

We live in a time when the European Union is facing many challenges, such as the threat of terrorism, the difficulties in achieving successful cultural integration of immigrants and refugees, a deep social crisis (marked by the perception of rising inequality and international instability), and loss of confidence in national and international institutions alike. Although the relentless efforts made to strengthen and to retain peace, human rights, democracy and security in Europe since the Congress of Europe, which initiated the European project seventy years ago, cannot be denied, new and stronger measures are required to meet the present challenges.

Therefore,

THE CONGRESS:

1. ACKNOWLEDGES that European citizens are becoming increasingly critical of the way in which the European institutions have managed the integration process.
2. RECOGNIZES that it is time to address this concern and to propose a new narrative to European citizens.
3. NOTES that the European Union has proven to be successful in numerous areas, for instance the free movement of people, the promotion of peace, and the protection of human rights.

A) Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy

4. ACKNOWLEDGES the necessity for setting a limit to enlargement and simultaneously sees that it is in its own interest to bolster its internal socio-economic conditions, in particular to combat poverty, to stabilise the near vicinity, with the aim to increase the opportunities for (young) people on a local, regional and national level.
5. STRONGLY RECOMMENDS that the European Union works as a strategic partner with the countries in its near vicinity (for instance, but not limited to, Mediterranean States and Central-Eastern Europe) in order to achieve the following goals;
 - A. Preferential access to the European market (according to the conditions laid out in the Economic and Social Resolution);
 - B. Intellectual cooperation on institutional topics (for instance, but not limited to, public administration, technological transfer, and fighting corruption);
 - C. Introduction of Labour benefits and enabling students to access opportunities of international exchanges, as defined by the Cultural Resolution above;
 - D. Establishment of mechanisms of mutual diplomatic support.



6. AFFIRMS that, before States can be considered for such a beneficial package, they will have to meet the conditions laid out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and a set of economic criteria which will be established for this purpose.

7. RECOMMENDS to limit the possibility of further enlargement to these countries: the Balkans (Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia), Norway, Iceland, and Switzerland. This measure, in the opinion of the Congress, is fundamental in ensuring an effective decision making process within the Union.

B) Political Integration

8. CONFIRMS the need to build a long-term project to establish a stronger union of citizens, which will act as a model for the World, based on the values of our countries, our common roots and our shared hope for the future.

9. POINTS OUT that such a community of European citizens will not entail any further transfer of competencies from Member States to the EU, except in the domains listed in the following point.

10. DECLARES that the European Union, respecting the principle of vertical subsidiarity, must have an exclusive legislative competence, in addition to the domains listed in Article 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, on:

- A. External Border Control (excluding the Schengen Area, whose nature and structure is strictly intergovernmental);
- B. Defence;
- C. Climate and Environmental Protection;
- D. Coordination of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with NATO;
- E. Fiscal Policy;
- F. Foreign Aid;
- G. Minimum Health requirements.

11. URGES the creation of integrated European military units - in addition to existing national military structures - selected via a common procedure among the Member States and trained in shared military facilities, to be employed wherever common European interests are at stake, from peacekeeping missions to border control and collective defence.

12. SUGGESTS to strengthen the integrated European infrastructure of criminal justice in terms of information sharing and judicial cooperation among Member States, completing the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, with special attention to the strengthening and enlargement of the competences of the European Public Prosecutor's Office.



13. DEMANDS that the power of the European Council must be restricted to formulating recommendations to the European Commission, which can decide whether to pursue them throughout the ordinary legislative procedure of the European Union or not.

14. ACKNOWLEDGES that the time has come to establish the role of a single president, to be called 'President of the European Union', of both the European Commission and the European Council, in order to have one voice for both institutions. The President will be endowed, together with the members of the European Commission, with the executive power within the European Union's institutional structure.

15. DECLARES that the President of the European Union has to be elected directly by the citizens, and has to be the expression of the party or the coalition of parties which got the majority in the European elections.

16. IS CONVINCED that the Council of the European Union has to turn into the "High Chamber", representing regional institutions in the long-term perspective of a stronger community of States, which guarantees a voice for each and every citizen of the European Union. This new institution should adopt a system based only on majority rule, abolishing completely the rule of unanimity in any voting procedure. The European Economic and Social Council, established for this purpose, would become an advisory body to the new High Chamber.

17. AFFIRMS that each Member of group of Members of the European Parliament and of the new High Chamber should be able to propose legislative measures to the European Parliament and the High Chamber directly, without having to address the European Commission, in order to help overcoming the democratic deficit that tackles the European Union. Moreover, European Citizens' Initiative should be strengthened by lowering the number of signatures required for their official presentation and at the same time allowing citizens to present them directly to the European Parliament and the High Chamber.

18. DECLARES that it is crucial to achieve a common method for the establishment of electoral constituencies for the European elections, accompanied by the creation of transnational electoral lists.

19. CONFIRMS that it is time to establish a code of conduct for Members of the European Parliament and to organize periodical local assemblies with constituencies, where the representatives can encounter the citizens they were elected by, in order to ensure transparency and accountability and in order to bridge the gap between institutions and citizens.

20. SUGGESTS clearer programmes from the political parties and coalitions of the European Union, and clearer communication by European institutions.



21. REQUESTS that double standards are avoided in case of violation of membership criteria and legally binding norms of European Union law.

C) Role of Europe and Its Values in the World

22. DECLARES that it is important to reach an agreement at philosophical, juridical, and political level about humanist values, especially on the fundamental rights of human beings as established by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

23. DECLARES that it is appropriate to open offices in the Member States in order to give the possibility to apply directly to the European Court of Human Rights.

24. REQUIRES that humanist values should guide international relationships, as well as treaties and negotiations, according to the criteria laid out in the Economic and Social Resolution above.

25. ACKNOWLEDGES that one of the most crucial issues with respect to human rights' violations are contemporary migration movements, which cannot be solved on a national level.

26. DECLARES the need of a common interpretation of the distinctions and definitions used for different types of migration and migrants; this would enable the creation of a centralised migration policy, allowing for fairer distribution of humanitarian efforts, in which people in need of international protection will apply directly to the Union for protection.

27. REQUESTS a stronger coordination, through multilateral regular meetings, between European Union's delegations and Member States' embassies in third States, with the long-term goal that all European transnational issues be handled at the European diplomatic level rather than at the national level.

28. REQUIRES the establishment of a European Union seat at the United Nations' Security Council, following the provision of Point 10 of the present resolution.

D) Unity in Diversity

29. DECLARES that, in order to build a brighter and more united future for Europe and the world, we must respect and promote our national and local different histories, identities, and aspirations.

