 – 21h00)

Offered by the City of The Hague

Venue: Town Hall Atrium, Spui 70

SATURDAY 24 MAY 2008

D. SESSION PLENIERE (08h30-12h30)

In the presence of HRH the Prince of Orange, Prince Willem-Alexander

Venue: Nieuwe Kerk, Spui 175

1. Report from the workshops and debate (08h30 – 12h00)

08h30 - 09h30 Registrations

09h30 - 10h00 Reports from the rapporteurs of the working groups

10h00 - 10h30 Coffee Break

10h30 - 11h05 Opening statements

Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of the European Parliament

Janez Janša, Prime Minister of Slovenia EU Slovenian Presidency

José Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission

Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly.

Dimitris Dimitriadis, President of the EESC

Luc van den Brande, President of the Committee of the Regions

11h05 - 12h00 Debate moderated by **Pat Cox**

2. Press conference (12h00-12h30)

Venue: Nieuwe Kerk, Spui 175

II. ANNIVERSARY LUNCH (13h00-15h00)

Upon special invitation only

Offered by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Venue: Ridderzaal, Binnenhof 8

III. TV DEBATES (16h00-17h30).

Live broadcast via internet and satellite

Venue: Nieuwe Kerk, Spui 175

Opening and closing statements by **Frans Timmermans**, Minister of European Affairs, The Netherlands

Moderator: **Quentin Peel**, International Affairs Editor, Financial Times

A. FIRST ROUND OF DEBATE (16H00 – 16H40)

Answering questions from the European Civil Society Forum and from the Public

Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of the European Parliament

Janez Janša, Prime Minister of Slovenia EU Slovenian Presidency

José Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission

Frans Timmermans, Minister of European Affairs

Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly

Dimitris Dimitriadis, President of the EESC

16h40 – 16h50..... Break

B. SECOND ROUND OF DEBATE: EUROPEAN POLITICAL LEADERS (16H50 – 17H30)

Answering questions from the European Civil Society Forum and from the Public

European People's Party

Wilfried Martens, President

Maria Martens, EPP-ED Group

Party of European Socialists

Ann van Lancker, Socialist Group

Ivo Beke, Socialist Group

European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party

Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, President

Graham Watson, President ALDE Group

European Green Party

Philippe Lamberts, spokesperson

IV. BOUWPLAATS EUROPA - Europe under construction (09h00 – 18h00)

The European Citizens' Market "Europe under construction" will celebrate some of the numerous citizens' initiatives in Europe.

Citizens representing different strands of society will be interviewed on the podiums by singer **Leoni Jansen**. Local bands with a European and international touch will be performing.

Agaath Witteman & Company will illustrate how Europe grows, links and eventually 'takes off'. EU embassies will also participate.

In parallel to these activities, debates and workshops will be taking place in the Nieuwspoord Press Centre.

PODIUM 1 Europa Podium

Venue: Podium Plein, De Witte Sociëteit

11h30 – 12h00..... DJ Ivan
 12h00 – 12h15..... Interviews and "stand-up"
 12h15 – 12h45..... (Theater Plein Centraal)
 12h45 – 13h30..... (Podium 2)
 13h30 – 13h45..... Interviews and "stand-up"
 13h45 – 14h15..... L4 Hiphop Band
 14h15 – 15h00..... (Podium 2)
 15h.00 – 15h15..... (Theater Plein Centraal with music)
 15h15 – 15h45..... (Podium 2)
 15h45 – 16h15..... Blended Culture (groupe)
 16h15 – 16h30..... Interviews and "stand-up"
 16h30 – 17h00..... Finale DANCE4EUROPE with theatre and music

PODIUM 2 Contact between Continents

Venue: Podium Plein, Defense.

11h30 – 12h15..... (Podium 1)
 12h15 – 12h45..... (Theater Plein Centraal)
 12h45 – 13h00..... NCDO presentation of EU citizens survey to José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, by Jos van Gennip and moderator Victoria Koblenko

 13h00 – 13h30..... Manar
 13h30 – 14h15..... (Podium 1)
 14h15 – 14h30 Interviews and "stand-ups"
 14h30 – 15h00..... Mala Vita
 15h00 – 15h15..... NCDO debate with **Frans Timmermans**, Minister of European Affairs, The Netherlands
 15h45 – 16h30..... (Podium 1)
 16h30 – 17h00..... Finale DANCE4EUROPE with theatre and music

PODIUM 3 Dance4Europe

Venue: Hofplaats

12h30 – 16h.30..... Dance performances of dance teams of Stichting Aight & students related to Europe in the World and the Eight Millennium Goals with free-dance DJ. Host: Kamran Ullah (TV Utrecht).

«Europe for the World»

Venue: Nieuwspoord Press Centre, Wandelgangen I, Lange Poten 10

Programme NCDO With Matra programme:

12h00 – 13h00..... Meeting MATRA/KPA programme in Press Center Nieuwspoord..
 13h00 – 14h45..... Two rounds of debates with Members of the European Parliament Emine Bozkurt, Thijs Berman, Joost Legendijk and Erik Meijer and representatives of organisations concerned with Europe in the World: My Europe the future, Nationale Jeugdraad, LTO-Nederland, Fairfood, Coolpolitics, Alternative View, OIKOS, Lokaal Mondiaal, Nationaal Bevrijdingsmuseum.

«Europa Ateliers» (13h30-16h30)

Venue: Nieuwspoor Press Centre, Wandelgangen II, Lange Poten 10
Programme Dutch Co-ordination European Women's Lobby (NCEWL) and E-Quality

13h30 – 16h30..... First European Atelier.

Creative workshops to address the positions of women in the developing world, and European women's possible contributions to development.

With Louise Van Schaik (Clingendael), writers and politicians

ARTISTS, MODERATORS and ACTORS.

DJ IVAN

Famous DJ for its Balkan music

L4

Hiphop formation with, DNA, Stamina, Mic-Nif and Pape Mann. Relaxed, uptempo, homegrownbeats.

Manar

Europe is open, and close to Morocco. Hence Manar, the former Oulad elbahja, was the first group in the Netherlands specialised in Dekka el Marrakchia and later Gnawa en Issawa. 6 professional musicians who have crossed the Mediterranean and back.

Mala Vita

Europe crosses boundaries. Mala Vita, a hardcore singer and a reggae guitar player together founded a band, inspired by '50 ska, Mediterranean folkmusic and patchanka band. They feel inspired by genres from different other parts of the world: from Cuban son to French chanson, from Columbia cumbia to Balkan punk.

Blended Culture

Blended Culture: should be Europe's hallmark. Band was founded in March 2006 by singer Missrah. Kenny Weed joined her. Blended Culture is specialised in Reggae, Roots, Dancehall and Lovers rock.

Agaath Witteman & Company

Well-known theater director and former member of the Senate Agaath Witteman composed performances with ten actors, especially for Bouwplaats.

Leoni Jansen

Famous Dutch singer, moderator of the debates on Podium I and II.

Kamran Ullah

New talent moderator, tv presenter at TV Utrecht, moderator of Dance4Europe.

V. SAIL FOR EUROPE

Venue: Scheveningen harbour

The sailing vessel "Traité de Rome" is travelling to different destinations in Europe. It is sailing mid-April from Dunquerque, Kiel and Gdansk and will be in Scheveningen on 24 & 25 May 2008 from 10h00 to 18h00. It will then head South stopping at different harbours along the coast in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. A special Shuttle will be organised from the citizens' market at The Hague to the Harbour of Sheveningen.

More information can be found on www.sailforeurope.eu

VI. NATIONAL DEBATES (18h00 – 20h00)

Debates in various Member States with national political leaders

Annex 3 :.List of participants

A Van Aartsen, City of The Hague; Abram Maité, EM Belgium; Adumnyan Emilia, EM Armenia; Agathonos Philipp, Vice-President UEF; Agli Françoise, Vice-President SEVE; Aleksandrić Dragana, EM Serbia; Alexeeva Olga, Montesquieu Institute; Ali Muhammad, Institute of Social Studies; Allen Denis, Conservative Party; Alves Inês, European Youth Forum; Anastasakou Stamatina, EM Greece; Anastasiou Elena, Ministry of Education; Anderica Victoria, Master Euroculture; Andrusyak Oksana, International Youth NGO 'European Youth Parliament-Ukraine'; Angelescu Elena, Embassy of Romania in The Hague; Angelopoulos Michalis, President EM Greece; Ariëne de Bruijn, Europa Nostra; Arkesteijn Elvira, Monstequieu Institute; Asboth Tibor, Secretary General, EM Hungary; Aspaker Elisabeth, EM Norway; Aspe Montoya Isabel, EM Spain; Assoul Zoubida, Arabic Women's Legal Network; van den Assum Claire, CE. **B** Backes Marianno, CUCE; Baes Paul, Former EU-Council official; Balmaks Indulis, EM Latvia; Bandararra Nelly, AFEM; Banks Martin, The Parliament Magazine; Baron Crespo Enrique, Honorary President of the EMI; Basilien-Gainche Marie-Laure, Université Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle; Baur Magdalena, Europa-Fels; Baur Brigitte, Europa-Fels; Baur Norbert, Europa-Fels; Beekman Micha, European Youth Parliament; Beelaerts Alexander, City Consul of The Hague; Bekkar Kader, Medcoop; Belghith Ali, Zenith Euro-Arabic Education Network; Bellincampi Lorenzo, EMI; Ben Aicha Naima, Association Tunisienne pour l'Apprentissage tout au long de la Vie; Ben Jaballah Hamadi, University of Tunis; Benouari Ali, CERMAM Genève; van den Berg Joop, Monstequieu Institute; Berget Grete, EM Norway; Berghorst Yvonne, European Investment Bank; Bergman Fred, EBN; Bertens Luc, INS; Berthoin Georges, Honorary President of the EMI; van Beurden Iselde, Dutch National Youth Council; Biekman Barryl, TIYE International; Biletskyi Oleksandr, President EM Ukraine; van Blaaderen Jonathan, Youth Democrats; Blom Deborah, Young Democrats; Bobinski Krzysztof, President Fundacja Unia & Polska; Boden Rainer W., European League for Economic Cooperation; Bogaard Jorgen, ELSA The Netherlands; Boissière Bruno, Director Centre International de Formation Européenne; Bolhuis Machiel, Google; Bongard Sacha, Nationale Jeugdgraad; Boone Christiaan, EM Belgium; Boros Tamas, European youth of the year; Borsch Rebekka, EM Norway; Van Borselen Hans, EBN regional; Borut Cink, EM Slovenia; Bos Marko, EBN; Bothmer Jo, European Anti Poverty Network Netherlands; Bouaziz Monique, AFEM; Bozkurt Emine, European Parliament; Braamhorst Wolter, TV Culture / Consultant; van den Braak Jan-Willem, VNO-NCW; van den Brande Luc, President of the Committee of the Regions; Braze Baiba, Embassy Latvia; Bribosia Hervé, Research Co-operation, CVCE; Brinkhorst Laurens Jan, University of Leiden; Brok Elmar, Member of the European Parliament; Brookman Wouter-Jan, Team Europe; Brown Peter, Pensive S.A.; van den Brul Piet, ING; Bru Puron; Carlos Maria, EM Spain; Brummelhuis Jet, NVR / EBN; Bruno Giordana, MFE; Buckley Michael, Notre Europe; Bufacchi Maryati, Europa Nostra; Bulins Karim, Germany-Netherlands Corps Münster; Bulk Marjolijn, FNv; van den Burg Ieke, MEP Socialist Group; Burloux Johana, ECAS; Buscaglia Francesco, CdIE - Centro di Iniziativa Europea. **C** Cacace Frédéric, Tomorrow's Europe; Calatrava Olga, Parliament; Callens Dries, EM Belgium; Campana Marie Jeanne, AFEM, Vice President; Camu Alain, EMI Treasurer; Carazza Chiara, Innerproject; Carbonez Luc, Ambassador of Belgium in The Netherlands; Caruso Gabriela, INS; Casteleyn Danny; Catasta Anna, CdIE - Centro di Iniziativa Europea; Cesareti Leonardo, EM Italy; Chadwick Dale, EurActiv; Chafik Saïd, University of Tunis; Checcacci Amedeo, EM Italy; Chenal Odile, European Cultural Foundation; Chezeaux Cédric, CUCE; Chuliá Segura Manuel, EM Spain; Clement Victor, Embassy of Luxembourg; Clesse Armand, Luxembourg Institute for European and International Studies; Cocozza Liliane, ESAN (European Social Action Network); Colic Dino, EM Bosnia and Herzegovina; Constantinescu Mircea, President of EM Romania; 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