

Permanent Forum of European Civil Society

-- Section of debates --

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debates

A Solemn Declaration of European Citizens' Interdependence

Draft to be discussed,
amended, corrected and/or
supplemented by civil society

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This draft declaration is proposed by five members of the Permanent Forum of European Civil society [1]. It is suggested that it be discussed, amended, corrected and/or supplemented by all visitors of this site who wish to contribute to its final formulation as well as during numerous debates to be organised by European civil society during the year 2006 and, in particular, during the "Citizens" Forums that will be organised on the initiative of the European Parliament.

The final text of this declaration of interdependence should be adopted by the Estates-General of Networks' Europe proposed by the authors in [the book that they published with the EDITION LABOR](#). Then, this declaration should be solemnly presented in Rome on March 25, 2007 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome and handed over to the European Parliament - on behalf and by the authority of the European Citizens - for transmission, as the preamble to the future revised European Constitution, to those who will sit at the Third Convention. [2]

DRAFT OF A SOLEMN DECLARATION OF EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INTERDEPENDENCE

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for peoples, formerly separate and hostile, to create new political bonds and assume among the powers of the Earth, a new and distinct station that in their opinion should be established and to which they estimate being entitled, a decent respect due to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to this momentous step.

CONSCIOUS that Europe is a continent that twice during the XXth century has caused a world-wide conflagration through war; that its internal and centuries-old rivalries - whatever their nature - must be transcended by the fusing of their people's essential interests and the harmonising of their national ethos so as to forge, in an ever closer fashion, their common destiny;

CONVINCED that the interdependencies that exist between all human beings at the eve of the XXlth century, have attained a scale and intensity and range never encountered before; that this situation implies a fundamentally new era for humanity and constitutes the essential challenge of globalization of which the impact on human flourishing must be seriously assessed;

EQUALLY CONVINCED that in order to overcome this challenge one must strive for a new world order that is not dominated by any power acting alone or seeking above all its sole interest, and that, to this end, there is an indispensable contribution to be made by an organised Europe capable of speaking in harmony and by consensus;

CONSCIOUS that, within the civilisation that Europe has nurtured, no single religious or philosophical tradition can claim exclusively to embody Europe's core values or vision; and also that liberty of conscience is a shared value;

DETERMINED to promote the ethics of reconciliation and constantly to re-evaluate all philosophies and cultural traditions in order to retain what is good but also to renew in the light of new insight;

EQUALLY DETERMINED to take upon ourselves, as European citizens, our responsibility in

pursuing the ideals of peace and civilisation which the Founders of the European Communities have nourished during the last century; and determined to avail ourselves of the experience gained since then in order to work for the unity of the whole continent of Europe;

CONVINCED that the pursuit of these ideals requires us to create a European citizenship founded on the dignity of the human person, the effective solidarity between the peoples of Europe whilst fully and genuinely respecting their specific identities and histories; and seeking to establish a common basis for the development of a European model of society;

COMMITTED, to this end, to create a new polity that brings forth our future common destiny, assures our quest for a common well-being, bequeaths to future generations a secure environment, an enriched cultural legacy and the best possible conditions of livelihood and employment, a polity endowed with an institutional system that can accept responsibility for global peace and adherence to international law, the peaceful resolution of international disputes and a sustainable development that is equitably shared;

CONSCIOUS of the contradictory visions likely to be espoused concerning the future of this new polity and, more particularly, concerning its political project and the exact contour of its borders; but DETERMINED to refuse the vision of an imperial Europe, a quasi-colonial power that would impose its values and its institutions by ever broader concentric circles; DETERMINED instead to privilege the model of the decentralised but interlaced "Olympic Rings" in which each circle represents an ad hoc political community that, while pursuing its specific goals and retaining its own institutions, is nevertheless committed to improve basic human rights and the security of all human beings.

FINALLY DESIRING to put in practice, within this new polity, the principles of a representative, participatory and equal democracy in a way that enlarges our responsibility as citizens in the elaboration of its political choices and the implementation of its decisions;

WE, THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS, DECLARE:

- ▶ That there exists between us today bonds of interdependence, which have attained a level in intensity and range unprecedented in our respective national histories;
- ▶ That from now on our future is shared; so that, in order to forge it together, we should harmonise our interests ever more closely, and not merely balance interests over against one another;
- ▶ That, to confront this challenge, we should form together a new polity not founded on the supreme authority of any single people, but instead on the continuing plurality of the peoples that make it up, that adhere to common values and recognise in each other the same basic human rights;
- ▶ That we are determined to take upon ourselves, as European citizens, our responsibility in the elaboration of this polity's political choices and the implementation of its actions;
- ▶ And that, to this end, it is imperative to put into practice, within this new polity, the principles of a representative, participatory and equal democracy.

[1] Jean-Claude BOUAL, Philippe D. GROSJEAN, Jacques-René RABIER, Daniel SPOEL and Raymond VAN ERMEN.

[2] Convention I wrote the Charter of the Fundamental Rights. Convention II wrote the draft Constitutional Treaty. Convention III is the convention that the authors propose to be convened by the European Council after the Estates-General of Networks' Europe.