



DECLARATION

of the International Pan-European Conference

HELD IN POŽEGA (CROATIA) 17 OCTOBER 2015

We, members of the International Pan-European Union from 15 countries: France, Belgium, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Estonia, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Macedonia and Croatia give this public declaration at the Pan-European conference in Požega (Croatia) on the 17th October 2015:

1. This year the 70th anniversary of the victory over the national-socialism and fascism at the end of the Second World War is celebrated all over the world. That was the victory over the Nazism and fascism, but was not a victory over the third totalitarian system of the 20th century, the totalitarian communist system. Therefore 45 years of Cold War followed the Second World War. In many countries the heirs of the beneficiaries of the totalitarian communist system stress only the antifascism even today, but do not have a notion of antitotalitarianism. The Pan-European Union very consistently fought against all forms of totalitarianism, and therefore it celebrates the victory over the fascism and Nazism at the end of the Second World War, but rejects equally the totalitarian communism as the third form of totalitarianism, and will oppose possible future or emerging forms of totalitarianism, as that one of which the Pope John Paul II started warning us, a financial and corporative totalitarianism which tries to control all the aspects of life globally, and raises material values like profits of individuals or groups high over the values of life, of social justice and human dignity or the value of the sustainment of our world and of the living creatures of God in it.
2. The legislation in the European Union should be improved according to the European values and sound principles of ethics and bioethics, and efficient economy should respect the principles of such good legislation in order to enable the European Union to create an internal authentically democratic and righteous order, and then to serve as a model for the world.
3. The reconciliation of differing national histories, urged by the reflexions on the conflicting interests and views which provoked the world wars in the 20th century, is a task of contemporary Europe and contemporary humanity. However, the reconciliation cannot be based on cosmetic embellishments of history or on keeping silence concerning the victims and injustices of history. It must be based on the respect of the dignity of all victims, on the understanding of the position and interests of others, and above all – on the historical truth, which reflects the perspectives of all the sides in historical conflicts, and impartially judges what was right and what was wrong in order to prevent repeating wrongs in the future. Regimes and ideologies, interest groups and their political, economic or military methods can be condemned, but no nation or race or religion can be regarded guilty or collectively condemned for the crimes committed by perpetrators responsible for them, who should be identified. On the other hand, the stress of the historical research should be put on cultural and social history and on innumerable ways in which human cooperation contributed to the creation of peace and of the high values of our cultures and civilization and of the respect for the humanity and environment, for the world we live in and its creatures.

4. With regard to the historical process of the unification of Europe, the Pan-European Union urges all the European institutions, European governments and political forces not to forget the values upon which the European unity is based: democracy, human dignity, rule of law, efficient market economy but responsibly regulated according to the needs of social justice and ecological equilibrium, the values implied in our common Ancient Hellenic, Roman, Christian and humanistic heritage, as well as in the richness of our different national and regional cultural traditions.
5. On the other hand, with regard to the same historical process, the governments and political decision-makers should not forget that the process is not completed. We warn of the need to integrate all European nations in the European Union, such as the countries of the South-Eastern Europe that are waiting to join the Union: Bosnia and Hercegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Albania. The Union should help them to reach the European standards and to solve their internal problems, especially those which were largely imposed upon them, as in the case of Macedonia, or which were induced in their countries by unbalanced or unjust political or constitutional solutions proposed and supported by the international community, as in the case of Bosnia and Hercegovina.
6. We should also warn that some of the political and humanitarian problems or even catastrophes of the contemporary world, like the waves of refugees and migrants overflowing the European borders in the last years, did not find adequate response in the European Union. The Union has not so far found efficient methodology to cope with the consequences of this crisis, namely the innumerable immigrants from the Near Eastern countries, not to mention the methodology of solving the causes of this crisis in the countries where it emerged. Moreover, these countries are in the courtyard of Europe, and should be included in the programmes of political, economic and social cooperation of the European Union. The European countries should not induce instability in their region, which was often the case so far, but should help them to stabilize their countries, raise the standards of democracy and rule of law, but not simply by following some imposed criteria we invent for them, but as far as possible by deducing comparable positive values from their own rich cultural and religious traditions. Equally, the European Union should support the measures they will undertake for raising life standard and standards of social justice and mutual understanding of different ethnic or religious groups in those countries, or cooperate in such measures. If the European Union follows the values upon which it has been founded and which should be further developed, it should be able to take its beneficial influence in the conflict- and war-torn countries in its neighbourhood, and as far as possible in the world as a whole.