

FORUM

Permanent Forum of Civil Society
Forum Permanent de la Société Civile
Ständiges Forum der Zivilgesellschaft



CALL TO ORGANISATIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN EUROPE

Austerity is not enough! We need a federal Europe, united and democratic

The European political debate is now dramatically focused solely on the search of rigid rules for fiscal and financial discipline. It ignores completely the need for sustainable development, for appropriate policies aimed at the workplace, the need for social solidarity and sustainable development. Nobody talks about the welfare of EU citizens, including that of immigrants from third countries who demand an inclusive society.

This approach is the basis of the international treaty "to strengthen the economic union". However, *de facto* it only strengthens control over national budgets; it risks condemning the whole of Europe to a recession, and to economic and political marginalisation.

We believe it is urgent to pave the way for solutions to the European project which offer the possibility of recovering its founding spirit, which put the central focus on persons instead of on the market, and which benefit all, rather than merely serving the wealth of the financial elite. To overcome the difficult crisis we are undergoing, we need a political vision, and a determination to break that alliance that reduces the scope of EU action to the sole control over financial rigour.

We believe it is possible to adopt, in the framework of existing treaties and regulations, the necessary urgent measures to overcome the risk of 'default' on the euro and, in doing so, of the European project as a whole. These measures must be adopted, on the basis of a proposal from the Commission, by the European Parliament and the Council acting by a majority, or through an enhanced cooperation. In the framework of existing treaties, the EU is without doubt able to launch an extensive programme of growth and sustainable development based on "project bonds" for investment, which have a European dimension in renewable and alternative energy, in research and innovation, in mobility for young people, and the completion of a social market economy.

We also believe that the social question - and, in particular, the issue of social exclusion – as well as the gradual erosion of the elements that are essential to Europeans' welfare, are two key priorities for the future of the EU and its neighbours.

Finally, we are convinced that in this context, only a true political union based on a federal, united and democratic model will save the Euro, and with it the European project. We believe that the way to do this inevitably implies that the European Parliament prepares a comprehensive and ambitious project to revise the Treaty of Lisbon on the basis of Article 48 TEU.

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On the basis of these convictions, we appeal to your innovative determination by inviting you to join with the organisation of the "CITIZENS' GENERAL STATES FOR A FEDERAL EUROPE, UNITED AND DEMOCRATIC" on the day of the Spring European Council (1 March 2012) in order to discuss the project, and the methods and agenda for achieving it.

We propose to devote our discussion to the themes of peace and human rights within both the EU and its neighbouring countries, solidarity between countries, regions and citizens, a representative, participatory and fair democracy, that promotes quality of life for all.

So as to mobilise citizens as widely as possible, we invite you to participate actively in a press conference on January 31, 2012 in Brussels, on the day after the meeting of the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the EU.

With your help, we aim to repeat the success of the citizen mobilisation that we organised on the occasion of the Laeken Summit in 2001.

A preparatory meeting will be held Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 05.30pm in the premises of the European Movement International (EMI)¹ to which you are cordially invited.

Please accept, Dear friends, our sincere good wishes,

Philippe D. GROSJEAN
Member of the Coordination committee

Pier-Virgilio DASTOLI
Member of the Coordination committee

Brussels, January 16, 2012

¹ Square de Meeus, 25, BE-1000 Brussels (4th floor).

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