

# Agenor and the Quest

About land, people and  
administration

**Feeling Europe** Foundation, January 2017

# AGENOR AND THE QUEST

INTRODUCTION

LAND

PEOPLE

ADMINISTRATION

“A society is never entirely just, but we need a political idea, an institutional idea and a moral idea.”  
(statement during NEXUS-conference “What Will Save the World?”, November 2016)

"What has happened to you, the Europe of humanism, the champion of human rights, democracy and freedom?"

What has happened to you, Europe, the home of poets, philosophers, artists, musicians, and men and women of letters?"

What has happened to you, Europe, the mother of peoples and nations, the mother of great men and women who upheld, and even sacrificed their lives for the dignity of their brothers and sisters?"

(Fri May 6, 2016 11:43am: Pope Francis)

# Introduction

My father is Agenor, my mother Telephassa. Goddess Asia insisted I belonged to her, because I was born in Asia. But once, when it was nice weather, I went with my girlfriends to the shore at Sidon to pick flowers. Over there, Zeus, the ruler of the gods, had his eye on me and abducted me to the island of Crete. Here, I entered the Hellenic world and we gave birth to among other Minos, who became later king of Crete.

My family missed me. They started a search. It is believed that the land extends from west of Asia, north of Africa and is bounded by the Arctic and the Atlantic Ocean. They have not found me. Likely that is the reason that my identity and capacity, which certainly exist, remained on the background. Soon, I let me see again: February 3rd in Malta and March 27th in Rome.

The story goes that under king Minos the earliest “high” culture in Europe was originated, far before Ancient Greece’s era of civilization. Later in time, in western Europe, the Celts spread the La Tène culture, on aspects competitive to the Roman state, where already was a vision of a future in which “Europe” would acquire some kind of unity.

Hereafter, a system of thought based on religion, determined by church, was a characteristic. The earthly existence was minor and life was focused on the afterlife. After a period of time, this way of life was criticized and Europe justified that ideas have no objective existence outside man. Dogmas were abandoned and religion was accommodated in a secular order in the sense of separation between church and state, and as a private matter in society.

The European humanist Pico della Mirandola put the following words on the nature and destiny of man into the mouth of the Supreme Being:

**“We have made you a creature neither of heaven nor of earth, neither mortal nor immortal, in order that you may, as the free and proud shaper of your own being, fashion yourself in the form you may prefer. It will be in your power to descend to the lower, brutish forms of life; you will be able, through your own decision, to rise again to the superior orders whose life is divine”.**

Man became central, the beginning of modernity was marked. The way was paved for the dominance of reason and the idea that every person had a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, not a future promise paradise, but in the here and now, styled in a self reality. Science and intellectual exchange was encouraged and eras occurred in which great cultural, intellectual, literary, artistic movements flourished.

The era of reason became one of the pillars of Western civilization and put major changes under way in thinking about religion, philosophy, art, science and politics, culminating the prosperous life we are now living in. It brought us not only tolerance, freedom of thought, peace, education for the development of the individual, and the mythology of antiquity, but also progressive thinking, making new value like tv, spinning machine, steam engine, telephone, legal system, the internet, aircraft, hyperloop, penicillin, compass, anesthesia.

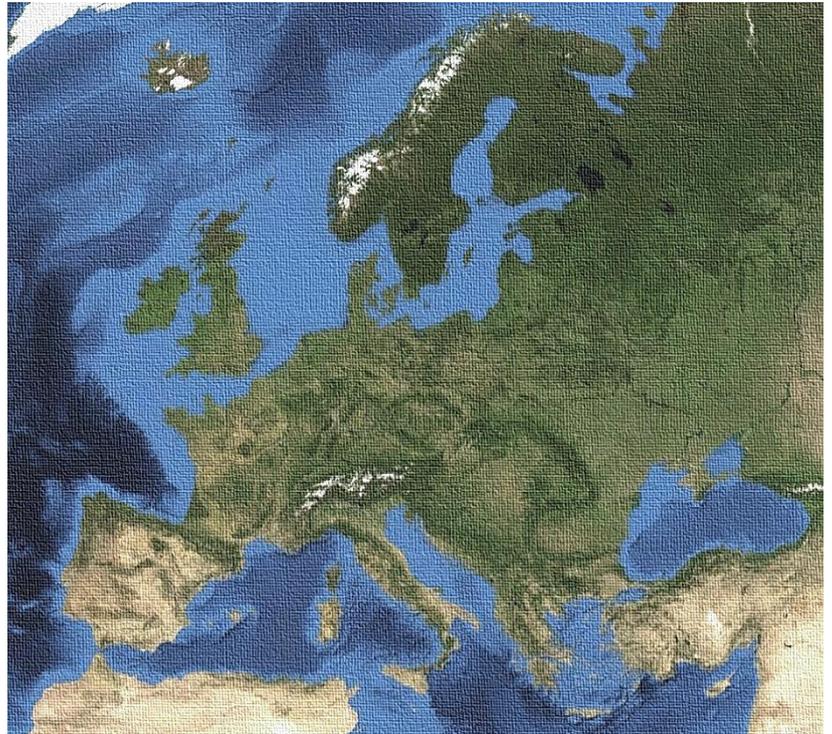
Nowadays, Europe is hit by many catastrophes and opposing developments: resistance against FTAs, not really resolved any residual risks for the euro and the financial sector, mass physical movement by humans from areas outside the Schengen zone, Russian geopolitical actions, terrorism, the intended Brexit, growth of populist and nationalist beliefs and is these days often seen as monster. But knowing the idea of unification exists already for 2000 years, it will not disappear. What lacks is identity and sufficient capacity, what we ourselves will have to give and can give: man are central and we are equipped with a repository of tools that can shape our life and therefore able to find appropriate relevance that gives Europe glamor.

# The lands to the west

# The lands to the west

Europe is one of the seven traditional continents of the Earth. Physically and geologically, Europe is the westernmost peninsula of Eurasia, west of Asia and has a wonderfully rich and varied biodiversity.

Europe is bound to the north by the Arctic Ocean, to the west by the Atlantic Ocean, to the south by the Mediterranean Sea, to the southeast by the Caucasus Mountains and the Black Sea and the waterways connecting the Black Sea to the Mediterranean. To the east, Europe is generally divided from Asia by the water divide of the Ural Mountains, the Ural River, and by the Caspian Sea. Iceland, though nearer to Greenland (North America) than mainland Europe and Cyprus, although geographically located in Asia, is generally included in Europe.



There is ongoing debate on where the geographical centre of Europe is. The term continent can refer to a cultural and political distinction or a physiographic one, leading to various perspectives about Europe's precise borders, area, and population.

Europe's geographic areas categorized:

- independent countries;
- although geographically located in Asia or North America, some countries politically;
- de facto independent countries, which means that these countries have unilaterally declared independence and that countries in practice have control over (most of) their territory. The international community has not or only partially recognized the independence of these countries;
- non independent areas;
- autonomous regions.

28 Countries joined the European Union, 19 countries are part of the Eurozone and 47 countries are member of the Council of Europe.

2 Territories are bound to the Russian Federation and several areas are more or less either by religion, demos or pressure under its influence. There is the Visegrád Group, a cultural and political alliance of 4 Central European states to promote the process of European integration and the Eastern Partnership (EaP), a joint initiative involving the EU, its member states and 6 eastern European partners.

From the flower-rich meadows of the Alps to the windswept shores of the Atlantic, from the vast flat plains of Hungary to the lush beech forests of central Europe, from the crystal clear waters of the Mediterranean to the lonely peatbogs of Lapland, Europe has a wonderfully rich and varied biodiversity.

To be exclusively devoted to all aspects of European landscape, the European Landscape Convention is implemented. It applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas.

# "Je suis Européen!"

There is a need for more consistency in common political behaviour and for credible authorities making credible promises. And for room of debate and discourse, more continuous dialogue between the world of thoughts, and a good balance between reason and religion, where diversity enriches and where oppression or intimidation will not be tolerated. Hence, a culture of freedom and syncretism. Culture and science, philosophy and religion matter and contribute to well-being and identity of European human beings.

# Je suis Européen!

**"Europe is not the European Commission or the European Council. Every one of us is Europe!"**

(Angela Merkel, Jan 12th, 2017)

After a rocky history, peoples still struggle about identity and capacity and are still searching for truly destiny. With the present desperately search for needed meaning for our future, Europa showed herself end 2016. In January, she arrived in Malta to increase momentum for a new idea and she agreed to visit Rome 27th March to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the EU's foundation, accompanied with a concrete agenda and a clear timeline that lays out what to intend to achieve by when.

Many changes should be stimulated in the way we act together. We live in a changing world hardly open anymore to diversity, inclusion, tolerance and reason. "A foundation is denied that mankind is a unity and that far beyond every human being is entitled to humanity because she or he are human". In stead of striving for liberal and humane values, we live towards illiberalism and infecting populism. Let's encourage and enable social mixing, interaction and deliberation among diverse groups.

There is a logical place to begin by remembering who we are and what we stand for. To fight against populism and destructive tradition of nationalism, we should reinforce the protection of civil liberties: upholding the rule of law and ensuring the independence of judges. And if social media platforms were reconfigured in innovative ways, they could have the positive impact, creating spaces for citizens from diverse backgrounds to interact.

Multiple demos and indentities is as old as mankind: the concept of identity, sameness, and difference was already considered by Plato and some years ago, Slavoj Žižek said: **"We have different cultures. What can we do? We can only tolerate each other"**.

The people of Europe form a companionship. The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU states that **"the peoples of Europe are resolved to share a peaceful future based on rights and common values: democracy, dignity, freedoms, equality, solidarity, tolerance, the rule of law, citizen's rights, justice."** This statement, along with institutionalized affairs, such as our common currency, financial contributions, and passport represents a major component of our European identity, a framework in which Europeans are connected. But in doing so, there is not a soul yet, not yet created the common feeling. For this, it is necessary that there should flourish a widespread European sense of purpose, an artistic, literary, social and intellectual experience.

During the conference **"Identity Please!"** in 2008, Nexus Institute wondered: "Who are we, and who do we want to be? What makes us into a society? Can we make do, must we make do with only political and social values, or do we also need cultural values to determine our identity? If we do, what values are these, and what significance do they have for life in a multicultural society? What is still specifically European about European humanism in such a society? Why does our identity seem to be continually shrinking (limiting itself to nation, family, group) instead of expanding (making us Europeans, world citizens)? And what role can be assigned to religious values in a secular society? Should minorities be allowed to publicly live out the teachings of their religions? What future is there for a Europe without a European spirit?"

**"Our democracy is strong. It enables people to participate and have a say. It accepts, indeed demands, dissent and criticism – criticism that is expressed peacefully and with respect for individuals, that seeks solutions and compromises and does not marginalize entire groups of people."**

(Sat Dec 31, 2016 18:00 pm: Angela Merkel)

We need a new renaissance. **Humanism** offers us a broad category of ethical philosophies that affirm the dignity and worth of all people: equality, freedom, respect for reason, intellect and sense, the idea that culture, moral values and cultivation of the human soul, ensure eternal peace. This makes the soul, which man owes its greatness and which we know of truth, goodness, beauty, love and justice. Caring for the soul is never finished, it should be taught in education and it is throughout our whole life. It is an endeavor to pursue truth in life and justice.

To meet the broadest  
needs of the people:  
The European Administration

security, the single market, energy policy, reform  
of the financial sector, growth strategy,  
migration policy.

# The European Administration

Not only the Roman state had already a vision of a future in which “Europe” would acquire some kind of unity, but also with Le Nouveau Cyneé, Émeric Crucé envisaged an international body to maintain peace, relying on measure of free trade, proposing single currency, indicating standardized weights and measures, and focused on social and economic objectives and public spending. And by the explicit wish to eliminate the destructive tradition of nationalism, a unique collaboration emerged in Europe, based on ideals, realism and geopolitical conditions.

But at present, there are confrontational vicious **geopolitical issues**, asking a congress on political reordering and institutional reconstruction.

## To meet the broadest needs of the people

Europa started to build an ideal of a civil society, which is in this world the largest area with common prosperity and long-lasting peace. That should continue to be a challenge, doing nothing is not an option.

The European Union started the internal market and the reform of the financial sector, is promoting free trade, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. As an antidote to antagonism, we need to talk about other levels of consensus, distribution of voting power and redefine the notion of subsidiarity and better explanation of all that Europe has achieved, so that one can understand why we would be much worse off without Europe.

It is the public authority that provides for the encompassing interests. Its objectives are achieved when the different values and interests are brought together and come into consideration for each European to benefit and participate. There is certain overview and reasonable consensus of issues for common approach. **What counts is whether the agenda issues will be actually implemented as intended and also are respected.**

The European Administration runs:

- security;
- the single market;
- energy policy;
- reform of the financial sector;
- growth strategy;
- migration policy.

That reform within the EU is necessary and that we actually should know what kind of Europe we want is clear, but (to) dissolve the institutions is dangerous and short-sighted, as there is no way back.

If you look at the numbers, the EU is the first economy in the world, the biggest market in the world, the biggest provider of foreign investment in the world, the biggest humanitarian aid provider and the biggest development cooperation provider in the world. And network of diplomatic presence in the world combined – European Union offices plus all our embassies combined – is the most connected diplomatic network in the world.

Only through a full-fledged polity, the 'Europa administration' will be able to resolve the lack of clarity about the distribution of its internal powers, its **sovereignty** and its **common decision making** and **multilevel democratic processes**, and thus its application of the concept of **subsidiarity**, assigned to national, regional and local political levels.

**"We must hold Europe together now more than at any time in the past; we must make it even better, and bring it closer to the people of Europe again".** (Angela Merkel, Jan 12th, 2017)

Motivated to better understand the current European uprise, I read in the year 2022 the following article about developments in Europe in the period 2007-2017: "After deliberately destructed the idea of Europe, it showed alternatives were not present. The right to achieve chaos, however, was fully exploited: lies, half truths and kept back information made and fed discontent among populations. Euromyths strengthened that emotion further. Compared to the events, happened in the 19th and at the beginning of the 20st century, not harmless and therefore unwise. Empty promises, great sense of drama, little sense of realism, a too simple representation of affairs, advocating easy solutions that do not work and fighting against ourselves was the atmosphere in which negative changes in the two eras were created.

But sensible people went the dialogue, turned the tide and arranged in time that politics and society took the right direction again. They saw advantage in the crisis and the self-cleaning capacity, what put in motion the discussion about what kind of Europe, in stead of I want my country back. Now it has become a stronger Europe: the EU is easily handling the different levels of ambition, there is a common European global strategy, asylum and migration policy, a tax authority for the euro area and there are steps made towards the development of the EU into a 'state'. The president of the European Council is now elected by the Europeans, Europe has outposts in Africa and Turkey, and the influence of populism and the political ideology of nationalism has declined. European citizens have recognized again the advantages and achievements of further cooperation and are obvious involved in our common future. The discontent and the lies disappeared.