

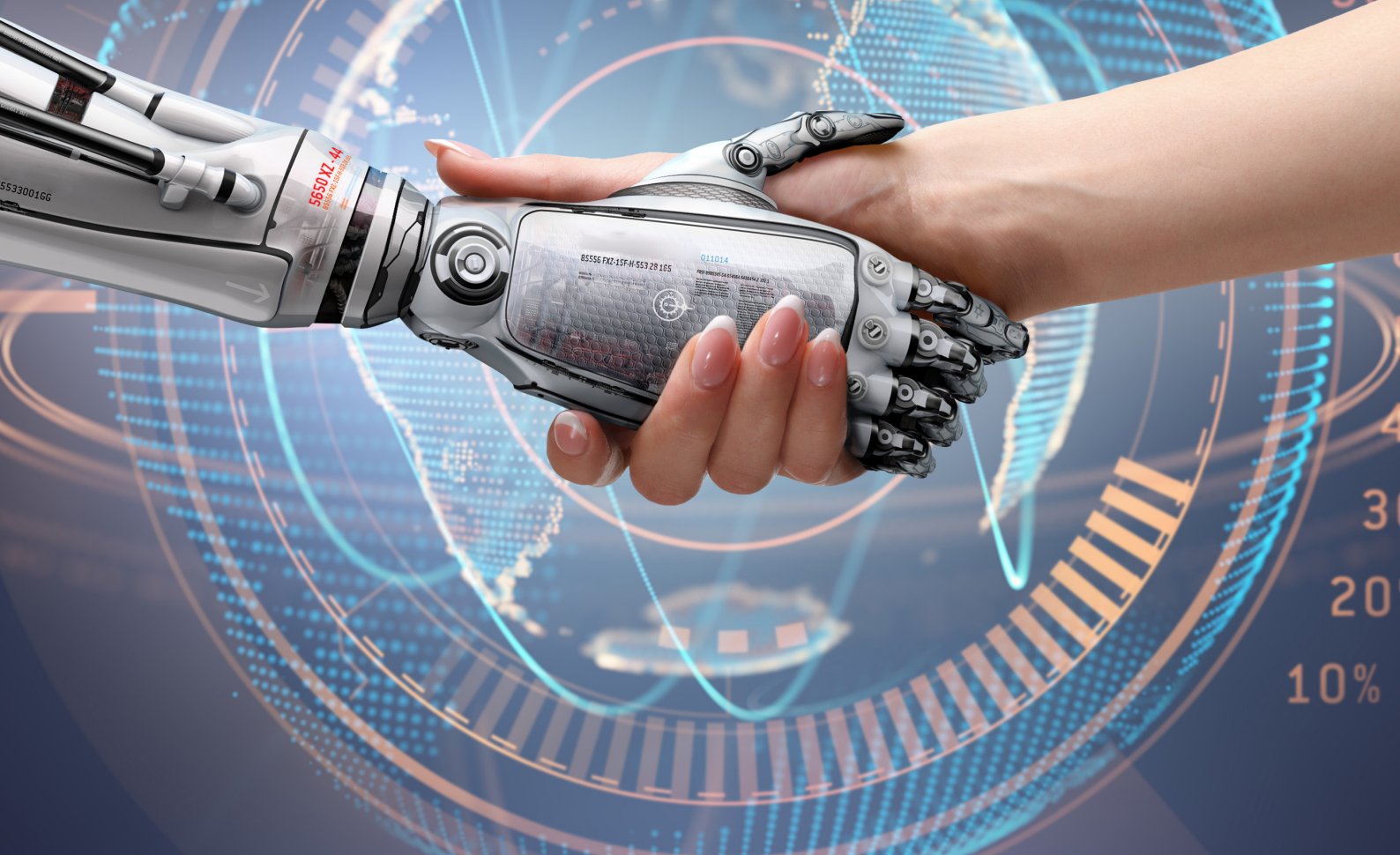
EPFMA BULLETIN



European Parliament Former Members Association

www.formermembers.eu

Focus on Artificial Intelligence



FMA Activities

Co-operation with
the EUJ

Page 25



FMA Activities

FMA elections

Page 34

IN THIS ISSUE

03 Message from the President

04 Letters to the President/
Nostalgic corner

05 EP at Work

CURRENT AFFAIRS

06 The next EU long term
financial plan (*Edit Herczog*)

07 The European Security and
Defence Policy (*Karl von Wogau*)

09 Transformation
of the world of work
(*José Albino Da Silva Peneda*)

10 A New Welfare State for
Europe (*Pedro Marset Campos*)

11 The Soria spirit
(*María Irigoyen Pérez*)

12 Afrofuturism (*Karin Junker*)

13 Malta: Capital of Culture
(*Claudette Abela Baldacchino*)

14 You don't get our hate
(*Eddy Newman*)

FOCUS

16 Artificial Intelligence: Fear or
favour? (*Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso*)

18 Ethics, AI and
Supercomputing (*Ulises Cortés*)

20 AI and the urgency of new
policies (*Carlos Pimenta*)

21 Autonomous vehicles
(*Paulo Mota Pinto*)

FMA ACTIVITIES

24 EP to Campus Programme

25 Co-operation with the EU

28 Former Members Network

30 Photo report

LATEST NEWS

31 Activities

32 New members

34 FMA elections

36 In Memoriam



The Open Day of the European Institutions in Brussels took place on 5 May 2018. The Open Day let the citizens discover how the European Institutions work, what their priorities are and how they affect the lives of Europeans.

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CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS:

The Editorial Board would like to thank all those members who took the time to contribute to this issue of the FMA Bulletin. We would like to draw your attention to the fact that the decision to include an article lies with the FMA Editorial Board and, in principle, contributions from members who are not up-to-date with the payment of the membership fee will not be included. Due to the long time lag between the call for contribution and the publication, some articles may be outdated.

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Message from the PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

It is a pleasure to be writing my first editorial for you as the newly elected President of the European Parliament Former Members Association.

Only a few weeks ago, it is with deep sadness that we learned of the passing of Nicole Fontaine, Former President of the European Parliament (1999-2002). I represented our Association at the funeral ceremony on 24 May in Neuilly-sur-Seine accompanied by our Secretary General, Elisabetta Fonck. It was a touching moment shared with her family and many former colleagues in the presence of the EP President Antonio Tajani, the former EP and FMA President Pat Cox, the former EP President Klaus Hänsch and the EP Secretary General, Klaus Welle.

I want to remember Nicole, second woman to hold the EP Presidency after Simone Veil, with her words published in the previous edition of this Bulletin:

"We need to look ahead to a future in which solidarity, in the interest of Europe, is not only European but universal. We need to place our faith first and foremost in the younger generation, who have not lost their enthusiasm for life, who know how to stand up for what is right, who believe in making the world a better place and who are capable of selfless acts."

Nicole was a great European and will continue to inspire our work and the future generations.

As newly elected President, I want to work with you to strengthen the FMA activities and network. I will count on your support in the months to come and want to thank all those members who actively contribute to our pro-bono activities and programmes. Let me thank the many colleagues

who made the trip to Brussels in May to participate in the Annual General Assembly, as well as those who voted by proxy. On behalf of the new committee, I would like to thank you for the confidence you have placed in us.

I want to pay special tribute to Enrique Barón Crespo, who has served as FMA President for the past four years. His dedicated work and personal involvement greatly added to the Association's visibility, standing and vision.

I would also like to pay special tribute to the outgoing FMA Committee member, Andrea Manzella for the years of committed work, as member of the Editorial Board and as an FMA Delegate to the European Association of former parliamentarians (FP-AP). I take this opportunity to warmly welcome newly elected committee member, Jean-Pierre Audy.

This issue will focus on artificial intelligence, an ongoing subject of debate in our societies. We asked for contributions from our colleagues and experts in the field to help us understand it better and offer some reflections.

This issue includes a section devoted to the activities of the FMA and showcases our events held in May. On 2 May 2018, the FMA jointly organised an Information Seminar with the European Parliamentary Research Centre on 'Political Communication in the Upcoming European Elections', chaired by my predecessor President Enrique Barón Crespo. We were able to take part in an exchange of views with a prestigious panel of speakers composed of the Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO), Danuta Hübner (Keynote Speaker), as well as Cliff Stearns, President of the U.S. Association

of Former Members of Congress; Steve Clark, Director for Relations with Citizens and Anthony Teasdale, Director General of the EPRS.

This insightful event was followed by the Tenth Memorial Service, organised jointly with the EP Protocol Service. The Vice-President Rainer Wieland, representing the President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, participated in this moving ceremony, together with EP Vice-Presidents Livia Járóka, Dimitrios Papadimoulis and Pavel Telička, former members as well as 13 members of the families of deceased members.

At our Dinner Debate Roberto Gualtieri, Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, illustrated developments in the European Parliament's action and his speech was followed by an animated debate.

During the General Assembly, it was announced that the 2018 Study Visit's destination would be Côte d'Ivoire. An excellent programme consisting of meetings with the highest authorities, university students and associations will soon be ready, and registration will open shortly.

Lastly, let me thank all those who contributed to this issue with their insights and opinions. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at our future events.

Hans-Gert PÖTTERING
FMA President

Letters to the PRESIDENT

“

Dear Mr President,

I am writing to wish you the best of luck!

You have been elected during the darkest period of our process of unification, when the drive towards European integration seems to have lost its momentum – in the democracy of rights, economic democracy, inclusive democracy.

However, from Brussels to Paris and Berlin, brave men and women are continuing to plan our future as a Union, combating the rampant demagoguery of those who wish to divide us, blind to the future.

I am sure that, under your leadership, the FMA will stand, at these times of risk, even more shoulder to shoulder with the promoters of this renewed Europeanist effort, taking an ever-clearer line: that we are not an association of ‘survivors’ who have laid down their arms; but, rather, of ‘veterans’, capable of working side by side with those who are still our colleagues in the European Parliament, to spread our message to the general public, in schools and in political movements.

Trusting, as did the biblical sentinels, that we will catch sight of the first light of dawn in the dark night. Best wishes!

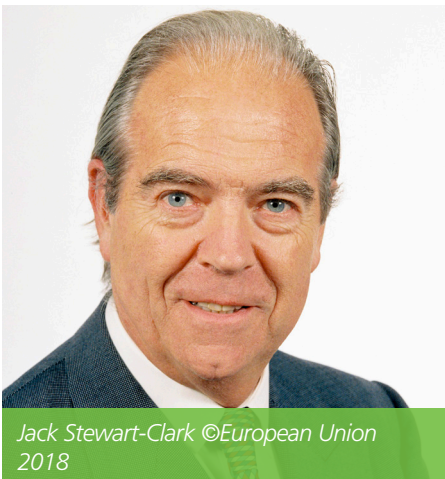
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Nostalgic corner

“



Jack Stewart-Clark ©European Union
2018

‘When Nicole Fontaine and I were both Vice Presidents of the Parliament during one of our Bureau meetings we were discussing the controversial question of whether the Parliament should have one seat in Brussels or continue to have two. Being French Nicole was arguing forcibly for the continuation of two places of work and I was arguing for one. At one point I said in reply to a remark of Nicole’s “that is a monstrous statement!”. This came across in French as ‘You are a monster’. Fortunately I succeeded after the meeting in persuading Nicole Fontaine that this was NOT what I had said. She and I were able to continue our friendship after I explained to her that she was elegant and erudite and certainly not a monster!! Such are the joys of misinterpretation.’

Jack Stewart-Clark

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EP AT WORK

KEY FACTS

Rule of law in Poland: Parliament supports EU action (March Session - P8_TA-PROV(2018)0055).

MEPs call on the EU Council of Ministers "to undertake swift action in accordance with the provisions set out" in Article 7(1).

MEPs said that projects that build cohesion among EU regions must remain at the heart of EU investment policies, despite pressures on the EU budget. (March Session - P8_TA-PROV(2018)0067)

Poorest EU regions need continued support and tailored strategies to catch up.

MEPs vote in favour to improve cross-border parcel delivery to boost buying online (March Session - P8_TA-PROV(2018)0064)

Clearer information on the prices of parcel delivery services should help to increase consumer confidence in cross-border shopping and shipping.

EP recommends association agreement for future EU-UK relations. (March Session - P8_TA-PROV(2018)0069)

Taking into account red lines announced by the UK government, an association agreement between the EU and the UK could provide an appropriate framework for their future relationship.

MEPs urge action to protect journalists across the EU (March Session - P8_TA-PROV(2018)0183)

The EU must better protect journalists and whistle-blowers and Slovakia must ensure thorough, independent and international investigation into the murder of Ján Kuciak.

Post-2020 EU budget (May Session - P8_TA-PROV(2018)0075)

Most MEPs welcomed an EU Commission plan to raise national contributions to 1.11% of GNI and introduce new sources of revenue for the next long-term EU budget.

Other main dossiers discussed in the plenary sessions were:

March 2018

- MEPs establishes new special committee on financial crime, tax evasion and avoidance. (01.03.18)
- MEPs urge the EU and its member states to invest more in protecting bee health, fighting honey adulteration and supporting beekeepers. (01.03.18)
- MEPs back crackdown on aggressive cross-border tax schemes. (01.03.18)
- Parliament endorses Luis de Guindos as new ECB Vice-President. (14.03.18)
- MEPs approved new EU corporate tax plan which embraces "digital presence". (15.03.18)

April 2018

- MEPs set goal of near

zero-energy buildings in the EU by 2050. (17.04.18)

- MEPs approve voting dates for 2019 European elections. The next EU elections will be held on 23-26 May 2019 (18.04.18)
- Circular economy: More recycling of household waste, less landfilling. (18.04.18)
- MEPs urge Facebook CEO to come to European Parliament. (18.04.18)
- Anti-money laundering: MEPs vote to shed light on the true owners of companies. (19.04.18)
- MEPs adopted a stronger European supervision of the car approval system to ensure rules are applied uniformly and effectively throughout the EU. (19.04.18)
- MEPs urge member states to

reach agreement on tackling migration crises. (19.04.18)

- Organic food: MEPs tighten EU rules to match consumer expectations (19.04.18)
- MEPs highlight health risks of falling vaccination rates in the EU (19.04.18)

May 2018

- MEPs adopted a Protection of children in migration. All migrant children and families with children should be housed in non-custodial facilities while their immigration status is processed (03.05.18)
- Testing cosmetics on animals: MEPs call for worldwide ban on testing cosmetics on animals before 2023 (03.05.18)

For more information, please visit : <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/plenary>

CURRENT AFFAIRS

THE NEXT EU LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN



Plenary session in Brussels - Commission decision adopted on the MFF post-2020 package
©European Union 2018

The next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) planning process, including the discussion on own-resources started the day after the running MFF has been adopted (or even prior), making it a long-time dilemma, with no easy solution. The Monti High Level Group on Own Resources (HLGOR) is just one example of opinions for a possible solution on how to generate revenue, while respecting the subsidiarity of the member states. However, unless a European Council decision is achieved, they remain valuable documents only for the European archives. The challenges ahead such as the transition to data economy, the global warming in climate, and the global cooling in politics, are different in scale compared to the 2013 negotiations. At the same time the disagreement of the EU leaders, the national political landscape over the European landscape, and the lively fake news phenomenon all indicate long and difficult negotiations before the agreement. Still, there is a silent agreement among EU leaders: EU is still the best option compared to the

alternatives. This is a good start. No single country rejects the increased scope to incorporate the Juncker five scenarios into the EU policies. Yet, if the EU will finance policies important for all member states, the narrative has to be changed too. The dichotomy of the net-contributors and net-beneficiaries will be non-sensical with new headings such as Defence/ border-control which are clearly important for all and do not entail a return. Meanwhile, all countries need more competitiveness, thus are ready to spend more on digitizing all sectors (including Agriculture) through research & innovation. While the goals are shared, the means are not. Nobody is ready to pay more, except the net-receivers (clearly it is their interest). Not only new tasks are being conferred on the Union, but this often comes as EU resources replacing MS funding instead of complementing them. Talk and walk is not aligned and it will create long term deficiencies in terms of trust and resources at national and EU level as well in the global race. Meanwhile, the length of the

MFF also became a subject of vivid discussion, creating an additional layer of uncertainty.

“The challenges ahead are different in scale compared to the 2013”

The European Councils held in 2017-2018 send a signal of hesitation. The European elections for the European Parliament, and for the European Commissioners including the “Spitzenkandidat” interrupt the MFF process. Decisions have to be made before the elections or after, either way deadlines remain tight and a constructive approach is only possible if the European Council can agree, possibly in June.

On 11th of September of 1741, Maria Theresia gave a speech in the Parliament in Bratislava, asking for the support of the aristocrats: “The very existence of the Kingdom, of our own person, of our children, and of our crown is at stake”. Most of the aristocrats were critical stating: “Vitam and Sanguinem sed avenam non” (We provide our lives and bloods, but our oats -money). Finally they did provide the necessary assets, even if, only with concessions made. She would rule the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy until 1780. Today, the European Union is in similar danger and the heads of state have to make a decision. Support is needed to protect the EU and its inhabitants. Are the heads of state ready to make the sacrifice, even if with some concessions?

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THE EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

It is impossible to talk about the EU's Security and Defence Policy at the moment without also talking about Brexit. Great Britain's departure from the European Union will be a great wrench. This is also true for me personally.

“This is why Britain's departure now feels to me like an amputation.”

We constructed the European single market together with our British friends. At the time, together with my friends Basil de Ferranti, Fernand Herman, Dieter Rogalla and many others in the European Parliament, I fought to tear down the borders between the Member States. I remember how enthusiastically we went about the task. We succeeded in persuading Margaret Thatcher to forego her veto regarding participation in the single market, many important points of which bear the British stamp. This is why Britain's departure now feels to me like an amputation.

But we now need a cool analysis of what this actually means. Firstly, it means a reduction of nearly 20% in the EU's economic performance, making us the world's second biggest market rather than the first. This will reduce our ability to negotiate with the United States on equal terms. The English Channel will again become a customs border, as it used to be. This will bring with it bureaucracy which, though unpleasant for us, will be even more unwelcome for the British. We also face tough negotiations on the free movement of workers, the Irish border and Britain's future access to the single market.

“We must focus on areas in which joint action brings clear advantages: the single market, the single currency and the Common Foreign and Security Policy.”

Yet these economic aspects are not

the most important consideration. More significant in the long term is the fact that the balance of power within the EU is shifting. Germany finds itself in more of a leading role: one which it has not asked for and which it cannot perform alone. Cooperation between Germany and France will as a result be more crucial – without, however, their forming a kind of executive board; the small and medium-sized countries must also be involved. The new voting system in the Council serves as an equitable basis in this regard, as it operates according to the population of each country, of whatever size.

EU27

We must use the situation caused by the separation from England to reflect once again on what form this future Europe of 27 will take. More than ever before, we must focus on areas in which joint action brings clear advantages: the single market, the single currency and the Common Foreign and Security Policy. This does not require a new treaty. Everything which must be done urgently can be accomplished under the current Treaties. The problems which the EU is experiencing arise not because of the Treaties themselves but because of how they are implemented. Many problems would not exist if we had acted in accordance with the Treaties. What we as citizens want to see from the EU are, first and foremost, contributions to our safety and prosperity. We must, however, also realise that there can be no prosperity without security. The Europe of 27 therefore needs



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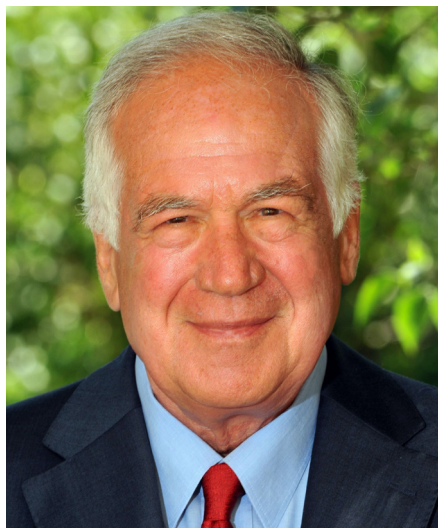
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to become a Europe of common security. The proposals of Michel Barnier and Federica Mogherini for the next steps in this direction are on the table. It should also be noted that Ursula von der Leyen has called for the Economic and Monetary Union to be further developed into a defence union.

“What we as citizens want to see from the EU are, first and foremost, contributions to our safety and prosperity. We must, however, also realise that there can be no prosperity without security. The Europe of 27 therefore needs to become a Europe of common security.”

However, I do not see any one project among these proposals which could at the same time be a symbol.

We should never underestimate the power of symbols. When the single market became reality, it was symbolised by the barriers at the borders, marking the open borders within the EU and the common borders around the periphery. The euro coins which everyone carries around are the symbol of the single currency, with a European symbol on one side and symbols of our European nations on the other.



Karl von Wogau

At the moment I can think of no stronger symbol for the European Security and Defence Policy than Eurocorps. For my publications I always use a picture of Eurocorps in front of the European Parliament. I have also suggested placing Eurocorps at the centre of the European Security and Defence Policy. It should be our specific aim in the short term to make this an effective instrument of European security and defence.

“We will only succeed if we can bolster awareness of the fact that we have a common destiny as a community.”

In the long term, however, we will only succeed if we can bolster awareness of the fact that we have a common destiny as a community. We are, and we remain, German, French, Spanish, Dutch, Polish, Estonian and Lithuanian. But only if we know and feel that this also makes us jointly European will we be able to shape our future together.

Karl von Wogau
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TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD OF WORK

There are several reasons for the far-reaching changes taking place in the world of work.

Globalisation has boosted economic development in poorer parts of the world and is greatly reducing the numbers living below the poverty line, but, because the liberalisation brought about has not gone hand in hand with global rules in, say, the environmental policy sphere or providing for a social safety net, the consequences have made themselves felt in, for example, the weakening of the European middle class.

The digital economy will increasingly shape value chains and determine competitive advantages because speed and scale will be the cornerstones of the 21st century economy.

Companies have ceased to be organised vertically and begun to enter into contractual relationships enabling them to capitalise on global value chains and international talent in order to pursue their growth strategies.

As a result, careers will shift to and from between public and private sector jobs and jobs in

non-governmental organisations, between salaried employment and self-employment, and between full- and part-time working; and mobility will increase significantly. The tensions between new forms of employment and business models and the traditional forms of employment are raising highly complex issues related to the definition of the term 'worker', be it for statistical, economic, or legal purposes. Work will in future not be a static concept, but more like a catch-all encompassing roles performed in different ways under different legal systems. Within the EU the legislation in force no longer covers the changes occurring in the economy and on the labour market. All these developments will certainly lead to many new job creation opportunities and substantial productivity increases in knowledge-intensive sectors. However, because the jobs in question will require very high levels of qualifications, there will be a downside to the extent that wage inequalities may grow and differences in terms of access to welfare provision might bring

their own risks.

“Work will in future not be a static concept, but more like a catch-all encompassing roles performed in different ways under different legal systems”

The rapid pace of change will entail more risks than opportunities, and experience shows that the only way to minimise the risks and enhance the opportunities lies in public policies geared towards investment in skills and human capital.

Failing that, inequalities will be exacerbated. The OECD estimates that the recent digital revolution has contributed to rising inequality in OECD countries, accounting for more than a third of the widening income gap between the highest and lowest deciles.

What we are facing is a scenario in which inequalities, if they get worse, will give rise to political alienation, social unrest, and growing antagonism, fuelling nationalist and xenophobic attitudes while spawning increasingly more radical social movements.

The challenge, then, is immense and a matter of high political priority, since the values at the heart of the European project are in danger. We have to realise that the European Union could founder on it.

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Window cleaners at work on the roof of the EP in Brussels © European Union 2015

A NEW WELFARE STATE FOR EUROPE

A worrying contradiction has been evident in the European integration process since the crisis of 2008: while economic and monetary rules remain dominant throughout the EU – via its various instruments, from the ECB to adjustment plans – the reality on the ground, as far as social policies are concerned, depends on the rules in force in each Member State. The upshot of this has so far been a wide range of different situations, with the constant erosion of the welfare state, inequalities and precariousness weighed against the social approach espoused by Keynes. This is central to the problems that social democracy has had in trying to get back on its feet since 1973, the year of the fiscal crisis of the state. It also, at the very least, points to a need to bring monetary and social policies together.

“As long as there are such enormous differences in the levels of social protection within the EU, from public services to wages and pensions, disaffection with the EU will persist, and the European elections will not be able to do anything to remedy that. The increase in populist and xenophobic attitudes is a harbinger of this”

Specifically, it throws down the gauntlet of fusing the two dynamics – bringing the technocratic, monetarist, EU-level approach and the social approach together, while



relying on parliamentary politics to ensure there are harmonised, decent social welfare conditions right across the EU. This in turn implies, as a direct consequence, that further efforts need to be made to make the European Union stronger. It seems there is a need to establish a level of decision-making that makes it possible for EU funding to be used to guarantee social protection: in other words, a federal Europe, in which new powers are conferred upon the European Parliament and new sources of shared funding are tapped.

As long as there are such enormous differences in the levels of social protection within the EU, from public services to wages and pensions, disaffection with the EU will persist, and the European elections will not be able to do anything to remedy that. The increase in populist and xenophobic attitudes is a harbinger of this.

The question here, therefore, is whether we are willing to plot a new course for the EU, rather than just plod along at the snail's pace of intergovernmentalism. I understand how difficult it is to change the system that has been in place until now, but the urgency and

seriousness of the situation suggest that what is required is a strategy that will gradually increase the involvement of the European people in discussions on the possibility of adopting a federalist alternative. History shows that during the 19th century, every country in Europe moved from a multi-regional situation to a unified state, with a parliament as the repository of national sovereignty. I think it is now time for us to accept that the sovereignty of the European people as expressed in the European Parliament has to set its sights on more ambitious objectives. Defending common European social rights by taking a new, quasi-Keynesian approach is worth the effort. And investing the European Parliament with the powers that all other parliaments have (i.e. powers to appoint governments, approve budgets and draft legislation) could be the right way to go.

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THE SORIA SPIRIT

From 16 to 19 January of this year, Soria (200 km from Madrid, in Castile-Leon) played host to the annual meeting of the Political Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR). More than 250 local and regional leaders turned out to represent more than 130 000 local and regional governments in Europe. Under the heading "Think Europe: Commitment 2030", the European strategy for implementing the 2030 Agenda was addressed and discussed within the framework of the European Union's future cohesion policy.

Soria is a beautiful province with a population of nearly 90 000. It is the main province on the River Duero, medieval and abounding in nature and beautiful landscapes, with much to offer by way of culture: it is replete with Romanesque and Gothic buildings, Renaissance palaces and convents in the Baroque style, along with music. Its inhabitants enjoy an excellent quality of life. It is known for its good food and Ribera del Duero designation of origin (DO)

wines. However, for the past few decades, a sword of Damocles has been hanging over it: depopulation, population dispersion and ageing. For four days, "the very noble and very fair city of Soria" hosted political representatives, lecturers, journalists specialised in European matters and civil society. All were committed Europeans, committed to strengthening and asserting our civilising welfare-state model which is underpinned by our common European principles and values, and to territorial cohesion, equality and solidarity. The aim is to make our European home, the EU, a robust building which can withstand, without any cracks opening up, the attacks launched by the eurosceptics and europhobes and the threat of populism.

To do so, we need to strengthen the role of local governments, the institutions closest to citizens, making them active subjects. That is, direct recipients of EU funds. The European project needs the resolute support of those local and regional

institutions to shore up the credibility and trustworthiness of the EU in its citizens' eyes.

In 2020 the current programming period and Multiannual Financial Framework will come to an end. A new era will begin in which the EU must respond to the new challenges such as the demographic challenge in order to remain its status as a global power. Other regions have been focusing strongly on economic growth and development, research and innovation and technology. We Europeans have to move forward together, closer towards social and territorial cohesion, so what has not been working well has to be changed, as imbalances between countries and regions persist.

To do so, we will need to use new variables and other performance indicators that will provide us with a more accurate and realistic snapshot of the current situation. That is the only way to identify the real problems and be more efficient. We know that the problems are local. A cohesion policy which incorporates the Sustainable Development Agenda is a necessity. Among others, the development of individuals, economic growth, sustainability, and democratic and fair institutions must be given priority.

The "Soria spirit" has reasserted the link between citizens and the EU. In practice, this means greater cohesion and shared responsibility at every institutional level.

"Traveller, there is no path; the path is made by walking" (Antonio Machado)



EuroPCom2016 Belgium ©European Union / Drawnalism

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AFROFUTURISM

How to genuinely tackle the root causes of refugee movements.

Migration and refugee flows are an on-going preoccupation for the countries of the European Union. Regrettably, there is no willingness to display solidarity over burden-sharing. However, words come cheap, and there is no shortage of them, including predictable calls for the root causes to be tackled. By all means, but how? The recent exhibition in the German city of Dortmund – once a flourishing centre of heavy industry but nowadays more of a service centre – with the title “Afrotech and the Future of Re-Invention” provided an impressive answer. Twenty international art projects and twelve tech projects from 22 countries gave an insight into the current links between Afrofuturism and alternative technological developments. Artistic works with speculative narratives were intermingled with real inventions from the maker culture in Africa. The exhibition featured artists and projects from Angola, Australia, Benin, Britain, Cameroon, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Kenya, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda and the United States.

Unbiased visitors quickly established

that Africa is by no means short of innovation, but often lacks the money to make things widely available and to meet needs universally. One ‘raw material’ which is definitely not in short supply in Africa is sunshine, making it possible to exploit solar energy. A UN flagship project was the Ugandan-produced Kayoole solar bus for use in local public transport. The battery-powered bus has 35 seats and a range of 80 kilometres. The project which is now probably the best known is M-PESA in Kenya, which makes it possible to effect money transfers and cashless transactions using mobile phones. Shiriki Hub is a mobile solar kiosk that can be used in regions where there is no electricity to charge more than 30 mobile phones or other small devices at the same time. In Cameroon, Cardio Pad can be used to read cardiac data on a tablet and give advice on health, while GiftedMom assists pregnant women and young mothers for whom no medical care is otherwise available during pregnancy, child birth and the subsequent period. They are networked with a health service, which provides them with information and advice.

“Africa is a market that the West should be aware of”, says Jeff Maina, the creative director of BRCK”

Cheap food is provided for the poor in Nigeria with aid of the service Chow Berry, which was developed by a software engineer and which informs users what cheap products are available where. Supermarkets affiliated to it can avoid throwing

away surplus products.

A Kenyan company has invented Supa BRCK, an extremely robust battery-powered WLAN router, which can provide open internet access even in very rural areas, which is watertight and which can operate for up to ten hours without an external power supply. In South Africa, Robohand emerges from a 3D printer: its fingers can be controlled by moving the wrist. This list is not exhaustive. The inventions are tailor-made for Africa, but in many cases could also be put to use in Europe or elsewhere. Many operators cannot expand as they would wish, because too little funding is available and because donations are not a reliable source of it. The projects can counteract the high levels of unemployment, while affording access to education and healthcare, overcoming electricity shortages, improving mobility and doing many other things besides: all in all, they are improving living conditions, and in the process therefore also tackling some of the causes of refugee movements.

“Africa is a market that the West should be aware of”, says Jeff Maina, the creative director of BRCK. He is convinced that in future cooperation and partnerships will be of enormous importance. Accordingly, the aim of a ‘Start-up Night! Africa 2018’ in Berlin was to promote such cooperation worldwide. A revolution has begun inside people’s heads!

Karin Junker

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MALTA: CAPITAL OF CULTURE

This year Malta is the designated European city of culture and whilst all possible endeavours are being taken to rise to the expectations and truly maximize this platform, the economic and social progress that started back in 2013 has kept its trajectory. This was perfectly confirmed in the latest Winter 2018 Interim Economic Forecast, published by the European Commission, in its review about Malta's state of the economy: "Private consumption supported by favourable labour market conditions, improved consumer confidence and higher disposable income, is expected to be the main driver of GDP growth".

We are punching above our weight in Europe when it comes to economic growth, debt repayment and high levels of employment. International agencies believe the outlook is good, with Standard and Poor's (S&P) latest credit rating report confirms Malta's 'A-/A-2' long-term and short-term ratings and reaffirms the outlook of the Maltese economy as "positive".

We are seeing growth in many

sectors, from traditional ones, such as tourism and manufacturing, to financial services and the digital economy. The economy is creating new employment opportunities and the unemployment rate declined to 4 per cent in 2017. Reforms made by the government have improved participation rates, particularly amongst women.

"There cannot be economic development without social development at the same time."

Female work force participation rose from a staggering 37.7% in 2008 to a significant 54.4% in the second quarter of this year. The Maltese Government has recognised the social situation and hindering circumstances that affected specifically women in a bid to purposefully encourage women enter the labour force. Investing in our human capital is Malta's best edge to other markets. However, despite this reassuring state of the economy, Government is constantly on the look out to create new economic niches, attract further investment and continue to diversify the economy. The most recent initiatives in this respect are the law on the production of cannabis for medical use and the recently launched policy document which seeks to set up the Malta Digital Innovation Authority. This is being done alongside other legislation to provide legal certainty in the sphere of Blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies. Malta is expected to be one of the first countries to embrace these

emerging economic sector, just like it was the first on other pro-business initiatives, such as the family business act. Malta was the first country in the EU to pioneer legislation on family businesses, with the introduction of a legislation aimed to encourage the regulation of family businesses, their governance and the essential transfer. This legislation increases their chances of survival. It has been and will continue to be a game-changer not only for our local businesses, but for other European family businesses too, as they can choose to register their family business in Malta.

Malta has done also outstandingly well in the social field and has remarkably reached the milestone where it can truly be said that there cannot be economic development without social development at the same time. Malta's sound social programme was commended by the European Commission in its latest country report. The EC remarked how "poverty and social exclusion risks declined to levels last seen in 2008" whilst observing that "Malta almost halved severe material deprivation". The EC concluded that "Malta is addressing its social challenges and strengthening policies for active inclusion". The situation is extraordinary. The best is yet to come!

Claudette Abela Baldacchino

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Claudette Abela Baldacchino

YOU DON'T GET OUR HATE

During 2017, I was Lord Mayor of Manchester, one of Britain's greatest cities, located in the North West of England. Manchester has received many waves of immigration for over a hundred years and its people are made up of many different ethnic communities and of several faiths. In the British tradition the Lord Mayor does not have an Executive role, as Manchester City Council has an Executive Leader. The Lord Mayor is an elected City Councillor, chosen by colleagues, to be Lord Mayor for one year.

The Lord Mayor is the City's 'first citizen', performing ceremonial functions but also being Manchester's civic head. I was an elected Labour Councillor and, of course, I was an elected Labour MEP for 15 years and was a member of the Socialist Group. However, during your year of office, the Lord Mayor does not use the position in a party political manner, so as to represent all the people. In recent years Manchester Lord Mayors have picked a unifying theme: I chose 'Community Cohesion and Mutual Respect among and between

Manchester's diverse communities and individuals'.

"The Lord Mayor is an elected City Councillor, chosen by colleagues, to be Lord Mayor for one year.

The Lord Mayor is the City's 'first citizen', performing ceremonial functions but also being Manchester's civic head."

The Council elected me as Lord Mayor at its Annual Meeting on 17 May 2017. In my acceptance speech I spoke about my theme of Community Cohesion. Just five days later, at 10:31 pm on 22 May, Manchester was struck by a terrorist atrocity when a Daesh inspired suicide bomber targeted children, young people and their parents leaving a pop concert. 22 innocent people were killed, and dozens were seriously injured some in ways that will change their lives drastically. Following its immediate support in the hours after the attack, the Council arranged a magnificent peaceful Vigil which took place the following evening in front of Manchester Town Hall. It was attended by thousands of Manchester people of all faiths and none.

In opening the vigil I tried to set the tone and said:

"People of Manchester from all communities have come together at this vigil to condemn last night's atrocity, to remember the victims, so many of them children and young

people, and to express solidarity with the families.

We thank the emergency services.

The people of Manchester will remember the victims for ever.

We will defy the terrorists by all our diverse communities working together cohesively and with mutual respect."

These words were met with huge support from the crowd, and the three other speakers proclaimed similar messages. At the close of the vigil, people began chanting 'Manchester, Manchester' and the sense of defiance, solidarity and community was overwhelming.

In the days, weeks and months since, the people of Manchester have maintained our unity. I don't want to exaggerate, for there has been a rise in hate crime and some community tensions. These are being addressed. However, on the whole, the solidarity of the people has held steady.

In Manchester, we received many messages of solidarity and support from other cities in Europe including those also struck by terrorism. I had a poignant exchange of letters with the Mayor of Barcelona in the wake of the attack there.

As Lord Mayor, I have spent a lot of time at vigils, concerts, multi-faith gatherings in churches, mosques and other places of worship. I always praise the cohesive way in which our people and communities have responded, and that this makes me so proud to were the Lord Mayor of Manchester at this time..



Eddy Newman

Eddy Newman

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FOCUS



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

FOCUS

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: FEAR OR FAVOUR?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is attracting increasing attention amongst political representatives and citizens alike across the European Union. Therefore, the European Parliament's unit in charge of Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) is responding to this interest by organising events, publishing reports and commissioning studies to inform debate and action both at the Parliament and beyond.

In order to step up research efforts in the field of science journalism, STOA is launching the European Science-Media Hub (an authoritative centre for networking and education and a powerful tool for the dissemination of knowledge).

Notwithstanding, STOA's 2017 Annual Lecture examined the theme

'Media in the age of AI'. The focus was on how AI algorithms are being used to manage and distribute information... and disinformation. With the help of prominent experts in the field, the Members of the STOA Panel also considered how such algorithms could be harnessed to counter fake news and respond to them. Now, in order to step up research efforts in the field of science journalism, STOA is launching the European Science-Media Hub (an authoritative centre for networking and education and a powerful tool for the dissemination of knowledge). In March 2018, STOA launched two studies examining algorithms. The first one investigates the challenges associated with their design and technical aspects. Its aim is drafting policy options that could help the European Parliament improve the accountability and transparency of those algorithms that underpin many business models and platforms in the Digital Single Market, thus seeking to prevent biases. The second study is expected to design and propose a

What is STOA?

STOA was launched in September 1988. Following the EP adopted a report by then MEP Rolf LINKOHR "on the establishment of a European Parliament Office for Scientific and Technological Option Assessment".

It is composed of 25 Members of the European Parliament who are nominated by nine permanent Committees of the Parliament: AGRI, CULT, EMPL, ENVI, IMCO, ITRE, JURI, LIBE and TRAN.

The thematic priority areas are:

- Eco-efficient transport and modern energy solutions;
- Sustainable management of natural resources;
- Potential and challenges of the Internet;
- Health and new technologies in the life sciences;
- Science policy, communication and global networking.

governance framework which can verify and demonstrate compliance with key standards of legal fairness for automated decisions without revealing key attributes of the decision itself, or of the decision making process.

But STOA's record of studying present and future challenges is not new. Already last year, this unit held the workshop "Should we fear the future? Is it rational to be optimistic about artificial intelligence?", which gathered speakers on sociology, computer science and philosophy that contributed their perspectives on the future of AI to the parliamentary process.



STOA Annual report presentation. From left to right Evžen Tošenovský, Eva Kaili, Paul Rübig and Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso - 2 May 2018 ©European Union 2018

Coming from four different disciplinary backgrounds, the panellists provided a wide range of views. Peter J. Bentley, a computer scientist, argued that AI is good at specific tasks, but that it will never have the general intelligence required to pose significant threats to humanity. On the other hand, Miles Brundage, a policy researcher, highlighted that AI could have significant and varied impacts on our lives, and argued that we should think carefully about how we can shape its development to maximise the benefits while limiting potential problems.

Likewise, statistician Olle Häggström argued that the chances of significant negative impacts may be small and little understood, but their gravity demands that we take them seriously. He warned us against making fundamental mistakes while venturing into uncharted territory. Finally, philosopher Thomas Metzinger, reframed the debate from the dichotomy of pessimism versus optimism towards rational risk management. He presented several policy options and argued for international cooperation and

a global code of ethics, so that we can foster AI development in a responsible way.

“Miles Brundage, a policy researcher, highlighted that AI could have significant and varied impacts on our lives, and argued that we should think carefully about how we can shape its development to maximise the benefits while limiting potential problems”

Following this event, we invited the four speakers to further reflect on their position by producing a paper on the subject. All the documents received are currently being compiled into a collection that will soon become available to both policy-makers and the public. The dossier will offer readers an accessible introduction to current debates about AI, in particular regarding the contrast between perspectives from different disciplines. We also foresee the publication of an accessible review of the range of AI methods that are being used, their associated opportunities and challenges, and policy options. In the meantime, all our events remain available for reviewing on the STOA website. When people ask whether we should fear or favour artificial intelligence, STOA does not provide an immediate response, but fosters high-level analysis and commends an appropriate degree of informed debate at the European Parliament. With the help of the various independent, impartial and



easily accessible analysis that STOA produces for the Members tasked with legislating on this matter, now it is up to them -to us- to choose among the wide range of options available. The theme is truly complex, hence the policy solutions to the challenges it poses may not be straightforward. In any case, European citizens can rest assured that the decisions to be taken in the field of AI will not rely on simplistic dichotomies between fear or favour. Thanks to the work of STOA and to the Members' diligent compromise with facts, only fair, resilient and future-oriented policy goals will be pursued.

Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso
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ETHICS, AI AND SUPERCOMPUTING

Thanks to Moore's Law, artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming one of the most transformative forces of our times. Although AI has been with us for more than 60 years, it is only now, with the data deluge (the amount of data humanity produces every year doubles and it is predicted that, within the next decade, the Internet of Things [IoT] will be made up of 150 billion networked sensors) and the availability of incredible computing capacities, that AI is reaching its peak.

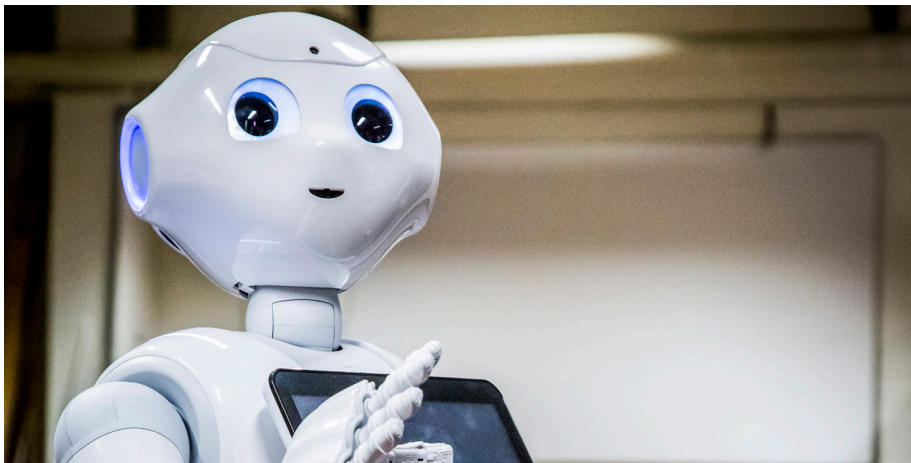
“Worldwide, there is an incipient debate about whether AI will transform our world for the better or for the worse [...]. In particular, there is a growing fear among European citizens about the possibly uncontrolled and unethical usage of AI in many aspects of daily life”

Its transformative powers affect



not only the scientific sphere but also the social, economic and military spheres: AI is now almost ubiquitous. Worldwide, there is an incipient debate about whether AI will transform our world for the better or for the worse (for example, it could lead to mass unemployment or be used to create autonomous weapons). In particular, there is a growing fear among European citizens about the possibly uncontrolled and unethical usage of AI in many aspects of daily life. Part of this fear is based on over-hyped speculation and the perception

that governments and companies (most often non-EU) are taking over our lives. Just think about the billions of searches done every day on the ensemble of Google services that provide Google with a sizable real-time data set from which to learn about us, characterizing in a unique way each person interacting with their free AI-based services. Such services become more effective through this massive continuous interaction with data and, apparently, more intelligent. The same applies to the corresponding kinds of services provided by Amazon, Alibaba, Apple, Facebook, Instagram, etc. The actual machine learning algorithms they are using cannot be examined. At this point, those pioneering companies are no longer alone and many others are joining in the effort to design AI-based solutions whose success will be built upon our (personal) data, compiled most of the time without our consent. Today, being able to interrogate an AI system about how it has reached its conclusions has to be a fundamental legal right. And we have to be aware that there are no perfect explanations and we



Brubotics lab at the VUB - Brussels © European Union 2017



need to be cautious.

“The interest in AI differs throughout the EU Member States, and it is clear that standardization is needed in order to avoid discrepancies and fragmentation of the EU’s internal market”

All these facts are helping to attract a genuine EU institutional interest in clearly understanding AI developments and impact within Europe. There has been a proposal to create an EU agency for robotics and artificial intelligence. The interest in AI differs throughout the EU Member States, and it is clear that standardization is needed in order to avoid discrepancies and fragmentation of the EU’s internal market. As a society, we need to take all these fears seriously, understand and explain the actual limitations of AI, and develop and enforce usage of appropriate guidelines that put humans first. We also need to avoid echoing those false prophets insisting

that AI will deliver paradise on earth for all humanity. Therefore, the EU is looking for expert advice to include the ethical, legal, social, economic and cultural (ELSEC) issues as a key and distinctive element of an AI European ecosystem that grows in accordance with the European point of view on those matters. The idea is to search for answers to questions such as: How can the boundaries of a system based on machine learning be quantified? Which procedures could be followed



Ulises Cortés

to standardize verification, validation and certification criteria and what kind of organization is needed to enforce them? How can one achieve fair AI whereby access and benefits are spread fairly and equally, privacy is respected and transparency is guaranteed?

“Europe needs to find ways to design and deploy AI in such a way that it benefits all EU citizens and all EU Member States”

The use of AI ought to protect, as much as possible, the distinctive multiculturalism and language diversity in Europe. Nevertheless, mastering and deploying AI is becoming a matter of future economic survival for the EU, particularly because China, the USA and Japan are investing heavily and have made undeniable progress in the economic exploitation of AI. Europe needs to find ways to design and deploy AI in such a way that it benefits all EU citizens and all EU Member States whilst remaining within the limits of a truly European ELSEC approach. In relation to the ELSEC issues, I believe that the EU needs to ensure that what it says is original, well articulated and heard in this time of profound and rapid change.

Ulises Cortés

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AI AND THE URGENCY OF NEW POLICIES

The recent death of the physicist Stephen Hawking reminds us of his warning that artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to destroy civilization and could be the worst thing that has ever happened to humankind.

"Computers can, in theory, emulate human intelligence, and exceed it," he said. "Success in creating effective AI, could be the biggest event in the history of our civilization. Or the worst. We just don't know. So, we cannot know if we will be infinitely helped by AI, or ignored by it and side-lined, or conceivably destroyed by it".

We are already experiencing the first uses of AI. It allows computers to perform complex specific tasks, e.g. scheduling planes and trains, analysing medical images, winning Chess and Go games against world champions. The list gets bigger every day.

Up to now we would observe highly specialized "AI competence" in narrow fields, but in a recent development AlphaZero, the

game-playing AI created by Google sibling DeepMind, has beaten the champion chess computer program after teaching itself to play in just four hours.

This type of intelligence is still rather limited, as it doesn't extend beyond the abstract calculations that an algorithm can achieve. But this scenario will change dramatically with the forthcoming arrival of Quantum computing and its capability of executing far more millions of instructions per second than any previous computer. We'll need methods for creating instructions and understanding the vast amount of data they will produce. AI is perfectly suited for this. Google states in its website: *"We are particularly interested in applying quantum computing to artificial intelligence and machine learning".*

AI, in combination with the autonomous interconnection of devices (Internet of Things), Robots and the interaction between Information Technologies and Synthetic Biology, will confront humanity with the biggest civilization transformation Homo Sapiens has ever faced.

Unfortunately, Asimov's famous 3 Laws of Robotics introduced in 1942, are neither enough, nor do they address the magnitude of issues at stake, which far exceed the scenarios of Science Fiction in the mid XX century.

As the political researcher Peter W. Singer wrote, "The bigger issue, though, when it comes to robots and ethics is not whether we can use something like Asimov's laws to make machines that are moral (which

may be an inherent contradiction, given that morality wraps together both intent and action, not mere computer programming).

Rather, we need to start wrestling with the ethics of the people behind the machines."

A revolutionized world requires the establishment of new rules, which in turn requires an understanding of the new technology.

The European Parliament has been debating these issues and its DG for Internal Policies published in 2016 a study to evaluate and analyse a number of future European civil law rules in robotics, from a legal and ethical perspective. The EP has also approved the Mady Delvaux report in February 2017 with recommendations on Civil Law Rules on Robotics (2015/2103(INL)). This positive drive needs to be pursued and to embrace a much wider agenda, focusing on the economic and social consequences of these ever faster and deeper changes, and also to debate the necessary adjustment policies, the safeguard of privacy, social inclusion and broad human rights, environmental and climate degradation, etc.



Carlos Pimenta
Portugal
ELDR, EPP (1987-1999)

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

Despite the latest fatal accidents involving vehicles in self-driving mode, it is clear that we are on the cusp of a mobility revolution. In the next decade, totally autonomous vehicles are expected to join the roads, increasing many people's freedom (the elderly, minors, those unable to drive) and freeing up urban public spaces (car parking places, as it should be possible to summon autonomous vehicles when needed). The EU institutions are alert to the need to establish regulations to provide for those circumstances, to make it possible to move safely towards autonomous mobility – for example, in April 2016, the Member States' transport ministers adopted the Declaration of Amsterdam on Cooperation in the field of connected and automated driving, and Parliament's resolution of 16 February 2017 with recommendations to the Commission on Civil Law Rules on Robotics sets out some recommendations on autonomous vehicles. What is more, some Member

States have already started to change their legislation in the area. In 2017, Germany adopted the Eighth Act Amending the Road Traffic Act to authorise the use of highly and fully automated (but not autonomous) vehicles on the road, providing, for example, that drivers may turn their attention away from traffic around them, but they must remain vigilant with regard to the systems. The problems with regulating include the possible revision of upper limits for liability and the protection of the data needed and resulting from automated driving.

“In the next decade, totally autonomous vehicles are expected to join the roads, increasing many people's freedom and freeing up urban public spaces”

The recent accidents show us, however, that it is not enough to develop and regulate those



Paulo Mota Pinto

vehicles; communication and transit infrastructure must also be regulated to guarantee the safety of automated driving.

“Driving consists of a set of risky decisions and therefore of ethical choices. It is impossible to transpose ex post judgments on human blame to ex ante system programming”

As some accidents are bound to happen even with automated driving (at least during a transition phase before the 'zero accidents' goal can be achieved), the ethical and legal questions that such accidents would prompt are some of the most important issues to be tackled. How should the vehicles be programmed? The questions are different with automated driving: what is important is the programming of the automated systems and not the ex post legal handling



The Digital Revolution on wheels - Electric vehicles ©European Union 2017

of liability for human decisions taken intuitively, in the space of a few seconds and under stressful conditions. For example, should the vehicle hit five people on the road or one pedestrian? Should it cross onto the other side of the road or hit something front on? Should it continue forwards and run someone over or brake suddenly, causing the certain death of the motorcyclist behind? Driving consists of a set of risky decisions and therefore of ethical choices. It is impossible to transpose ex post judgments on human blame to ex ante system programming. Some countries have appointed ethics committees to discuss these issues (for example, Germany, where the ethics committee appointed presented a report in 2017).

“I believe it is necessary to find a solution which does not depend on the preferences of each manufacturer, owner or driver [...]

with a view to making international movement of autonomous vehicles as free as possible”

I believe it is necessary to find a solution which does not depend on the preferences of each manufacturer, owner or driver. It should be based on collectively agreed rules, for example, the programming should be designed to claim as few victims as possible and the victims should not be identifiable ex ante (a rule which would benefit everyone), and material damage and animal injuries are preferable to personal injury, and material damage is preferable to animal injuries. When automated driving results in personal injury, the assessment of the severity of those injuries should be assessed collectively (without one human life every being preferred over another as a result of criteria such as age or even risky behaviour), preferably following a system which reduces ex ante risk, increasing the likelihood of injuries by their severity. In any case, the problem should also

Civil law rules on robotics

The Legal Affairs (JURI) Committee has tabled a report with recommendations to the Commission on the civil-law and ethical aspects of robotics. The report calls on the Commission to propose EU legislation defining a ‘smart robot’ as one which has autonomy through the use of sensors and/or interconnectivity with the environment, which has at least a minor physical support, which adapts its behaviour and actions to the environment and which cannot be defined as having ‘life’ in the biological sense. To set up an EU Agency for Robotics and laying down principles of civil liability for damages caused by robots. Such legislation should be complemented by ethical codes of conduct.

be discussed not only in the countries of the vehicle manufacturers, but also at EU level, with a view to making international movement of autonomous vehicles as free as possible and ensuring that importing countries are not reliant on the ‘ethical preferences’ of the manufacturing countries (as their culture differences in that area could come to the fore) and, above all, in order not to delay the introduction of automated driving technologies or the resulting likely decrease in accidents and victims.

Paulo Mota Pinto

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Mady Delvaux, MEP, Rapporteur of the Report with recommendations to the Commission on Civil Law Rules on Robotics. Plenary session January 2017 in Strasbourg ©European Union 2017

FMA ACTIVITIES



European Parliament Former Members Association
Association des anciens députés au Parlement européen



EP TO CAMPUS PROGRAMME

LECTURE AT UCLAN UNIVERSITY

Uclan – the University of Central Lancashire in Larnaca – provides a unique and innovative model of university education which is both Cypriot and British at the same time. There are close links with Europe through Jean Monnet modules and the Erasmus+ programme. Not surprisingly, many students and teachers are of international origin. It is quite possible that an island on the extreme geographical periphery of Europe may be the ideal place to conduct such an experiment, and I consider it a great success. There was an open atmosphere, with a willingness to engage in debate, and a high standard of innovative new approaches. Impressive!

On the first day, the main event was debates with students on the campus. Various lectures were given in the course of the day, all of them very well attended. The main subject was European social and employment policy, including Juncker's European Pillar of Social Rights initiative; Parliament's working methods and the possible consequences of Brexit were also mentioned. The students were committed and well prepared. On the second day in Nicosia, a

round table with national and international judges was the main event. It was opened by the President of Cyprus's Supreme Court. The European Court of Justice was represented by judge Anna Marcoulli. Here too, similar subjects were discussed: how can socioeconomic rights be promoted and protected in the current financial crisis? In the ensuing debate, the students called for the European Courts (in Luxembourg and Strasbourg) to protect citizens against the pressures imposed by the 'trio' and for a different political course. It was a lively debate, in which conflicting opinions were expressed. In addition to the official subjects on the programme, a topic repeatedly raised was relations between the EU and Turkey (and more specifically the naval blockade prompted by the gas dispute, which was taking place at that very time).

I took the opportunity to go for a short walk in the Turkish part of Nicosia. I had already once visited the city some 30 years ago, when the UN was everywhere and it was virtually impossible to visit the north. Since then, much has changed, but it seemed to me that distrust and



Panel of Speakers



©European Union

prejudice persist. This makes it all the more important for the EU to support projects such as Erasmus+.



Students of the University of Uclan during the lecture

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CO-OPERATION WITH THE EUI

2018 STATE OF THE UNION CONFERENCE

On 10-12 May the eighth State of the Union conference took place at the EUI.

The State of the Union is a high-level conference for reflection on the European Union. This year the main topic was "Solidarity in Europe", a topic of crucial importance to face the future of the EU.

Three heads of state were present: Sergio Mattarella, President of the Italian Republic; Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland; and Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Portuguese Republic, as well as distinguished academics, practitioners, and members of civil society.

Jean-Claude Juncker, Mario Draghi, Antonio Tajani and Federica Mogherini gave their view on the importance of 'Solidarity in Europe'. As President Tajani said, the last ten years of crisis have slowed down the virtuous solidarity process and the same pro-European momentum. The spirit of solidarity between countries that has been the real driver of the integration process is failing. Distracted politics feeds anger and sellers of illusions. According to President Tajani, the only answer to reconnect the Institutions to their citizens is a different Europe, more



Enrique Barón Crespo at the 2018 State of Union in Florence



From left to right: Enrique Barón Crespo, Renaud Dehousse- President of the European University Institute, Monica Baldi and Vincenzo Grassi - Secretary General of the European University Institute

political, more democratic, more solidary.

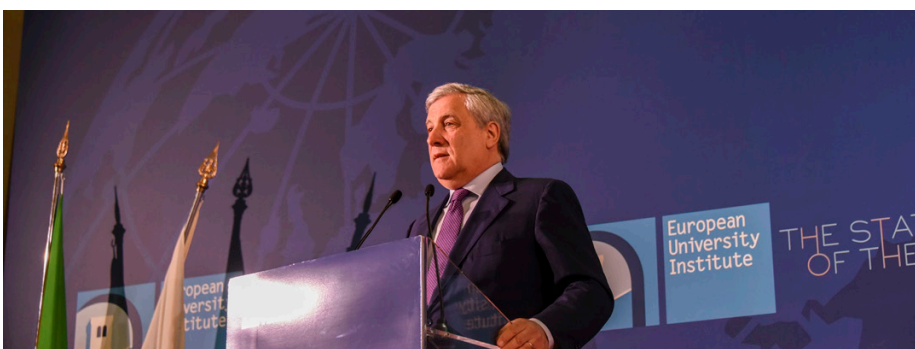
A Europe which is incapable of supporting solidarity is in danger of losing its own souls and its own values. He concluded his speech by saying that Europe's respect for culture and diversity should be at the

heart of its public discourse.

As President Higgins said "Solidarity in Europe must be the foundation on which our Union's action is built. It must be the star which guides our action at home and in the wider world."

The need for a more unified and solid Union has been exposed through a series of panels that followed the opening, ranging from EMU, development and humanitarian aid strategies, energy and climate change, social investment, immigration and EU foreign, security and defence policies.

The FMA was represented by Former President Enrique Barón Crespo and Monica Baldi, FMA Board member responsible for relations with the European University Institute.



Keynote Speech by Antonio Tajani, President of the European Parliament ©EUI

2018

PROGRAMME IN FLORENCE



Sir Graham Watson with the students during his intervention at the EUI

It was on a cold February morning that I made my way from the charming Florentine hotel into which the Historical Archives of the EU (HAEU) had booked me to the magnificent Villa Salviati, built on the remains of the 14th century Montegonzi Castle, famous for its cultivation of grape and jasmine. It passed through the hands of wealthy Italians, Brits, Swedes and Americans before being abandoned in the last century and bought in 2000 by the Italian government for the European University Institute. Today, restored to its former glory at the foot of a Cypress-lined path, it contains over 7km of shelving under an ornate English garden and alongside a vividly decorated grotto for the EU's archives, including those of Spinelli, de Gasperi and Spaak.

Here I was to address school students from the Liceo Artistico Alberti about my life as a MEP and to assist them in their project on the challenges facing Europe. Director Dieter Schlenker also kindly invited me to talk to a dozen researchers currently

attached to the HAEU about the papers I have deposited there from my twenty years in Parliament, covering particularly my time as LIBE Committee Chair (1999-2001) and Liberal Group Leader (2002-2009). And the impressively well organised archivist Mary Carr was very helpful in assisting me with research I am conducting into the life of Sir Russell Johnston, MEP from 1973-1979 and subsequently President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the

Council of Europe. The HAEU regularly invites schools in Florence to make use of its facilities and organises programmes in European awareness for their senior pupils. I am but one of the former MEPs fortunate enough to have participated and am pleased to commend the experience to others.

Sir Graham Watson

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(1994-2004)

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Sir Graham Watson



Sir Graham Watson with Monica Baldi, Dieter Schlenker and staff of the EUI

SOMETIMES THINGS JUST DON'T WORK OUT AS PLANNED

It was an exciting prospect: I was going to take part in the teaching project run by the EU Historical Archives in Florence. My contribution would be to participate in not one but two panel discussions with students and school pupils focusing on my practical experience of life as a Member of the European Parliament and on specially chosen topical issues, such as Brexit, migration, the re-emergence of nationalist movement in (almost) all parts of Europe and the future of European integration. And all that on the eve of the Italian elections. I was determined to do my best to make it clear that, against the background of the ever more pressing challenges of a globalised world, there is no alternative to a strong, united Europe which acts as a force for peace. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other ideas. During the night of 1 March a thick blanket of snow fell on Florence, bringing public life to a halt. All schools and universities were closed, and only a very few buses and trains were running. Both my panel discussions fell victim to the weather as well.

Happily, though, I was still able to visit the Historical Archives and see at first hand just how committed the

staff there are to their work. I must admit that previously I had not given that work much thought. It was all the more impressive, therefore, to be able to browse through old documents, to come 'face to face' with people who were present when European history was made and to read their accounts of those events. Some of what they wrote about has been forgotten; much of it, today, is taken for granted.

Keeping documents and assessing them in the light of their historical significance is a vital task of immeasurable value both for us and for future generations. Those documents bear witness to motivations, emotions and hopes; they embody memories of people who argued and suffered to shape a Europe with a future based on peace and mutual respect.

I would urge researchers, journalists and historians to visit.

My stay in Florence also offered me an ideal opportunity to share my memories and experiences of life as an MEP, as my contribution to the 'Oral History' project.

Working under the auspices of the European University Institute (EUI) and in cooperation with the Historical Archives and the

De Gasperi Research Centre, a small group of former EP officials, coordinated by Alfredo De Feo, wants to put together a collection of representative first-hand accounts which show how the history of the European Parliament can be portrayed in a more personal, more vivid and more comprehensive way. More than 100 former Members have already agreed to take part. If at all possible, the results are to be published in book form before the European elections in 2019, exactly 40 years after the first direct elections to the European Parliament.

I hope that the remaining hurdles can be overcome and that many former Members will share their memories, in the service of the project.

I am sure that the detailed appraisal of the successes achieved, and the shortcomings brought to light, which this project may trigger can make a significant contribution to the work of the EP. Strengthening the EP and making it more democratic is a long-held wish of the European family of peoples.

Even though in Florence I was denied the opportunity to hold a free and frank discussion with young people about the present and future of our shared European project, I can say this: we have every reason to work together to continue what our forefathers started more than 70 years ago, in keeping with the saying that only those who understand their past can face the present and the future with open hearts.

Gisela Kallenbach

Greens/EFA, Germany (2004-2009)
Gisela_Kallenbach@yahoo.com



Gisela Kallenbach during her visit to the EU Historical Archives in Florence

FORMER MEMBERS NETWORK

WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE PARIS

Changing of the guard at the helm of the FP-AP, the Pan-European Association of Former Members of national Parliaments of the member states of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament.

On 2 March 2018, in Paris, the General Assembly of the Association elected its new president for 2018-2020 – Rune Rydén (Swedish). In a pleasing south-north alternation, he succeeds Lino DeBono (Maltese), in office since 2016.

Rune Rydén is Member of the Swedish Delegation and was a Member of the Swedish Parliament from 1976 to 1998, a delegate to the UN in New York from 1994 to 1995 and a Board member of Sweden's Defence Research Agency from 1978 to 2000.

Professionally, he has been an authoritative member of the leadership of the Arctic University (2001-2015), Director of the Institute of Latin American Studies at Stockholm University (1999-2002) and Chair of the Association of Parliamentarians and Scientists (1988-1999).

The Assembly also elected the First Vice-President, Jean-Pierre Fourré, Member of the French Delegation. Voting unanimously, the Bureau elected further three Vice-Presidents: Jan-Kees Wiebenga (Dutch), Dario

Rivolta (Italian) and myself – at the proposal of our delegate, Andrea Manzella. This is the second time, since the Vice-Presidency of Karin Junker in 2012-2014, that the FMA has achieved such a prestigious post in the FP-AP.

The Assembly, however, expressed some disagreement with the 'Report on the Future of Europe', presented by Walter Schwimmer (Austrian and Former Secretary General of the Council of Europe). A number of associations (including the FMA), tabled eagerly amendments. We especially expressed some irritations caused by - in our mind - confusing information. In particular, a mixing up of the roles of the Council of Europe and the European Union caused the FMA to reiterate the need to maintain the historical distinction between the tasks of the Council (a continental platform which protects rights and democracy, especially through its 'offshoots' of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and the Venice Commission) and the tasks of the European Union (a genuine institution with governmental powers in relation to its Member States). Jan-Kees Wiebenga names the co-existence of both the institutions a "special relationship".

At the Bureau meeting in Brussels



Brigitte Langenhagen newly elected Vice-President of the FP-AP and Andrea Manzella former FMA Delegate to the FP-AP

on 25 May, we, the FMA, strongly stressed our view point. Lastly, two important cultural events concluded the FP-AP meetings in Paris, organised brilliantly by the French Association. All members were offered an extraordinary visit to the historic Hotel de Ville, with its impressive Council Chamber of the Municipality of Paris, the sumptuous series of salons and, above all, the vast library where a symbolic range of volumes, devoted to each of the participating countries, had kindly been prepared.

Subsequently, the ever-efficient FP-AP Secretariat offered the opportunity to attend one of the most important cultural events in Paris: the exhibition of over 200 masterpieces 'lent' by the MOMA in New York to the Vuitton Foundation, in the futuristic building by the architect Frank Gehry. This bore testament to the existence and continuation of an Atlantic cultural union between the USA and Europe, which is most certainly stronger than any temporary political difference of opinion and conducts.



Meeting with the First Deputy Mayor of Paris, Bruno Julliard, at the Paris town hall.

Brigitte Langenhagen
EPP-ED, Germany (1990-2004)
brigitte-langenhagen-cux@t-online.de

BACK TO THE FMA

My experience as a Member of the European Parliament (1994-1999) in the European Radical Alliance, chaired by Catherine LALUMIERE, and also as a city councillor, a working parent and a member of several associations gave me a growing sense that a constructive working community made up of people from all kinds of background is not beyond reach if it is driven by a shared vision and shared values.

At the European Parliament, MEPs are able to listen to one another, exchange views and even conflict without ceasing to respect each other – regardless of their nationality, their political group or their gender. This spirit was absent, sadly, from the classic national political systems, both on the right and on the left, where people tended to base their view on the political origin of ideas and not their pertinence.

This is why, at the end of my mandate as an MEP, although I never gave up my ideas or my civic commitment, I decided to move away from the party politician game. Though I am a lawyer by training, my personal journey took me down the path of activism, and I directed

my efforts towards sustainable development in advisory roles, as the chair of an association and by taking up a university course in food sociology.

“At the European Parliament, MEPs are able to listen to one another, exchange views and even conflict without ceasing to respect each other – regardless of their nationality, their political group or their gender”

However, the increasingly alarming international context, religious fundamentalism and terrorism, calls to extremism, introspection and nationalism, and Euroscepticism – even in France, the Republic of the Enlightenment and the European ideal – issued an unignorable challenge to the woman of action I had never ceased to be.

For that reason, I did not hesitate to subscribe to Emmanuel Macron’s ‘La République En Marche’ movement and the philosophy underlying the visionary nature of its action.

Its unique position and the coherence and realism behind its programme – moving beyond the old ways and old divisions, without compromising on its values – were a beacon of hope to me.

Above all, our President of the Republic is committed to the European Union – a Union which has made it possible for us to turn our backs on war, which upholds human rights and which promotes both the single market and social justice; a united and democratic Europe which

must be strengthened in the face of the new global challenges – climate change, terrorism, immigration and the digital transition, etc.

At a time when obscurantism is sweeping across Europe, we need to keep a clear head and remain ambitious.

With all that in mind, I decided to come back to the FMA, which – forgive me – I used to see as an assembly of retirees bound together by a shared sense of nostalgia...

While in fact I have found it to be a dynamic group full of rich exchanges – a perfect model for Europe!

On the more prosaic side, I was delighted to find not only old French colleagues, but also former colleagues of different nationalities and political movements, such as Astrid Lulling and Monica Baldi, with whom I had shared great many (peaceful) debates...

I would like to take the opportunity to express, once more, my admiration for the Former President, Enrique Barón Crespo, whose personality and commitment to Europe were central to the Association’s activities and debates over the past four years. I would also like to thank the secretariat team for somehow always being there when you need them most, under the excellent leadership of Ms Elisabeth Fonck.

I have no doubt that our “council of elders” has a vital role to play in stepping-up the shared sense of belonging to the European Union. I would humbly like to play a role in these efforts.

Christine Mayer
ERA, France (1994-1999)
c.mayer@wanadoo.fr



Christine Mayer ©European Parliament

PHOTO REPORT



From left to right: Stephen Clark, Anthony Teasdale, Enrique Barón Crespo, Danuta Hübner and Cliff Stearns ©European Union 2018



A moment of the Memorial Service ©European Union 2018



Roberto Gualtieri during his speech entitled "The European Parliament after Lisbon: achievements, failures and future challenges" at the FMA Annual Dinner ©European Union

The FMA Spring events took place on 2-3 May and were chaired by the then FMA President, Enrique Barón Crespo. We started by an information seminar on "Political communication in the upcoming European elections" jointly organised with the EPRS. Our traditional Memorial Service to commemorate deceased former MEPs was a dignified and solemn ceremony in the presence of VP Rainer Wieland, former EP and FMA President Hans-Gert Pöttering, current and former MEPs, 13 members of the families of deceased members and other guests. This year, Roberto Gualtieri, MEP, Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, was the keynote speaker at our dinner debate engaging in a lively and interactive dialogue with the audience. These two intense days of work were concluded with our Annual General Assembly and the Annual Lunch.



FMA members at the Annual General Assembly meeting ©European Union



Elisabetta Fonck, Jan-Willem Bertens, Enrique Barón Crespo and Lord Richard Balfé during the AGA



LATEST NEWS

ACTIVITIES



October 2018

STUDY VISIT TO IVORY COAST

Details will be communicated at a later stage by email.

28-30 October 2018

VISIT TO AUSTRIA

Details will be communicated at a later stage by email.

28 November 2018

FMA ANNUAL COCKTAIL AND DINNER

From 6.30 p.m. in the Member's Restaurant, European Parliament, Brussels

29 November 2018

FMA ANNUAL SEMINAR

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will be followed by the FMA Get-together lunch in the Members' Restaurant, European Parliament, Brussels.

VISIT OF THE AUSTRIAN DELEGATION OF FORMER MPs

On behalf of the FMA, Jan-Willem Bertens had the pleasure to welcome a Delegation of former Austrian MPs, on 13 April 2018. The delegation had the opportunity to visit the European Institutions, including the Parliament, the Commission, the Council, as well as the Committee of the Regions, having several exchanges with MEPs on relevant topics such as immigration.

The FMA Delegation will have the pleasure to be welcomed by the Austrian authorities and by the Austrian Association of former MPs on the occasion of its visit to Austria under the European Presidency in October.



NEW MEMBERS



**Luigi
BERLINGUER**
(Italy, 2009-2014,
EPP)

Luigi Berlinguer was member of the European Parliament from 2009 until 2014. Through his time in the European Parliament he served as Vice-Chair in the committee on Legal Affairs, and as member in the Delegation for relations with India.



Jean BESSE
(France,
1984-1989, S&D)

Jean Besse was member of the European Parliament from 1984 until 1989. Through his time in the European Parliament he served as member in the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy and the delegation for relations with Japan and delegation to the EEC-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee.

NEW MEMBERS



Fabrizio BERTOT
(Italy, 2013-2014,
EPP-ED)

Fabrizio Bertot was member of the European Parliament from 2013 until 2014. Through his time in the European Parliament, he served as member in the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and in the Delegation for relations with India.



Simon BUSUTTIL
(Malta, 2004-
2013, EPP-ED)

Simon Busuttill was member of the European Parliament from 2004 until 2013. Through his time in the European Parliament, he served as Vice-Chair in the Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries and the Arab Maghreb Union (including Libya), and as member in the Committee on Budgets, in the Committee on Budgetary Control, in the Committee on Petitions, in the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, in the Special Committee on Organised Crime, Corruption and Money Laundering, in the Delegation to the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly and in the Delegation for relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo.



Joseph DAUL
(France, 1999-2014,
EPP-ED)

Joseph Daul was member of the European Parliament from 1999 until 2014. Through his time in the European Parliament, he served as chair and Vice-Chair in the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and as Chair in the Conference of Committee Chairs, as member in the Committee on Fisheries and in the Delegation for relations with Canada, in the Delegation to the EU-Latvia Joint Parliamentary Committee and in the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.



**Jean-Paul
DENANOT**
(France, 2008-2014,
S&D)

Jean-Paul Denanot was member of the European Parliament from 2008 until 2018. Through his time in the European Parliament, he served as member in the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, in the Committee on Budgets, in the Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan, EU-Kyrgyzstan and EU-Uzbekistan and in the Delegation to the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee.

NEW MEMBERS



Catherine GRÈZE
(France, 2009-2014,
Greens/EFA)

Catherine Grèze was member of the European Parliament from 2009 until 2014. Through her time in the European Parliament, she served as member in the Committee on Development, in the Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly and in the Delegation for relations with the Mercosur countries.



Michel RAYMOND
(France, 1999-2004,
EDD)

Michel Raymond was member of the European Parliament from 1999 until 2004. Through his time in the European Parliament, he served as member in the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, in the Committee on Budgets, in the Delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia and the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and in the Delegation to the EU-Estonia Joint Parliamentary Committee.



Jordi SEBASTIÀ
(Spain, 2014-2016,
Greens/EFA)

Jordi Sebastià was member of the European Parliament from 2014 until 2016. Through his time in the European Parliament, he served as member in the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, in the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, in the Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean and in the Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries and the Arab Maghreb Union.



Jutta STEINRUCK
(Germany, 2009-
2017, S&D)

Jutta Steinruck was member of the European Parliament from 2009 until 2017. Through her time in the European Parliament, she served as member in the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, in the Delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula and in the Delegation to the EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee.

FMA ELECTIONS

RESULTS OF THE VOTES

Please find below the detailed results of the votes which took place at the Annual General Assembly of the Association on 3 May 2018:

1) The election for five members of the FMA Management Committee

We would like to inform you that yesterday Former President of the European Parliament Hans-Gert PÖTTERING was elected as new President of the European Parliament Former Members' Association (FMA). He succeeded Enrique Barón Crespo who held this position for the last four years.

The following members were elected in the order below and will now serve on the Management Committee for a period of two years until the Annual General Assembly meeting of 2020:

1. Hans-Gert PÖTTERING
2. Brigitte LANGENHAGEN
3. Edward McMILLAN-SCOTT
4. Jean-Pierre AUDY
5. Manuel PORTO



New composition of the FMA Board - Back row from left to right: Jean-Pierre AUDY, Manuel PORTO, Lord Richard BALFE, [Elisabetta FONCK -Secretary General], Brigitte LANGENHAGEN, Edvard KOŽUŠNÍK and Monica BALDI.

Front row from left to right: Jan-Willem BERTENS - Vice-President-, Hans-Gert PÖTTERING- President-, Teresa RIERA MADURELL- Honorary Secretary, Edward McMILLAN-SCOTT -Treasurer .

2) The vote on the Annual Report and Accounts:

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
To approve the Annual Report and Accounts	173	1	4

Thank you to all those who took part in these elections.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Hans-Gert
PÖTTERING



Jan-Willem BERTENS



Teresa
RIERA MADURELL



Edward
McMILLAN-SCOTT



Jean-Pierre AUDY



Monica BALDI



Lord Richard BALFE



Edvard KOŽUŠNÍK



Brigitte
LANGENHAGEN



Manuel PORTO

NEW FMA BUREAU

President: Hans-Gert PÖTTERING

Vice-President: Jan-Willem BERTENS

Secretary: Teresa RIERA MADURELL

Treasurer: Edward McMILLAN-SCOTT

LIST OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- FMA Bulletin Editorial Board: Mr Audy, Ms Langenhagen, Mr McMillan-Scott, Mr Porto, Ms Riera Madurell.
- Speakers Bureau: Ms Baldi
- EP to Campus: Lord Balfe
- Relation with the European University Institute: Ms Baldi
- Relations with Budgets Committee, DG Finance: Mr Kožušník
- Dinner Debate: Ms Baldi, Mr Bertens, Mr Porto
- Delegates to the Bureau of the European Association of Former Members: Mr Audy and Ms Langenhagen (*FP-AP Vice-President*). If necessary, Mr Audy will be substituted by Mr Bertens and Ms Langenhagen will be substituted by Lord Balfe.
- Delegates to the Annual General Assembly, seminars and colloquies of the FP-AP: Mr Audy, Ms Langenhagen and

Mr Bertens (or Mr Kožušník if Mr Bertens is not available). Besides the FMA delegates or their substitutes and in agreement with the FP-AP, other FMA Committee Members may participate in the annual seminars or colloquies at their own expense

- Relations with Former Members Associations outside Europe: Lord Balfe
- Relations with Think Tanks, Policy Institutes, Foundations: Ms Langenhagen and Ms Riera Madurell and Mr Kožušník.
- Archives: Mr Porto
- FMA Communication: Ms Baldi and Mr Kožušník.
- Working Group on Democracy Support and Election Observation: Mr Bertens, Mr Kožušník, Ms Langenhagen (*Chair*), Mr McMillan-Scott and Ms De Keyser (*FMA member with advisory role*).

IN MEMORIAM

† 23 September 2017
Emmanouil BAKOPOULOS
GUE/NGL (1999-2004)

He served as a Greek member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2004. During his time in Parliament, Mr Bakopoulos was member of Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left.

At the national level, he represented Dimokratiko Kinoniko Kinima.



† 4 February 2018
Séamus PATTISON
SOC (1981-1983)

He served as an Irish member of the European Parliament from 1981 to 1983. During his time in Parliament, Mr Pattison was a Member of the Socialist Group.

At the national level, he represented Labour Party.



† 9 February 2018
Carlos ROBLES-PIQUER
EPP-ED (1986-1999)

He served as a Spanish member of the European Parliament from 1986 to 1999. During his time in Parliament, Mr Robles Piquer was Vice-Chair and Member of the Bureau of Group of the European People's Party (Christian-Democratic Group) and Member of European Democratic Group. At the national level, he represented Coalición Popular, Alianza Popular (AP) and Partido Popular.



† 2 March 2018
Carlo RIPA DI MEANA
SOC, Green/EFA, GUE/NGL (1979-1999)

He served as an Italian member of the European Parliament from 1979 to 1999. During his time in Parliament, Mr Ripa Di Meana was a Member of Socialist Group, the Green Group in the European Parliament, Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left. At the national level, he represented Partito socialista italiano, Federazione dei Verdi, Sinistra Verde.



† 12 March 2018

Jens NILSSON
S&D (2011-2014)

He served as a Swedish member of the European Parliament from 2011 to 2018. During his time in Parliament, Mr Nilsson was Member of Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament.

At the national level, he represented Arbetarepartiet- Socialdemokraterna.



† 31 March 2018

Gerardo GAIBISSO
EPP (1984-1994)

He served as an Italian member of the European Parliament from 1984 to 1994. During his time in Parliament, Mr Gaibisso was Member of the Bureau and Member of Group of the European People's Party (Christian-Democratic Group).

At the national level, he represented Democrazia cristiana.



† 3 April 2018

Eolo PARODI
UFE, FE, EPP (1984-1999)

He served as an Italian member of the European Parliament from 1984 to 1999. During his time in Parliament, Mr Parodi was Vice-Chair and member of Group Union for Europe, Vice-Chair of Forza Europa Group and Member of Group of the European People's Party (Christian-Democratic Group). At the national level, he represented Democrazia cristiana and Forza Italia.



† 15 April 2018

Stefano ZAPPALÀ
EPP-ED (1999-2009)

He served as an Italian member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2009. During his time in Parliament, Mr Zappalà was Member of Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats.

At the national level, he represented Forza Italia.



† 23 April 2018
 Seán TREACY
 SOC (1981-1984)

He served as a Irish member of the European Parliament from 1981 to 1984. During his time in Parliament, Mr Treacy was Member of the Socialists Group. At the national level, he represented Labour Party.



† 17 May 2018
 Nicole FONTAINE
 EPP (1984-2009)

We grew to love Nicole Fontaine over the years, over her long career, in the course of which her duties and responsibilities took her from western France, where she was born, to Strasbourg in the east, from Brussels in the north to the Côte d'Azur in the south. It was said that she had the largest constituency of any MEP.

For all of us, she was the embodiment of fides, that Roman and federal virtue which encompasses faith, trust and loyalty.

Nicole Fontaine took comfort in her faith – a faith which had been bestowed on her and which she willingly accepted. It was that faith that spurred her on in her commitment to education, and to Catholic education. Her tireless efforts showed us how strong-willed she was, but her innate humanity shone through at every turn.

She harnessed the strength that her faith gave her, and her unwavering trust in human nature, and put them to work in the service of Europe.

She inspired trust, and others placed their trust in her in many different circumstances at the European Parliament. She told us that this was the most unforgettable part of her career in public life. She learned a lot from her friendship with Simone Veil. Within the European family, she was known for the support she showed other women.

We will never forget how she presided over the European Parliament with a firm hand and a smile.

We owe her a huge debt of gratitude, for her fighting spirit, for her service to Europe, and also for the pride she took in carrying out her duties as President.

As a minister in France, she displayed the integrity that inspires both respect and admiration, and her vision for the future could be seen in every line of the Digital Economy Act. I remember her for her courage, which found expression in the sense of duty for which President Chirac publicly praised her on a number of occasions.

Kindness is rare in top-level politics, where tensions often run high. Nicole Fontaine's calm manner, her decency and her kindness won her friends across national borders and political divides, and those friendships will outlive her.

Jean Pierre Raffarin

France

ELDR, EPP, (1989-1995)

