

The Declaration of Ventotene

Introduction

We are students from France, Germany and Italy. We have been given a voice. A voice to express how we feel about the Europe we are part of. We believe our opinion has an important impact on the general aim of every European citizen, for we are the youngest generation reflecting on how to modernize Europe on a new cultural and political basis. The word “politic” comes from the Greek word “polis”, meaning “the road map to follow to its citizens”. In fact, being European citizens should mean sharing a horizon of common values, taking part to a European debate and to the process of decision making, which affects our lives.

We want our cultural diversity to be our strength and our key tool for a better Europe. In a world in which nationalism is rising, we are strongly convinced that we need a multicultural approach: pooling our national identities and cultures is fundamental to achieve a united Europe under all fronts.

This Declaration of Ventotene is the expression of our uncertainties, hopes and needs. We want to emphasize the importance of Europe in a difficult historical moment that is struggling with global issues. We desire to write down all the principles and visions brought by the young generation of Europe to create a bigger community, united and diversified under the same flag. Therefore, we propose the following thirteen articles.

Ventotene, May 27th 2017

Constitution of Europe

“Europe is about People”

This constitution is the compilation of fundamental values of a new Europe, collected by young open minded individuals from three European cities: Rome, Paris and Berlin. To realize this dream of a united, safe and modern Europe we need to work together.

Peace

The European Union must be engaged in maintaining peace among its individual citizens, the European countries but also in the rest of the world by creating a strong and united European and international community. Keeping in mind that all wars have never brought any kind of improvement, nationalism must be fought.

Diversity for Unity

Instead of letting diversity divide us, let us use diversity to unite us. We have many different cultures and traditions that we must all celebrate by living together and taking advantage of the input of others. We should be proud of our diversities; we cannot erase what we were given, we must enhance what we are.

Welcoming

Europe is a place for every person, no matter the origin or the destination. It is a place that protects them, gives them a place to live and prosper. Europe will develop and grow because of this intellectual and physical exchange. This opportunity extends only to those who are willing to adapt to the rules, respect the European values and contribute to the well-being of all. There must be a common plan, regulating immigration, all countries follow unanimously. After the initial welcoming, it is imperative to follow through with a program of integration.

Equality

Every European citizen must be treated equally under the same institutions, no matter the gender, sexual orientation, ethnic and social background, political opinion and religion. Equality must be extended to the countries of the European Union, balancing political and economic power.

Democracy

Europe must be based on a democratic system between the people and the institutions. Their voices must be heard by freely elected representatives and through referendums.

Communication between Forces

Every country of the European Union must be able to share the information to prevent future conflicts and terrorist attacks. We must establish a strong communication system between the armed forces of every country of the European Union.

Information and Involvement

Every European must easily be able to access reliable information about current ongoing issues. From young to old age, every European must be informed through educational facilities and media.

Governments must be in charge of imposing civic education, giving students the opportunity to debate and to develop their own informed opinion. Through these means, citizens can all be more involved in what directly affects them.

Younger Europe

The involvement of young people is essential for the growth and future of Europe. We need to create the opportunity for motivated young people to engage in the everyday European politics, because they are the future of this Union.

Freedom of Speech

Every European citizen must have the right to express their own opinion, as long as it doesn't limit someone else's freedom. The liberty given must not be oppressed by any form of hate, discrimination and exaltation of violence.

Protected Open Borders

Citizens of the European Union must be able to travel to every European country freely. However, to maintain control, communication must be present among all members of the Union. Open borders will also be extended to goods.

Solidarity

The European Union is about helping and supporting one another, not only among people but also among countries. Strong countries must help the less developed or weakened ones to grow and prosper. This value must be interpreted from an ethical, economic and social point of view.

Ecological consciousness

Europe must collaborate to limit global warming and prevent environmental disasters.

Respect

On European territory, both European and non-European citizens must be capable of accepting and adapting to the fundamental European values, traditions and laws. There is no place for individuals who don't respect these last and one another.

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