**- STRENGTH AND DESIRE -**

**EUROPE IS RICH IN IDEALS, THOUGHTS, PURPOSES, ACHIEVEMENTS, STORIES, CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES. BUT ON WHAT POINT SOCIETIES WILL REACH SUFFICIENT WILL AND ABILITY, MAKING MORE AND BETTER COOPERATION IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE COMMON GOALS ASPIRED BY THE DIFFERENT NATIONS?** (6-1-16)

**INTRODUCTION**

Looking at the reconstruction after WWII, which resulted in a striking prosperity, an acting Europe as a whole achieves more than the sum of the efforts of the member states separately. Europe reached great achievements as a result of common decisions and became the largest area with a common prosperity in human history. The idea of Europe is seen as the most succesful integration experiment of all time. Nevertheless, decline occurred and now we have to defend our merits and to counteract pressures.

**RECENT PRESSURES**

There are big issues with economics and money, foreign policy, security, energy and climate, at humanitarian field, institutional level, and about the way how we want to live with each other. These pressures can only be solved by cooperation and common approach.

European societies have forgotten the real significance of the elevations and achievements or did forget to use the password adequate. Consumerism was still pursued, which now however also is at stake. This is not in accordance with Europe’s soul, which symbolizes strength and desire.

And, if not enough, there is loss of influence on increasingly assertive becoming parts of the world, making Europe the New World now more necessary than the other way around; roles are changing. We already observe shiftings in balance of power, and disorder in large areas.

National interests are paramount and, unless there is direct benefit, citizens seem further not really interested in European developments and the idea of Europe. Further, it is so that in the end rulers of great powers in Europe ultimately decide: these powers allow Europe only to operate to a certain extent.

**SEVERAL QUESTS FOR DIRECTION (and consequences)**

500 Years ago, it became justified that ideas have no objective existence outside man. Although there were clashed with the faith, the justification caused revolutionary change into the look at the science. The invention of the art of printing democratized knowledge and made after the Middle Ages the scientific revolution possible, culminating finally in the Reformation and the Enlightenment. This new period typified not only humanist themes such as tolerance, freedom of thought, peace, education for the development of the individual, and the mythology of antiquity, but gave also rise to artistic, literary, social and intellectual movements.

500 Years later, the chairman of the Europgroup said: “**we have to restart the European convergence machine process**.” In the area of foreign and security policy H.R. of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy stated: “**we are able to draw on a wide range of policies for our external action**.” In the field of energy Jacques Delors Institute proposed “**to continue with the call and commitment for an eco European Energy Community to the Energy Union**.” And about the way how we want to live with each other the NEXUS Institute puts forward that “**a future for Europe is set in a united Europe; in the revival of a cultural-moral consciousness that trancends any kind of race and religion, an ideal of civilization**”.

The statements are of wishful thinking. That thinking must be translated into concrete programs, which must succeed. Europe and the people has to show what it stands for and for which not and what it can do and what not.

Europe needs to work together on pressures in order to get ahead, mentally and in practical sense. There is a strategic agenda for the EU, wishful thinking, there are politically correct concerns, interesting important research studies, good diagnoses and mission statements. But what about the outcomes of bold practical programs for best practices?

**PROGRAMS**

* **Governance**: establish an EU Parliament with two Chambers, enact development from national parties to European parties, make a modern governance structure in order to lead an united Europe and provide representation in IO’s, collect a European tax, and make systems of social welfare, pensions, taxation, healthcare, labor markets and financial industry future proof;
* **Foreign & security policy**: an EU global strategy on foreign and security policy is in the making, acquire strong geopolitical reasoning, locate an answer to Russia’s aspirations, provide the operation of a strict and fair migration management (a European border- and coastguard was recently discussed -> replace FRONTEX in EBCG), change EUROPOL to a European Agency for Investigation (EAI), line a European Defence Union.

Make the new European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) succeed. Secure that conditions for accession are met prior membership. Monitor aspects of integration through programs for convergence, comparing impact in different countries and act when excesses occur and support to solve the issues;

* **Economy and money**: Europe 2020 is running, guide Greece, reduce outstanding debt, protect the eurozone through a European Treasury, a FED like institute and by further completion of the banking union, keep working on TT(I)P, EFSI and a European capital markets union;
* **Education**: convert Erasmus+ / ESPRIT programs to Europe wide teaching. Make European history and developments constantly part of trainings;
* **Energy & climate**: further completion of a European Energy Union through integration of energy markets, energy governance (European Agency), and smart grids. Hold and retain affordable access to energy, transport and secure supply. Commit Conferences of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC.

**CONCLUSION**

Europe cannot permit itself to stay aside. The outside world is watching to the reflexes of self-containment, polarization and to lack of self-confidence. Foreign dynamics, together with several and troublesome to quickly resolve “homeland” issues touches Europe firm. The way to achieve results is to implement the programs through cooperation, dialogue and diplomacy, while societies must uphold the European soul.

If Europe wants to go ahead, credible future promises by credible reflectors are required. We must let succeed programs and make every effort for a Europe where a European identity grows from citizens, foreign policy and security is represented by common policies and institutions, and all other aspects by societes as a whole, powered by strong governance.

Europe knows a rich history, both in the area of religion as reason. This history is part of the European soul. To uphold that soul, to see beauty and to create a more philosophical attitude to life, are important aspects of civilization and require care and attention.

Europe has ever been abducted by Zeus. Afterwards, although admittedly sometimes with aspects properly unpacked, the name is under guise of uniting more often kidnapped. Let us together ensure that someting like that does not happen again, but that there is good governance according Europe’s strength and desire in order to safeguard and retain common prosperity and great achievements.

Step by step, using the concept of differentiated integration and approach of multi-level governance, Europe is on the road to more unity. But as we know, Europe grows in looking for a form and finds its way very often due to major setbacks.

**“ONLY TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE THAT THE FREEDOM OF OPPORTUNITIES WE HAVE BUILT IN THE LAST DECADES CAN BE THERE ALSO FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS AND FOR THE PRESENT GENERATIONS ALL AROUND OUR BORDERS.”**

Federica Mogherini, 16 April 2015

# MAXCAP’s LU team hosts keynote speech, round table discussions and reception in The Hague

As part of MAXCAP’s final conference in The Hague on 22-23 January, MAXCAP will host several public events on current issues related to the project’s core research themes and findings. We invite everyone who will be in The Hague at the time and is interested in the public events to register for them via: europecitizens@fgga.leidenuniv.nl.

**On 22 January**, Simon Mordue, Director ‘Strategy and Turkey’ in the DG NEAR will give a keynote speech at the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs Auditorium in The Hague. The speech will be followed by a round table discussion on the topic: “The European Union and enlargement in difficult times: Deadlock or new impetus?”

Dr. Antoaneta Dimitrova, MAXCAP co-coordinator and conference host will lead the round table. The participants, who will join Mr. Mordue are:

* Bernard Steunenberg (Leiden University),
* Tanja A. Börzel (Freie Universität Berlin),
* Heather Grabbe (Open Society Foundations),
* Melten Müftüler-Baç (Sabanci University),
* Lászlo Bruszt (European University Institute) and
* Zoltan Krasznai (European Commission).

The event takes place from 16:00 to 17:30 pm in the Auditorium of Leiden University’s Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs, Schouwburgstraat 2, 2511 The Hague.

After the public round table, the European Commission’s Representation in the Netherlands will host a reception for MAXCAP conference participants and guests until 19:00 pm in the House of Europe, Korte Vijverberg 5, 2513 The Hague.

**On 23 January**, a 2nd public round table will give the MAXCAP team an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with other practitioners and researchers on the project’s findings and resulting lessons and prospects for enlargement. Participants include:

* Tanja A. Börzel (Freie Universität Berlin),
* Pierre Mirel (DG Enlargement),
* Marco Kmezić (University of Graz),
* Klaudijus Maniokas (European Social, Legal and Economic Projects),
* Dorothee Bohle (Central European University) and
* Antoaneta Dimitrova (Leiden University).

Elitsa Kortenska (Leiden University) will be the moderator of the round table. The event will take place from 15:30 to 17:30 pm, once again in the Auditorium of Leiden University’s Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs.