

# EPFMA BULLETIN



European Parliament Former Members Association

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Europe of Creativity

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Sofia Gandarias and Simone Veil

In the strong portrait cover (1993), the Spanish painter, Sofia Gandarias, a very good friend of the first female President of the European Parliament, wants to express in Simone Veil the 'dignity of Europe'. More precisely, 'the revolt against violence, totalitarianism, racism, against inhumanity became banal' as Ms Veil said in her memorable words.

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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 Due to the long time lag between the call for contribution and the publication, some articles may be outdated. The FMA Bulletin is published by the European Parliament Former Members Association (FMA) with the assistance of the European Parliament. However, the views expressed in articles represent the views of contributing FMA members or guest writers and do not necessarily represent the views of either the European Parliament nor the FMA. Similarly, any advertisement does not imply an official endorsement by the FMA or Parliament.

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# Message from the PRESIDENT

Dear colleagues,

In the past couple of months we have suffered the loss of two great Europeans, Helmut Kohl and Simone Veil, whose example will continue to inspire us and to inspire future generations in defending European values. Nicole Fontaine will pay tribute to their memory in this bulletin.

The best way of honouring the memory of these two exemplary figures is to continue to disseminate European ideals, and so this issue is devoted to the Europe of Creativity, one of the basic pillars of progress. As Edward de Bono<sup>1</sup> once said, 'There is no doubt that creativity is the most important human resource of all. Without creativity, there would be no progress, and we would be forever repeating the same patterns'. The experts we have consulted stress in their contributions that creativity is the key to progress and the key to forging a more united and stronger European Union. In the 'Focus' section you will find a selection of articles addressing creativity, research and the programmes the EU is implementing to promote these areas.

In the 'Current Affairs' section you will find articles on fascinating topics contributed by our former colleagues. I should like to take this opportunity to thank our colleagues who collaborate on this bulletin, thus ensuring that our association provides a forum for ideas and exchanges, and I should like to encourage all those who have not

yet participated to join in our work. You can also find a section devoted to current and future FMA activities.

- The 'EP to Campus' programme, for which Lord Richard Balfe is responsible, continues to be a success. This exchange, where universities can benefit from the experience and expertise of former Members of the European Parliament, is one of our most high-profile programmes. The feedback received from participating students, universities and colleges is always positive. Students can benefit from constructive dialogues and exchanges of opinions which enable them to form their own ideas on European topics.

- Another of our star programmes, led by Monica Baldi, is our cooperation with the European University Institute in Florence. The programme involving secondary school pupils was very much appreciated by the colleagues who took part. It is important for European children to learn how the European institutions work, since the future belongs to them.

With a view to continuing to foster our links with other associations, our colleagues who represent us at the 'European Association of former Members of Parliament of the Member States of the Council of Europe', Andrea Manzella and Brigitte Langenhagen, took part in the Dublin meeting on 8 and 9 June. You will find Brigitte Langenhagen's report on the meeting in this issue. On 19 and 20 June I had the honour of representing our association at the events held to mark the 40th anniversary of the German association of former European and

national members of parliament. It was an emotional meeting at which we paid tribute to the memory of Helmut Kohl, one of the three figures (Jacques Delors, Jean Monnet and Helmut Kohl) recognised as an 'honorary European citizen'. You can find a report on the event in this bulletin.

As you know, this year's study visit will take place in Washington from 24 to 28 September. A report on our visit will be published in the December Bulletin along with the report on our visit to Estonia, the country holding the EU Presidency in the second half of the year. That visit will take place from 6 to 7 November. Registrations are open. Finally, I should like to inform you that our annual events will be held on 29 and 30 November 2017 in Brussels. As usual, we will have high-level speakers at our seminar entitled 'EU global strategy on security and defence' and at the dinner that will follow. You will receive the registration form and more information on the events in the coming days.

I hope to see you in Washington, Tallinn and Brussels.

Best wishes,

Enrique BARÓN CRESPO  
FMA President

<sup>1</sup> Edward de Bono (1933) is a Maltese physician, psychologist, author, inventor and consultant psychologist.



# Letters to the PRESIDENT

“ While grateful for June’s focus on Social Europe I find few grounds for optimism – social policy has always tended to take second place. Back in the early 1990’s, we invited President Delors to the Employment Committee to – we hoped - admonish the then Commissioner for Social Policy, Anna Diamantopoulou, for a lack of progress on social Europe. We thought she was dragging her feet. Instead he admonished us, telling us to grow up and focus on completing the 1992 internal market process. Social progress would follow, he promised. Economic and internal market considerations trumped those of a social nature. Following 1992 we did see progress in the social sphere with legislation on health and safety, atypical work, equality, anti discrimination and worker information and consultation. But with the approach of enlargement, and then its completion, social proposals became a trickle and then, with the financial crisis, the tap was turned off. Austerity, public sector cut-backs and wage restraint became the dominant themes and any pretense

of tackling exploitative or unfair working practices remained no more than words. During 2010 I left a meeting in my region where I had spent an hour trying to persuade normally supportive trade unionists of the continuing benefits of EU membership but one of them said to me ‘You know Steve, for a long time Europe was seen as part of the solution, now it’s seen as part of the problem’. That really stayed with me. I often relayed that message to President Barroso during the regular meetings he held with leaders of the political groups. But he failed to act - I suspect because of the perceived impossibility of getting anything remotely progressive through the College of the Commission or, even worse, through Council. There seems little prospect of change. The proposed Social Pillar recycles the sort of rhetoric I have become tired of reading over the last decade and a half. In fact, it seems to take us back a step. For example, in principle 5, it talks of ‘the necessary flexibility for employers to adapt swiftly to changes in the economic context’. Two paragraphs later it states ‘Employment relationships

that lead to precarious working conditions shall be prevented’. These two ideas were not separated at all in the work we did with Commission and Council in the lead up to the adoption of the Employment Guidelines in the late 1990’s – they were inextricably bound together when we recognised that the flexibility businesses needed to be able to quickly adapt, needed to be balanced with the necessary degree of security for workers coping with change. This accord led to the directives on part-time, fixed contract and temporary agency work. Glaring problems remain to be dealt with. Almost a decade after I challenged President Barroso at his socialist group confirmation hearing to give workers posted from one member state to another the same pay and terms and conditions as the workers working along side them, exploitation and unfairness continues on a huge scale. Meanwhile, zero hour contracts continue to trap growing numbers of EU workers in poverty and insecurity. These and others I could name are the practical, down to earth problems that Europe needs to solve.

These specific examples illustrate a bigger problem. Unless working people are taken along with the project they will be alienated from it. If President Barroso had been able to persuade his peers in Commission and Council of this, Brexit might never have happened.

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March for Europe 2017 ©European Union

# EP AT WORK

## KEY FACTS

**Plans for new compulsory greenhouse gas cuts under the Paris agreement were backed by MEPs, following a debate on the announced U.S. withdrawal. (June Session - P8\_TA-PROV(2017)0085)**

These cuts will help deliver on the EU's overall target for 2030 on all policies - a 40% cut from 1990 levels.

**MEPs gave their consent to the working priorities for 2018-2022 of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (June Session - P8\_TA-PROV(2017)0129)**

Priorities include asylum for and integration of refugees and migrants, fighting racism and xenophobia, protecting personal data and Roma inclusion.

**Further trade concessions to Ukraine (July Session - P8\_TA-PROV(2017)0102)**

MEPs approved most of the proposed new trade concessions, but reduced the volume of the additional

quota for certain agricultural products and insisted that the fight against corruption become a condition for granting Kiev preferential exports.

**MEPs called on the industry to come up with products that are easier to repair and to ensure nothing is made with built-in weaknesses. (July Session - P8\_TA-PROV(2017)0216)**

MEPs adopted a report calling for concrete measures to tackle this waste of money, energy and resources.

**MEPs adopted two resolutions on digitising European industry and on Internet connectivity for growth, competitiveness and cohesion. (June Session - P8\_TC1-COD(2016)0031) (P8\_TC1-COD(2016)0031)**

Digitising European industry requires safeguards against a divided society and more legal certainty, whilst an EU spectrum strategy should boost 5G technology.

Other main dossiers discussed in the plenary sessions were:

### June 2017

- The EU's new **overarching development policy**, aiming to tackle climate change, migration and security problems was backed by MEPs. (01.06.17)
- MEPs gave the green light for a simplified tool enabling customers to choose products **reducing energy consumption** and their energy bills. (13.06.17)
- MEPs called for an adequate budget, synergies between funds and simplification to improve **EU's post-2020 cohesion policy** aimed at reducing regional disparities. (13.06.17)
- MEPs strongly condemn all **human rights violations in the Democratic Republic of Congo** and call for an independent

investigation on the violence in the Kasai region. (14.06.17)

- MEPs mark 2016 progress in the **Western Balkans**: Belgrade and Pristina must make more effort to come together and to get closer to the EU, while Skopje should commit to robust European reforms, MEPs say. (14.06.17)

### July 2017

- **Multinational companies** should publicly disclose their tax situation in every EU country, said MEPs. Information should include net turnover, profits and tax paid. (04.07.17).
- The Parliament called on EU countries to use **€6.4 billion left over from last year's EU budget** to finance refugee

relief measures. (04.07.17)

- MEPs voted in favour of the **first-ever EU-Cuba deal**, although MEPs expressed their opposition to any laws or measure that could harm the Cuban population. (05.07.17)
- MEPs approved setting up a **special committee for counter-terrorism** which will operate for a year, examining and evaluating the extent of the terrorist threat in Europe. (06.07.17)
- **Accession talks with Turkey** should be suspended if the government proceeds to reform the country's constitution, said MEPs in a resolution. (06.07.17)

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

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## EUROPEAN CHALLENGES IN SECURITY AND DEFENSE

Europe as well as the rest of the world is today met by challenges to be rapidly solved. Discussions during high level or less high level meetings are not enough. Declarations without implementation will not solve the problems of European security and defense.

During the G-20 meeting in July, some positive signs could be seen. The one-to-one meeting by the presidents of US and Russia was reported to have been good, with promising proposals to end the war in Syria. They were able to talk about serious issues like the North Korea and free Trade, the importance of the Paris treaty, and about hybrid war interfering in national elections. Visiting Poland President Trump finally stated that US is bound to respect the Article 5 of Nato, which of course has a special importance for the Baltic States – and indirectly the non allied states of Sweden and Finland in the close neighbourhood. This comes at a time when the airspace of the Finnish Gulf and the Baltic Sea have turned to some kind of airbound Formula 1 race, where close situations and risks are taken nearly every day by different players. A war between Russia and NATO

cannot be won, and must never be fought. But there is the risk for unmanaged and unregulated deterrence relationship escalating to something nobody wants to happen. The Nordics have together reacted. On both political and military level there is a more security cooperation than before.

**‘How extremely sad it is that a rule of the guns has been so dominant in the world, when the only lasting solution is the rule of the law.’**

Especially Sweden and Finland as non allied states have intensified the military cooperation, up to the line of a Treaty – not passed so far. Unlike EU’s cooperation on economic or agricultural affairs, there is no sovereignty delegation on peace and security issues, making EU’s efforts in this regard purely intergovernmental. The security decisions are still quite scattered. The proposal by Defence ministers last year to go for smaller like-minded groups for security, also establishing more general organisations like standby force, has initiated the UK-

led Joint Expeditionary Force formed by 9 countries from Northern Europe, with specially trained national troops ready for rapid action when needed. An earlier Nordic Battle Group formed by almost the same nations was trained and ready, but met the hesitation of decision makers and was never asked to act although needed. Political cowards? Though, how extremely sad it is that a rule of the guns has been so dominant in the world, when the only lasting solution is the rule of the law.

There is a tendency today to rather divide people than to unite them. The growing scale of hate rethoric has poisoned also the ‘good people’, and the acceptance of a fortress Europe is sadly widespread.

Therefore the Hamburg meeting for G20 was a clear victory for Chancellor Angela Merkel, who once again showed who is the real leader of Europe today.

Of course, they had to partly water out the declaration, but the unified view on free trade, the question of North Korea, hybrid war, truth and alternative truth, cyber-attacks, much more was dealt with. Now we have to watch the implementation.

And the best of all: 19 members declared they want to guarantee our common future by standing strong for the Paris decision about Climate change. Only one left himself outside, the president of the United States. A pity, and sad for the American people.

**Elisabeth Rehn**

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G20 Summit in Germany ©European Union



## 'COMPACT WITH AFRICA'

Germany hosted the 2017 G20 Summit. Ahead of the meeting, Chancellor Merkel had already sent out invitations to take part in a G20 Women's Summit attended by, amongst others, Queen Maxima of the Netherlands, IMF chief Christine Lagarde, a Kenyan high-tech entrepreneur and 'First Daughter' Ivanka Trump. The celebrity quotient was important in raising the public profile of the summit, and it is also pretty handy when it comes to fundraising: participants considered a proposal to start a fund to help women secure leadership positions or set up as entrepreneurs, in order to give them a proper role in the world economy. A good start has been made, financially too. Now it is a matter of putting the good ideas into practice. The German initiative 'Compact with Africa', which is designed to make Africa more attractive for investors, was central to the subsequent G20 Summit. The G20 partners, the World Bank, the IMF and the African Development Bank are to provide funds, experts and technical expertise to help improve the infrastructure and ultimately create jobs in Africa, so that young African men will no longer set off on the dangerous, illegal

journey to Europe.

The G20 pact requires the African partners to show that they are genuinely prepared to implement reforms, for example in the areas of political stability, legal certainty and the fight against corruption. Only on that basis can they hope for greater willingness to invest.

**'The G20 partners, are to provide funds, experts and technical expertise to help improve the infrastructure and ultimately create jobs in Africa, so that young African men will no longer set off on the dangerous, illegal journey to Europe.'**

Morocco has signed up to this pact and it will be interesting to see what results this brings. In that connection, it is worth mentioning that the African Union (AU) has accepted Morocco as a member despite the ongoing problem of the Western Sahara. This development has prompted renewed feelings of resignation in the European Parliament. Things were very different when Barbara Simons was a Member of the European Parliament, from 1984 to 1994. She chaired an intergroup which worked actively to secure the independence of the former Spanish colony and there were great hopes for the referendum ordered by the UN, which has still not taken place. You can read about this in Barbara Simons' touching journal, in which she describes how a close friendship developed with the Polisario Front activists through

their shared opposition to the Moroccan annexation of large parts of Western Sahara.

After she left the European Parliament, FMA member Michael McGowan took over the intergroup, but the situation on the ground did not change. It remains to be seen whether the appointment of the former German President Horst Köhler as the UN envoy for Western Sahara will bring a solution. As the economically strongest country on the continent, South Africa is the only African member of the G20. Nelson Mandela's 'rainbow nation' is not living up to his vision for the country, however, a vision he set out so impressively in the inaugural speech he gave in 1994 in Pretoria following the end of apartheid. This is also dealt with in Barbara's journal. She was invited to the inauguration in recognition of her services to the new democratic South Africa and as a friend of Nelson Mandela (those who are interested in reading Barbara's journal can contact me via email.!) Today, many parts of South Africa are struggling with poverty, unemployment, a lack of prospects and frightening violent crime, and dissent is rife in the African National Congress. Allegations of nepotism and corruption against President Zuma are mounting. Here again, a whole host of reforms are needed which point the way forward for people whose hopes have remained unfulfilled. Then an improved investment climate will emerge by itself.

**Karin Junker**  
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## NOTES ON LIBYA 2011-2017

During the NATO military intervention in Libya in 2011, several former MEPs – Margie Sudre, Thierry Cornillet<sup>1</sup>, John Alexander Corrie and I – thought it was wrong that no European Parliament mission had visited that war-torn country, whereas Canadian, African, Chinese, Russian and American delegations had done so.

We therefore went to Tripoli via Tunisia at the end of June, working together with the African Union 'Five'<sup>2</sup>, who had drawn up a specific peace plan.

Over the course of four days, we met representatives of the tribes, in whose hands political power rests in Libya in the absence of a proper functioning state, local and European NGOs, prominent figures and humanitarian associations.

Upon returning to Paris, we published an article in the online edition of the French daily *Le Monde*, in which we argued that, given the entrenched nature of the conflict after four months of war, it was time to bring the parties together around the negotiating table to develop a peace plan.

We predicted that failure to do so would result in chaos and civil war in the country and would destabilise Western and Central Africa, speeding up the spread of radical Islam and terrorism and leading to huge waves of migration.

Since then, events have sadly proved us right. Islamist militias have taken over and the break-up of the country, on top of the tribal divisions, has



*Michel Scarbonchi with Marshal Khalifa Haftar on May 18 in Benghazi*

caused chaos.

I recently went to Benghazi and Eastern Libya as part of my consultancy work to observe the situation in Cyrenaica, following the launch in 2014 of Operation Dignity by Field Marshal Haftar, deploying a 200-strong force to free the region from Islamists.

After two years of fierce fighting and the destruction of many towns and villages, order has been restored and towns and ports stretching from Sirte to the Egyptian border are under control. In short, life is getting back to normal.

Over the last two months, significant progress has been made on establishing a Haftar-Sarraj-Thani political agreement so that a new Constitution can be drawn up and presidential and parliamentary elections can be held within six months.

The country will thus be able to focus its efforts on establishing a strong state and on reconstruction.

There are, however, many matters which we as Europeans need to address.

We have focused our attention on Iraq and Syria and have shown a complete lack of interest in Libya, a country just 300 kilometres from our coasts, caught up in the problems of

terrorism and migration in Africa.

Why are we continuing to finance refugee camps when we know that Islamist militias are 'running' them and trafficking sex-workers, slaves, drugs and migrants?

Libya and the painful crisis that it is experiencing highlight three things. Firstly, the Mediterranean is our common good, an essential bridge between two spaces tightly linked in terms of both history and destiny. Secondly, it is high time we establish a European defence policy so as to protect the European area and to deploy forces to prevent or manage conflicts on our 'doorstep'. Thirdly, we need to be fully involved in rebuilding Libya.

Clearly, in Africa, terrorism and migration stem as much, if not more so, from poverty as from Islamist radicalisation.

Rebuilding Libya and restoring peace is therefore both a problem and challenge for EU security and prosperity.

### Michel Scarbonchi

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1. Thierry Cornillet became an MEP once more on 31 May 2017

2. The African Union 'Five' was made up of South Africa, Congo, Mali, Mauritania and Uganda



## TWO GREAT FIGURES

By the time these lines appear, the summer, which by then will be over, will have dulled the emotions we felt so strongly in July. For my part, I shall never forget the two remarkable events which, by an unlikely quirk of fate, will forever be linked in people's minds: the magnificent and moving homage which the European Parliament paid to the father of German reunification in the Chamber in Strasbourg on Saturday, 1 July, and, four days later, that paid to Simone Veil in the ceremonial courtyard of the Hôtel des Invalides in Paris. Soon, she will be the fifth woman to be laid to rest in the Panthéon.

There are more parallels to be drawn, of course.

Helmut Kohl wanted a European Germany, not a German Europe. When the historic opportunity of reunification presented itself, he seized it, in particular by agreeing to the introduction of the single currency, despite the strong misgivings voiced by many Germans, who had not forgotten the great inflation of the 1920s and 1930s. The walk he took, hand in hand with François Mitterrand, through the cemetery in Verdun on 22 September 1984 will never be forgotten, because it stood for so



*Address by Helmut Kohl, German Chancellor in Formal Sitting on the Situation in Eastern Europe after the Fall of the Berlin Wall (1989) at the EP in Strasbourg ©European Union*

much. Like other great figures of history, his last years were marred by a feeling of being denied his due. What history will remember, however, is the decisive contribution he made to the European integration process, through his vision and his pragmatism.

As for Simone Veil, on 30 March 1944, at the age of 16, in the midst of celebrating the completion of her baccalauréat exams, she suddenly found herself on one of the death trains heading from Nice to the hell of the extermination camps. Miraculously, she escaped death, but she lost her father, her mother, her brother and many other family members. Back in France, she began her professional career as a magistrate; not many people know this, but she did much to protect the powerless who found

themselves in prison.

Her unwavering commitment as a minister to the task of defending in Parliament the law legalising abortion, in the face of insults which were all the more disgusting because she was a survivor of Auschwitz, made her a public figure in 1974, and she remained one thereafter, admired and loved by almost everyone.

But from 1945 on, for the remaining 72 years until her death, she made it her life's work to bring about reconciliation in and the unification of Europe; her watchword was 'never again'. We were close for many years at the European Parliament. I never heard her utter an angry word about the Germans. She refused to give in to resentment; she looked only to the future, to a Europe whose reconciliation was a prerequisite for peace and progress in a spirit of solidarity.

These two great figures, who took very different paths through life, will forever be linked in our memories.



*Simone Veil during plenary session in Strasbourg in July 1980 ©European Union*

### Nicole Fontaine

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## THE HOUSE OF EUROPEAN HISTORY

Every nation in Europe has a set of myths telling the story of its foundation which serve to bring its people together. The European Union, meanwhile, seems to have no such foundation story; no narrative which could bring its citizens closer together. Or does it? Does that narrative perhaps merely need to be 'discovered'?

I believe the answer to that question is a resounding yes! What I am referring to here is the 'idea of Europe'; the idea of a peaceful union among the peoples of Europe. What makes the idea of Europe unique is that the process of making it a reality began at a time when our continent was emerging from a conflict which had brought unprecedented destruction and seemed to be on the verge of oblivion.

The 'idea of Europe' must be a source of solidarity, cohesiveness and unity in Europe. The story behind it must therefore be told and become firmly lodged in our consciousness. It must have the power to show that lessons can be learnt from the past and that these lessons can be put into practice in the present and bear fruit in the future.

The House of European History will

play its part in this. In the speech I gave in Strasbourg on 13 February 2007, I made the establishment of such a museum one of the priorities for my term of office as President of the European Parliament. I wanted to create a place in which the story of our shared European history could be told - the story of its intellectual and cultural wealth and the story of its wars and tragedies; a place which looks to the past and to the future, which is conceived, designed and constructed in such a way as to offer not a national, but rather a European, view of history; a place which fosters an understanding of the need for a European identity, which strengthens our shared European values.

Today, even more than 10 years ago, I am convinced: we need the House of European History as a place which shows us why, despite all its shortcomings, we can be proud of what Europe has achieved thus far. I say this at a time when European unity faces greater threats than ever before: populists, political radicals and nationalist, sometimes even racist, movements are currently rekindling old enmities. The demons of the past, which we thought we had long since banished, are rearing their heads once more. We must stop this from happening!

The House of European History will help ordinary Europeans face up to a future which currently seems uneasy and uncertain, with courage and confidence; it will give them an insight into the key events in European history, to help them understand recent history and the present; it will portray the shared values which underpin European unity - human dignity, freedom,

democracy, the rule of law and peace, and the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity - as achievements made possible by peaceful coexistence; it will, as a European museum, encourage the citizens of the European Union to become more involved in European decision-making processes. Those citizens must be more than just visitors; above all they must play their part in the ongoing process of shaping the identity of Europe.

Over a period of years - first as President of the European Parliament and latterly as chair of the Board of Trustees - I was closely involved in the work of designing and creating the House of European History. It was a marathon, and many difficulties and obstacles had to be overcome.

I make no bones about it: it is the most difficult project which I have ever launched and, with the help of many like-minded people, brought to fruition in my political career.

The House of European History is the fruit of European cooperation and provides spectacular proof that European projects can and do work. It will draw praise and criticism. Museums are never finished. They need to be corrected, altered, expanded. That is true in particular of the House of European History, which must reflect future events, because history is never fixed, but rather constantly evolving.



*Opening of the House of the European History ©European Union*

### **Hans-Gert Pöttering**

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## CONCORD AWARD FOR EUROPE

On 21 June 2017, the judging panel for the Princess of Asturias Award for Concord 2017 announced that they had granted this accolade to the European Union, a nomination which I had the honour of supporting when asked by its advocate, the Spanish Socialist MEP, Jonás Fernández. It is without a doubt the right choice, given that the Treaty of Rome is celebrating its 60th anniversary and that Europe is experiencing a period of transition in which it seeks to permanently overcome upsurges of nationalism and populism, following the Austrian, Dutch and French elections. A time when it aims to make progress on the social dimension of the Union, on common security and defence, and on introducing financial and budgetary pillars for the euro area, which now seem to be backed by the Chancellor of the German Government herself, Angela Merkel.

The Concord Award, synonymous with peace, recognises the value of a political integration project extending beyond national boundaries and one

which is truly unique and original in the history of humanity. The project has provided our continent, which is the most free, united and democratic continent in the world, with 67 years of harmony.

Indeed, there is no better example of concord than peace. However, this is not an abstract, rhetorical, ideal or future peace, rather a concrete, material, routine and everyday type of peace, which is something which has characterised the European Community since 9 May 1950.

Is winning this award a reason to be complacent? Absolutely not. In the last decade, pivotal adjustment policies implemented in the Council at any cost by certain political majorities have made the social drama of the economic crisis and inequalities of every kind far worse. At the same time, Member States, despite various major initiatives proposed by the European Commission and Parliament such as, for example, the system of refugee relocation quotas, have not been managing to deal with the serious and ongoing humanitarian crisis taking place in central and eastern Mediterranean waters, which some consider to be an EU failure.

What is certain is that, in order to deploy other policies across Europe, from policies needed in the social dimension to an improved system to protect asylum seekers fleeing war and serious violations of human rights, on one hand it is necessary to forge alternative majorities in key institutions, and on the other hand, to reform EU Treaties to completely eliminate unanimity in decision-making and the Council's exclusive powers on certain matters (taxes), as well as certain

harmonisation prohibitions (labour policies). Social Europe is not possible without federation.

**‘The Concord Award, synonymous with peace, recognises the value of a political integration project extending beyond national boundaries and one which is truly unique and original in the history of humanity.’**

My understanding of this award therefore is not just that it recognises what has been achieved positively throughout almost seven decades of building Europe – from the single currency and the internal market to free movement of persons and workers, through the Erasmus exchange programme, cohesion policy, from which Spain has drawn so much benefit, and the Horizon 2020 research programme – but that above all it should be understood as an award which spurs us on to tackle what still remains to be built, namely, a true political and federal Europe, fiercely social and green, completely cosmopolitan, multicultural and open to the world, which is ready to influence global governance by affirming the best values of enlightenment tradition, freedom, equality, democracy and fraternity.

**Josep Borrell Fontelles**  
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Each year the Princess of Asturias Foundation convenes the Princess of Asturias Awards which aim at rewarding the scientific, technical, cultural, social and humanitarian work carried out at an international level by individuals, institutions or groups of individuals or institutions. They are granted in eight categories: the Arts, Literature, Social Sciences, Communication and Humanities, Technical and Scientific Research, International Cooperation, Concord and Sports.



## EUROPE'S RECIPE FOR EDUCATION

The European Union is a knowledge and education union in which the variety evident in education is one reflection of the variety of the Member States. Each country has its own education policy and system, and its own substantial body of knowledge and ideas. All this implies a range of strengths that we need to use and the EU has a duty to its citizens to make sure we do so. Education has never been more important than it is right now, as we address the refugee crisis and the task of integration.

Education is integral to any human situation: without it, where would we be as people? Currently there is increased demand for language education. I have seen this for myself in the residential community where I live alongside young Afghan refugees. Because they have no German, communication is severely limited. What is the answer? Special language courses aimed at making integrated living easier. But the refugees are not the only ones here who require education: we need it too. There is a great deal that we can usefully copy from other countries and cultures. And here, a key factor is

readiness to share.

Education is, in many ways, like cooking. We need to be sure we have the right ingredients in the right quantities. The ingredients of education should be selected with a view to taking Europe forward. Getting the recipe right is the starting point: we have to be clear about what and how much is needed. The EU should be the keeper of the recipe, with the crucial responsibility of handing it on.

And there will always be a place in education for 'seasoning'. That is where the differences come in. Cultural, social and national particularities are what will determine the flavour of the education that is served up. The EU should not take over the seasoning role: at most, it should offer guidelines. In this way, diversity and unity in difference can be ensured.

Europe needs diversity. Otherwise – if we set out to 'get rid' of nations – we end up losing whole swathes of history, genius and humanity. The EU's role is therefore to identify strengths and to safeguard the nation states and their cultures, because it is from its diversity that the Union draws its emotional force. Education is a field in which this diversity is particularly well demonstrated – through, for example, the use of a wide range of media and approaches. Europe is powerful when it plugs into its diversity and, at the same time, it draws solidarity from unity of purpose.

Recipes are no use without cooks. Similarly, education needs people who can represent it and make it work. Education is a profoundly human process and it concerns every one of us in some way. So the EU is not in sole charge of the

kitchen. Everyone who contributes to education helps with the cooking and each is responsible for his or her own contribution. Where the duty of the EU lies is in providing robust and reliable support for education, helping to make education a defining characteristic of our continent.

A dish must be properly served, and the same goes for education. It has to be sustainable and it has to give people the qualifications they need to get jobs. I and the young people I live with believe this is something the EU must do more to address: it needs to increase its support for young people, not least to bring down the youth unemployment rate. Education is a fundamental value. It unlocks opportunities in people's lives. It has become clear to me and the young people I live with that, if people are to live together peacefully and considerably, education is the key. If Europe hopes to stay strong, to advance and to safeguard unity in diversity in today's globalised world, Europe needs education. There has to be scope in that education both for exchange, where we are different, and for building similarities. And we need a Europe with an appetite for education. People of all generations have a role to play in cooking it up, serving it out and enjoying it together. Only through shared effort can Europe stay strong and fend off its critics: that is as true in education as elsewhere. And Europe's recipe for education will determine our future.

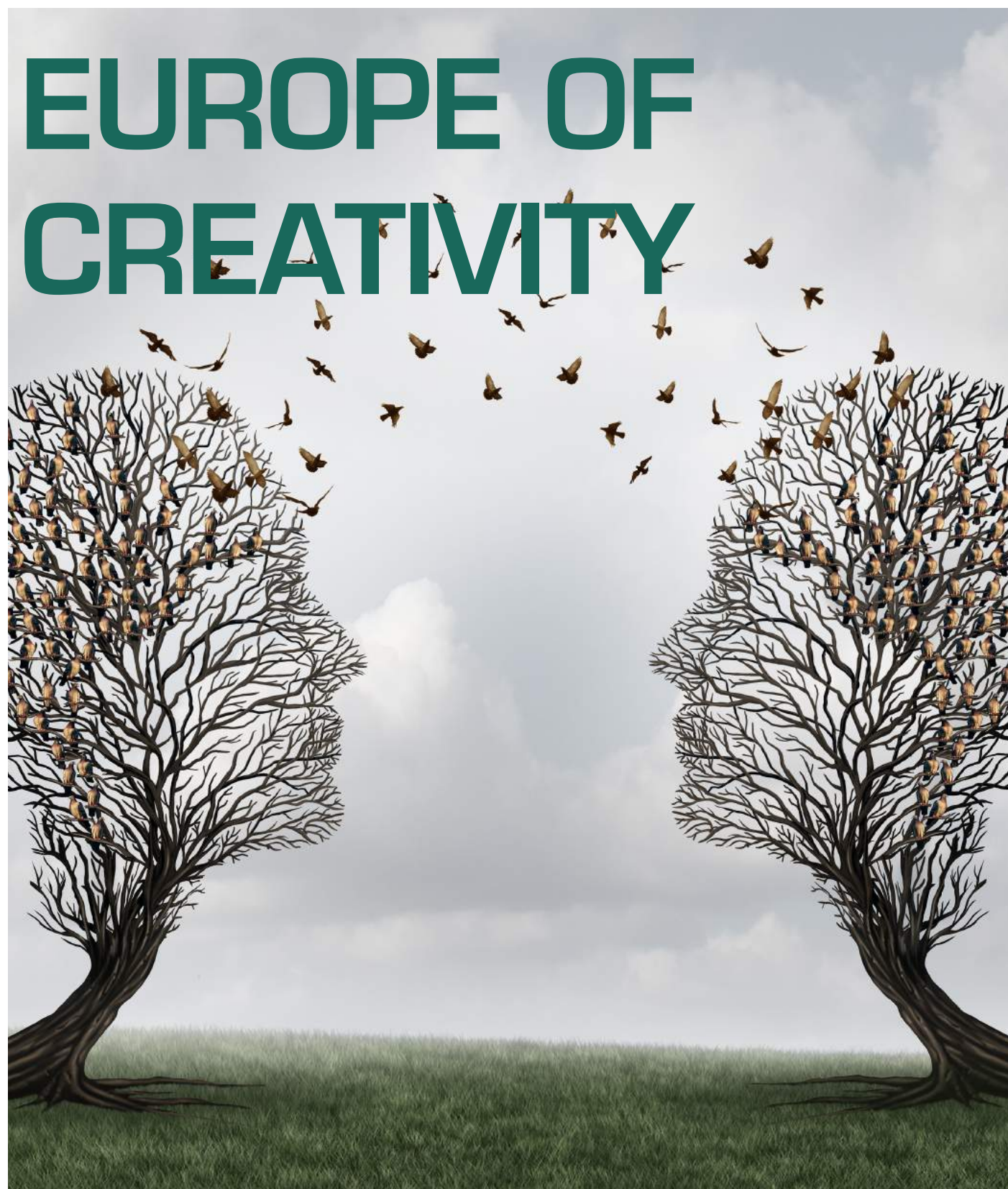
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*Refugees and asylum seekers welcome center in Liege (2017) ©European Union*

# FOCUS

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# FOCUS

## POLITICS AND CREATIVITY

Creativity, or rather the creative industries, is a politically loaded term. It is a sector of the economy that emerged in Australia and the United Kingdom in the 1990s and is associated with the two leaders, Paul Keating and Tony Blair, who were the first to recognise that combining economics and culture could offer a way forward in politics.

Since then, public sector interest in creativity has spread worldwide. States, regions and cities the world over have initiated programmes to support this major sector of the economy, which covers fields ranging from design, cinema and applied technologies to cultural heritage and the theatre, radio and software, and much more. All these different fields involve professions which are based on individual talent and on an individual's creative ability to turn cultural values into economic value.

Why does politics need to invest in the creative industries? There are many reasons.

Firstly, because it is a sector that employs over 12 million people in Europe and accounts for 5.3% of economic value added generated. And that is not all. It is a sector that is growing faster than others and whose positive influence spills over to traditional businesses, making them more innovative and productive.

**‘The drivers of public-sector involvement in the creative industries include promoting new entrepreneurship, creating new urban spaces, urban redevelopment and improving the quality of administrative action.’**

Another reason is that these industries can help to improve the quality of life in cities, given the role that ‘creatives’ play in starting urban regeneration processes which in turn encourage businesses to establish themselves in the area. Coworking and acceleration spaces thus feed into the development of cultural and creative districts. What is more, the presence of creatives is important for a city's branding and its ranking in competition between urban areas, which is increasingly the key indicator of a dynamic economy. Lastly, this sector also helps to improve administrative action and ensure that the improvements benefit the public. This approach is leading, for example, to the use of videogames to help treat degenerative diseases or in rehabilitation processes; to the

application of design techniques to administrative activity to produce public services which are better tailored to user needs; to the development of innovative regulatory techniques such as ‘nudging’, which aim to improve citizens’ behaviour by using soft techniques such as communication. The drivers of public sector involvement in the creative industries include promoting new entrepreneurship, creating new urban spaces, urban redevelopment and improving the quality of administrative action. This public-sector involvement has become more widespread in Europe over the last few years, thanks to the experiences of and the example set by a few leading countries and the work of the Commission and Parliament, which are increasingly making efforts to develop policies in this area and which can encourage individual States to act. There is still work to be done, however. The European Union needs to be the first to take steps to achieve the objective of shared and coordinated Member State action in an area which will be a factor in the competitiveness of the ‘Old Continent’ in the coming years and fundamental to its ability to remain a point of cultural reference in an increasingly globalised world.

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## HOW TO BUILD CREATIVE ECOSYSTEMS

With demonstrable growth and spillover effects across the economy, the creative industries are one of the success stories of the last 20 years. Driven by micro businesses, powered by digital, and mobilised by the ideas and critical perspectives of the arts, the creative industries are also a story of collaborative and often interdisciplinary practice, boundary-crossing work, and a restlessness to generate new types of value which helps catalyse innovation. To be impactful in terms of employment, GDP and GVA; and to deliver social and of course cultural value; the creative industries require certain kinds of enabling conditions. Put simply, they flourish within what might be termed ‘**creative ecosystems**’ where a mix of infrastructure, support and networks deliver the exchange landscape for effective sector development. These creative ecosystems, while connected globally through digital, are often very rooted in place, with specific cities and regions providing the intensity of identity, energy and exchange through which creative practice thrives.



Tom Fleming



The most effective creative ecosystems are shaped by a set of shared values. For example, they are expressive of a distinctive local (often city-based) identity, which influences the cultural context for processes of creative production and consumption. They are also inclusive, with pathways into the creative industries available for a city's increasingly intercultural talent base, as well as offering parity for different genders and ages. Plus effective creative ecosystems champion interdisciplinary collaborative practice where different sectors, aesthetics and technologies help generate new ways of working and in turn new types of product and service. Overall, the creative industries thrive because they generate meaning-laden goods and services. They depend, therefore, on relationships which are meaningful which are nurtured in places and spaces that carry significant symbolic value.

**‘The most effective creative ecosystems are shaped by a set of shared values.’**

In our work across Europe and beyond, we have identified **five main building blocks** for strong, inclusive and sustainable creative ecosystems:

**1) They have arts and culture to their core.** The creative industries are dependent on the ideas, attitude and content provided by the arts and cultural sector. The arts and cultural sector also has the summoning power to attract and inspire creative talent - offering a curated landscape of cultural dialogue and endowing creative practice with a socially embedded and critical perspective. Increasingly, arts and cultural organisations are operating as producers – connecting the arts to the more commercially driven creative industries, commissioning R&D activities, and providing shared spaces for production and presentation. We see this in Bristol, at the Pervasive Media Studio<sup>1</sup> in Watershed (a cultural cinema and digital creativity centre), where artists, scientists, creatives and technologists converge to develop new work. And we see it in the Quartier de la

1. <http://www.watershed.co.uk/studio/>



©European Union

Creations in Nantes<sup>2</sup>, where cultural organisations play a hub and anchor role for the growing cluster of creative businesses in the city.

**2) They position universities as critical enablers.** Creative ecosystems flourish when universities are open and collaborative generators of value: providing talent, expertise and technology. Such universities have a 'vortex effect' by providing a pipeline of talent for the ecosystem which benefits from developing work with creative businesses pre- and post-graduation;

**'Creative ecosystems are fluid, agile and adaptive. They do not just respond to change, but drive it'**

by developing research with industry rather than for industry; and by establishing special purpose vehicles such as incubators, accelerators, and bespoke research centres. We see this, for example, in the UPTec Creative Industries Centre at the University of Porto<sup>3</sup> and Kasárne

2. <https://www.creativefactory.info/>

3. <http://uptec.up.pt/en/corporate/uptec-creative-industries-center>

Kulturpark in Košice<sup>4</sup>.

**3) They are interdisciplinary and brokered, with purposeful encounters to the fore.** The best creative ecosystems are built on a blend of trusted partnerships – some formal, some informal. They are richly networked and have visible spikes of activity (e.g. co-working spaces and festivals). They connect the creative industries to other sectors and are motivated by shared civic and / or social values. This does not happen by chance – every ecosystem has its trusted intermediaries – e.g. arts and cultural managers, specialist creative industries development agencies, and of course those active and responsible creative businesses. This makes ecosystems more legible and accessible, and it increases efficiency and productivity because individuals are signposted to and often incentivised (e.g. via commissions) to work with partners where most value will be generated. It is by matching complementary skill-sets and interests that creative ecosystems flourish. We see this, for example, through the connecting

4. <http://www.k13.sk/>

and championing work of the Nottingham Creative Quarter Agency<sup>5</sup> and Oulu Game Campus<sup>6</sup>.

**4) They combine physical and digital platforms, connecting the local to the global.** Creative ecosystems balance the intensity of local encounters with access to knowledge, skills and markets which are international. Co-working spaces which are networked into pan-European knowledge exchange programmes; shared research programmes; and international festivals; help to facilitate open dialogue across cultural and physical distance. We see this through the work of European Creative Business Network<sup>7</sup> and European Creative Hubs network<sup>8</sup>, which connect hubs and creative support agencies across the European Union.

**5) They are generous, inclusive, open, engaging and in motion.** Creative ecosystems are fluid, agile and adaptive. They do not just respond to change, but drive it: providing opportunities for new voices and promoting impact-facing activities – e.g. with a focus on the environment or diversity. We see this across Europe where creative ecosystems are vital for progressive communities of practice that can make a difference.

## Tom Fleming

Director

Tom Fleming Creative Consultancy

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5. [www.creativequarter.com](http://www.creativequarter.com)

6. <http://www.pelikampus.com/>

7. <http://ecbnetwork.eu/>

8. <http://creativeconomy.britishcouncil.org/blog/16/02/24/european-creative-hubs-network-innovative-models-s/>

## A WATERSHED MOMENT FOR CREATIVE EUROPE

Creative Europe is a programme that is needed in order to achieve the goals of encouraging the movement of artists, creative talents, and works, carrying out, and making the most of, cultural and creative ventures, internationalising careers and partnerships, boosting competitiveness, and promoting cultural diversity and tangible and intangible cultural heritage. But it has to eliminate the causes of difficulty and frustration for anyone – this applies to smaller players in particular – seeking to take part. To remedy administrative issues, management red tape, and the lack of transparency, assessment criteria need to be altered and the emphasis shifted towards quality in the cultural offerings proposed under Creative Europe, which should be made to work in conjunction with other programmes. Having moved into 2017 Creative Europe has reached ‘middle age’ and is, in other words, coming up for a review. This will take the form of a mid-term report, to be drawn up by independent external assessors

appointed by the Commission, which is to submit the result to Parliament and the Council on 21 December. Meanwhile the management committee, bringing together the Commission and the Member States, has set the 2018 programme in motion with calls for proposals and detailed financial allocations. The innovations will be reflected at the practical level in the new version of the programme, which is being eagerly awaited on all sides. We are only at the beginning of the Loan Guarantee Fund process, in which EUR 122 million will be assigned to financial intermediaries selected by the European Investment Fund, the object being to enable players in the cultural, creative, and audio-visual sector to obtain financing at attractive rates without needing to offer personal guarantees. Parliament is embarked on the complex task of reviewing the digital field as a whole, which, while affecting all cultural sectors, has a more direct bearing on the MEDIA strand, which to that extent is being set apart from the other sectors, at least in terms of the urgency of the decisions to be taken. Creative Europe, the only EU programme as such for the creative, cultural, and audio-visual sector, currently extends to 39 countries and is backed by a budget of EUR 1.5 billion for the period from 2014 to 2020. Over the past seven years the budget has risen by 9%, but still accounts for just 0.15% of the overall EU budget. In late 2016 and early 2017 Parliament completed its mid-term assessment of the programme, highlighting the matters to be resolved and the strengths to be exploited. The Commission

and the Member States have been urged to move resolutely towards the combined use of funds, an approach commensurate with the programme’s ambitions.

**‘The objective is to afford scope for the EU’s ambition to make its mark on the global cultural stage and support the creativity of its young people and of those entities and historic institutions in which our continent’s roots lie.’**

Activities related to cultural heritage are a growing source of new employment, innovation, skills, social inclusion, and cultural tourism. Furthermore, the cultural, creative, and audio-visual sector now accounts for more than 5% of EU GDP – or 12% if we include fashion and advertising – with 12 million jobs, 2.5 times more than the motor industry. The large quantity and high quality of the projects submitted is a measure of the great vitality to be found in the sector, which consists mainly of non-profit players – especially where the Culture subprogramme is concerned – small and medium-sized enterprises, cultural institutions, and associations. They should all be supported and helped when it comes to the digital challenge, new skills development, mobility of artists and cultural products in support of co-productions and European professional networks, and boosting the capacity of the European audio-



Silvia Costa



On 5th July 2017 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on entitled '[Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations](#)' (2016/2240(INI))

EP recalled that the EU is an important actor in international politics playing an ever-increasing role in world affairs. It stated that culture has an intrinsic value, and the EU's experience has shown that cultural exchanges can serve to promote its external objectives and as a powerful bridge between people of different ethnic, religious and social backgrounds. In this regard, Parliament considered that culture should become an essential part of the political dialogue with third countries, and that there is a need to systematically integrate culture into projects and programmes.

visual industry, these being ways to promote the internationalisation of careers.

**'Activities related to cultural heritage are a growing source of new employment, innovation, skills, social inclusion, and cultural tourism.'**

Creative Europe has unified the three programmes that ran during the preceding seven-year period (Culture, MEDIA, and MEDIA Mundus) into a single programme, which, while designed to pursue shared general objectives, is divided into two subprogrammes and a cross-sectoral strand, proceeding from an underlying determination to emphasise the points of convergence between cultural, creative, and audio-visual sectors, in particular their contribution to smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth. The soundness of that choice has been confirmed by economic data on the sector, which is continuing to grow and far outperforming the economy in general, and by the cross-cutting dimension of culture, which is important for social cohesion and EU external policy. However, the

fact of combining 'Culture' and 'MEDIA' into one programme with an added cross-sectoral strand has not yet produced the expected results in terms of sector and project integration. Creative Europe is a victim of its own success: only a very small proportion of the applications submitted are actually accepted, the success rate amounting to just 16% of applications under the Culture subprogramme and 32% for the MEDIA subprogramme. From 2014 to 2015 'Culture' funded 351 projects out of the 1 691 applications received, and MEDIA – which uses automatic criteria for support to 'Distribution' – funded 4 494 projects out of the 8 471 applications received. As regards the way ahead for Creative Europe in the years 2020 to 2027 we have proposed improvements to programme management and project assessment criteria in order to make the programme more accessible, simpler, more transparent, and able to support every sector – small and big players alike – while making for balance between small and large Member States. The objective, as ever, is to afford scope for the EU's ambition to make its mark on the

global cultural stage and support the creativity of its young people and of those entities and historic institutions in which our continent's roots lie. In addition, the calls for proposals relating to social inclusion, and hence aimed at immigrants and refugees, have been greeted with enthusiasm. The programme will need to be reoriented towards quality and the artistic value of cultural proposals – as opposed to purely economic value, which sometimes seems to outweigh all other considerations. It should be used in combination with other programmes and opened up to encompass partnerships with non-European countries, especially those bordering the Mediterranean, with a view to advancing the new strategy for cultural diplomacy and for the European Year of Cultural Heritage, one of Parliament's priorities for 2018. More could be done, for example, to strengthen synergies between Creative Europe and multiannual programmes such as Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020. Linking research, innovation, and culture is essential, as is innovation within small and medium-sized cultural enterprises.

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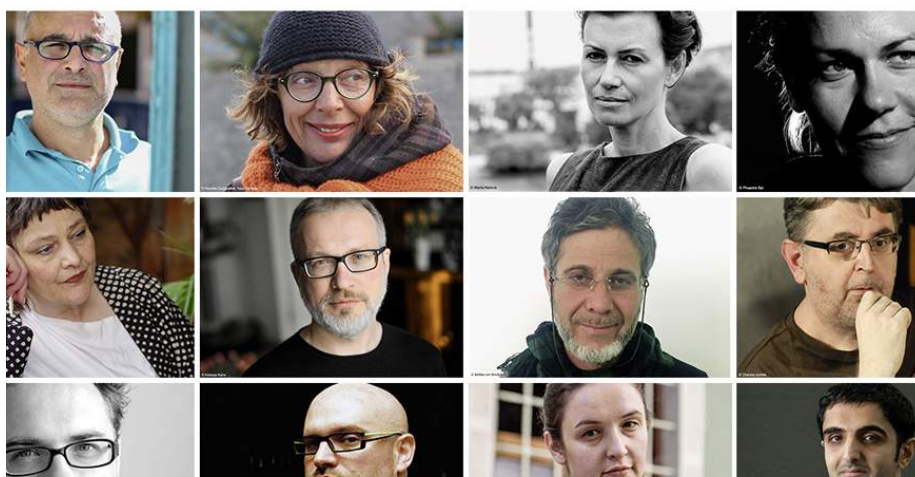
## CULTURE IN EU EXTERNAL RELATIONS

External relations remain a challenge for the EU despite the revision of the EU Treaty, acknowledging that international problems would be more efficiently tackled by pooling diplomatic resources and the EU being granted foreign policy competences.

Article 167.3 of the Lisbon Treaty calls upon the EU and Member States to foster cooperation with third countries and international organisations in the cultural sphere. Because of Member States' conflicting past, the EU has credibility and a special responsibility to engage globally. A new international order could benefit from European experience in mismanaging cultural sensibilities and reconciling divergent national interests for a common cause.

### **'Art and culture are increasingly recognised as able to make a huge difference in EU external affairs'**

In this respect, one can question whether EU diplomatic efforts would not be better served if more consideration was given to culture to help address issues such as the EU's image, conflict prevention, mutual understanding, or fighting terrorism. Cultural exchanges outside the EU mainly lie with the nation states as culture policy remains essentially organised at national level<sup>1</sup>. Language promotion, student exchanges or prestigious artistic events testify strong bilateral



*Winners of the 2017 edition of the European Union Prize for Literature, launched by the European Commission ©European Union 2017*

relations, often to underpin lucrative trade agreements and political alliances. Foreign relations are probably the area where culture and artists are best instrumentalised for national political, branding and trade objectives.

In the EU context, the scope of cultural activities is often limited to the expatriate community<sup>2</sup>. Some would argue that this is natural, as there is no European cultural identity to promote. On the other hand, art and culture are increasingly recognised as able to make a huge difference in EU external affairs:

- Promoting the EU as a community of diverse cultures and languages sharing essential common values.
- Building a creative image of the EU abroad beyond its economic and (diminishing) trade power.
- Attracting students and foreign talents to build long-term relationships with tomorrow's leaders.

- Fostering artistic and creative collaborations to challenging

national stereotypes.

- Increasing trade opportunities for Europe's formidable cultural institutions and creative industries looking for alternative funding opportunities and new markets.
- Developing strong people-to-people connections and mutual understanding between nations and civilisations sharing a common destiny.

Strengthening links between national cultural institutes, pooling resources for efficiency and meaningful impact is essential. However, this is less likely to convince Member States that EU external relations need culture beyond implementing UNESCO conventions.<sup>3</sup>

Cultural operators provide ideas and engaging concepts making diplomacy more effective. They are right to advocate for cultural

1, See KEA study on 'European Cultural Institutes Abroad' for the European Parliament (CULT committee), 2016

2, See KEA study: 'Film Festivals at EU Delegations', for the European Commission DG CNECT, 2015

3. 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

investment to improve foreign relations and ultimately achieve EU goals (including in economic and trade fields<sup>4</sup>). They now have to build the case justifying more culture in EU external relations not only calling for additional resources, less likely to be provided in times of budgetary constraints, but also mainstreaming cultural consideration in EU foreign policy making. Cultural actors should argue for capacity building at EU level, associating stakeholders across policy fields to enable consultation on the way forward.

Our cultural discourse has to shift to consider culture as a driving force of economic and trade exchanges, social and technological innovation and urban development which are essential elements in today's foreign relations. Nowadays, most cultural exchanges happen through technology and entertainment, involving media, cultural and creative companies in creative incubation centres and cultural districts. Europe abroad is perceived as exemplary in nurturing excellence in its creative forces and valorising its heritage while remaining open to exchanges. EU-produced cultural content is as much demanded as the tools put in place to support diverse cultural expressions and identities.

To successfully integrate culture in EU External Actions, I propose the following arguments:

1. Adopt an encompassing concept

4. E.g. the Cariforum-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) aims at facilitating trade in cultural services by improving market access conditions for entertainment services suppliers from Cariforum countries. It includes a new mechanism, the Protocol on Cultural Cooperation which sets a framework for cooperation seeking to promote cultural and audiovisual exchanges.

of "cultural actors", amongst others: artists, creative professionals, cultural institutions, foundations, universities, culture and creative businesses.

2. Include trade negotiations and intellectual property agreements in external relations. These have a considerable impact on the diversity of the cultural offer: they influence access to "markets" and the negotiating power of creators with users. This is important as the EU is essentially an economic project which institutions defend its competitiveness in the world.

**'Our cultural discourse has to shift to consider culture as a driving force of economic and trade exchanges, social and technological innovation and urban development.'**

3. Advocate that culture is at the forefront of the technology revolution and that Europe, as a major producer of cultural content, has to be present in the global virtual exchanges among citizens. As the Arab Spring showed, foreign relations are taking place on interactive participatory digital platforms using creative content as much as in embassies.

4. Show that supporting creativity and talents is a powerful means to promote freedom of expression and intercultural dialogue beyond commercial or state interests. There should be support for ambitious projects giving resonance to the collaborative nature of the European project whilst globalisation requires addressing the existence of local identities, cultural expressions and productions.

"Opening dialogues" is not enough.



The force of global powers should unleash European creative capacities to engage citizens worldwide in a disruptive way. Fashion designers, architects, chefs, musicians, writers, cinematographers, painters, poets contribute to project Europe as a creative continent. Education and heritage makes European cities most attractive touristic and learning destinations. Europe is not a means to an end but a way of life. This is the main reason why the EU diplomacy requires culture. The recently adopted Council conclusions on an EU strategic approach to international cultural relations mark a decisive step. It is high time Europe's diplomacy made the most of the continent's formidable cultural resources.

**Philippe Kern**

Director

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## EUROPE OF THE RESEARCH

Benjamin Franklin once said that ‘an investment in knowledge pays the best interest’. Perfectly mirroring the current state of affairs surrounding research and innovation in Europe, we know that investing in the pursuit of scientific knowledge is a win win.

This is certainly true of the past. So far, our previous investments have been paying significant dividends. Take the European Research Council as an example. This year we celebrate its 10th anniversary. And in those ten years, the ERC has become a powerhouse of science. It is recognised as the best in the world in the way that it supports fundamental research. One cannot help but admire the impressive statistics it proffers: ERC-funded scientists have won six Nobel prizes, five World prizes and four Fields Medals. ERC-funded projects have also resulted in 100,000 articles being published in scientific journals. Europe’s investment is no doubt paying off.

Despite these successes, I believe it is integral that we continue to increase our investment. Scientific research has held a privileged position for hundreds of years. Yet, we know that increasingly the nature of scientific fact is under threat, its role and influence is now shifting and science is being knocked from its pedestal. Case in point, last year ‘post-truth’ was named the Oxford Dictionary word of the year. This state of affairs is what keeps me awake at night. The future we are facing has many challenges such as the impending Brexit, climate change and the rise in populism throughout Europe. Science is the one way we can regain the trust that has been lost between citizens and administrations. So we cannot rest on our laurels.

Two and a half years into my mandate, it’s clear to me where the gaps are. Certainly, we are not shy about investing financially in the creation of knowledge. Rather, we are shy about advertising

that knowledge. We need to acknowledge our modesty when it comes to our scientific achievements. You may have read recently how the United States and NASA discovered seven new planets far beyond the Solar System. In fact, the project was led by a European scientist, and there was European money behind it. The lead scientist on the project – Michaël Gillon – is a Belgian man based at the University of Liege. The research itself he conducted was supported by a grant from the ERC. Most people have heard of this discovery, but not the role that Europe played in it. This is what we need to change.

One of the greatest achievements of the European Union has been to invest in creating the largest international research programme in the world. The importance placed on the investment in the pursuit of knowledge is resolute. Now, I say we need to continue on this work in earnest. This is not just limited to the financial and framework support system. The future is an uncertain one. We do not know how to address all of our challenges. But if we invest in the pursuit of scientific knowledge, and shouting about that science, we are best equipped for whatever may come our way. Through this, we can solidify the trust between the European Union and its 500 million citizens. With that, our returns can only multiply.



### Carlos Moedas

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## EUROPEAN YOUNG RESEARCHERS

Europe faces changes that will affect our societies and environment with unprecedented rapidity. Investment in research and innovation is a key element for the EU in realising its ambition to become a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy and to make an important contribution to the future well-being of society. This future will be in the hands of the upcoming generations. Not taking advantage of the potential that exists among the next generation of researchers and enabling them, on the basis of appropriate career perspectives, to develop their full potential would be a waste. The solid experience and competent input of young researchers is extremely valuable not only in terms of the advancement of future science and innovation, but also for European policy makers when defining a robust, long-term vision for European science policy. Investment in the younger generations creates the much-needed human capital that holds modern, innovative societies together, and is one of the pillars of future economic success in an increasingly competitive global market.

Recent initiatives at European level, such as the adoption of the 'Bratislava Declaration of Young Researchers' and the November 2016 Council conclusions on

'Measures to support early stage researchers' are welcome, and are important steps in the right direction. Nevertheless, more can and should be done.

**COST, the programme for European Cooperation in Science and Technology**, has a long-standing tradition in providing support for scientists, based on an understanding of the limitations and obstacles young researchers come across on a daily basis as they work towards achieving their ambitions of a career in research.

**'Europe has an obligation to develop strategies that tap the full potential of its young researchers'**

Such obstacles often result from short-term policy decisions, or the inflexible structures that continue to be present in universities and research organisations. If these challenges are not addressed soon, Europe will be seriously hampered in competing globally for the best young researchers in the near future. In order to overcome these hurdles, COST is offering tailor-made networking tools, such as Short-Term Scientific Missions and Training Schools. These tools permit researchers at an early stage in their career to gain confidence and valuable experience, and help convince them to stay in Europe for the next steps in their career. Short-term mobility allows them to experience upstanding conditions and to do things differently, while keeping their base in the home institution. It is gender-neutral

and takes account of the needs of young parents. Having access to established networks, being known by different institutions and developing additional skills to help complement their core competences are all substantial factors that enable them to build their career more easily and with greater predictability. In 2016, more than 5 800 early-career researchers were involved in COST actions, which means that more than 30 % of the total number of COST participants are young researchers. In the next European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP9) that will start in 2021, COST will continue to support young researchers, offering an even more advanced set of activities. Research networks will exploit the virtual environment and digital opportunities, taking into account the challenges that arise from the digitalisation of research. In addition, young researchers will have access to training in transferrable skills that will enhance and broaden their career perspectives in the longer term. Europe has an obligation to develop strategies that tap the full potential of its young researchers, offering them a space in which to grow. Both in the short and the long term this is a worthwhile investment which contributes to resilient and prosperous societies that are built on research and innovation and are capable of adapting to the significant changes already underway or in the pipeline that will transform Europe and the world.

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Brubotics lab at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel © European Union 2017

## DEMANDS ON CREATIVITY IN A GLOBALISED WORLD

For a long time, in fact throughout the past century, Europe, alongside the United States and one or two other countries (such as Japan and South Korea), was in the vanguard of knowledge, research and innovation (creativity).

It is largely on the basis of this capacity that Europe continues to hold the leading position in the world economy. The 27 countries that are set to remain in the EU accounted for 22% of world GDP in 2015, compared with 4% for the United Kingdom, while a significant contribution was also made by other European countries, notably Switzerland.

This century we are seeing the emergence of other countries, with a particularly significant role being played by China and India. It is interesting to recollect that in previous centuries these two countries held more prominent positions than Europe. Following the discoveries made first by Portuguese navigators

and then by other explorers, trade centred on bringing in more refined industrial products such as textiles and ceramics from the East (with Europe exporting less refined products to Asia). In 1820, less than 200 years ago, China and India still accounted for 42.1% of world GDP.

**‘Throughout the past century, Europe [...] was in the vanguard of knowledge, research and innovation (creativity).’**

After that, however, their economies went into a sharp decline, and both countries together accounted for only 6% of world GDP in 2004, China with 4% and India with 2%.

The past decades have seen the rapid growth of new powers, particularly China and India, which have grown by 6.5% and 7.6% respectively in the past 12 months. This growth is based on a number of factors such as cheaper labour, but we are

increasingly having to compete with countries that are investing more in scientific and technological research. Looking at the current figures for R&D spending, we can see that the United States, with USD 457 billion, is now followed by China, with 211.9; the list continues with Japan, with 164.9, Germany with 109.9, France with 63.8, South Korea with 60.5, the United Kingdom with 50.8 and Brazil with 39.7 (India's spending is much lower at 18.3).

Thanks to its competitiveness, the eurozone still has the largest current account surplus in the world, at USD 403.9 billion, a figure which has recently risen and is more than twice the surplus recorded by China, at 170.1 (and which stands in sharp contrast to the US deficit of 481.2 billion).

Nevertheless, we must recognise that this will only remain the case if Europe continues to place a strong emphasis on knowledge, research and innovation, and in the end on creativity, following a course that recent experience shows to be a viable one. Ideally, in addition to public investment, there should be a strong focus on business investment in R&D, notably by large companies, bearing in mind that the contribution made by the 100 leading companies in this area is broken down as follows: 27 % from European Union companies, 38.6% from US companies, 14.4% from Japanese companies and 7.2% from Chinese companies.

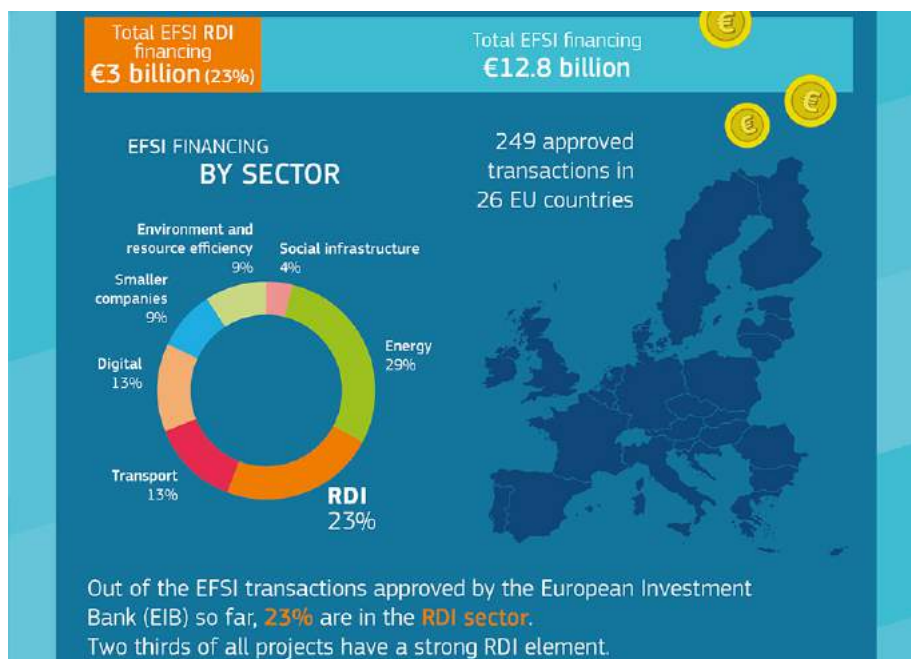
**Manuel Porto**

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ELDR (1989-1996)

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# FMA ACTIVITIES



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



## FMA activities

## EP TO CAMPUS PROGRAMME

## UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB

They are citizens of the last country, in chronological order, to join the great family of the European Union. And yet the interest, enthusiasm and preparation I found in the days of meetings with students and lecturers at the oldest, most prestigious university of Croatia, are a sign that integration is already a reality. The world-renowned University of Zagreb, with its 28 faculties and an impressive range of courses, has always been very active in promoting synergies and activities with international universities and institutions. Against this particularly positive and dynamic background came my visit as part of the 'EP to Campus' programme which, moreover, took place within a few days of the celebrations in Rome for the 60th anniversary of the EU Founding Treaties. This was an important time for the leaders of the 27 EU states to take stock and, working together, to take on some new joint challenges.

The meeting with the students, in a packed chamber, was truly stimulating; together with the lecturers Zvonimir Šafranko and



*Alessandro Battilocchio with some students*

Kosjenka Dumančić, we spoke about the role of the European Union as an autonomous entity in the international arena, in a debate which was obviously influenced by current EU political events that are changing and redefining some aspects. We discussed, with students of the Faculty of Law, the legal framework for the European Union's action as an autonomous entity and the difficult balance between the foreign policy requirements of each Member State and common requirements.

At another meeting, at the Faculty's 'Europe Point', we addressed issues that were more closely related to the events of recent months, in particular the challenges we face

in relation to the new international situation: Trump, Brexit, populism and immigration were some of the issues touched upon in a debate in which the students interacted and participated. We also had an interesting chat with the editorial staff of the Faculty newspaper: we discussed the function of the European Parliament in the light of recent regulatory innovations and, more generally, the role and daily activities of a Member of the European Parliament during his or her term of office in Brussels and Strasbourg.

It was really a wonderful experience for me, in a Zagreb that is particularly beautiful in this season. My hope, also in view of the atmosphere I found among the students in Zagreb, is that on this basis of sharing and participation there may be a new spring for our European Union. 60 years ago it was an ambitious and far-sighted dream of the founding fathers; today it is a tangible reality that needs to be strengthened and improved, but which has ensured decades of peace, prosperity and development.



*Alessandro Battilocchio and lecturers at University of Zagreb*

**Alessandro Battilocchio**  
PES, Italy (2004-2009)  
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## PROGRAMME IN AVEIRO

Aveiro is an ancient Portuguese city south of Porto. The University of Aveiro has been founded in 1973, and nowadays more than 13000 students and hundreds of professors study and teach there. My host, Professor Luis Mota keeps a seminar on international studies in English. On the first day of my visit I was invited to participate an afternoon session of his seminar. Instead of the originally planned one hour it took two and half hours, as the students raised dozens of questions. All of them spoke good English, and one of them was an Erasmus student, coming from Lithuania. They were rather well informed on the structure and problems of the European Union. We spoke among other subjects on the different role of the Parliament, the Council and the Commission, on the Brexit, on the importance of the Erasmus program and on the concept of the 'multispeed EU'. They raised some 'uncomfortable' questions on the political situation of my homeland Hungary as well, but I tried to answer

them. I talked about the many possibilities to get a scholarship at the Parliament, at the Commission (where I also worked) and at the European HQs of the political parties. The next day I visited the 'Europe Direct' information centre, where I met some students who just dropped in, as the information centre has an active contact with the University. The relatively small but well equipped centre provides many facilities for those who are interested in EU affairs. And it seemed to me that there are many people in Aveiro who are really interested in... In the afternoon I participated in the event which was the main program of my visit. The social and political department held a conference on 'The reflection paper on the social dimension of Europe', and generally on the social policy of the EU. The 'Reflection Paper' of the Commission was released on 26th of April, so it was one of the first occasions to discuss it on a public event. My fellow panellists were Ms Sofia Colares Alves, Head of the

EU representation in Portugal and Ms. Mafalda Guerreiro, Member of the Central Committee of the Portuguese Communist Party. It seemed to be a well chosen trio. Ms Alves performed the official Commission line, with informative details. The Communist Ms Guerreiro strongly criticised the 'Big Business-oriented' EU policies, as her party is rather Euro sceptic. (Unlike the very pro-Europe Hungarian Left.) I tried to underline that one of the three options suggested by the Commission is rather a progressive idea. While the other two options, limiting the social dimension to free movement or let the Member States to choose certain elements of their social policies 'a la carte' are rather dangerous ideas. The lack of a strong common social policy destroys the public support of our common European project, and strengthens the extreme and populist movements. The audience was very active, and besides our different backgrounds the three of us agreed to improve the social commitments of the EU.

I must mention the important role of Gil Martins dos Reis organizing my and the forthcoming visits of other colleagues to Aveiro. As a student of the University and a trainee of the EP Former Members Association, Gil contacted his 'Alma mater' and our Association. As the University of Aveiro runs good and important courses on European studies, we should help them with our experiences.

**Gyula Hegyi**  
PES, Hungary (2004-2009)  
gyulahegyi4@gmail.com



Panel of Speakers at the University of Aveiro



## EP TO CAMPUS IN BULGARIA

I saw the invitation of the American University in Bulgaria and I was interested in the subject:

The circular economy. As former green politician but also as civil servant working on sustainable development, my attention was drawn.

I was also intrigued by the fact that an American university was working in Europe, and the fact that I never visited Bulgaria before.

I got the selection by the university only two weeks before the event and I had by coincidence my first week ever in the United States the week before.

So I arrived in an American mood. First I had to look up where the city of Blagoevgrad was situated. I never heard of the place before.

The contact person was professor Jean Crombois and it turned out that he was also a Belgian citizen.

So in the middle of the night a driver picked me up at Sofia-airport and brought me to the hotel where I arrived at 3 a.m. The first day in the afternoon we met the rector of the University and the provost.

In the evening the opening

ceremony of the Model European Union (MEU) was held, and I was keynote speaker on the subject : Circular Economy. The idea was that the students would play a simulation of the EP, the Commission and the Council, and discuss the Circular Economy Package (amended Directives launched by the real Commission in 2016 on waste, reuse and landfill etc.).

The next they discussed the text in several Committees and I preceded the ENVI Committee.

The students played the role of MEPs of all the political groups; there where lobbyists in the building and the media was all around. It all ended in a triologue with Commission and Council and a final vote.

In the debate the Brexit lead to heavy discussions. The students played their role very well and got emotionally and intellectually involved.

You can find all this on facebook : Model European Union Blagoevgrad and on mine.

It was the third time the American University in Bulgaria (AUBG) organized this model event, with the support of the Jean Monnet



*Jan Dhaene during his intervention*



*Participants of the Model of the EU*

Fund. This is a model for all universities in Europe.

On Sunday the professor took me to the Rila Monastery (UNESCO). The weather and food were excellent. I can highly recommend a visit to Bulgaria, the best kept secret of Europe.

### Jan Dhaene

Greens/EFA, Belgium (2002-2004)  
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*Jan Dhaene with students from the American University of Bulgaria*

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*Thanks to Candriam for supporting our EP to Campus programme.*

## ROUND TABLE AT LUISS UNIVERSITY

With Barón Crespo -  
Gualtieri MEP - Messori.

In the framework of the programme, EP to Campus, the School of Government of the LUISS Guido Carli University of Rome organised, in co-operation with Sciences Po, a Closing Round Table on 'Parliaments, Democratic accountability and Budgetary Powers' discussing the Presidents' Report on 'Completing Europe's Economic and Monetary Union in 2025'. The speakers were Roberto Gualtieri, current Chairman of the Economic and Monetary Committee of the European Parliament, Marcelo Messori, LUISS Director of the School and Enrique Barón Crespo, President of the EP Former Members Association. Roberto Gualtieri MEP made an in depth analysis of the ongoing work of the EP Committee as well as of the implementation and follow-up of the main targets of the Report. Marcelo Messori concentrated his remarks on the governance dimension and the economic recovery in Europe. Enrique Barón Crespo focused his speech on the main challenges for completing a genuine Economic and Monetary Union as a process



*A moment of the conference*

of building Europe with stronger democratic participation and accountability at both national and European levels. The main challenges are: integrating the Eurogroup in the EU institutional framework with parliamentary accountability; the transformation of the current ESM in a European Monetary Fund with the creation of a European Treasury, and the implementation of risk sharing through systems like Eurobonds that would reinforce the Euro in a decisive way.

This process involves both the EP and national parliaments. Enrique Barón Crespo recalled and highlighted how the creation of the Monetary Union had received a definitive boost from the first Conference of the Parliaments of the EC that took

place in the Camera dei Deputati in November 1990 in Rome. The result paved the way for preparation of the European Monetary Union (EMU) in the Maastricht Treaty with President Guido Carli as representative of the Italian Government. Now he felt was the moment to renew this task, giving a key role to both the European and national parliaments. The other major step in democratic accountability, not elaborated in the report, would be the implementation of the principle of "no taxation without political representation" at European level in a clear and transparent way to the EU citizens. Enrique Barón Crespo believes that there are matters directly related to the EU single market and the environment that would easily help the citizenship to establish a direct link with the EU. This happens already with the Euro and it would help reinforce the democratic legitimacy of the whole European project.



*Panel of Speakers at LUISS University*

### Former Members Association

[www.formermembers.eu](http://www.formermembers.eu)  
[formermembers@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:formermembers@europarl.europa.eu)

# CO-OPERATION WITH THE EUI

## TOGETHER IN FLORENCE

The experience that our organisation enabled me to enjoy in Florence was to my mind remarkable both because it was so well managed and because the audience succeeded so excellently in participating, putting forward proposals, and summoning up enthusiasm for the matters at issue. If meetings of this kind and this calibre had been held ever since we first came together, then even those who now call themselves Eurosceptics would probably have become staunch Europhiles. The topics covered – freedom of thought, freedom of speech, non-discrimination, making no prejudicial distinctions on grounds of race or gender, and other core concerns not just for a further experiment in coexistence, but also to countries encompassing a variety of institutional systems, languages, customs, mores, and religions – inspired the young participants not only to engage in discussion and respond with a modern vision, which I would describe as contemporary with the current historic moment, but also to make innovative, original proposals.

I am sad that, because of its broad intrinsic scope and the shortness of the time available, I could not address the – before the Treaty of Lisbon – much-debated question whether the text of the preamble to the Treaty should cite the Judaeo-Christian and Periclean democratic roots of European civilisation.

What that would have involved, I believe, and might, I hope, involve in the future should the subject be taken up again is not merely setting down a historical reference, but exploring the genesis of profound



*Riccardo Ventre with the students*

changes shaped in the course of a development process and of the benefits which these have brought to the whole of humankind and Europe in particular.

Comparison of the discussion topics with the first part of our Constitution proved interesting. The young people were able to grasp the underlying similarities, in terms of principles, between the essence of our Constitution and those of more modern constitutions and the Treaty of Lisbon. These are the subjects to which we shall probably have to draw the attention of all Europeans, the young and the not so young, in order to ensure that economic matters – the size of pizzas, say, or the quantity of sugar added to wine – are, whatever their importance, relegated to second place behind what should be the defining elements on which to build – or rather rebuild – a society. The Florence-based European University Institute and the Former Members are working free of charge with public and private education

institutions in all parts of Europe to foster discussion of the above topics in schools and the foremost cultural associations, enlisting aid offered at no cost by serving MEPs and university teachers from countries possibly lying outside the range of first-hand experience. At a conference to be held at the end of each year, course participants will come together to discuss the fields that they have covered and select young people who, having been trained, will be ready to join the ranks of the trainers.

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# FORMER MEMBERS' NETWORK

## 40TH BIRTHDAY OF THE GERMAN ASSOCIATION

The Association of Former Members of the German Bundestag recently celebrated its 40th birthday. The Germans are well known for celebrating birthdays, especially ones ending in a zero, in some style. The programme of events lived up to expectations and included a harmonious mix of music and speeches. Following a reception on 19 June which featured a Friedrich Gulda concert and a buffet dinner, the main event took place on 20 June, in the presence of and with the active involvement of the President of the Bundestag, Dr Norbert Lammert, and the former President of Germany, Dr Joachim Gauck. The programme of opera arias and choral singing helped to create a welcoming atmosphere.

It was an event celebrating parliamentary democracy held in the Reichstag, the scene of some of the toughest battles in defence of a political system which we Europeans have finally come to see as the best democratic system. The President of the Association, Ms Niehuis, highlighted and repeatedly acknowledged the presence of our association, which was represented by its President.

Events commemorating the life



*Helmut Kohl, François Mitterrand and Enrique Barón Crespo at the EP in Strasbourg. 1989  
©European Union*

of President Kohl added a further dimension to the celebrations. Helmut Kohl was the longest-serving German Chancellor and a distinguished member of parliament. During a speech he gave in the European Parliament, barely two weeks after the fall of the Berlin Wall, he said the following: 'The division of Germany has always been a visible and particularly painful expression of the division of Europe. A united Germany will only become a reality if the unification of our old continent progresses. German policies and EU policies are inextricably linked. They are two sides of the same coin'. President Kohl was a dyed-in-the-wool European, he fought for 'a free and united Germany in a free and united Europe' and, as President Barón Crespo mentions in his lecture 'Berlin - from wall to gateway', Kohl helped to shape the future of the EU when, for example, he pushed through the switch from the deutschmark to the euro, in the face of public opinion.

President Barón Crespo signed the book of condolences on behalf of the association and sent a copy of his lecture entitled 'Berlin - from wall to gateway' to President Niehuis

in German as a special tribute. In that lecture, he explained how he lived through the days and weeks before and after of the fall of the Wall as President of the European Parliament and, more specifically, he recounted the November 1989 debate at which, at his invitation, the President-in-Office of the Council, François Mitterrand, and Chancellor Kohl were present. These remarks were much appreciated.

As President Barón Crespo says in his speech, the fall of the Berlin Wall was a decisive moment in history, a moment when the people joined forces to bring down peacefully the wall that divided Europe and the world.

The fall of the Wall threw open 'a broad gateway to the future of an outward-looking European Union.'



*From left to right: Prof. Dr. Uwe Holtz, Irmgard Schewe-Gerigk, Enrique Barón Crespo, Ingrid Matthäus-Maier, Lino DeBono (2017) ©VeMdBI/Katja-Julia Fischer*

### Former Members Association

[www.formermembers.eu](http://www.formermembers.eu)  
[formermembers@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:formermembers@europarl.europa.eu)

## FP-AP MEETING IN DUBLIN 8-10 JUNE 2017

Like a Phoenix rising from the ashes...

... That is how the Republic of Ireland must feel today after its dramatic and eventful history.

Phoenix Park, the green heart of Dublin, is also the backdrop to the official residence of the Irish President, Michael D. Higgins. In June, Andrea Manzella and I represented our FMA at the impressive reception he gave there for the Association of Former Members of the Council of Europe [www.fpap-europa-org](http://www.fpap-europa-org).

We took part in the Bureau meeting of the FP-AP, which, like the whole fact-finding visit, was immaculately organised by the Irish delegation, led by Olga Bennett and Vincent Brady. Ireland's eventful history is marked by grinding poverty caused by failed harvests, famines and politically motivated acts of repression. The policies of the major landowners, who were English, combined with the potato blight, led to terrible famine from 1845 to 1849, migration, a total population decrease of almost 50% and lasting resentment.

Since about 1980, population figures have been on the rise again and, with the help of significant EU funding, the previously impoverished Ireland has been transformed into a highly modern industrial and service society. Like a Phoenix rising from the ashes. Today it is an attractive location for many international companies. Students come from all over the world to attend its language schools and universities. In 2016, Ireland was the third-richest country in Europe and the eighth-richest in the world.

Free time can be spent enjoying its abundant nature, including its rugged coastline, playing polo, Gaelic football or hurling, and visiting the zoo or open air events.

Important writers, such as Jonathan Swift and Oscar Wilde, or the Nobel Prize winners for literature George Bernard Shaw and Samuel Beckett - and in my eyes also Frank McCourt, the author of 'Angela's Ashes' - have won Ireland fame, as have the limerick, Irish folk music and, above all, the Celtic harp, the country's oldest instrument. It is with us wherever we go, symbolising Ireland on the euro coins and on the coat of arms of the Republic. Just like the world famous Dublin Guinness.

Today, through their language, Gaelic, the Irish dialect of the Celts, the Irish preserve the heritage of their Celtic forefathers. Irish had nearly died out in 1990, but today it is a requirement (alongside English) for nurses, doctors and civil servants. Traditional Celtic spirals and interlacing patterns decorate the famous Book of Kells from circa 800AD, along with ornamental human and animal motifs. The book has been in the possession of the famous Trinity College in Dublin since the 17th century.

The Irish Free State was established in 1922 after the bloody civil war which lasted from 1919 to 1921. The ethnic-religious conflict and the IRA have left lasting wounds. Nevertheless, the Good Friday agreement of 1998 and the Republic of Ireland's decision to stop calling for reunification with Northern Ireland are evidence of a clear easing of tension.

The difficult Brexit negotiations



have now begun. 'We made the EU to tear walls down, not to build them', said the German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the inauguration of a memorial for the Berlin Wall in front of the Nato building in Brussels in May.

The FP-AP, under the direction of its Maltese President, Lino DeBono, is currently working on a statement on 'The Future of Europe' for 2018. Walter Schwimmer, the Austrian who was, among other things, the General Secretary of the Council of Europe, is the rapporteur. The political meetings and excellent speeches of the current Irish President, Michael D. Higgins (Labour Party), and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Charles Flanagan (Fine Gael), are still provoking much discussion. For an association with its aims of lasting dialogue and successful inclusion.

For a Europe of common values, respect, democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

**Brigitte Langenhagen**  
EPP-ED, Germany (1990-2004)  
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## FP-AP MEETING IN DUBLIN

*Extract of the speech of President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, delivered at a Reception for the European Association of Former Members of Parliament on Friday, 9th June 2017*

[...] We know that, unless decisive political action is taken, unless we create the conditions for a thorough moral and intellectual awakening, the European Union might well perish, and with it a certain idea of Europe – one that is rooted in a spirit of peace, cooperation and solidarity beyond national borders.

For all the gravity of the multiple crises currently facing our Union, it remains my profound conviction, however, that, provided it recaptures the affection and trust of its peoples, a strong and united Europe continues to be the best answer we have to offer to the great challenges of this century, from unfettered financial speculation to climate change or indeed security threats, of which the horrendous attack on London Bridge last week was but the latest demonstration.

Yes indeed, European unity is the best chance we have of shaping the global agenda on all of those new realities that touch and disrupt the daily lives of our citizens. That is the demonstration which all of us who call ourselves Europeans need to make, in practice and in public discourse. That is the great collective task we must tackle, without delay, without getting bogged down in political and economic firefighting, but with long-term vision, and having at heart, throughout, the hopes, the fears, the vulnerabilities and the immense potential of the millions of women, men and children whom our Union of European nations is here to serve. [...]



Michael Higgins with  
Brigitte Langenhagen ©FP-AP



Michael Higgins with Andrea Manzella  
©FP-AP



A moment during the speech  
of President Michael Higgins  
©FP-AP



A moment of the meeting with all the FP-AP representatives and President Michael Higgins ©FP-AP





# LATEST NEWS

## ACTIVITIES



### 6-7 November 2017

#### VISIT TO ESTONIA

Registrations are open.

### 29 November 2017

#### FMA ANNUAL COCKTAIL AND DINNER

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

### 30 November 2017

#### FMA ANNUAL SEMINAR

Title: 'EU global strategy on Security and Defence'.  
From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
European Parliament, Brussels.

### 30 November 2017

#### FMA GET-TOGETHER LUNCH

At 1p.m. in the JAN Brasserie, European Parliament, Brussels.

## 2018 FMA DIRECTORY

In these weeks, we are preparing the 2018 FMA Directory, which will be sent to all FMA Members in December. We kindly ask you to inform us if your postal or email address is changed or if you want complete or modify your profile. To access your current profile, please visit the FMA website at [www.formermembers.eu](http://www.formermembers.eu), section Members' area /Members' Directory. You will need to enter your login and password. We would be grateful if you could receive your updates by Mid-October.

Should you need any assistance, do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat at: [formermembers@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:formermembers@europarl.europa.eu).

## NEW TRAINEE

The FMA has a new trainee, who will work for the FMA from 1 September 2017 until 31 January 2018. Ms Marta Falgàs Paredes is of Spanish nationality and she holds a bachelor degree in Tourism at the Escola Universitària de Turisme CETA in Barcelona. Members can address her in Spanish, Catalan and English.

## ARCHIVES OF MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS

Following the Bureau decision of 10 March 2014, concerning the Processing of papers Members and former Members, the Historical Archives Unit of the European Parliament acquires archives of Members and former Members.

Documents will be processed, with analysis, indexation, digitisation and/or conversion to PDF-A documents, as well as made available to the public unless documents are confidential, in accordance with the relevant legal provisions. The application form for papers to be deposited is provided on request to the Historical archives or the FMA Secretariat.

Should you be interested, please contact the EP Archive Unit:

**Historical Archives Unit**

**Sandrine Bonnet**

**Tel: +352 4300 23273**

**email: [EPRS-Archives-MEP@ep.europa.eu](mailto:EPRS-Archives-MEP@ep.europa.eu)**

## NEW MEMBERS



**Godfrey  
BLOOM** (United  
Kingdom,  
2004-2014,  
IND/DEM)

Godfrey Bloom was a Member of the European Parliament from 2004 to 2014. Through his time in the Parliament, he served in the committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection, committee on Inquiry into the crisis of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality.



**James ELLES**  
(United Kingdom,  
1984-2014, EPP,  
ECR)

James Elles was a Member of the European Parliament from 1984 to 2014. Through his time in the Parliament, he served in the committees on Budgets, External Economic Relations, the Delegation for relations with the United States, Delegation for relations with the Mashreq countries, Delegation to the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee and Delegation for relations with Australia and New Zealand.



**Vicky FORD**  
(United Kingdom,  
2009-2017, ECR)

Vicky Ford was a Member of the European Parliament from 2009 to 2017. Through her time in the Parliament, she served as chair of the committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection and as a member of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China, special committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis, committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, committee on Industry, Research and Energy and Conference of committee Chairs.



**Timothy  
KIRKHOPE,**  
(United Kingdom,  
1999-2016, EPP  
& ECR)

Timothy Kirkhope was a Member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2016. Through his time in the Parliament, he served as chair of the Delegation for relations with Australia and New Zealand, vice-chair of the Delegation to the European Economic Area Joint Parliamentary Committee (EEA), committee on Constitutional Affairs, and the special committee on Organised Crime, Corruption and Money Laundering. He also served as a member of the committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs, committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities, committee on Transport and Tourism and committee on Petitions.



**Amalia SARTORI**  
(Italy, 1999-2014,  
EPP)

Amalia Sartori was a Member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2014. Through her time in the Parliament, she served as chair of the committee on Industry, Research and Energy and as vice-chair of the Delegation to the EU-Bulgaria Joint Parliamentary Committee, Delegation for relations with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly. She served as a member in the committees on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities, Industry, Research and Energy and temporary committee on Climate Change.



**John STEVENS**  
(United Kingdom,  
1989 - 1999, EPP)

John Stevens was a Member of the European Parliament from 1989 to 1999. Through his time in the Parliament, he served as vice-chair of the subcommittee on Monetary Affairs and as a member of the Delegation for relations with Czechoslovakia, Delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia and the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Delegation for relations with the Republics of former Yugoslavia, committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy, committee on Social Affairs, Employment and the Working Environment, committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy, committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights.



**Maurizio TURCO**  
(Italy, 1999-2004,  
NA)

Maurizio Turco was a Member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2004. Through his time in the Parliament, he served in the committees on Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism, Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs, Temporary committee on the Echelon interception system and the Delegation for relations with South Africa and with the countries of south-east Europe.



**Joan VALLVÉ,**  
(Spain, 1994-  
2005, ELDR)

Joan Vallvé was a Member of the European Parliament from 1994 to 2005. Through his time in the Parliament, he served as a member of the committee on Regional Policy, committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence and Delegation for relations with Israel.



## IN MEMORIAM

† 30 June 2017

**Simone VEIL**

ELDR (1979-1993)

She served as a French member of the European Parliament from 1979 to 1993. During her time in Parliament, Mrs Veil was a member of the Liberal and Democratic Reformist Group. She served as President of the European Parliament from 1979 to 1982. At the national level she represented the party 'Union pour la démocratie française'.



† 6 July 2017

**Frederick A. TUCKMAN**

ED (1979-1989)

He served as a British member of the European Parliament from 1979 to 1989. During his time in Parliament, Mr Tuckman was a member of the European Democratic Group. He served as Vice-Chair of the Delegation for relations with Latin-America. At the national level he represented the Conservative and Unionist Party.



† 10 August 2017

**Fritz GAUTIER**

SOC (1980-1987)

He served as a German member of the European Parliament from 1980 to 1987. During his time in Parliament, Mr Gautier was a member of the Socialist Group. At the national level he represented the Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands.



† 26 July 2017

**Enzo BETTIZA**

(1976-1994) LDR & PES

He served as an Italian member of the European Parliament from 1976 to 1994. During his time in Parliament, Mr Bettiza was a member of the Liberal and Democratic Reformist Group and of the Group of the Party of European Socialists. He served as Chair of the Delegation for relations with Yugoslavia, of the Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China, of the Delegation for relations with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. At the national level he represented the Partito liberale italiano and the Partito socialista italiano.

