

FORUM EUROPE „WALKING IN UNITY“

We all can feel it: Europe is in crisis. We, the inhabitants of Europe, are being called upon to stand up for the fundamental ideas and values of a united Europe and to develop an open European society that shows solidarity as part of the One World.

VISION

A new Interconnectedness

The new Europe is being created in the hearts of the people, arising out of a desire for a peaceful community sharing the values of living together in dignity, freedom and interconnectedness. We all are being faced with challenges globally on this planet that can no longer be solved solely on a national level.

What we need is a fundamentally new political and spiritual kind of sharing life on this planet that is based upon the oneness of all people, the oneness of life. Despite all its problems the European project is an important step in that direction. In order to realise this oneness in diversity there is an even greater need for this European idea today. And this Europe will also have to respect differences, will have to respect the diversity recumbent in ethnicities, languages, and cultures because only in this way will we be able to draw upon all of the respective strengths within this diversity for the better of a shared Europe. It is this mutual European symphony with all its different instruments and its beautiful variety of sounds that we are aiming for.

Honouring Achievements

Europe`s rich cultural and intellectual history can by no means be taken for granted, and it is an important and invaluable contribution for the global society that is being established now. Democracy`s roots are based in Greece, our constitutional legality was laid down by the Romans. Together with the idea of universal human rights and Europe`s rich spiritual heritage these achievements can now serve as central values for a world shared by all of us. Just like the contributions of other cultures of the world they are the building material for a new and united world.

Within the last decades Europe has moved forward quite a bit with regard to the formation of a united and interconnected diverse society. The tragic events happening in our recent history have proven to be a major factor in this development:

- Deeply rooted human rights guarantee safety in the face of social and state based arbitrariness and corruption; plurality of opinion, religious and ideological pluralism as well as respect for people with different views are safeguarded; inclusion for people in all their diversity has been established; there is the possibility for free creative development, the right to sexual self-determination and the freedom of choice with regard to residence and job opportunities. All of this cannot be taken for granted.
- At the intergovernmental and supranational level steps have been taken that go beyond international law, guaranteeing inviolable borders and constituting the obligation for diplomatic solutions any time versus acts of war. The lack of democracy in European co-operation is one of the biggest weaknesses of today`s Europe.

- As far as economy is concerned Europe has aspired to put co-operation before competition after World War II. In order to develop entrepreneurial freedom, however, we need a strong sense of solidarity with regard to economic activities grounded in a feeling of brother- and sisterhood to serve the common good.
- Europe will also have to face up to its colonial history. Our world is still being shaped by 500 years of European and western dominance. However, living in Europe`s open society allows for a culture of self-criticism and collaborative learning so that we can become aware of long-term effects and grievances. In this way new and respectful forms of collaboration can develop on a worldwide level.

Goal

For us Europe`s open society is the basis for a new European identity, a oneness in diversity, grounded in peace, equality, and freedom. This can lead to the evolution of a European Republic of the Heart as part of a pluralistic world based on solidarity.

Being aware of our oneness which is prior to any diversity is preparing the ground for this evolution. There are numerous approaches for reaching this goal on the political level as well as on a more hidden personal level. There are initiatives almost everywhere by now; people are beginning to act on this principle. A myriad of projects, approaches and realized ideas for it already exist, networks and ways of living that consciously aim at the common good. We want to contribute to this development by making these initiatives visible. A united and open Europe can also be seen as a future lab for a shared and diverse global culture.

NEXT STEPS

At the end of August 2017 the initiative group met in order to prepare a first European meeting with representatives from the civil society who are in resonance with this development.

We are expecting about 25 people from different countries and backgrounds to attend the meeting from Friday night, the 8th till Sunday, the 11th of March 2018. It will be our goal to create a shared, stable European field for the project - Forum Europe „Walking in Unity“. On this occasion ideas for two possible activities will be presented by the initiative group (see below). Furthermore, for the people attending there will be the possibility to voice what moves them and what they want and can contribute to a new European identity arising out of the idea of oneness in diversity.

We are hoping that by 2018 and 2019 there will be self organized „Walking in Unity“ events in many European regions making the idea of the oneness in diversity visible. Rather than putting an emphasis on what separates us, we want to embrace what unites us. It is all about an embodiment of the oneness of all people, ultimately of all life. By choosing certain kinds of routes we can contribute to honouring our rich European past.

In the years following a future four day lab can be held somewhere in Europe inspired by these events and the networks incorporating the harmony of the people that took part. This lab is going to be a public event with key note speeches, workshops, rounds of dialogue as well as creative expressions, exhibitions and constellation work. It will provide a platform for sharing and

deepening all kinds of knowledge, methods, technologies, arts as well as for meditative immersion into stillness, not-knowing and the wonder of life.

As people and as Europeans we will celebrate the miracle of a common mankind and of a planet shared by all of us.

People from all walks of life will get together in this forum: from education, science, economy, law, art, health, politics, spirituality, infrastructure and ecology. They will share their knowledge and dedication for a mutual and humane Europe and the future of our children. They will also be prepared to communicate with others in an appreciative way and to form connections that go beyond fields of expertise and territorial borders and that are grounded in the idea of oneness for the common good of all living beings. Innovative approaches, projects and ideas that have been in action for two years at least can be presented there. Whatever is already in existence in terms of a „European Spirit in Action“ will be made visible: pathbreaking approaches for a (shared) future in accordance with the fundamental European values that can now serve the well-being of all and everyone.

Wilderswil, August 2017