

DOUZELAGE - HOUFFALIZE 2018

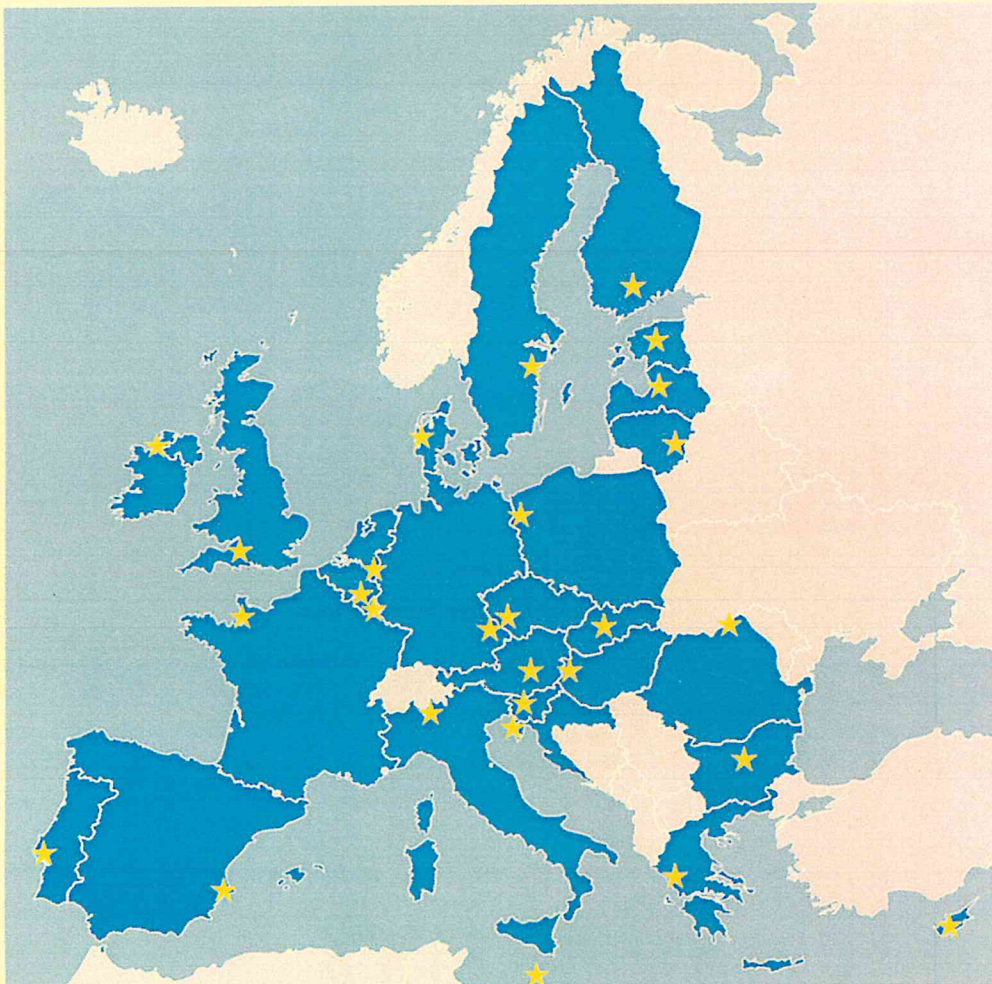
Resolutions and proposals of the young participants

Friday 27 July 2018

To the Attention of

Mr Donald TUSK, President of the European Council

**Memory work, democratic engagement and civic participation
for the future of Europe**



Mister President,

In the framework of memory in Europe, the year 2018 marks the commemoration of the beginning of the Second World War, which started in 1938-1939, as well as of the Hague Congress of 1948. Those two events, barely 10 years apart from each other, mark the total destruction of Europe followed by its complete reconstruction.

In this context, around 70 young people and their teachers gathered in Houffalize, Belgium, from 22 to 28 July 2018 in the framework of the European Douzelage.

Democratic engagement and civic participation currently suffers from widespread Euroscepticism. The future of Europe has been considered through workshops leading to proposals to be submitted and discussed with specialists.

The common theme of this meeting has considered the creation of the European Union, born from the war, as a mean to preserve peace, which is good to remind to a generation that did not know war. Peace keeping is a high goal that must be kept in mind in those times of obvious Euroscepticism.

Overall, the project proposed by the town of Houffalize led to a wide reflection in relation to the following related themes:

DESTRUCTION
(RE)CONSTRUCTION

WAR
PEACE

After the week spent in Houffalize, the young people, their teachers and the organizers:

- make the commitment to meet each other to continue their work of reflection on the future of Europe.
- are happy to submit you their 7 proposals, wishes and hopes for the future of Europe.

1) Encourage travels between the member States

A first step would be to promote and communicate more on existing possibilities, such as Erasmus+, or even raise awareness on other opportunities such as the European Corps of solidarity.

New measures could be to subsidize transport or rail passes for young people, especially in the case of use of environment friendly means of transportation. Combined to offering pre-planned routes, promoting volunteer work, this measure would probably help young people cross borders more often.

People who are less favored financially should also receive more help to provide for more equity. Costs generated by this measure could be reduced by encouraging

working during the stay not only to generate revenue but also to help integration. Shorter duration stays might also help with costs and with allowing for more experiences in different countries.

Moreover, opportunities for learning languages should be more promoted, with more places available in areas with a high demand (for instance English speaking countries). Alternatives should also not be overlooked, such as connections from a distance, in order to help dialogue among the youth.

2) Enhance and develop common policies for refugees and other minorities

Several measures are necessary to solve the problem of refugees. However, the most important part of it is the uniformization of policies throughout the member states. A common measure could be to build integration and education programs for newcomers.

Fair distribution of the refugees among member states is also necessary. Criteria could be based on size of the country, population numbers, health of economics, ...

Those measures should also be supported by setting up more registration centers for incoming refugees and require education and information of EU citizens on the topic of migration in order to help change opinions regarding the topic.

Alternatives could also be to help improve life quality in the country of origin.

3) Enhance politics for a better military integration

Military problems concerning the EU range from a raising terrorism problem to a need to enforce the exterior borders with potentially unstable states. For that reason, youth proposes to raise military spending as high as 2,5% of the GDP of member states in order to build a state of the art European Defense.

Alongside the efforts to fight terrorism attacks, among others through a quick reaction force, that EU Army would also be able to built military alliances with non-EU countries on the sole condition that they are not involved in any open conflict with partner states. Decisions taken to intervene outside EU and make alliances should not be taken lightly though; going through a democratic process to make those decisions, for instance through a sort of parliament, is to be considered.

4) Enhance the protection of environment

Ecology is a global concern and some multinational entities might seem out of reach of the EU. Common citizens doing their part alone is not sufficient to solve those major issues, which makes it clear that harmonized standard regulations should be adopted by every member state. Fields as accessibility to sustainable public

transportation, air quality, sharing of and access to recycling technologies seem to be of paramount importance.

There is also a big concern as to the widespread influence of lobbying of any sort on EU decision makers. While that kind of influence is difficult to avoid, a strict rule of transparency should be enforced.

5) Encourage and enhance common decisions and collaborations


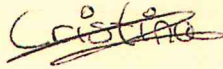
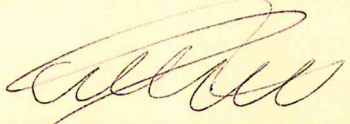

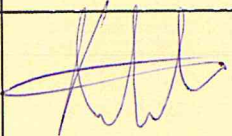

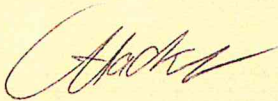
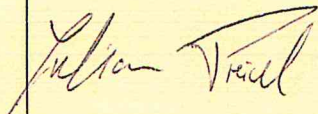
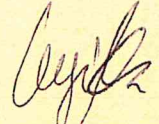
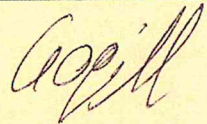

In order to improve collaborations, we suggest to create several “Youth Centers” across Europe that would work as an intermediary between the youth and governments. The center would propose ideas to the governments, spread information via social media, television, newspapers or the radio in order to create permanent links between the EU and its citizens.



6) Develop and enhance global information in Europe

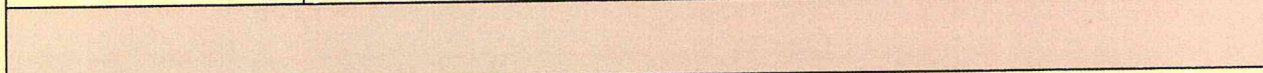
We would like to see the EU resolving the problem of the lack of information by implementing a form of communication dedicated to each age group. For example, the youth should be informed at school about the European institutions and politics while adults should get more information in newspapers or magazines. In order to spread a positive image, the EU should develop the 9th May celebrations by focusing on the benefits the EU currently provides to the European citizens but also by looking forward to the future.

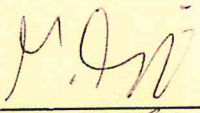

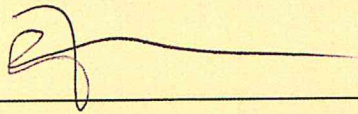

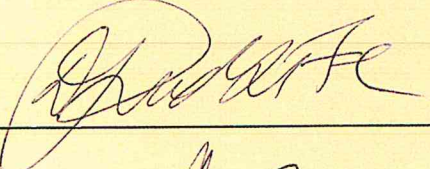
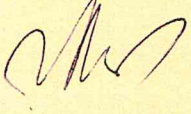
7) Enhance and develop the European social model

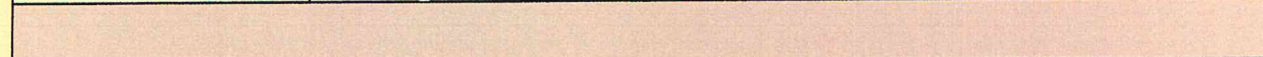
In order to enhance and develop the European social model, we believe that the EU should work towards common targets for each and every sector (like education, health care, etc.) and that every Member State should aim to meet these in a certain timescale. To achieve that, we suggest creating a fund for each sector that would help every Member State according to its level of development. We hope that such a solution would provide to every EU citizen a strong social system as a foundation for their existence.

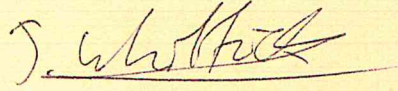
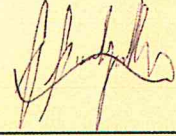
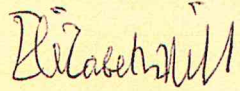
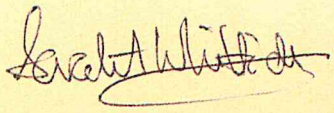
Town	Participant	Signature
Altea Spain	Marina Carrillo Sala	
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	Juan Carlos VillarMoy	
	Jesus Vicente Pons Pons	
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	Julian Preidl	
	Caterina Gogeissl	
	Simona Gogeissl	
Granville France	Solène Lemonier	

	Manon Prouha	
	Tom Blier	



Sigulda Latvia	Marcis Klavins	
	Janis Muzis	
	Davis Gavars	
	Raivo Zabalujevs	
	Daina Rudzite	
	Valters Macs	

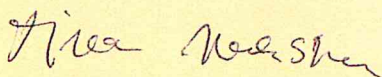
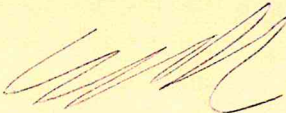
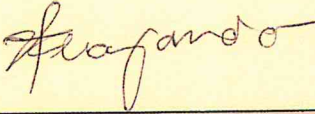
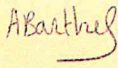


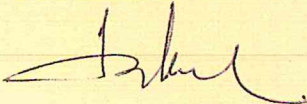

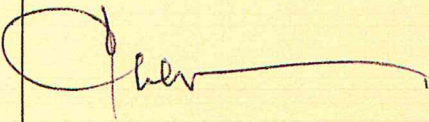
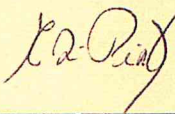
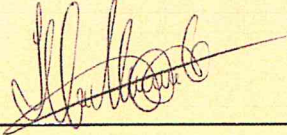

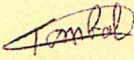


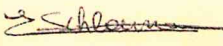
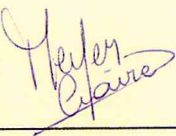
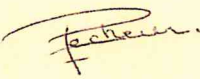
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	Elisabeth Hill	
	Sarah Whittick	

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	Xander Steijns	/
	Daniël Willems	Daniel Willems
	Daniël Schiepers	Daniël Schiepers
	Bert van Doorn	/

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