

## DECLARATION

### **"Meeting our Common Responsibility for Europe's Future"**

*A declaration by Young Parliamentarians from the centre-right of European politics at the conclusion of the first annual seminar at Petersberg, Bonn, organised jointly by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), European Ideas Network (EIN) and EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament*

Half a century ago, six European countries signed the Treaties of Rome and established the European Economic Community. It was a bold and inspired experiment in forging a destiny in common. Fifty years later, twenty-seven countries are partners in a European Union which now encompasses almost half a billion citizens. Today's Europe - united, whole and free - is the largest single area of peace, freedom, democracy and prosperity in the world.

As young parliamentarians on the centre-right of European politics - coming from both national parliaments and the European Parliament - we believe that Europe's common values provide a powerful anchor in times of uncertainty. We believe not only that the achievements of the European Union have been very substantial, but that common action at European level has great potential for our future.

We have the opportunity to apply the strengths and values that have brought success in the past to the new issues of a globalised world. It is important that the European Union addresses the new policy challenges facing our citizens, defines effective solutions to those issues, and delivers concrete results for the common good. If it is to meet these new responsibilities, the Union must enhance its ability to act by pursuing structural reforms.

In order to coordinate our contribution to building the right kind of Europe for the future, we have agreed to meet regularly to exchange expertise, insights and best practice. Among the issues which we think are particularly important - and worthy of early attention - are the linked issues of globalisation, transatlantic relations and foreign and security policy.

In addressing **globalisation**, Europe should grasp the opportunities and potential of change. It should maintain momentum for domestic economic reform and increased competitiveness, based on completing Europe's single market, promoting social cohesion, innovation and research, and investing in human capital. It should embrace the need for secure, affordable and environmentally-sustainable energy supply and a reasonable approach to climate change. It should welcome the expansion of the global market-place and help promote and design new, open institutions of 'global governance'.

As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaties of Rome, we also pay tribute to the statesmanship that, sixty years ago, led to the Marshall Plan - by which the United States both helped reconstruct a war-torn continent and laid the first foundations for political and economic cooperation in Europe. The subsequent partnership between the European Union and the United States has not only developed into the most important economic relationship in the world, it has provided a framework for advancing our common goals together, especially in an era of globalisation.

So today, vibrant **transatlantic relations** are a pre-condition to successfully combining peace, democracy and market economics around the globe. For the transatlantic dialogue to realise its full potential, there needs to be a strengthened collective security system across the Atlantic, together with a deeper transatlantic single market - where standards converge and regulatory regimes gradually merge. Important recent progress has been registered towards this latter goal.

In the field of **foreign and security policy**, Europe is already a significant force in promoting regional stability in its own neighbourhood and in assisting the development of poorer nations. It is playing an increasingly positive role in peace-keeping and nation-building. It is helping to address the security challenges posed by terrorism, organised crime and failed and rogue states. A stronger European voice should be aimed at promoting democracy, good governance, effective multilateralism and an improved dialogue between cultures. Europe can and should be central to preventing a 'clash of civilisations'. Backed by effective and more transparent European institutions that can help project stability and promote prosperity in the international arena, only joint action can underpin our common values and help strengthen the position of the European Union at the global level in tomorrow's world.

Bonn, 14. Mai 2007

