

YOUNG EUROPEANS' MANIFESTO

We are 135 students from many parts of Europe. We met in Ventotene, united by a common aim: to make our voice heard.

"Peace, Diversity for Unity, Welcoming, Equality, Democracy, Communication between Forces, Information and Participation, a Younger Europe, Freedom of Speech, Protected Open Borders, Solidarity, Ecological Consciousness, Respect" are the subjects we debated about and which we developed in the Declaration of Ventotene of May 2017 by sharing a path of thoughts and ideas.

What follows is our Young Europeans' Manifesto, written in Ventotene, a magical island which many years ago gave birth to the dream of a free, united, democratic and supportive Europe.

Our commitment to this project lasted a year and it hasn't always been easy because comparison very often brings to conflict. It was thanks to the multicultural exchange and to knowing each other that we transformed conflict into collaboration, cohesion and inclusion.

The sickness of Europe isn't diversity: it's fear. And fear grows only where knowledge doesn't. Our experience begun with painting a dawn of peace, which we wish will never end.

That is why just before returning home the last word mentioned was Hope.

PEACE

One of the main objectives of the European Union and the reason why it was founded is to guarantee peace among its states and maintain it with other countries. Therefore, we must never forget the benefits peace has brought us. As a consequence, the young generations are obliged to preserve this value to avoid undermining all efforts to build the European Union.

Only a long lasting peace will bring us to a common European identity and creating awareness about its importance is fundamental.

The Union must take charge of diffusing themes regarding its history; this is possible only through public schools that enlarge people's knowledge of political issues about which every citizen must be informed in order to sensitize them to a major cultural openness.

First of all, we suggest museums and European cultural institutions take action by intensifying the network of loans of artifacts.

By doing so, the cultural exchange between countries would be reinforced.

Importation and exportation activities must be promoted and supervised by an organ named EAIE, European Agency of Intercultural Exchanges, to reduce the risk of damaged and stolen artwork.

We suggest a specific maximum amount of works each country can receive to avoid the dispersion of the European cultural patrimony.

Each work's permanency in a country can't last more than six months. The EAIE must also ensure the artwork arrives securely and is placed in appropriate locations.

A majority of the cultural projects we propose need funds; because of this we suggest the creation of a European General Fund for Educational Projects (EGFEP), financed profits made by museums, conferences and products sold during "Europe Day".

An administration council will decide how to use the funds. The EGFEF must finance all initiatives for which a financial report is needed.

In case of missing funds, the member states must pay a small percentage to keep the EGFEF in function; the import is calculated based of the GDP of the countries.

Tolerance and empathy diffused by art and more generally culture, in our opinion, are the necessary instruments to promote peace.

DIVERSITY FOR UNITY

We firmly believe that unity does not require homologation and that diversity represents a strength for the European Union.

The objective is to encourage encounter and avoid conflict between the different cultures which compose our community, to demolish ideological and physical walls, built with ignorance and rivalry, which confront the realization of a unique and common project.

For this reason, stereotypes and generalizations which obstacle social and cultural exchange are to be dismantled. We also think about valorizing every single aspect and idea of the citizens, to make them more aware of being part of a collectivity with common aims.

Knowledge is an essential element for unity, ignorance brings to the disintegration of society; we must build cohesion on knowing and comprehending the different cultures and societies which are part on the Union.

So we suggest to develop integration and exchange projects with young Europeans as protagonists, this is more and more essential for cultural, social, economic and professional grown for the new generations of future European citizens. A real suggestion is the foundation of a festival like Italian Expo lasting two weeks: every two years two cities would be chosen in each European country where the festival will take place with 27 pavilions, one for each EU nation; here every country would have the possibility to let foreigners know about their culture under the chosen theme. To advertise this project, discounts to young Europeans under 25 could be applied: for example, decreasing prices of transports and/or entry tickets. A dialogue between cultures is required so it could be possible to provide important basics about EU from childhood on: an extension of school programs is needed, including insights about customs and traditions from the 27 European countries; about the story that led to the foundation of a united Europe; about rights and civics (comparing the different laws), to increase the interest of younger people in the political, economic and social issues. So we consider fundamental to match this scholastic and academic studies with visits of the sites where EU's political activity takes place. We should have the possibility to discuss with politicians, mayors and state leaders, in order to find information about the reality we are living and about the way they are administering and ruling our countries. Thirdly, cultural exchanges have to be stimulated, increasing the number of destinations where tourism is less developed and also the number of school ships provided. Thanks to these moves it would be easier to share knowledge about culture and traditions between young Europeans. We also think that encouraging the knowledge of European languages (instead of using English as the only vehicular language) would be an important instrument to make cultural exchanges

possible. This would encourage and stimulate the interest in less known European languages and also job search in those regions. In addition, our aim is to create a more hospitable Europe for everyone without discrimination of minorities. Europe mostly has to ensure equal opportunities to the citizens, respecting their cultures and freedom of choice. For us, the most important tools to promote peace are tolerance and empathy.

The coexistence of different religions inside the same nation has always been a reason of conflicts. Living in a multicultural and multiethnic world, our duty is to find compromises to make possible freedom of belief for every European. We noticed that often mosques, synagogues and similar places of worship if not planned are located in uncomfortable, nearly inexistent places. So we propose to increase the space dedicated to religious minorities in order to make them more free to profess their belief and to make them feel part of a community more easily than before.

Dealing with the heavily debated bioethical theme (euthanasia, abortion, artificial insemination etc.), we believe that a viable solution to respect every possible choice could be the institution of European centers located in every nation and controlled by the same rules. The aim is to guarantee an option often forbidden by national laws, because several ones legitimate the prevarication of an ideal over another making a free choice impossible.

WELCOMING

Welcoming means accepting the coexistence and the interaction with others.

Welcoming presupposes not only an open mind, it also means mutual proactive acceptance of different cultures. This principle is part of a new model of the European Union and a positive change from an economical confederation to a community.

Europe must be united in a way thanks to which it can face issues quicker and more effectively; nations who are not directly involved in massive and disordered immigration issues must support the ones under pressure. Main causes of immigration are the economical, political, environmental and social conditions in the southern world.

We believe that in the European Union, welcoming and integrating refugees and immigrants must be guided by some main principles. Every individual who seeks asylum and a more prosperous future in the Union is welcome if he/she accepts to register to a process of identification and control of past crimes. If the immigrants have a criminal past, they must be monitored and reinserted through adequate rehabilitation programs.

In every case guaranteeing a quick insertion in society for migrants and refugees is necessary. Independently of the nation of provenience and of the reason of immigration, every individual must show a document that proves his/her identity.

After security controls, whoever doesn't provide an identity demonstration must accept to participate to a program of recognition, which must exclude any form of discrimination and segregation and which supplies them with new documentation.

Immigrants who don't provide document identity can enter the borders if family members or legal tutors can certify it.

To create a balance in the migration fluxes and guarantee support to the countries pressed by the demographic increase due to the immigration phenomenon the European Commission faced the theme of relocation. The regulation of immigration policies should be administered by a political European organ, whose members represent each state. The objective is to implement adequate procedures to welcome migrants and maintain security and stability. We must focus on a policy that can benefit mostly minors and refugees; our proposal is to prioritize the integrity and the well-being of the family.

If family members of an immigrant are already residents in the country where he/she wants to move, a certification of their consanguinity is requested to maintain the family's unity.

The new European organ must consider a series of factors to decide if a country is adequate for the relocated individual.

The conditions are the following:

- a) The country has economic necessities that the working competences of the migrant can satisfy;
- b) The history and the culture of the welcoming country promote mutual respect and not anti-values born with racism and nationalism, for example sovereigntism and supremacy, by improving the interaction between different cultures and opinions;
- c) The country's resources are enough to guarantee the welfare of the immigrant on the base of demographic capacity and the GDP

Integration of non-European migrants:

Integration is a progressive involvement of an individual in a community in society.

To welcome migrants every nation needs an educational system capable of teaching the bases of its main language.

To attend school, every immigrant must have passed an exam that determines a level of language class in which he/she can be inserted. Language lessons must occupy two-thirds of the total lesson time; the other one-third must be dedicated to the integration in a regular class group.

To directly attend university or to find job which requests good language skill, after showing their instruction level through documentation, the immigrants can participate in a specific language course, depending on which sector they would like to study or work, and pass an exam which proves they have the necessary skills.

Integration also regards Europeans who move from a country to another. Their entrance in the new country's society must be eased by a common sense of respect and solidarity spread by the Union, and by the acknowledgement of a common European citizenship.

EQUALITY

Equality is the ethical-juridical or ethical-political under which members of a community have to be considered in the same way about certain rights and principles. All European citizens are equal in front of the institutions, beyond gender, sexual orientation, social condition, political opinion and belief.

Equality's value must stay at the base of the new European community, in every field of social life. So we decided to give several hints about some of them.

Sport has been forever considered as one of the most important means to educate adults and children, particularly equality. Our hints are the following:

EU should promote sporting events of various disciplines, already from youth, where mixed teams composed by disabled and able-bodied people, in order to value gender equality and motor activity through different languages, overcoming ideological barriers. Events' profit would be used to support future initiatives, to build and preserve sports facilities. Another use of the funds could be financing beneficial activities to support disabled people.

EU should take care of the really talented ones in sports, especially when the athlete's economical situation doesn't allow to train properly.

School is a place dedicated to the correct individual growth and equal opportunity. Indeed, school environment is the starting point to allow everyone's personality development and realization of their ambitions.

Our proposals are: European Union should organize periodical meetings inside schools of member countries to discuss equality. The meetings' frequency and mode depends on the age in order to teach an important value like equality already from childhood on. The transmission of this value is produced by a properly working school system.

Consequently, Europe has to plan with all European nations meetings about the foundation of an ideal school system. For example, an Erasmus project could be possible for fourth year's high school students, who could optionally attend four months or one year abroad inside EU.

In the school of member countries, also secular ones, study plans nowadays include the teaching of State's traditional religion. We suggest to turn the actual religion classes into occasions to study secularly all religions, allowing all the students to be involved without religious discrimination.

Work is one of the areas where inequality between genders is more present. Moreover, there is a general lack of equal working opportunities for young European citizens. Our suggestions are:

EU has to guarantee the equal retribution between men and women doing the same work. European Union also has to promote youth work among teenagers, for example, making it easier to access part-time or short duration jobs similar to their studies. Their employers should offer as part-time opportunities as possible.

Homosexual families are also a reality and the EU needs to protect them when they have children through a surrogate mother or through adoption, giving them a paid leave, like the so called maternity.

The family is the core of individual growth. Equality and the right to create a family have to coexist reaching success: a more equal society. Our proposals are: European Union has to acknowledge and legalize in every European country marriages between the same genders, giving importance to equality of all humans. So it has to admit LGBT families and defend the existent ones.

DEMOCRACY

“Democracy” comes from δῆμος, people, and κράτος, power. It's a government form born in Athens around the end of the VI century B.C but, instead of the representative democracy, it was direct and citizens made decisions personally about the government of the city by a show of hands. Today a direct democracy can't be viable because of the large number of people involved in it. We consider that the best way for a modern State is the representative democracy.

Democracy, for us, is the government form that allows citizens to express preferences about future institutional representatives and administrators of the national bureaucracy. Moreover it's the only one that is completely based on each citizen's freedom and the only one that values them as individuals belonging to a community. Particularly, participatory democracy is the most suitable to ensure a steady presence of the citizens inside the dialogue with the representatives.

We clarify right now that we don't believe on the foundation of a federal European state because of the cultural differences among the various nations; also, we don't trust in the choice of a single president because it would interfere in the equal representation of all European members.

A confederation with several federal features, like a common army, seems to us more viable immediately, leaving the opportunity to create a European federation in the future.

First of all, we acknowledge and confirm the importance of the European Parliament, because it is the only supranational body where representatives are actually chosen by the citizens.

However, we suggest a simplification of the EU's structure, we strongly believe that Commission's tasks could be carried out by the European Parliament and Government. It's relevant to clarify to all the citizens how every governmental body works focusing also on the related issues, because nowadays they feel these themes are far from them. This is needed in order to increase the meaning and influence of the European Government in the daily life.

We also propose, remembering and criticizing the failed attempt to pass a European Constitution made of over 400 articles, to create an immediate and practical Constitution that can unify all the EU countries clearly following several essential points. A starting point could be choosing the best features from the different national constitutions in order to achieve a Constitution that deeply represents each European country.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN FORCES

Built after two world wars, by people in search of peace, today Europe suffers from skepticism on the part of nationalisms and populisms that lead to the disintegration of the work of the founding countries.

Furthermore, we are exposed to various threats of the globalized world such as terrorism, loss of identity and an emerging generation who is uninterested in Europe and the world.

Therefore, efforts must be made to promote a more efficient communication between European countries. By 'European forces' we mean the Member States and their institutions. Communication between these forces would require a dialogue that includes the common interests of peace, internal security, transparency and citizens' well-being.

The aim of these proposals is to create a basic culture that defines the European identity and to build a common foreign policy to bring about a smoother collaboration.

Since the collaboration between States on the sharing of sensitive data and information on international security is insufficient, we propose a strengthening of the competences of the European Police Office (Europol) in order to obtain a competent agency in the field of international security and in the management of relevant information.

This agency will have the task to collect the information from the various Member States, ensuring their rapid sharing and total transparency, while ensuring the protection of sensitive data.

Each State will have the obligation to share all information about national security (relevant or not), which will be entered into a database and classified according to their urgency. The agency will have the task of protecting the received data and communicating it only to the units involved, making use of new technologies.

We need to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of every single nation, adding a common dimension that sensitizes to Europe. It is the school's task to encourage the birth of a critical spirit in citizens, understood as the ability to develop their own autonomous and original thinking about the reality that surrounds them.

If more educated about the history of Europe, young people will be able to understand the importance of European interest compared to national ones. The goal is to activate a truly innovative path: feeling first European and then inhabitant of your country. We want to promote a mentality that cultivates the feeling of a common interest that goes beyond the interests of individual states, of individual nationalistic egotism.

Since the citizens of the Union don't have a European spirit, and consequently there is a devaluation of the common interest compared to the national one, we believe it is necessary to integrate programs that provide basic knowledge about the European Union, starting from childhood. We want not only to create a separate subject on the path of the European Union, but to integrate European aspects into the different existing teachings (history, literature, science, civics, et cetera). Furthermore, it is necessary to insist on learning a common language - necessarily English - as a means of communication between European citizens.

We are deeply convinced that young people are important for the evolution of the European Union; therefore, in response to the general disinterest of many students we propose another project that is founded on encouraging cultural exchange opportunities and meetings through

Erasmus or Inter-rail experiences, for middle and high school children, favoring facilitations in order to break down any economic inequality.

We believe that with these projects both young people and adults can feel all the same in the use of opportunities and, above all, supported by the European Union.

We also indicate the creation of small newspapers that are provided to the teacher to give them to the students for lessons. These newspapers will then have to be returned to the teacher to be re-used by other students in the future. To reduce the waste of paper, to make students aware of the respect of work materials and to involve them every time in the various problems afflicting the European Union, teachers, at the end of the school year, must bring the paper to the closest EAIE (European Agency for International Exchange), which will deliver it to the editorial board that will have the task of guaranteeing the recycling process to carry out the next edition.

We suggest the creation of a European festival, which includes simulations of European parliamentary sessions. The participants will be the best students of the simulations held in all countries. Among the regional students taking part in the project, a maximum of four students will be chosen (two males and two females) to participate in national simulations. Subsequently, in the same way, the best four of each nation will move to the international stage to participate in the European Festival. The festival will be held in the second week of May and will take place in a seat of the European Institutions, which will change every year. Students will have the opportunity to simulate the actual work session to actively involve them. They will be able to discuss European issues together, write resolutions aimed at solving international issues and, in a second moment, the best will be presented to the most prominent figures in Europe.

Since there is a lack of cooperation between the armed forces of the European states to pursue a common interest, we suggest the formation of an institution that regulates and controls the military actions of the individual countries.

The idea is to establish a Security Council consisting of state representatives who take decisions on military interventions through a qualified majority vote. The council would guarantee consultation between all European states to co-ordinate military actions and to avoid autonomous intervention resulting from an unaccepted decision. Every State must communicate its intention to intervene in a conflict and await the decision of the Council. Each state would keep its own national army.

The fact that states can maintain their own army would give them the impression of not being incorporated by a higher body, but at the same time would open up a smoother collaboration because decided through a transparent comparison.

The European Union does not yet have a single voice in relations with foreign countries. As already mentioned in the defense article, some European states are allowed to act without consultation with other member countries and this entails greater competition and division within the Union. We want Europe to have a uniform relationship between all Member States and foreign countries in order to be consistent with its defense policies. We also believe that this would create a stronger link between European states.

We propose to increase the importance and the competences of the Council of Ministers, giving it a predominant voice on the interests of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the

member countries. Every action abroad must be authorized and discussed within the Union. Furthermore, we suggest keeping the extra-European embassies of the different Member States, making them multi-purpose if there is not an embassy of another European State. As regards bilateral relations between Member States and non-European countries, they would be authorized only for matters that do not contravene the common security and defense objectives.

Our goal is to make sure that the European citizen has the opportunity to get in touch with the cultures of the different countries of the Union. In fact, we believe that facilitating travel within it can promote assiduous and fruitful dialogue between nations. Easier communication between peoples can reinforce communication between European forces.

To this end, we propose to improve and modernize transport systems, making them even more affordable for European citizens and to intensify the communication networks.

INFORMATION AND INVOLVEMENT

Information and involvement are two fundamental elements for social development. True information raises much more awareness about issues of the place where we live and support an active involvement inside local, national and European public life.

Because of the increase of the so called "Fake News", mostly on the internet, finding trustable sources and original contents is becoming difficult. Our suggestion is to create an international institution to monitor over the flux of news, pushing owners and managers of websites to a careful selection of contents that must be verified and deleting or denouncing, as far as possible, fake ones.

Our hint's fundamental point is about fairness, those institutions must follow this value.

For the benefit of a wide spread of information, also for people that don't have enough facilities, we suggest to install displays in public spaces and inside means of transport to publicly show titles and contents of the most important news.

We consider required the education, already from the childhood, to the sense of belonging and participation to the society. The best way to realize this project is to insert inside school programs several interactive classes: students will be get used to searching reliable sources in digital and paper form, to select useful information and to match with external people. This kind of comparison will help boys and girls developing a personal critical point of view and analytical skills.

To increase a higher involvement in the European policy, we consider appropriate to offer more collective occasions in which it will be possible to express the personal vote about relevant themes and decisions. Therefore it would be correct to propose a careful spreading of information and seminars about the matter of vote. So adults, pushed by the proposals' clarity and importance, will not only be interested in participating in a referendum, but also in the evolution of the social and political context in which they act.

Alternatively to the referendum, also considering the cultural point of view, our proposal is to create an online user friendly platform, highly advertised, in which every European citizen expose their opinion through surveys and comments.

Information and involvement concern about culture.

We suggest to spend European funds to sponsor museums, sites and organizations in order to effectively preserve and promote the different artistic and cultural heritage of each European country. About this, we propose to organize European festivals with discounted or free entry tickets especially for the young ones. This will sensitize collective consciousness and involvement in all aspects of EU's life.

YOUNGER EUROPE

We are noticing that Europe is getting older. An adult who is involved in the European politics is mostly far from our younger context, trapped in a complex system that doesn't motivate the interest of younger people. Today we suggest several projects that will allow a collective involvement in European politics, not only to improve participation, but also to make Europe younger for a better future.

We propose to create an online platform as a further instrument to learn, to get information, to divulge and to involve the younger ones in social life. This project will keep us updated on relevant issues, as immigration, economic crisis, globalization or climate change, making any problems about operation and management of political, economical and social EU's tasks clear. The authenticity of the information inside this website will depend on competent figures. Furthermore, the platform could guarantee to users the possibility to be in touch with different cultures and traditions. At last, we recommend organizing a showcase inside the platform, where are advertised projects like stages, Erasmus, volunteer initiatives, meetings with diplomats and journey inside the EU.

We think that the clearness of information reported, the opportunity of an interaction between young people and EU and the presence of different realities would stimulate curiosity of younger ones and would support a "Unity" bond.

We consider journeys fundamental to know different cultures, traditions, political and social realities of member states. The only way to establish a union and a common feeling among young European citizens. This will increase the desire to face the challenge: accepting other realities. Moreover, travels will show them working environment in foreign countries too, for example via stages.

This project could be possible with more trust in young people from EU giving funds to promote and boost our initiatives (ecological, social, economical etc.); like in Israel where different young startups thought and projected by young persons are supported. In this small country the importance and relevance of young people in society have been understood because they are the future of their country, so there are investments in their education and training. So we suggest an improved promotion of European startups, that will represent a turning point for the future through a young participation and realization of their proposals.

We know that the future of EU is in our young hands. So, we claim our right to be involved in decisions related to us. We propose the presence of a young representation that will express our voice inside the European Parliament. This institution must be multicultural, featured by

as many realities as possible to demonstrate that Europe, with all its diversity, manages to express a view and to move as a single body.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Art.1 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that "All humans are born free and equal in dignity and rights". Freedom of speech is an inalienable right that allows everyone to live in a democratic society and is a fundamental instrument of peaceful confrontation and self-determination. Speech is what renders human beings unique in the biological realm, it allows thought expression and as such its free use must be protected.

Europe is composed of a set of culturally divided countries, which in turn are crossed by internal differences. Because of this, freedom of speech is the key to political, social and cultural harmony. European policies must always aim at the tolerance, respect and safeguard against free confrontation. It is thanks to freedom of speech that we have the opportunity to disagree without hurting one another, we have the right to free and correct information and we have the opportunity to express our ideas and this is precisely why the European Union must protect this right.

First of all, we suggest strengthening the guarantee of democratic rights, simultaneously not denying the representation of local political forces, even those of extremist parties. We believe it's necessary to protect the minorities and the freedom of the individual.

Taking into account our past of enlightenment when creating legislations that permit further cohesion and collective collaboration is essential. We believe in the necessity to bring the European Court of Justice closer to the citizen, allowing all to appeal directly to it, surpassing the national judiciary system in place in case it does not offer guarantees of independence from the national political power. Freedom of expression has to be protected from authoritarian and anti-democratic forces.

We have identified journalism as a possible field threatened by censorship and lack of security. In various European countries journalists risk physical and professional repercussions when exercising their legitimate investigative actions.

Moreover, the lack of economic independence of various newspapers can damage the authenticity of the information given, favoring oligopolistic interests. Europe should take responsibility for the safety of journalists, legislating at a European level, introducing impartial representatives within judicial institutions that guarantee effective freedom of speech.

We suggest the creation of a European organ which should deal with the intermediation between newspapers and companies and control the spread of advertisements in order to

avoid the subordination of information sources. In this case multinational companies should not directly turn to a newspaper to buy adverts, but to this European organ instead. The latter would then assign the advertisements to various newspapers in rotation, guaranteeing a direct proportionality between the budget provided by the company and the future visibility of the advert.

Lastly, we propose the creation of a European public television network and an online portal associated with it, with the aim of promoting the dispersion of unbiased news. This service would also cover a fundamental role in showing the values that come along with a European citizenship.

The birth of the Internet has enhanced the possibility of expression and the right to free speech both for medias and for individuals. However, this virtual space must be disciplined. Within social networks, content control administrations often make mistakes due to the excessive randomness with which they manage their user's activities. The policies on which the inspection of content control and censorship are based must be adapted and in line with European legislation on the subject.

However, no legislative measures can really be effective without the education of citizens on democracy and mutual respect: "Leges sine mores vanæ sunt". The key to incorporating these norms and making them not only mere written words but common values is the education of Europeans and children from a young age, beginning to install European consciousness already in Kindergartens. For example, encouraging children and young girls to express themselves with the awareness of belonging to a community in which individual behavior should not be dictated by selfishness but by reciprocity, solidarity and sharing.

The ingredients of a good European citizen are the enhancement of civic education in schools and the innovation of teaching through inclusive methodologies such as cooperative learning and progressive education.

We believe that the Europe of tomorrow must be a safe place for every citizen and especially for his thoughts. We need to dedicate time and energy in order for everyone to truly express their thoughts freely, consequently making Europe almost a safety outlet allowing us all to freely express our opinions even in cases where the Member States themselves do not offer democratic guarantees to their own citizens.

PROTECTED OPEN BORDERS

A border is a geographic line that delimits a certain area, a territory. Borders can be both political and economic. Political borders take into account the state and the internal frontiers within it, while examples of economic borders are the Schengen area and the euro-zone.

Within the European Union, which has a policy of free movement of persons and goods, there are problems of internal border management both in terms of security, control and market regulation. Similarly the reception and integration of migrants also provokes a great deal of discussion in the Union.

Common taxation: one of the differences between the Member States of the European Union is taxation. In fact you can find countries with high taxes (for example Italy: 50.13%) and others with much lower taxes (Ireland: 30.9%). This difference makes investments in some countries of the Union more economically convenient than others: in fact large companies install their offices in countries with lower taxes in order to pay less taxes, consequently many countries of the Union cannot compete with others. We therefore want to create competition within the Union by imposing a common taxation fee adopted by all the Member States. In addition we believe trade taxation should be lower among the Member States and higher for countries that are not part of the Union in order to increase internal trade and links between the countries of the European Union.

Making citizens more European: one of the main reasons for the emergence of Eurosceptic movements is the weak connection between citizens and the European Union. To combat this we would like to create equal projects for all Member States allowing to create elements of cohesion and European spirit. This could be done by, for example, establishing a common retirement age in such a way as to break down inequalities and bring equal employment rights in all Member States of the Union, balancing the European market as well (Italy: 66.7 years; France: 62 years).

Today, FRONTEX (European border and Coast agency), a European body that seeks to combat the problems of border security between the Schengen countries, also plays a supporting role for members who need assistance and coordinates the management of the European data and border forces.

There are many problems with border security in Europe. Communities that live along borders are often isolated both from their own country and the outsiders. Moreover, conflicts between citizens and national or European institutions, as well as between European and non-EU citizens, seem to be increasing.

We believe that the solutions to resolve such conflicts could be as follows:

- a) the countries of the European Union must cooperate with each other. This cooperation should be not only military, but mainly concern the exchange of statistical and analytical data;
- b) All European countries should share the same legislation and regulations on the topic;
- c) Even with full cooperation between the Member States, their borders should always be respected;
- d) We believe that a conference should take place every year to allow all the European nations to discuss the different problems related to immigration and seek to find common solutions;

e) Every state should have the right to receive help from the neighbor states on its borders if needed;

f) If a European citizen commits a crime in a country of the union, he/she should have the right to be judged in his/ her own country of origin;

g) Today many parts of the world, such as the Middle East and North Africa, are uninhabitable: their inhabitants are deprived of their freedom and every day their lives are put on the line. For this reason they should have the right to leave their country and look for better living conditions elsewhere.

The Treaty of Dublin signed in 1997 tempts to control the migration in the Union, the treaty stipulates that the country in which the migrant arrives is considered the country responsible for its asylum application. However, the vast majority of arrivals are registered in a very restrict number of Member States (Greece and Italy) placing enormous pressure on very few states and relieving much bigger ones from any at all. For this precise reason the inequality of responsibilities renders this treaty extremely unfair.

Furthermore, this system is not fully respected because in 2016 an agreement was made between Turkey and the European Union to halt the irregular migratory flow in Europe from the Middle East: Turkey now receives several billions of euros each year to literally stop the migrants, sometimes even using inhumane methods. In addition to that, last year Italy signed an agreement with Libya, according to which the Libyan authorities would stop the departure of thousands of refugees, preventing them from reaching Europe, in many cases also turning to violent methods.

These decisions taken by the European Union do not respect the Article 6 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which states the right to freedom and security of every individual. In addition, article 18 of the 1951 Convention of Geneva guarantees the right of asylum to all those who risk their lives ("a refugee should not return to a country in which his life is put in danger"). Therefore making Italian prefectures and national institutions in all the European countries comply with precision and timing.

Our proposal is to create a new system for regulating migratory flows, more suited to the current situation and completely different from the one in vigor since 1997.

All Member States must accept refugees on a basis of shares, calculated on the GNP and the population density of each country, defined by a supranational European institution. In this way, the 80th article of the Treaty on European Union operation is applied, which requires the 'principle of solidarity and the sharing of responsibilities between Member States'.

This supranational institution has the main task of deciding the number of migrants "given" to each state, examining their individual asylum requests and welcoming them in such a way that they are then truly considered as citizens: many European Union reception centers are already present in most capital cities of each state region making them accessible to all.

This institution should be made up of one representative per Member State and all expenditure on the transfer and reception of each refugee should be borne by the European Union's budget, depriving the individual countries of the economic burden.

Countries that refuse to accept immigrants lose part of the Community's funds or pay a penalty to the above mentioned institution for the transfer and reception of the Refugees. The money released in both cases is used for the improvement of the reception centers.

To ensure that all Member States consent refugees, it is necessary to raise the awareness of all citizens on the topic making them feel as if they were all part of the common dimension that is Europe.

When migrants arrive in a state they are welcomed into the reception centers: their fingerprints are then taken to verify that the migrant is not already "known" by the European Union (for example because this person could be considered a threat to our overall security). To determine who has the priority of being accepted in the European Union we have designed a pyramid, the "Order pyramid of migratory Flow Management". There once was the pyramid of "Dominus", that had the most powerful and rich at its summit, instead our pyramid has the ones who are more in need at its summit, war refugees. Below them are the people who are repressed by the dictatorship currently present in their country of origin. After them there are all those who do not have freedom of thought, speech, worship or press in their own country and at the base of the pyramid there are those who emigrate for economic reasons.

On the other hand, when deciding which country each refugee will be sent to, the refugees themselves may indicate a preference, but it will not always be possible for the institution that transfers them to please them. Those who have family members already living in a specific country, know a certain language well, or have worked or studied in a particular country will have a better chance of being assigned to the Member State of their choice.

SOLIDARITY

The European Union is based on a principle of mutual aid and respect, not only between individuals, but also between states. The wealthier states must help the less developed ones or the ones that struggle to grow and develop. This value must be interpreted from an ethical, economic and social point of view.

The purpose of solidarity is to bond with people/create bonds between people and be welcoming to everyone as they are exactly like us.

People who aren't affluent mustn't be discriminated. If we don't have a strong cohesion between us we are not able to welcome immigrants and migrants. We must remember that our historical path is similar to the one that they are living nowadays and we must not forget that Europeans were the first to emigrate and be accepted in other societies in the past.

In any case, it's now our duty to face this challenge with a spirit of fraternity and solidarity; we must accept it mostly because European states are guilty of creating this situation by exploiting the population of least developed countries during imperialism and colonialism.

The European Union, in addition to helping immigrants, must overcome the social differences and reach a common agreement between the state members in order to preserve the ideal condition of "welfare state", which respects the dignity and the rights of every human-being. We must help other states during times of crisis, such as natural catastrophes, wars, terrorism, poverty, hunger.

In order to preserve the principle of solidarity in ethic and social aspects, the European union must preserve the achievement of equality and equity, abolishing every form of discrimination, whether based on skin color, religion, race, physical and mental disability, sexual orientation and gender, wealth and social status.

We want to highlight the analogies and differences between European people, aiming for an efficient cohesion between cultures so as to encourage integration, overcoming the gap between the states that, involved from the beginning of the process of unification, have benefited of a faster development and the ones of more recent affiliation, such as east European countries which are still affected by the economic and social conditions of the previous regimes.

In the same way, the employer of each business who has hired a non-European worker should organize meetings to introduce him and integrate him in a condition of equality. Immigrants can arrive in a country, share their story, describe their experiences and skills and then apply for working stages so they can specialize in activities that can ensure them a future career.

Conferences and meetings should be organized in the workplace and be addressed as "international days" in order to reduce any type of discrimination, to increase the perception and the idea that all people are equal, so as to simplify their integration. Kids should attend ethic lessons to understand, from a very early age, that all people from every country have the same rights and duties and that they are equal before the law.

ECOLOGICAL CONSCIOUSNESS

In these days world global warming and pollution issues are day by day more incontestable and are gradually dragging our planet to deterioration. It's essential to spread knowledge about the growing threat in order to find concrete solutions that foster a sustainable development. This is important not only for the safety of men but also of the environment. Acting is now essential. We propose a solution on the short and long-term: concerned by the ineffectiveness of media warnings about the environment, our task is to strengthen the impact of institutional advertisement and to encourage European citizens to take action. Furthermore, it's necessary that school communities complement their cv with specialization courses about the environmental theme in the school itinerary thus making the European youth aware. We hold to be true that European Union ought to raise the budget financing the development of the research and of the development of functionality of physical and economic access to renewable resources. The funds invested in fossil fuels should be limited in favor of a bigger outlay in more advantageous solutions for the environment. On the long term, the more economically developed countries will have to invest in ecological programs

and in research in developing countries. Aware that the main cause of carbon dioxide emissions transport is based on fossil fuels, the limitation of their use is essential to face the issue, a petrol card must be introduced to register the amount of fuel consumed per user. This card must be regularly checked in order to apply a taxation on excessive consumption of fuel. To counterbalance the following reduction movement at a personal level it's necessary to improve public transports. The Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development must encourage cattle breeders to change their animals diet adding food that reduces the CO2 and CH4 emissions caused by cattle. Deeply concerned about the lack of actions about recycling it's necessary to fix goals for every member state; these will be proportional to national standards and it will be the duty of the individual European countries to distribute quotas to their regions.

If a member of the commission wishes to change his candidate program, the executive and the other delegates will have decision-making power to decide if it could remain a member of the commission and change his program or if it will have to be removed. Furthermore, a forum that informs schools, universities and communities about signs of progress about the decisions taken in the council will be programmed.

We suggest to the European Union to stipulate a bilateral treaty with the Chinese popular republic, so that both will take advantage from it. This treaty should establish the production of models of renewable energy in China so as to improve the number of jobs and make both European and Chinese economies grow. The effort in this production could help the promotion of new technologies in the rest of the world, including world economy leading ones. To spread around the states the knowledge of pros and cons of the technological progresses obtained, we consider necessary to show the functionality and the eventual profit, even ecological, of the alternative new technologies. In this way, even countries with an economy sustained by the production of petrol, upon which new discoveries would have a negative impact, will be able to invest in sustainable technologies. This with the hope that the use of renewable energy may grow considerably in the world percentage: in 2014 it was still at 19,2%

RESPECT

"Respect" does not simply mean the opposite of "hatred", it means accepting others while striving for the following objectives: appreciating diversity and equality, embracing other cultures; creating a multicultural society; helping anyone who struggles.

Knowledge, cooperation and support are our keywords. To Increase mutual respect and understanding we propose the following solutions. First, we want to spread awareness of other cultures with a mutual exchange of knowledge and skills, sharing our cultures and studying world history. Our aim is to make people feel respected and valued in their respective cultures.

As solutions we hope to create study groups for children and adults to further their integration and teach them local customs, laws and language with the help of professionals and volunteers (teachers and cultural mediators).

The lessons should be organized keeping the participants' native language and customs in mind so that a real exchange can take place. These lessons should be attended in the afternoon by all who are currently attending school and at night by the working adults.

Interacting with different cultures can give us a chance to become more tolerant.

A website is an important tool to communicate with the EU citizens in an informal way and can be useful to advertise the advantages that reciprocal respect can achieve. Richness and not menace.

Here citizens can find pictures, videos and stories of people from every part of Europe. Increasing the amount of this kind of initiatives is important, also by using social media to reach a bigger number of people.

The European Union must guarantee the European citizenship to everyone who lives within its borders, stimulating the sharing of a common European identity, to obtain major respect between citizens and a major collaboration between the Union's countries.

In our opinion, feeling part of the community is essential; this can create the awareness of belonging to the same group. The right of citizenship is one of the principles that guarantee a complete integration of citizens in the Union's countries.

The citizenship must be given to everyone with at least one of the following requirements: birth in a European country, a five-year school attendance or working career in a European country, regular and constant residence in a European state without law infractions.

The European institutions are responsible for giving the European citizenship.

We propose that:

- a) children who are born in a European nation from immigrant parents, of which at least one has the right of residence, must have the right to obtain the citizenship;
- b) to become citizen of the European nation in which they live, immigrant minors must have stayed for five years in the school they've been inserted in;
- c) immigrants who enter the nation after their eighteenth birthday must wait for five years, after obtaining the right of residence, to obtain the citizenship.

At last, we propose to effectively celebrate the 9th of May, Europe day, a date that still isn't well known, despite its importance for the Union. We also suggest to establish one or more days in which European cultures are celebrated, in order to teach people how to appreciate the diversity of European countries with a practical session, in which people get to discover typical food, clothing and dances of every nation, and a theoretical session, with lessons and conferences on personal experiences and social life of every European population, on the exposition of traditions and of the way of living.

A European Culture celebration, which everyone can feel a part of.

At first, school could be involved and successively the project could involve a large part of the citizens, with the contribution of the diplomatic institutions.

Foreign students in the different European nations will be part of the project and will be able to represent their cultures, and if this isn't be possible, local students will be able to do research and elaborate on the uses and traditions of different countries.

To realize this project, we must include teachers, professors and volunteers and associations that can sponsor the project, creating a European fund to which every nation will collaborate when the idea is accepted by the governments.

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4. Dennis Bunde
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6. Anna-Christina Knaute
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131. Mariam Rochi
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133. Maria Popczyk
134. Isidoro Bracchi
135. Samuel Boscarello