



**European Movement**  
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## **10 years after Laeken: A new Convention for a stronger Union**

Times of crisis are always times of opportunities. The Laeken Declaration of 15 December 2001 started a process to elaborate a Constitution for the European Union. We now have the Treaty of Lisbon, which has been a great step forward. Nonetheless, it has become clear that even with the new treaty, the EU is not equipped with the appropriate instruments to pull itself out of a fundamental crisis. A crisis that has not only developed from a debt problem into a full blown economic and social disaster but also into a substantial questioning of six decades of European Integration. Indeed, the issues that need to be addressed go to the core of the European Project.

### **A political Union – strengthening the community method**

A monetary union needs a political and fiscal union. The European Commission has the democratic legitimacy from the European Parliament, elected by the citizens, to coordinate European Policies. It is independent of national interests and not dominated by certain countries. Strengthened by this legitimacy and independence, it is able to provide determined decisions in case of a crisis at European level. We believe that the only right way forward is to strengthen the European Commission to play the role of a European Economic Government.

### **New Economic Instruments and a stronger system of Own Resources**

Common policies need common resources. A European Monetary Fund (stability and solidarity fund) should be established to counterbalance monetary speculations against a member state. It must be a true EU-fund and not a fragmentation of 27 different national funds.

The launch of a Eurobond market would create greater liquidity and stability. Alongside national and European measures to control deficits, having a common management of public loans would ensure lower interest rates for many member states and enable more space for economic development. At the same time, the European Union should promote a stronger control of the banks and the financial markets.

We need the introduction of a Tax on Financial Transactions and a real European VAT in replacement of the member state's national contributions, promoting economic growth and social development in all member states. As any member state will in consequence ask for a "fair return" to its contribution, their funding of 80% of the EU's budget is in its very nature a non-communitarian system that is chaining down the EU capability to use the budget as a political tool.

### **A Convention "European Economic and Fiscal Union"**

All proposals for the next steps of European Integration must be discussed in a transparent and inclusive way. The appropriate platform should be a new Convention "European Economic and Fiscal Union" with the participation of all parliaments, all governments and the European Commission as well as the involvement of citizens and civil society organisations, overcoming the blockades by vetoes and promoting majority decisions.

The time has come where half-hearted measures will end in a break-up of the Union. Ten years after the Laeken Declaration, European leaders must now decide whether they want to fall back into 27 nationalisms and 27 isolated policies or if we use this crisis as a chance to deepen the European Integration. The support of the citizens in the European Union must be won by an open debate and clear messages underlining the benefits of a stronger Europe.

The European Parliament should use its right of initiative to call for the new convention. The overall aim must be a more united and not a more fragmented Europe.



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## **Resolution of the FEDERAL ASSEMBLY of the European Movement – Warsaw (PL) 25-26 November 2011**

The European Movement International,

- Given the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020 proposed by the European Commission on 29 June 2011 ;
- Given the letter of 17 August 2011 signed by Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Sarkozy on the possible inclusion of macro-economic conditionality in the proposals for Structural Funds;
- Given the letter of 12 September 2011 signed by 8 EU Member States<sup>1</sup> declaring the Commission proposal as being “too high”, and intending to press for significant reductions;
- Given the proposals published by the European Commission on 5 October 2011 regarding Structural Funds for 2014-2020;

1/ Recognises the efforts made by European States and the absolute necessity of putting European public finances in order.

2/ Welcomes the proposal of the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020 to maintain the European budget at its current level until 2020, with a multi-annual budget of around 140 billion euro per year. This proposal opens perspectives for investments necessary for the well-being and development of citizens and businesses in all regions. It also contains innovative methods and instruments to further improve the quality of public expenditure in order to better allocate funds without spending more.

3/ Refuses any renationalisation of European politics and inward-looking trends. Europe will only be able to emerge from this crisis through a collective European effort aiming to launch a common dynamic for growth, harmonized by a common European economic governance mechanism that would prevent any deterioration of national public finances.

4/ Disagrees with the message sent by the eight Member States as a lower budget would weaken Europe, compromising any long-lasting return of prosperity, and would further decrease its influence on the international scene.

5/ Calls on the Member States to support the June proposal for a European Financial Framework as a reasonable, balanced and bold proposal.

6/ Mandates the President to inform the European Parliament, Council and Commission, as well as the Member State governments and Parliaments of the adoption of this resolution.

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<sup>1</sup> Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom



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## **For a generation of active European citizens**

The European Movement (EMI) takes account of the process towards the Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020 of the European Union and welcomes the statements made by the President of the European Commission on the importance of investing in the mobility and employability of young people. Youth policy needs to be a financial and a political priority. In these times of crises as well as in the long term, investing in youth will reinforce the core values of European integration.

It is fundamental to build upon the progress that has already been made. In this regard, the EMI recalls the success and impact of the current 'Youth in Action' (YiA) programme in Europe, which supports youth-led activities with the aim to improve the situation of young people. From 2007 to 2013, it will have provided around one million young Europeans with valuable non-formal education experience and mobility possibilities.

In its communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the EU programme in the field of Education, Training, Youth and Sport 'Erasmus for All', the European Commission proposes to include the activities of the current 'Youth in Action' Programme in a broader programme mainly dedicated to formal education and vocational training.

The European Movement underlines the importance of maintaining 'Youth in Action' as an independent programme focused on **non-formal education of young people, active European citizenship** and **support to the wide range of youth organisations that represent the diversity of youth in Europe.**

The new programme should encourage the participation of all young people in democratic life, it should recognise that youth organisations are an indispensable channel for supporting active citizenship in Europe and for developing young people's skills and competences, both for the needs of the labour market and for an active and inclusive European society.



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### **European electoral system for EP elections 2014**

The International European Movement (EMI) on its Federal Assembly in Warsaw 25-26 November 2011 asks the European Parliament to take the initiative given by the Lisbon Treaty to propose a European Electoral system for the EP elections in 2014 with the establishment of transnational European lists for a number of mandates, presented by the European political parties.



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## European Movement 2.0

### **European Movement 2.0 on its way towards a Europe with future**

**The European debt crisis poses a serious threat to the foundation of European integration. During this difficult time, EMI must position itself strategically in order to properly address the political situation as well as the public sphere. The 2014 European elections will be of particular interest regarding EMI's planning of the next three years. Not only do they serve as a test case for the acceptance of a democratic Europe among citizens and their stakeholders but also for EMI's capacity to take action.. In order to successfully promote European integration until 2014, EMI should act in accordance with the plurality of its members. At the same time, it should further develop its network, addressing all areas of society and economy. The concept of subsidiarity should thereby be the guiding principle, leaving EMI room to act whenever it is necessary or out of the member organisations' (in-) capability.**

### **Creating a modern and versatile network of pro-European organisations**

EMI has already developed itself as a network uniting diverse societal and economical organisations under the common responsibility of promoting a democratic Europe, being capable of acting. The Europe it envisages shall provide an area of freedom, security and prosperity for its citizens and shall let them participate in the decision making processes . The interests and preferences of European citizens are not only communicated through parliaments, but also through civil society organisations, and sometimes even directly. Through its work EMI facilitates an alliance of national and European civil society organisations. It thereby supports a cross-border and sustainable dialogue, in the sense of participatory democracy in line with article 11 of the Treaty of the EU, on all levels of state and society. Furthermore, EMI demands the quick implementation of transparency and participatory democracy in all EU institutions. To reach this goal as soon as possible, EMI should put together a coordinating task force.

### **Creating a diverse programme – being an honest broker of the member organisations**

In general EMI supports all initiatives aiming to strengthen European integration. It must however take into account its traditionally federal structures, which result in a wide variety of politics, backgrounds and preferences. As a result of this, the major common consensus of civil society must serve as its primary goal. Undoubtedly its biggest strength is the fact that it respects and reflects this broad spectrum of opinions in relation to critical aspects of European integration in civil society. The political committees of EMI can thereby act as think tanks, initiating opinion-forming within the network. EMI's campaigns and media statements should therefore respect the pluralistic character of the organisation, and should never contradict the interests of its members, including those of minority groups.

### **Creating a pan-European network in all countries of the Council of Europe**

The European Movement is older than the European Union. It is also older than the Council of Europe and its Europe-wide membership is larger than the current Union. It is particularly important in the context of the 21<sup>st</sup> century that EMI endorses the Europe-wide interests of its members. At the same time it must address the need to enable



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deeper integration in relevant parts of the continent and society. Hence the politics of EMI should balance the various interests represented throughout the continent.

**Creating a modern form of European political communication and interchange within EMI**

While EMI respects and encourages the achievements of representative democracy, it welcomes new forms of direct democracy that were created with the European Citizens' Initiative. Due to the rising speed of the circulation of information, in a time when even news of small social movements can have a large impact on a global level, the European Movement must respond to new forms of communication. In this process all forms of representation must be respected and transparency preserved. In addition, the European Movement should use online communication tools to mirror the different political opinions on a specific issue that exist within the network of its member organisations, thus illustrating the wide variety of political initiatives and opportunities both to the members of EMI and to the citizens and politicians of Europe. In addition, online services should be utilised during conferences and other events to increase transparency and participation internally.

**Creating a European Movement International of member organisations**

The members of EMI are organisations, which are only partly made up by individual members. It is the vast diversity of these organisations that forces EMI to provide targeted activities and projects. To ensure success in EMI's strategy, it is important that the interests of the various member organisations are used as guidelines. EMI should therefore only run projects for non-member organisations in exceptional cases. Single citizens are best addressed via member organisations with EMI support where necessary.



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### **Top candidates for the Presidency of the European Commission**

The EMI asks the European political parties to present top candidates who run for Presidency of the European Commission, being elected by the European Parliament on the basis of the vote of the citizens in the EP elections, in application of the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty.



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## **Resolution Ales Byalyatski**

To release Ales Byalyatski

European Movement International Federal Assembly meeting in Warsaw on November 26th deplores the sentences passed against Human Rights defender in Belarus, Ales Byalyatski.

We call on Belarus to immediately release Ales Byalyatski and other political prisoners in the country.