

## **Creating a European Public Sphere**

We are approaching the EP elections in a European and more international context of uncertainty, disorientation, and confusion too.

Many, too many facts and circumstances are reasons of deep worry: A financial crisis that is still affecting the daily life of many citizens, especially the young ones; a growing interdependence which undermines many certainties; EU neighboring countries – Ukraine is just the most tragic case in this moment but new emergency will confront us in the near future -; a waving compass needle in the EU because of lack of European leadership; National EU member States unable or unwilling to make strong decisions aiming to shape a Union with precise and solid finalities.

A very weak motivation of citizens towards the European project will most likely mark a low participation at the EP election, which will likely take to the new Parliament extremism with political forces committed to break up the most important, courageous and farsighted political undertakings ever seen in the world's history.

Nevertheless, no discouragement! The majority of the Europeans supporting the European project will always outnumber those pushing towards a “titanic” destiny of the Union.

Many evidences highlight and will more and more prove that the European unification isn't just an opportunity but a necessity for putting both European peoples and countries in the condition to face the growing challenges of a changing world.

We all know and with crystal clear evidence realize that, in spite of weaknesses and cracks the New European house will never drop. I can't imagine a throwback to an Old Continent with just National States even in a science fiction.

In addition to the responsibility of political leaders and policy-makers, journalists can and must play an important role for the progress of the European idea. A role that provides a

contribution to close the still too large gap between EU Institutions and citizens and to create a real European Public Sphere.

In the today's digital world and knowledge society, also marked by the determination of civil society to have more voice in the public arena, the representative democracy alone is insufficient to express the people's needs and aspirations. More direct power exercise is demanded.

Considering the public sphere a reality in social life where people can interact freely discussing and identifying societal problems with the aim to influence political action, we can infer the great importance of a two way communication requiring journalistic activities in both communicating Europe and animating discussion ending in channeling people's need towards democratic institutions where policy-makers take decision.

In this regard, In view of the upcoming elections for the European Parliament, the European Journalists are required to have a special commitment for the European future.

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