

# EUROPA TELLS:

## ORIGIN

In colour he was white as the snow. I felt in love how beautiful and protective he was and sat down on the bull's back, not realising who it was. He gradually slipped with his hooves into the waves, after which I was abducted to the island of Crete. There I gave birth to, among other, Minos, who became later king of Crete. The girl on the back of the bull, that's me, Europa.

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.

## CULTURES

## ABANDONING THE DOGMA'S

After a period of time, the system of thought based on religion, determined by church was criticized and Europe justified that ideas have no objective existence outside man. The oppressive 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. 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.

These characteristics became one of the pillars of Western civilization, culminating the prosperous life we are now living in. Science and intellectual exchange was encouraged, transformative eras arose, in which great cultural, intellectual, literary, and artistic movements flourished and where progressive thinking and the ability to create new values was placed forward.

It all happened not without numerous of conflicts and wars caused by land, religion and ideologies. Such miseries, however, brought us the idea of perpetual peace, which in recent times did get form by the secular humanistic European Union, which union sought direction to achieve common goals in a peaceful way.

## EUROPEAN UNIFICATION

These days, Europe is also the biggest humanitarian aid provider and operates with the most comprehensive diplomatic network of the world. Moreover, the polity provides the successful Erasmus+ program, yields the single market, fosters the trade agenda, agreed the Europe 2020 growth strategy, is creating a common energy policy, and is working to reform of the financial sector.

## IDENTITY

After a rocky history, Europe is the largest area of peace and prosperity in history. But rather that there is a widespread companionship, a common sense of belonging, people struggle about identity, sovereignty and capacity and are searching for truly destiny.

Europe is for the community a place to feel at home. Citizens in EU-member-states have European citizenship and have therefore opportunity to help with preparation of texts, decision-making and the evaluation of the work by the EU. But there is much more. To provide people feel home, there are also non-material trends. Not only languages, literature & poetry, history, philosophy (within which ethics), religion, visuals & performing arts and music, health, and sports are part of it, but also cultural values, identity, virtues, tolerance, solidarity, equality, rule of law & justice are aspects that contribute to improve well-being of Europeans.

## WHAT CAN I DO?

**We are equipped with a repository of tools, that can shape our life and therefore able to find appropriate relevance that gives Europe glamor.**