



“Who are we in Europe?”

Challenges and Perspectives
of the European Community of Values

DECLARATIONS BY THE PARTICIPANTS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOLS



Konrad
Adenauer
Stiftung

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INTRODUCTION

Dear reader,

In the face of the many challenges the European Union is confronted with at the moment, the appeal of Jacques Delors and Hans-Gert Pöttering from February 2016 maintains its urgency: "Europe will ultimately fail if member states and its citizens do not develop a sense of belonging to a community of values." To foster the public awareness of the core values as well as interests shared by the EU-citizens is the main aim of the international summer schools "Who are we in Europe? Challenges and Perspectives of the European Community of Values".

The summer schools are organized by the Main Department Scholarships and Culture in cooperation with the foreign offices of the Main Department European and International Cooperation. The events provide an intercultural platform, on which students and young professionals from Germany and other EU-countries exchange their ideas and opinions on a broad range of Europe-related issues. Since their outset in July 2015, the courses have brought together more than 200 young and committed Europeans from 12 member states of the European Union.

This year, four events took place in Hungary, Italy, Latvia and France. A wide range of topics has been addressed, ranging from questions about European identity and the future developments of the European integration to concrete policy areas and current challenges of the European Union: national populism, "Brexit", refugee crisis, the armed conflict in the Ukraine, the Youth unemployment in the Eurozone – there was a plenty of material for intensive and at times controversial discussions.

This brochure contains four declarations, in which the participants of the summer schools in Budapest, Bracciano, Riga and Strasbourg express their convictions and demands with regard to Europe. Their central message might be summed up as follows: European integration offers all Europeans a life of peace, freedom and security – it is thus imperative to preserve and further build upon its historic achievements. However, the European project will only thrive if the idea of a European community of values is put into practice by both politicians and broad civil society.

With its European summer schools, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung makes a concrete contribution to this goal.

We wish you a stimulating read.

Best regards



Dr. Simon Backovsky
Project Coordinator, Main Department Scholarships and Culture

VORWORT

Liebe Leserinnen, liebe Leser,

angesichts der vielfältigen Herausforderungen, mit welchen die Europäische Union zur Zeit konfrontiert wird, verliert der Mahnruf von Jacques Delors und Hans-Gert Pöttering vom Februar 2016 nichts an seiner Dringlichkeit: „Europa wird letztlich scheitern, wenn sich Mitgliedsstaaten, aber auch Bürgerinnen und Bürger nicht als Teil einer Wertegemeinschaft begreifen.“ Die gemeinschaftliche Rückbesinnung auf das Wertefundament der europäischen Einigung zählt zu den Hauptzielen der Summer Schools „Who are we in Europe? Challenges and Perspectives of the European Community of Values“.

Die Veranstaltungsreihe wird von der Hauptabteilung Begabtenförderung und Kultur in Kooperation mit den Außenstellen der Hauptabteilung Europäische und Internationale Zusammenarbeit organisiert und durchgeführt. Sie bietet eine innovative Plattform der interkulturellen Begegnung, auf der sich Studenten und Berufseinsteiger aus Deutschland und dem EU-Ausland vernetzen und zu einer Vielfalt an Themen rund um Europa austauschen. Seit ihrem „Startschuss“ im Juli 2015 brachten die Auslandsseminare bereits über 200 junge und engagierte Europäer aus 12 Mitgliedsländern der Europäischen Union zusammen.

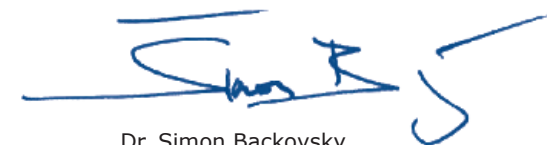
In 2016 waren die Summer Schools in Ungarn, Italien, Lettland und Frankreich zu Gast. Den Teilnehmern wurde ein breites Themenspektrum geboten, das von Grundfragen nach den Werten Europas bis zu konkreten Politikfeldern und aktuellen Herausforderungen der Europäischen Union reichte: der nationale Populismus, die Ursachen und Folgen des „Brexit“, die sogenannte Flüchtlingskrise, der bewaffnete Konflikt in der Ukraine und die Jugendarbeitslosigkeit in der Eurozone – Stoff für intensive und zum Teil kontroverse Diskussionen war vorhanden.

Die vorliegende Broschüre enthält vier Deklarationen, in welchen die Teilnehmer der Summer Schools in Budapest, Bracciano, Riga und Straßburg ihre Überzeugungen und Forderungen mit Blick auf Europa zum Ausdruck bringen. Ihre zentrale Botschaft lautet: Das Einigungswerk ermöglicht allen Europäern ein Leben in Frieden, Freiheit und Sicherheit – es gilt, seine Errungenschaften zu schützen und für kommende Generationen zu bewahren. Dies kann jedoch nur gelingen, wenn die Idee der europäischen Wertegemeinschaft durch Politik und die breite Zivilgesellschaft in die Praxis umgesetzt wird.

Mit ihren europäischen Summer Schools leistet die Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung hierzu einen konkreten Beitrag.

Wir wünschen Ihnen eine anregende Lektüre.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen



Dr. Simon Backovsky
Projektkoordinator, Hauptabteilung Begabtenförderung und Kultur

Budapester Erklärung

Vor dem Hintergrund der aktuellen Herausforderungen in und außerhalb Europas haben wir junge Europäer und Europäerinnen aus Deutschland, Ungarn und anderen EU-Mitgliedstaaten die folgende Erklärung zur europäischen Identität im Rahmen der Internationalen Summerschool 2016 der Begabtenförderung der Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Budapest ausgearbeitet.

Als Europäer verbinden uns in erster Linie die gemeinsame geographische Lage, Geschichte und Kultur.

Wir verstehen Europa als Wertegemeinschaft in deren Zentrum die Würde des Menschen und der Erhalt des Friedens stehen, beruhend auf dem christlichen Erbe und den Gedanken der Aufklärung.

Unser Verständnis von Europa gründet sich auf den Ideen von Freiheit, Demokratie und Rechtsstaatlichkeit. Wir bekennen uns weiterhin zu Chancengerechtigkeit, Toleranz und Gleichberechtigung. Das Zusammenwirken in der europäischen Gemeinschaft basiert auf den Prinzipien von Solidarität und Subsidiarität.

Ökonomisch stehen wir in Europa für das Konzept der Sozialen Marktwirtschaft. In diesem Zusammenhang streben wir als europäische Gemeinschaft die nachhaltige Entwicklung und den Schutz der Natur an.

Zur Stärkung des Gemeinschaftsgefühls in einem Europa der Bürger fordern wir die Intensivierung des interkulturellen Austauschs und der politischen Bildung in allen Altersgruppen und Gesellschaftsschichten.

Geschichte und Zukunft

In der historischen Perspektive zeichnet sich Europa vor allem als erfolgreiches Friedensprojekt aus. Im Zuge der europäischen Integration gelang es, die deutsch-französische Erbfeindschaft zu überwinden, die Demokratisierung der südeuropäischen Staaten zu stützen und letztlich auch den wirtschaftlichen und politischen Transformationsprozess Mittelosteuropas nach dem Fall des Eisernen Vorhangs zu begleiten. Dieser Prozess ging einher mit der institutionellen



Die Teilnehmer der Summer School zu Besuch im ungarischen Parlament bei Gergely Gulyás, Vizepräsident der Ungarischen Nationalversammlung

Ausformung Europas, die zur Vertiefung der innereuropäischen Beziehungen und sukzessive auch auf eine Demokratisierung der Institutionen hinauslief.

Wirtschaftliche Prosperität trug zu einer Annäherung des Lebensstandards innerhalb Europas bei, dessen alltägliche Erfahrbarkeit das Gemeinschaftsgefühl der Europäer stärkt. Der Integrationsprozess ist jedoch noch nicht abgeschlossen. Eine immer wieder zu bewältigende Herausforderung ist die Diversität des Kontinents auf wirtschaftlicher, politischer, kultureller und historischer Ebene. Ein bleibendes Ziel muss daher insbesondere die kontinuierliche wirtschaftliche Entwicklung aller Mitgliedstaaten sein.

Dabei darf nicht außer Acht gelassen werden, alle Bürger stärker in diesen Prozess einzubeziehen. Dies kann durch Maßnahmen politischer Bildung und allgemein verständliche Vermittlung politischer Vorgänge erreicht werden. Dabei sind Projekte wie Erasmus+ und der europäische Freiwilligendienst, die die Vorteile der europäischen Integration erfahrbar machen, zu fördern.

Umgang Europas mit der Flüchtlingskrise

Die grundlegenden Schwierigkeiten der Europäischen Union in ihrem Umgang mit der aktuellen Flüchtlingskrise liegen unseres Erachtens zunächst begründet in

einem Mangel an gegenseitigem Verständnis innerhalb der verschiedenen Mitgliedstaaten. Die Nichtanwendung europarechtlicher Verträge wie des Dublin-Übereinkommens und der unzureichende Schutz der Schengen-Außengrenzen trugen dabei zu einer Zuspitzung der Situation bei. Im Bewusstsein, dass eine gemeinsame Strategie nicht kurzfristig erarbeitet werden kann, sollte eine nachhaltige gemeinsame Lösung Ziel europäischen Handelns sein, die den unterschiedlichen Perzeptionen in den europäischen Gesellschaften gerecht wird. Dabei muss insbesondere den Interessen derjenigen Mitgliedstaaten Rechnung getragen werden, die aufgrund ihrer geographischen Lage an den EU-Außengrenzen mit besonderen Herausforderungen konfrontiert sind.

Zur Beendigung der humanitären Katastrophe im Mittelmeer sollte Flüchtlingen und Asylsuchenden die Möglichkeit eröffnet werden, außerterritorial Asyl oder einen vergleichbaren Status zu beantragen. Dazu ist es notwendig, mit den Anrainerstaaten der Krisengebiete Abkommen zu schließen, um dort Informationsportale errichten zu können, die öffentlichkeitswirksam beworben werden. Zusätzlich muss Frontex als gemeinsame Grenzschutzpolizei zur Sicherung der EU-Außengrenzen gestärkt werden. Durch diese Maßnahmen könnte die Anzahl der Schutzsuchenden reduziert werden. Unabhängig von diesen Maßnahmen muss jeder, der die gefährliche Reise über das Mittelmeer antritt, gerettet werden.

Jeder Mitgliedstaat sollte seinen Beitrag zur Bewältigung der Flüchtlingskrise leisten. Dabei darf es keine Obergrenze bei der Gewährung von Asyl geben. Sollten Mitgliedstaaten der Aufnahme von Flüchtlingen nicht nachkommen können, schlagen wir vor, eine Ausgleichsleistung vorzusehen.

Brexit und Populismus

Angeichts des Resultats des britischen Referendums zum Austritt aus der Europäischen Union befürchten wir schwerwiegende Konsequenzen. Die Veränderung der politischen Balance in den Institutionen und die

Auswirkungen auf die Wirtschaftsbeziehungen, aber auch auf die Bildungs- und Sozialpolitik sind noch unklar und die Gefahren schwer absehbar. Es könnte zu einem Dominoeffekt in anderen Ländern führen.

Bei den Verhandlungen über einen Brexit dürfen keine Nachteile für die Unionsbürger entstehen. Damit sind Sonderrechte für das Vereinigte Königreich ausgeschlossen. Ein Freihandelsabkommen kann es nur in Verbindung mit Freizügigkeit geben. Die Regelung der Beziehung zu Großbritannien sollte dabei zügig erfolgen. Zwischen den Mitgliedstaaten und regionalen pro-europäischen Bewegungen sollte die EU eine Vermittlerrolle einnehmen.

Für die weitere Entwicklung der Europäischen Union wünschen wir uns eine Diskussion über die Verteilung der Kompetenzen im Sinne des Subsidiaritätsprinzips. Ziel sollte eine vertiefte Integration sein, wobei die Bewältigung der Integrationsschritte gemeinsam erfolgen muss.

Wir sind der Meinung, dass populistische Parteien eine Gefahr für die Ziele der Europäischen Union darstellen. Sie gefährden den sozialen Frieden, unsere Werte und den gemeinsam erworbenen Wohlstand im internationalen Wettbewerb.

Diese Parteien werben mit einfachen Antworten auf komplexe Fragen und stellen sich als einzig legitime Vertreter des Volkes dar. Dafür zeichnen sie ein falsches Bild der Europäischen Union. Die Uneinigkeit der pro-europäischen politischen Kräfte in wichtigen Fragen der Politik trägt zur Spaltung der Gesellschaft bei. Deshalb wünschen wir uns verstärkte Kommunikation unter den Mitgliedstaaten, ihren Gesellschaften und Parteien. Außerdem erwarten wir mehr Transparenz bezüglich der Verantwortung bei auf europäischer Ebene getroffenen Entscheidungen.

Declaration of Bracciano

I.

The awareness of our common history and culture unifies us as European citizens. Throughout centuries we have come to live in a community of values that now ensures peace in Europe. We treasure democratic principles, such as the rule of law, equality, freedom and human rights. Social justice is embodied in our political culture, which is founded on solidarity and the concept of the individual. We see no contradiction between national and European identities and we are committed to pursue a cultural dialogue valorizing the diverse traditions in our pluralistic societies among Europeans.

We have to strengthen our sense of belonging to the European community. Communication, education and interchange among Europeans have to be improved. We demand from EU institutions a deeper awareness of their political decisions' broader implications on their citizens. Our civil society should be better informed about EU institutions in order to play a more active role in their processes. In order to achieve these objectives, we acknowledge the crucial role of a civic education on EU issues. Such role should be a part of a common framework based on the principle of subsidiarity benefitting from the exchange of best practices.

We are convinced that sharing knowledge and experience is the key to better mutual understanding in creating an enhanced sense of a common European citizenship.

II.

The creation of the single European market, strengthening of democracy in all member states and securing lasting peace after centuries of violent conflicts are the greatest achievements of European integration. We are proud to live in a community within which the peoples of Europe live together in friendship and respect.



Participants of the Summer School on the Terrazza Caffarelli in Rome

The legitimacy of the European Union is being undermined by a lack of interest, knowledge and a decrease in trust among its citizens. The perceived political imbalance at the level of the European Council and policy-making through "backseat driving" cause frustration among smaller member states. The willingness to cede parts of national sovereignty is limited, causing difficulties in coordinating policies.

In order to overcome these challenges to European integration, we suggest more profound knowledge about the EU to be implemented in school education. Furthermore the European idea is to be promoted within civil society, and an emphasis should be placed on the successes of the European Union – such as the Erasmus Program, lower costs of roaming, and open borders within the Schengen Area. Moreover, citizens of the Union must be better informed on the rights they gained due to the introduction of EU citizenship, and their influence on the decision making within European institutions must be further promoted.

To regain trust the EU should strive towards a new narrative focusing on the concepts of a "community of security", and a "Europe of results".

Our long-term vision is to move towards a strong political, monetary and economic union with extended competencies on the EU-level, while further upholding the principle of subsidiarity, including the possibility of delegating back competencies to the national level. It is essential to improve citizens' representation, especially to strengthen the European Parliament. As a first and immediate step, its right to initiative should be implemented.

III.

Despite all of the challenges the EU is facing, it still constitutes an area of peace and prosperity in contrast to other regions of the world. Especially in the last years, we have witnessed people fleeing from persecution, poverty, conflict and the consequences of climate change, seeking a safe haven in the European Union.

While we recognize that some measures have been taken, a common European approach regarding both an asylum system and the treatment of refugees is clearly missing. This is mainly the consequence of a lack of solidarity among the member states. We regard it as vital to improve conditions for refugees in the European Union as much as possible by establishing high minimum conditions ensuring the respect and defense of human rights.

We regard it as our duty and vital interest to avoid further humanitarian catastrophes on refugee routes not only by improving legal channels for asylum seekers and by fighting human trafficking but also by helping tackle the root causes of the refugee and migration crisis. We call on the creation of a capacity building fund that would enable all member states to provide the refugees with equal conditions for a dignified and better future. If well managed, this challenge offers the opportunity to strengthen the European Union and to define who we are by rediscovering our principles and values.

IV.

The economic crisis has revealed shortcomings in the institutional set up of the EU and a lack of integration and coherence in the sphere of fiscal policy. Youth unemployment, especially in southern member states, has become a pressing issue posing a threat to economic prosperity in Europe. In order to solve these challenges, a more integrated common approach to the European labor market is needed. Key instruments in this regard are educational programs and more proficient mechanisms for transition from school to work. In addition, a more efficient common European approach to national debt must be developed.

The electoral gains made in recent years by eurosceptic and nationalist parties challenge the European community of values by further inciting nationalist and xenophobic tendencies as well as cultural intolerance within the member states. Simultaneously, they lay bare deficits within the current political structures presenting opportunities and creating momentum for further improvements in the institutional framework of the European Union.

To efficiently communicate the achievements of European integration, EU's social media presence must be strengthened. Moreover, it is indispensable to improve political education regarding the EU in member states. We also encourage European parties to strengthen their transnational activities, e.g. by creating common European lists of candidates for elections. This would help generating a common European political discourse.

We firmly believe in the humanitarian heritage of the European Union and strive towards being united in diversity.

Declaration of Riga

I.

We, the young generation of Europe, appreciate that we live in freedom, peace, and prosperity. It is both a privilege and a responsibility to maintain current conditions and further improve them. In order to achieve this, all Europeans should be united in their willingness to cooperate and share resources. We acknowledge that different interests, cultures, and languages exist. However, we seek compromise through a culture of political discussion, open-mindedness as well as a constant process of reflection and critical questioning.

Europe is not only a community of values, but also a community of experience. Remembering the light and dark parts of our history, we believe in inalienable human rights, dignity, and freedom. We strongly condemn inequality and discrimination. Each European citizen can make his voice heard and engage in civil society. Respecting and promoting these values is the first duty of every member state.

Every European citizen shares the responsibility to create a Europe of Tomorrow, valuing our differences while treasuring our unity. Fostering exchange and enhancing awareness of European unity have the potential to sustainably strengthen our sense of community. This can be accomplished through an umbrella of learning spanning across institutions, countries, and the European Union itself. Furthering knowledge has to be independent from educational background, religion or age in order to create a shelter from the rain of negative populism.

II.

Since World War II, the aim of the European community has been to maintain peace. In order to do so, economic cooperation has been steadily intensified by the European single market, freedom of movement, and the common currency as well as the enlargement of the EU. The EU has become an organisation which brings the member states together towards integration in education, culture, and economic and foreign policy.



Participants of the Summer School in the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia.

However, the lack of comprehension and identification with the EU causes the citizens of the member states to doubt its legitimacy. Additionally, the member states tend to put their national interests above common interests, which results in misunderstandings and inefficient decision-making. These challenges need to be addressed by putting a stronger emphasis on political education and highlighting the advantages of European Integration. Furthermore, the European Union has to consider the social dimension and implications of economic growth, for instance the issue of youth unemployment.

In the long term, European cooperation should be deepened within the EU framework while adhering to the principle of subsidiarity. The EU should have common strategies concerning security as well as economic and environmental policy. Moreover, national differences in economic performance, demographics, social structure, and geography should be taken into account.

The EU draws its strength from solidarity, unity, and diversity. Only through these values can Europe remain a prosperous and peaceful community.

III.

The EU member states have committed themselves to a Common Foreign and Security Policy. In promoting security and national sovereignty throughout the world, the EU seeks to work closely with its NATO allies. The

EU recognizes NATO as a crucial military partner and supports its missions with diplomatic and humanitarian resources. Convinced that military means can only serve as a last resort, the EU pursues a two-fold approach: active diplomatic involvement through strengthening of the European External Action Service; and capacity-building in non-EU countries by providing training missions and task forces. Standing together as a European community, the EU enforces Art. 42 (7) of the Treaty on European Union in order to counteract any kind of aggression against one of its member states.

The peace and stability of Europe rely on the maintenance of the post-1989 European order, which is based on democracy, territorial integrity, and further European Integration. Any attempt to undermine that order, as in the case of Russia's involvement in Ukraine, will be met with firm economic and political sanctions. At the same time, the EU supports the on-going democratization processes in the Eastern European and Balkan regions.

IV.

To secure the growth and prosperity of Europe, the EU member states commit themselves to a deeply integrated energy union. The EU will continue to liberalize European electricity and gas markets, providing affordable energy for households and industry. Diversification of energy suppliers and promotion of renewable energy sources are key to a more independent and stable market. By promoting a more interconnected and intelligent European grid, all regions benefit from the most up-to-date and cost-efficient technologies. A common EU negotiation body contributes to an influential position in accessing new energy markets.

V.

The EU is facing an unprecedented influx of migrants and a severe crisis of its border regime. We commit to a comprehensive and efficient migration policy respecting the dignity of asylum seekers. Currently, the EU does not provide incentives for its member states to accept refugees, nor a common strategy regarding a coherent benefits policy or the protection of the Euro-

pean border. This leads to a dependency on countries that disregard human rights to stem the flow of refugees. The asylum process is time-consuming and inefficient and thus causes frustration among citizens and refugees. To regain control, a new asylum scheme needs to be devised and implemented.

Firstly, asylum must be requested outside the EU if the country of origin does not share a border with the EU. If asylum is granted, refugees will be allocated according to a distribution scheme. Secondly, member states should provide more financial support to *Frontex* and the *European Border and Coast Guard* to enforce the new asylum seeking process. Thirdly, the EU should assist non-EU countries, especially in the Middle East region, which shelter refugees, with financial aid and knowledge. Lastly, assistance must be offered in the rebuilding of the countries of origin after the end of the conflict. The EU should address growing rightwing tendencies inside the member states, cooperate with other partners regarding migration policies and further develop information sharing and conflict prevention.

In conclusion, it is imperative for the EU to tackle the current refugee crisis as its first priority while cooperating and sharing information with all member states, respecting the fundamental rights of asylum seekers. Integration in society and ultimately the labor market of asylum seekers' host nations shall be achieved by language, history and culture courses and improving accessibility to higher education and job training.

Keeping this declaration constantly in mind, we as the young generation of Europe shall strive to promote European Integration, solidarity, democracy, dignity and peace in order to remain united in diversity.

Declaration of Strasbourg

We, the young generation of Europe, believe that, while we are sharing a common history, it is time to act in order to also assure our common future: We have to foster our common tree called the European Union. For a strong trunk is a precondition for withstanding changing winds and building a prosperous and sustainable future.

We acknowledge that the European Union is being contested. An overall identification of the citizens with the European Union as the prerequisite for participation and solidarity has not yet fully materialized. This sense of belonging must be based on our common roots. The European Union has ensured the longest lasting peace on the European continent. It is our responsibility to guarantee its endurance.

Furthermore, it is essential that we strive for more. Being a European means to uphold our traditions while integrating them into an innovative, sustainable future. A well-adjusted balance between the autonomy of the member states and the supranational integration, not the least of our latest member states and their citizens, must be achieved.

The core European values originate in our shared history, specifically in the humanist tradition and the period of enlightenment: freedom, equality, solidarity, respect for diversity and education. We want every EU citizen to benefit from the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital.

Communication between the Union and its citizens has to be improved. We need to unite and focus on the advantages the European integration has brought to everyone. L'Europe, c'est nous! We have to include Europe in the every-day life of every single European. We need to strengthen the solidarity among the EU-member states and their citizens.

We have to promote a European Union that serves all its citizens so that everyone can share in its benefits. This can be achieved by further facilitating the conditions of mobility and exchange opportunities across the national borders, ensuring more transparency in



Participants of the Summer School in front of the European Parliament

the political processes, and by further harmonizing the administrative practices among the EU-members.

The institutionalized political dialogue and negotiations between member states are the greatest achievements of European integration. They represent the best way to resolve disputes by peaceful means and to create a climate, which enables a life in joint prosperity. Furthermore, European integration has also helped to foster a common sense of belonging and solidarity among parts of the national political actors. The European institutions have the potential to constitute a truly European public sphere and democracy, hand in hand with the existing national democracies. A European identity has to a certain extent spread among the peoples of Europe.

The main problem of the European Union is the absence of a common vision. This leads to a lack of solidarity between Member States which, although interdependent, keep mainly acting according to their national interests. The constant bargaining for national benefits, alongside a transparency and information deficit results in increasing mistrust and decreasing participation. In order to solve these deficits and to establish a new joint vision for Europe, a European public sphere has to be further strengthened.

The improvement of the European democratic system constitutes the main future challenge of European

integration. Hence, strengthening the European Parliament is paramount. Moreover, a second chamber made up of the delegations of the national, and when appropriate, regional parliaments, is to be installed in order to supplement the intergovernmental dimension with an inter-parliamentary dimension. The debates of this chamber are to be public. Our cultural and structural diversity does not impede this aim, but should be perceived as an enrichment worthy of protection. We are striving for a genuine constitution for a Europe that is united in solidarity. Given the current global situation, millions of displaced persons are coming to the EU and this trend is not going to reverse soon. Moreover, the destructive military actions of some EU states, as well as the chaotic border policy have contributed to an inhumane immigration system. Furthermore, European states have failed to communicate effectively and establish solidarity among each other.

Therefore, we support a solution based upon the three following guidelines:

First of all, we demand a binding European supranational project based on a long-term vision. It is time to set up and to harmonize a clear relocation policy to make sure that national interests do not prevail over the European ones. Seeing that all European states possess long grown diplomatic, economic and cultural ties with countries worldwide, together we can constitute a major diplomatic power. We should not forget Europe's role as the Lighthouse of Democracy.

Secondly, we believe that the refugee crisis can be tackled by strongly expanding coordinated local civil aid structures that have already proven crucial and effective when it comes to real integration, and by promoting European values. We believe that intense awareness campaigns must be launched on a European level.

Finally, preventive measures could avoid similar future catastrophes. Besides, more responsible international policies should be considered, especially regarding military interventions. We must end the current state of diplomacy of short-term interests. Rather, we should emphasize the European Neighbourhood Policy and our humanitarian approach, like improving living conditions in refugee camps and strengthening international development agencies. More globally, the estab-

lishment safe zones in the conflict affected countries or their neighbours should be seriously supported. We could therefore spare the refugees the traumatising journey, cut illegal smugglers' business and relieve European organisations whilst making a return home more feasible.

Over the past years, European member states have been suffering from an enduring and threatening economic crisis. The root causes are to be seen in different national economic and social models as well as fiscal policies, violated common financial regulations and a single key interest rate which does not fit the needs of all the member states. The economic crisis is inherent to the current architecture of the Eurozone itself. We regard further integration steps towards a full fiscal union with a common budget as a solution to these inequalities.

In the short term, private spending needs to be stimulated and fiscal discipline ensured. This will lead to a decreasing unemployment rate and monetary stability. In a long-term perspective, options like a harmonized labour market and a common tax system will contribute to narrow the gap between the national economies. A strong community of member states will focus on strengthening the competitiveness of the European economy.

The current crisis has many negative social and political consequences, among others high youth unemployment – especially in the southern states – and an unsure future regarding the European project. In consequence, negative national stereotypes reappeared and are contributing to the rise of populist euro-sceptic parties. People question the legitimacy of the EU and do not identify with the concept anymore.

Fundamental achievements of the last years which established economic growth and prosperity throughout all member states are challenged. For us, a more content-based discussion highlighting these achievements is urgently needed in order to regain people's faith. To increase knowledge about European issues in the population, besides school education, the established peoples-parties should take responsibility for political opinion formation more seriously. Overcoming fear and building trust in the European idea are two of the most important challenges of our generation.

SUMMER SCHOOLS 2016

Budapest | 11.07. – 17.07.2016

Organisation: Prof. Dr. Burkard Steppacher/KAS-Foreign Office in Hungary

Bracciano | 25.07. – 31.07.2016

Organisation: Dr. Simon Backovsky/KAS-Foreign Office in Italy

Riga | 01.08. – 07.08.2016

Organisation: Dr. Simon Backovsky/KAS-Foreign Office in Latvia

Strasbourg | 09.09. – 16.09.2016

Organisation: Susanne Kruza/KAS-Foreign Office in France

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