

Versione in lingua inglese

The climate of growing social, political and economic uncertainty is complicating the European Union's already stern situation. In a July 2016 report, a leading credit rating agency, Standard & Poor's, stated that the current political form of the EU is unsustainable. Moreover, decisions made at the European level regarding the refugee crisis and the management of migration flows are often unwelcome by national governments and their citizens. Lastly, the results of the EU membership referendum held in the United Kingdom on 23rd June showed an exemplar divide in the social tissue of one of the most influential Member States. In view of the lack of a clear political plan for the future of the Union, what should the Member States do to relaunch the EU project according to the will and needs of its citizens?

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The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Considering that after almost sixty years from its constitution with the Treaties of Rome on March 25th , 1957, the European Union has not been able to define a clear and shared project of unity and social promotion, prioritizing merely economic programs and finalities,
- B. Having noticed a lack of solidarity among the Member States of the European Union and the following infringement of the article 80 of TFEU and article 222 of TFEU, that guarantee collaboration among Member States in economic, social and political fields,
- C. Alarmed by the situation of deep instability of the European Union, which has further worsened since the 2008 financial crisis, that manifests itself in different degrees in all EU States through:
 - i) a persistent economic stagnation,
 - ii) deep inequalities among central and peripheral States,
 - iii) a general skepticism towards UE institutions, which in June 2016 produced the so-called "Brexit",
- D. Given the absence of a shared project in terms of foreign policies and noticed the weakness of the figure of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,
- E. Having noticed that, the monetary union enshrined by the Maastricht Treaty, has not been matched by the desired harmonisation of every EU states economies, but, instead, by an unbalanced growth of the various States,
- F. Worried about the disequilibrium of power in favour of technocratic unelected authorities, also known as *Troika*, as well as of the strongest Countries of European Union, whose decisions often disagree with the popular will, as in the case of the Greek referendum of July 2015, which rejected the financial support plan imposed by *Troika*,

- G. Finding that the Maastricht parameters, which fix the level of Deficit-to-GDP ratio at 3% and the Debt-to-GDP ratio at 60%, have no scientific substantiation¹, as demonstrated by the economic growth of countries like Japan which have a very high percentages of Public Debt,
- H. Aware of the failure of austerity policies, resulting from the application of the aforementioned parameters, which have produced:
- i) a contraction of public investment and, consequently, of the number of jobs,
 - ii) some reforms of the labour market that have institutionalized job insecurity, especially among young people,
 - iii) a series of structural reforms aimed solely at cutting public spending, resulting in penalties in areas such as education, health and social security,
 - iv) the progressive financierization of debt and public finances, factors that induce the states in a spiral of indebtedness to banks,
- I. Given the huge damage caused to the Treasury by widespread tax evasion and by the proliferation of tax havens, as well as tax avoidance practices such as *fiscal dumping* and *transfer pricing*, which cost the European countries an estimated total of one trillion Euro a year²,
- J. Considering the ineffectiveness of the legislation in force regarding immigration and in particular:
- i) the European Dublin III Regulations (No 604/2013) of June 26th, 2013, which limits the movement of immigrants in European territories and is unfavourable to Mediterranean countries,
 - ii) the agreement between the European Union and Turkey of March 18th, 2016, which considers the forced transfer of asylum applicants to Turkey, nation erroneously considered safe for the refugees,
- K. Noting with regret the absence of an efficient management of migration flows, caused by ajar motivations of individual nations of the European Union, which should conform to a common politic of reallocation of asylum applicants, according to articles 67(c.2), 79(c.1) and 80 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union,
- L. Alarmed by the development in different nations of non institutionalized movements, purely xenophobic, populist and racist, which obstruct the integration of immigrants in society,
- M. Considering the inhuman conditions of the trips faced by immigrants, that choose an illegal route for the impossibility to undertake a regular one, caused by an absence of adequate visa,
- N. Further noting the ineffectiveness of the Triton operation, which does not have the objective of assisting or saving immigrants, but only considers the control of international waters, 30 miles from the Italian coastlines,

¹ Mr Prodi, himself, in an interview published in *Le Monde* which was then quoted in the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica* of 18 October 2002, defined the 3% rule “stupid”.

² Cf Fazi-Iodice, *The Battle Against Europe*, Fazi editore, 2016, p.30

1. Urges individual States of the European Union, committed to making its institutions more transparent and democratic, to not forget the original values of peace, fraternity, communion which prepared the ground for the birth of a union between states, in order to avoid hostile environments like the ones that caused world conflicts;
2. Invites the European Parliament to elect a constituent assembly tasked to compile a European constitution not in opposition to the ones of the individual states, but equipped with a minimum number of focused and precise articles which, inspired by the Ventotene Manifesto, is based on the principles of:
 - a) solidarity,
 - b) secularism,
 - c) democracy,
 - d) social justice,
 - e) federalism;
3. Proposes that the European Commission:
 - a) create of a unitary body, formed by a deputy for each state, which takes shared decisions on defence and foreign policy matters,
 - b) adopt of a joint judicature which works through a European Union court;
4. Endorses the introduction, for each professional ambit, of salary bands and of a joint taxation system, with the aim of reducing income inequalities between the States of the Union;
5. Invites all the European institutions:
 - a) to reject the interferences on political and economic issues by extraneous organisms to the European Union institutions, in particular the rating agencies,
 - b) to redefine the power's relationships of the constituent organisms of *Troika*, in order to confer more freedom of decision-making to the European Commission, meant to represent and apply public will;
6. Asks the European Union to amend the Maastricht Parameters, making flexible the maximum percentages of the prearranged deficit and debt, to oppose the economic stagnation, to relaunch public spending and investments;
7. Urges individual sovereign States:
 - a) to invest money in remarkable public works, for example for the safeguard of the environment, or renewable energies,
 - b) to reduce the use of public money to bailout of the banks,
 - c) to transfer public funds directly to responsible of the infrastructures, such as principals, directors of

social security systems and hospitals, avoiding every intermediate step that destroys value and scatters money;

8. Asks the European Central Bank to:
 - a) lend money to individual sovereign States, without address private banks,
 - b) combine the public debts of each sovereign State of European Union in only one public debt, with the European Central Bank as guarantor, like the Federal Reserve System for the United States;
9. Considers it necessary to impose upon the States:
 - a) the prohibition to provide tax breaks for multinationals, to contrast the transfer pricing phenomenon,
 - b) the reduction, with specific rules, of the usage of cash and the facilitation of electronic payment methods,
 - c) the adoption of financial policies intended to encourage the development of SMEs;
 - d) the abolition of banking secrecy and tax havens;
10. Proposes to amend the Dublin III regulation, giving the immigrants the partial faculty to choose the State in which to seek asylum and settle;
11. Urges the European Commission to establish immigration *quotas* for each State, according to every State's absorption and integration capacity, through prearranged parameters (GNP, population, surface, economic situation) with marginal adjustment based on unemployment rate and the number of immigrants already settled;
12. Urges the governments of the member States to promote awareness policies regarding the immigration topic, which could be developed allowing immigrants to recount their own experience in schools or during public events;
13. Proposes the introduction of a "humanitarian visa" released for environmental, ethnical, wars and/or religion reasons usable for movements (within the Union) and valid as asylum application and obtainable in their own country at the embassy of any EU State and recognised on the entire European territory;
14. Suggests, in addition, to modify the Triton operation and establish one financed by the EU, with the ultimate aim of rescuing the migrants and not just supervising the borders, according to the procedures of the *Mare Nostrum* project.