

Göttweig Declaration 2013

Twenty years ago, the Maastricht Treaty created the basis of the European Union; it has been a milestone in the history of European integration. The parameters have since changed. For five years, Europe has been suffering from the effects of the financial and economic crisis. What will happen after the crisis? This is the question that has become more and more prominent; it is the core issue of how to develop the European Union in the future. It is all about viable future interaction of powers in Europe, about confidence in European integration and in European institutions. It is about the basic question of how the EU can operate optimally in the future, i.e. about the division of responsibilities among the institutions but also between the member states and the Union; all decisions of the European Union have to be democratically legitimised. It is about how a Europe with 28 member states and different speeds may work and may be designed in a way that is not separating but joining. With 2013 being the European Year of Citizens, these questions on the future cannot be discussed without the participation of civil society. Rather, this year should provide the necessary momentum for starting a serious dialogue on the future design of Europe.

For 18 years, the European Forum Wachau has dealt with these very questions, always incorporating civil society. Being a deliberately European forum it also serves to deepen Austria's relations with its central and eastern European neighbours and its partners from other European regions, and promotes international understanding in general.

In order to design a new Europe and find possible ways out of the crisis, approaches to a solution need to be found via regional and national cooperation with the citizens of Europe:

- 1.) Ten years after its implementation, the Common Security and Defence Policy is now being redesigned. The European Council in December 2013 is dedicated to the topic of security and defence; therefore, the year 2013 offers an opportunity to thoroughly discuss the CSDP and outline scenarios for further developing this policy area. Important steps in this direction are to revise tasks and mechanisms within the Common Security and Defence Policy and to find measures to increase its efficiency as a core feature of European foreign policy. These efforts should, however, be part of a basic strategic discussion process on the EU's role as a global player.
- 2.) Subsidiarity and solidarity are guiding principles of the European integration process. The principle of subsidiarity is one of the principles of the European Union and therefore the Union's legitimising basis for its actions. The principle of solidarity is the

foundation of the EU's judicial and state grouping. Within this relationship, solidarity and subsidiarity correct each other mutually. Regions play a decisive role in this context; they are best able to implement these principles of European integration on the national level, both in the interest of the regions themselves and of their citizens. Focussing more strongly on the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity with disadvantaged regions is indispensable for the positive future development of Europe. This is why both principles have to be applied increasingly and more intensely.

- 3.) The economy is the driving force of European integration. It is therefore indispensable to develop the European Economic and Monetary Union into an enhanced and genuine EMU to substantiate Europe's credibility as an economic power. Within the Union, however, it is a matter of creating growth through innovation and development on the one hand and of advancing budgetary consolidation on the other hand, in order to remain competitive in the global context.
- 4.) Regions are both the origin and melting pot of different cultures and traditions. Culture is directly rooted in the European citizens. It promotes cross-border dialogue and helps create a European citizen awareness. When looking for new factors of integration, culture plays a vital role. This is why culture requires higher priority in the context of European integration and also in EU external relations; the potential needs to be fully realised. The EUNIC network, the European Union National Institutes for Culture, plays a significant role in this context.

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European Forum Wachau, Göttweig monastery
Initiated by Dr. Erwin Pröll, Governor of Lower Austria and
Dr. Michael Spindelegger, Austrian Federal Minister for European and
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