

Mallorca, 19 July 2013

Declaration of Mallorca

A strong, competitive and engaged Europe with more solidarity and a greater presence in the world.

On behalf of the participants at the meeting on the Future of Europe in Mallorca on 19 July:

Europe faces two main challenges:

- The European Union needs to overcome the economic and financial crisis in a number of Member States. Although efforts to tackle the sovereign debt crisis are starting to bear fruit, further action by the EU and its Member States is necessary to secure sustainable growth and employment. The crisis has also triggered political and social fall-out, including unacceptably high levels in youth unemployment and a rise of euroscepticism and political polarization. There is a risk that our citizens will lose sight of the value of European integration.
- At the same time, we need to enable Europe to assert itself on the world stage, economically and politically. Only united we can lay the foundations for lasting growth and jobs. And only united can we make our voice better heard in an ever more competitive world.

We need to take forceful action:

A united and strong Europe remains our future:

- We need to make every effort to create growth and jobs in Europe, especially for young people. We need to pursue our efforts for fiscal solidity, tackle structural reforms in Member States and implement all measures to boost employment and help finance the real economy, in particular SMEs.
- Stabilizing the euro in the long term is crucial. To do so, we need to further deepen the Economic and Monetary Union to boost competitiveness, fully respecting the Single Market. This will entail further steps towards integration and solidarity. We reject the idea of a Europe “à la carte”.

- The EU also needs to take resolute steps to bring our interests to bear more effectively in the globalized world. Europe will only become a strong player on the world stage if we increasingly speak with one voice.

We need efficient institutions, effective decision-making and democratic legitimacy:

- Implementing the necessary reforms will necessitate more efficient institutions (European Parliament, Council and Commission) and more effective decision-making, focusing on areas where we need a European approach in line with the principle of subsidiarity. In particular, the European Commission, which has traditionally been the engine of EU action, should remain the cornerstone of the EU.
- All reforms need to go hand in hand with greater participation and increased democratic legitimacy and accountability. The European Parliament and national parliaments need to be fully involved when decisions are being taken at their respective level. Member States also need to send a powerful message of support for the core values and principles of the European project.

Now is the crucial moment to address these challenges:

The forthcoming elections to the European Parliament will constitute a decisive moment for setting the course for Europe's future. In their aftermath we must tackle the challenges Europe is facing today with even more determination – with a future European Parliament that is able to act and enjoys broad legitimacy; with a future President heading a new Commission; with a future President of the European Council and with a future High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

That is why we are calling on all citizens of the European Union to participate in the European elections 2014. Do your bit to make these elections into a vote for a robust reform and jobs agenda!