

**#MEGA** **MAKE  
EUROPE  
GREAT  
FOR ALL**

## **THE WINNERS AND LOSERS OF THE EUROPEAN PROMISE**

**OUT OF THE ASHES** of war, sixty years ago, Europe grew as a promise of peace, freedom, well-being and democracy.

Today, many Europeans benefit from free movement, cheaper flights and no more roaming fees. EU workers are entitled to four weeks paid holidays a year. Our cities have the lowest air pollution in the world. We can live, work or retire anywhere in the EU. Six of the top ten world's countries in terms of voting participation are Member States.

The EU is meant to be a driver of economic progress. Yet, despite overall long-term economic growth, the European promise is challenged by rising and intolerable inequalities between the rich and the poor. A quarter of Europeans face poverty or social exclusion. The number of people “left-behind” is rising and the many that fear being left behind are anxious about their future and have lost trust in the political system.

## **THE CHALLENGE TO DEMOCRACY WHEN PEOPLE FEAR FOR THEIR FUTURE**

**BUILT ON ADVANCEMENTS IN** rights and democracy, on victories against dictatorship and authoritarian regimes, on struggles to overcome colonialism, patriarchy and racism, our common heritage, together with our welfare models, is being eroded, as are many people's hopes and aspirations for a better way of life.

Unifying the markets without upscaling rights and equality has been a great mistake and the price we risk paying for it is high. The growing audience for and electoral success of regressive populist agendas across Europe shows more than ever that current policies do not properly address people's expectations. More and more people think that Europe is not an answer to their problems. Nationalism, xenophobia, identity politics based on exclusion are becoming substitutes for a shared future.

## THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF POLICIES

**IN HIS STATE OF** the Union address, President Juncker welcomed positive winds in Europe's sails, with economic growth back and investments plans on track. The question is then: who is to benefit from these winds?

The current model has led to fragmentation, social and inter-generational competition, tensions between creditor and debtor countries, fear and tensions between natives and migrants, competition between people facing poverty and precarious situations. The challenge is to bring more democracy, equality and solidarity for all in order to break down the vicious circle of unjust policies and populist responses.

## A EUROPE THAT SERVES PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

**WE BELIEVE EUROPE IS** our common future, but another Europe is necessary, urgent and possible; a more democratic Europe where social and environmental rights come before economic interests.

We think Europe should implement ambitious social and economic convergence policies to curb the great imbalances between countries and territories, social groups and people, men and women in Europe, in our neighborhoods, regions and in the whole world.

We call for a truly inclusive European social model that combines well-being and an economy beyond GDP, a model that serves the people and the environment. The EU, nation states, local authorities and communities should be co-active parts of this fairer, more inclusive, more sustainable solution. Soft power is not enough to answer hard realities! We need policies!

## A DEMOCRACY THAT GIVES VOICE TO ALL

**WE DO NOT ACCEPT** anymore that the voices of those who still believe Europe is the place to regain social, economic, political, democratic, cultural and environmental rights, remain at the margins of the political debate, most often in opposition and resistance.

Time has come to deepen democracy alongside the electoral process with citizens' participation for the effective implementation of these rights.

A truly democratic society needs open and responsive institutions and a strong and recognized civic society. People power and informed citizens are key to the democratic functioning of our societies.

## A WELLSPRING OF SOLIDARITY UNITING EUROPEAN PEOPLE

**WE, CIVIC ACTORS WHO** share this vision, will engage in debate with political leaders, the institutions responsible for designing Europe's future and the media ahead of the EU 2019 elections.

And, most of all, we call upon citizens all across Europe to reclaim and practice together, by raising our voices and strengthening our alliances and common work, equality, solidarity and inclusion, which should be at the core of the debate on the future of Europe and our societies.

Instead of putting the Italian, Swedes, British or Poles first, we need an innovative and courageous plan for Europe in common. A Europe based on democracy and freedom, rights and equality, social and climate justice, solidarity and inclusiveness, peace and environmental sustainability!

## THIS EUROPE IS OUR EUROPE !