

I am speaking taking into account
the main processes at work in the EU context:

- the revision of the Treaties
in the Intergovernmental Conference
- the elaboration of a Charter of rights
as decided by the Council of Colofue, last year
- the negotiations for enlargement to ~~new~~ a ^{big} ~~whole~~
group of European countries

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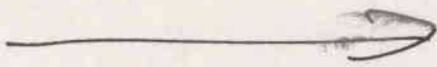


First, because of the EU, as it is now, 2
Once the ~~the~~ Economic + Monetary Union
achieved, we need a new horizon,
^{with} a definite goal,
to give to the EU the ~~scope~~ scope we all
wish it to have.



Second, because ~~even~~ even when I say
"Europe ^{union} as it is now", I ~~can~~ cannot
overlook that ~~Europe~~ Europe we are on our way
to a still unknown destiny. We have
decided the enlargement, negotiations
have started. And what is our identity
for the countries who decided to join us?

Will we - will they - be satisfied just
with a better economic life and all the petty
bickering that is still part + parcel of
our decision-making process when it
comes down to very concrete matters?

Certainly not. I still remember how
I felt when after the demise of communism
in a famous informal dinner at the Elysée
the Member-States of the EU drew up the
list of requirements for aid to the
post-comm. c. 

Besides the market economy, they had to abide by what then the W leaders considered our model of democracy:

- the state of law
- the multi-party system
- free elections
- respect for human rights



Today, 11 y. later, can we still be content with that? The history of those countries during those ~~last~~ years does it show that they themselves are happy with that ~~small~~ grand-mother's recipe for democracy? Of course not. They are not happy. Nor are we.

Indeed the task ahead starts there.

Democracy has to be deepened + enriched. In all our countries, activists in civil society are attempting to strengthen the existing representative democracy and are trying to invent / to imagine new ways for a true participatory democracy.

Such movement has to be taken seriously. If there is a knowledge-based society, if to learn is also to gain power, ~~then~~ people's empowerment is of the essence of such a society.

^{with}
By this statement, I am also 4
pointing out to a concept + practice —
of citizenship that goes beyond the
~~average~~ ^{small} ~~once~~ degree of citizenship
Europeans enjoy today.

Citizenship implies the enjoyment
of fundamental rights.

If ~~we~~ ~~are~~ will be able to consolidate
a full citizenship

we will enrich the identity of the EU.
Because we will prevent it to be perceived
as a huge bureaucracy, managed by
technocrats
and alien to the realities, ~~of the~~ ~~state~~
~~the~~ ~~challenges~~ + aspirations of the Europeans.
~~when the people~~



Citizenship implies the enjoyment
of fundamental rights.

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Its consolidation prevents

Europe to be perceived
as a huge bureaucracy, managed by techno-
crats
and alien to the realities of everyday life.

When the peoples of Europe will be together
not only on the economic + monetary
level

but on the basis

of the values that guide them

of the rights they enjoy

of the cultures they share

of the responsibilities they assume

then - and only then - can we speak
of European citizenship.



~~But - let us be aware of it - we
cannot go on building a linear progress.
"More of the same won't do". The Prime-
-Minister in his letter to his colleagues
wrote about the new paradigm of
the economy of innovation + knowledge.
I will draw from the change of paradigm
some ~~main~~ reflections.~~

4 Basic facts

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1. ~~There are several questions that have to be asked + some facts that cannot be overlooked~~

~~The first is the conceptual meaning of the enlargement:~~ Many speak about the difficulties to be encountered in the enlargement, about the complexity of the process. All that is true.

But what enlargement brings with it is the awareness, applied to the European institutions,

that quantity changes quality
— of course, not in the sense of better-or-worse but in the sense of the very ^{identity} ~~meaning~~ of the European Union.

The gradual expansion of the EU until it coincides with the European continent asks for new procedures, and new mechanisms;
most of all, it asks for stating clearly and without ambiguity what in the past was taken for granted.



This real quantum leap cannot wait. 7.
If is now or never.
It has to be now when negotiations are already starting.

If we go on within the same matrix to put in function a much bigger geographical, cultural + political set of ~~the~~ nations + peoples, we will reach ^{the} level of the absurd. (An example: ~~today a NGO with its accounts in order~~ in the Comité des Sages one colleague ^{left us when} ~~said~~ ^{feel of zeal of and} ^{achieved we} ^{copied with the delays of} ^{with} ^{business} "as a manager of several institutions, I cannot work with an institution that functions so badly". Therefore, as an ethical position, I quit") Total implosion will follow.

But if instead we think anew the whole mechanism, conceive it as a system, incorporate into its functioning the capabilities of the Knowledge society

Then: ~~we~~ the European institutions can become less corporations + more networks can dispose of the old traditional systems of internal organization + function with ^{more rapid processes} ~~its~~ ~~business~~ question/answer ^{of decision making}

Then maybe we can give ^{a renewed} ~~new~~ dynamism to European citizenship, by placing ^{it} at another level.



This level is sought by many ^{of us} in a "bill of Rights", "declaration de droits" or even in a charter. ~~on the 6~~ The Council in Colofne took this option and said:

"It would be convenient, at this stage of the development of the European Union, to gather together in a charter the fundamental rights already at work within the Union, so that they will acquire a greater visibility".

A step is announced there.

I am not ~~so~~ sure if it is within the agenda of the ~~the~~ Intergovernmental Conference which started on the 14th ^{this month} of ~~the~~ month. If not, we ^{will} miss the boat again as we did in A'dam ~~and~~ This cannot happen. I wished, ~~as~~ Chairman, that from our meeting ~~the~~ a strong recommendation should be made in this regard.



Moreover, we cannot ~~to~~ fulfil the goal of giving citizenship its full weight if we reduce it all to a charter of the rights that are already here + there in the Treaties. ~~It is not a~~ ^{cosmetics} is never a good method for political decision-making.

If we are serious about the ~~social~~ Knowledge-based society, we have to include the rights by which we all abide in our national fundamental laws. ~~#~~

~~I don't see It is clear for all the political actors that~~

All members of the EU have ratified the Int. Covenant on Civil + Political Rights as well as the Int. Covenant on Social, Economic + Cultural Rights, which are the ~~result~~ ^{translation} of binding documents of the ^{universal} Declaration of Human Rights. What prevents the political leadership of our countries to accept them at the regional level?



Rights of 2nd/3rd generation

Social rights not as corrective to econ. process
but expression of h. dignity as basis
of all h. rights (Sen)

Revision of contents of all h. rights
(droit au travail = droit all forms of work)

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That it is clearly affirmed in the 10 Preamble of those two Covenants ^{that} all — in rights — civil, social, econ., cultural, political — are interdependent + indivisible.



~~The importance of~~

This is extremely important. It says, in an abstract way, the concerns we have been voicing here — we want, eg, that people may have flexibility + security, ~~we~~ in their work, we want our enterprises to be places where people acquire greater knowledge + but that knowledge at the service of their fellow human beings.

But we want as well ^{called 2nd, 3rd} the fulfilment of other rights: Not only those enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights but also that the last 50 years have shown to be fundamental for h beings today + in future generations: ^{eg:} the right to a healthy, well-preserved environment which keeps alive the life-support system for humankind. Or, ~~and~~

taking into account the knowledge-based 71
society, the right to privacy.

Of course, the ^{traditional} rights of the Univ. Decl.
have now very \neq demands from those
of 50 y. ago. As it has been stated in
the report on ^{redefinition of work} rights, "the right to work
is the right to all forms of work".

Concepts of ^{little that} active society which sees
work as an continuum leads us to
~~separate~~ formulate it ~~of two~~ new forms
ways work itself, activity + employ-
ment. ~~or~~ life-long learning leads
to a breaking of the traditional
sequence of ~~then~~ education/employ-
ment/retirement. How can we think

rights the corresponding rights then? \rightarrow
• Social rights not as corrective of
the hazards of economy ^{but experience}.

I am speaking about rights. But
I have in mind, at a later stage,
the corresponding responsibilities
(IAC - 10 y. - Schmidt)

