

Schuman 2.0 Declaration

Trieste (Italy), 20th February 2020

VALUES

Civil Rights: Europe respects diversity in all its forms, as we are united in our diversity.

Europe strives for a society where every ethnicity, sexual orientation, cultural difference, and religion is respected and considered equal.

Culture: Our strength is our shared past, which gives us the ability to cooperate as one.

Welfare: Europe aims for an ever-greater prosperity for its people.

Environment: It is imperative for the future of Europe and humanity as a whole to aim for as much environmental sustainability as possible.

Innovation: Europe strives to walk the path of innovation and technological progress in order to ensure prosperity and quality of life.

Economics: Europe works with different speeds to achieve a more sustainable cooperation.

POLICY

“World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of practical efforts proportionate to the challenges which threaten it”

European issues are changing as their citizens: therefore, is urgent to reaffirm the European identity as one and indivisible through inalienable topics, with collective importance, according to the always changing needs.

Thus, European needs must be divided into 4 areas: policies, social area, economy, international scenario.

For the first one, Europe should reach a energetical autonomy based on a European Green Deal.

Additionally, Europe has to tackle the aging population, the decreasing birth rate and immigration.

From an economic point of view, as Europeans we cannot remain silent against the international changes on the three main markets: USA, Russia and China.

The last main aspect that appears crucial in the international area: space, energy, the “Turkey question,” and the so-called “European soft power,” need effective solutions.

For all these reasons and challenges, it is necessary to reimagine the institutional architecture of Europe, for us and for those who come after.

This is our European duty.

INSTITUTIONS

A Constitutional Europe: The EU should agree on a common constitution which entrenches its value, structures and the functioning of each institution. To protect and regulate it, a European independent constitutional council should be established.

Stronger European Parliament: The Parliament as the only directly elected body should the major role in the process of legislative decision making.

Real European Elections: To enhance Europe's democratic legitimacy, the political campaign and the electoral system have to be unified on a Union-wide basis, to avoid the domestic interest to interfere in the European political sphere. Each candidate has to belong to a European party, which is directly represented in nation states, without the mediation of a domestic party.

To designate the president of the commission, each European party has to present a formal candidate, as a head of list.

The candidates to the presidency have to be explicitly running during the election.

More democracy in the Council: Veto power should be abolished. To ensure a better functioning of democracy and avoid blockades, the decisions in the councils should be taken on a (qualified) majority basis.

Participation and Citizens' involvement: To facilitate the participation of the citizens in the decision-making, we should generalise tools of direct democracy, and submit important decisions to Union-wide referendums. The mechanism of Citizens' Initiative, which enables citizens to petition the Commission to take action on a specific subject, should be more advertised for.

In order to better represent the variety of Europe's cultures and peoples, the parliament should be working with all the 24 official languages of the Union, with functioning interpretation structures. The preservation of minority languages should also be one of its concern. The Commission and Council of the EU, which aim at a more technical and concrete work, to remain efficient, should be able to operate with a unique working language.

Schuman 2.0 Trieste Team