european public sphere

EUROPEAN PUBLIC SPHERE

Catalogue of Ideas

THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SPHERE

CATALOGUE OF IDEAS

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Room for Civic Participation in Europe

"In varietate concordia" is the motto of the European Union. It comes to life when citizens, not just the European institutions, feel it. This is perhaps more crucial today than ever before.

Travelling Europe and experiencing local cultures is important for our peaceful cohabitation, but we often hear that our community cannot be saved. The gulf between the political elites of the European Union and its citizens stems essentially from the fact that both political decision-makers and organized civil society are disconnected in a two-way communication system. The disconnect of communication and understanding between civil society, citizens and politicians has harvested toxic ideologies that are detrimental to the European project.

Each and every one of us creates public space - if possible in conversation and exchange with others. Public space also takes place in people's minds, but that is not enough. Life is analogous. But, the precondition of a common political space for citizens on the ground, a horizontal and inclusive exchange that allows everyone to discuss together the issues that concern us, is simply missing. The European Public Sphere project starts here – where this space has been left vacant.

The European Public Sphere is a public space that fascinates. Citizens gather freely in an open-air geodesic structure to talk about Europe. They share problems and experiences and debate ideas. They learn that the formation of political will is a joint process of hearing and being heard. Even a young, multilingual, multicultural generation that has grown up without borders and barriers is able to set new and constructive impulses for public life.

Democracy International has been working towards a new European Convention for years, and the idea is becoming more and more popular in times of democratic deficits and decisions being taken from above with little consultation from below. Mini-conventions are hosted in the European Public Sphere, helping create an assembly of citizen decision-makers in town squares and public places that is not yet available to us in the hubs of Brussels or Strasbourg. The initiatives taken by some political leaders are signs of hope that there is political will to include citizens in fundamental decision-making about Europe.

The rescue of a democratic, an open and liberal Europe can succeed if the actions of European civil society are complemented by commitments of willing political leaders. Civil society needs real spaces and times for these emergences. Our communities need the ideas that have remained undiscovered to this point. This requires active care on the part of the committed, organizational efforts, and the courage to start the journey.

Join us on our two-year-trip through Europe summarised in this catalogue of ideas, a travel guide for the future of our common European home.

Yours sincerely

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THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SPHERE

Our Itinerary - Data Collection and Criteria

While we could have trusted our local guides blindly, we chose to meet them personally. And we even went beyond meeting in one-on-one interviews: we brought together all guides that came our way and were willing to share their knowledge to discuss their ideas for this travel catalogue.

Of course, special guests need a special room to converse and spark their creativity. Hence, we brought along our Europe Dome under which the European Public Sphere emerges and built it in public spaces you might want to visit on your own journey through Europe - market squares, shopping centres, memorial sites, churches, parks.

The Europe Dome is a wooden, geodetic structure and a public space that can't help but captivate its audience. Its 168 wooden beams join together in geometric triangles, penta- and hexagons. They symbolize the necessary democratic statics and cultural diversity of the common European home. Each beam contributes to the cohesion of the whole and is needed for its stability and progress. In total, constructing the Europe Dome takes about 3 hours - yes, every time. The size of the dome is carefully considered. With a diameter of 5 meters and a height of 3.5 meters, the physical space of the European Public Sphere has a high recognition value.

Inside the dome, up to 20 locals can take a seat on sustainable cardboard chairs. They share problems and experiences and merge creative ideas. They learn that the formation of political will is a joint process of hearing and being heard. Together, we burst filter bubbles, gather visions and develop solutions. The discussion round is neither too large and anonymous nor too small and private for guides to share their secrets. Even reserved locals take the courage to speak freely.

Are you wondering about our criteria for selecting local guides? To provide you with diversified recommendations of European topics:
•   the Europe Dome is open to all interested representatives from the citizenry, civil society and the political sphere.
•   it is a safe space: neutral, open to everyone regardless of colour or orientations. Main conversational rule: mutual respect.
•   participants gather freely in the open-air geodesic lab to talk about Europe.
•   all participants can enter and leave the dome at any time.
•   all conversations can be taken actively from within or from the outside of the open structure.
•   coloured slips of paper are provided for written or drawn suggestions.

"I feel strengthened to take the subject of Europe into the discussion again and again in my own association, to develop it further, to think about what we can do to ensure that the fundamental democratic and social rights [...] are actually implemented."

Participant in Munster

"I think this is already a good initiative and that you should actually engage much more in dialogue with each other. And also with people with totally different opinions in order to find out where exactly that sting is. And maybe you can take away a lot of fear."

Participant in Zandvoort

"Why I was encouraged by the discussion? Because I believe that Europe stands in a long historical tradition of the Enlightenment and what I found in the discussion here today were the principles of the Enlightenment. Everyone is equal, everyone has a voice, a voice that must be taken seriously, and we must defend that voice, which I believe is Europe. We must defend our own individual voice and opinion, and that includes dialogues at eye level."

Participant in Dusseldorf

To ensure the independence and credibility of the project, the European Public Sphere currently finances itself exclusively through donations and contributions from private individuals and foundations. The funds are administered by the two supporting organizations Democracy International e.V. and IG-EuroVision. For sustainable financing of the European Public Sphere, further collaborations and partnerships with non-profit organizations and independent foundations are sought.

THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SPHERE

Our Itinerary - Data Collection and Criteria

With this travel guide, we seek to provide you with reliable information for your journey on the European continent. For a continuing pleasant stay, we invite you to turn as many recommendations as possible into concrete action.

Our more than 500 experienced local guides from 30 places in 8 countries have racked their brains between October 2017 and October 2019, to put together the best ideas Europe currently has to offer in this open source travel guide. 62 of these more than 100 Dome Talks held in English, German, Dutch, French, Polish and Spanish made it into our first publication. And who would know better than true locals?

STOPS THAT ARE PART OF THIS GUIDE:

Maastricht
Den Burg, Texel
Amsterdam
The Hague
Zandvoort

Liege
Antwerp
Brussels
Ghent

Luxembourg
Schengen

Bonn
Munster
Dusseldorf
Wesel
Witten
Herzogenrath
Duisburg
Cologne
Hambach Forest
Haltern am See
Munich
Berlin
Dortmund

Krzyżowa
Gdansk
Cracow

Vienna

Donostia/ San Sebastian

Rome

THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SPHERE

Our Itinerary - Data Collection and Criteria

As transparent and inclusive as the Europe Dome is, the follow-up is on the knowledge gained. After the local guides give their consent, we film all Dome Talks to afterwards present them online on the European Public Sphere Youtube channel. Connecting the analogue and virtual sphere, guides and travellers from all over Europe and also other parts of the world can now continue to fine-tune our findings and suggest new ideas.

Photos are taken during the events (after consent has been given) for travel updates on our social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Flickr) and our live updates for those already on the road.

The different channels can be found at:

Website: www.publicsphere.eu

Facebook: @EuropeanPublicSphere

Twitter: @EU_PublicSphere

Instagram: @EU_PublicSphere

Flickr: European Public Sphere

Youtube: European Public Sphere

Lastly, we seek to connect the informal and official sociocultural travel-spheres to bridge the communication deficit. After completing a first trip with the project, we hand over this catalogue of ideas, this travel guide, to the European Parliament and spread it online. We don't want your money, this guide is free of charge but we would be happy for you to keep it updated and share your suggestions for the best itinerary ever.

According to Article 48, the European Parliament can call for a European Convention. For Democracy International, a new European Convention constitutes the beginning of a new and democratic European constitution that invites its citizens aboard at every step. Eventually, the convention process would lead to a Europe-wide referendum on the new constitution's adoption - the final travel guide to Europe. We want the European Public Sphere to feed into this process.

"I think a format like this, founding such a public sphere in which Europe is simply discussed is great. We need much, much more of that. It's an incredibly great start, it's a brilliant idea, and I think the greatest enrichment of my day is to have experienced this."

Participant in Wesel

"I actually want to see something like this in public space much more often, so that such topics can really be discussed across society. [...] If there's another discussion round, I'll come back!"

Participant in Duisburg

"This was my first extra-curricular confrontation with the topic and that's why it was nice to hear opinions that are outside of school, so that you don't necessarily keep your opinion to yourself because you get a bad grade."

Participant in Herzogenrath

Our Itinerary - Structure

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"That's why I think this idea is so great. [Because of] this discussion process, the public space is developed, so that more citizens realize it's important that more citizens go to the streets for more issues and loudly express their opinions and actively approach politicians."

Participant in Duisburg

"Even though Russia is not ..Europe, it still can cooperate with our European countries in order to make the Baltic Sea and the whole region better and I find this camp and other initiatives really important, because this is how we can create a better world together, fight climate change, find our common baltic sea identity and make cultural exchange."

Participant in Gdansk

This catalogue of ideas is an excerpt. It cannot display the complete richness of ideas for your explorations in Europe. We also had to make choices about what sights need to be seen first and what can be discovered on your next voyage. As you might know from your own experience, no travel guide can ever be complete or representative.

As our editorial team of more than 10 people analysed the video material from our travels, everyone noted down the quotes (s)he found interesting, indispensable and inspiring. Next, we classified the statements in a three step-tag system.

The first step categorizes the local tip and organises this guide into its 13 different regions worth visiting: Democracy, Economy, Environment, EU Copyright Reform, Food, Geopolitics, Inclusion, Media & Communication, Migration, Integration, Unity, and Values.

In the challenging, yet ambitious surroundings of Europe, we want you to perfectly orientate yourself without setting foot in it beyond the point of casual fun. Moving away from the standard subsections on accommodation, food and relaxation, every chapter is sub-organised into DOs and DON'Ts and recommendations on how to make your stay as perfectly enjoyable as possible! As some regions are larger than others, we provided additional oversight through subsections wherever necessary.

Not enough time to read through every chapter? No worries - time is precious, and we present all tips as bullet points with short explanations. The original quotes following you through this compass will provide you with further guidance.

As much as preference varies from one person to another, so might recommendations on Europe's future, infrastructural issues faced and the priorities when visiting a place. It is up to you to design your itinerary.

Still not sure what to expect from this travel guide? At the end of the booklet you can browse through a series of reviews provided by former travellers!

Ready to go? So, where does your wanderlust take you first?

REGIONS

Democracy

Democracy was by far the most mentioned and discussed topic during our Dome Talks, whether we chose it as the main topic of the Dome Event or not, making democracy the most extensive region in the whole Catalogue of Ideas. Whichever topic we first started with, the conversation always came back to democracy. Climate change, the economy, migration or integration - many participants criticised the often lacking means of participation and the disconnect between politicians and their citizenry.

In general, people in most places mentioned not feeling represented or heard and not being taken seriously by their political representatives at European level. The hegemony of lobbyists' interests versus peoples' and civil society's powerlessness when it comes to influencing political decision-making formed part of many dialogues and was one of the biggest causes for worries. The European Parliament, the European Citizens' Initiative and the EU itself were brought up as positive, yet unfinished, examples of democracy. More room for improvement was seen regarding the institutional set-up of the European Union, e.g. of the European Parliament and the Union's perceived focus on national interests.

Citizens mainly called for a more democratic EU. This democratic renewal should first and foremost establish and strengthen the pillar of citizen participation, as well as for people to identify and go along with the policies they helped shape. In many places, citizens demanded instruments of direct democracy to constructively shape their EU through agenda-setting and through binding decisions. These two ideas are interlinked with or even at the basis of many other groups of recommendations and regions.

A European public sphere needs to be created through discussions which include also political representatives. Several possible formats are presented in this chapter. Building on the criticism, citizens brought forward calls for more transparency and lobby regulations to restore citizens' trust in European institutions. Regarding institutional reform, most ideas related to strengthening the European Parliament, e.g. through introducing the right of initiative for the Parliament. In the majority of places where democracy was discussed, participants also brought up transnational lists as a means of creating more awareness, unity and truly European elections that people would take seriously. Recommendations for the European Citizens' Initiative and for the levels of decision-making are also included in this region. Most participants agreed that more democratic education and more education of the EU is needed for people to become active citizens.

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Democracy

"The main challenge is not to identify new blueprints for the future of Europe, there is some agreement that we need some kind of bottom-up democratic relaunch of the democratic project. The real challenge is to overcome those differences in these ideal ideas that we have on the future of Europe and to be slightly more pragmatic and to recognize it is quite urgent. "

Participant in Rome

DOS

+   the European Union so far is the only model where national states agree freely and peacefully on a joint set of laws and with the possibility to make not only the voices of heads of states and governments heard in international politics but to depict domestic opinions on a higher level (Witten)
+   good basic structure for daily politics but direct democracy needed for deepening (Bonn)
+   the EU in itself is a democratic progress (Dortmund); the system allows for societal consensus to be turned into political action (Hambach Forest)
+   the European system is democratic if elected representatives talk to each other in an open, transparent, argumentative manner and establish a feedback loop with their domestic population (Duisburg)
+   good if decisions are taken for the sake of the whole of Europe and not national interests (Amsterdam, Dusseldorf)
+   with current institutional structures: possibility to introduce European-wide transparency regulations and limit the power concentration around lobbies through tax and cartel law (Duisburg)
+   the EU solves problems that cannot be solved in national states (Rome)
+   Europe is already far with solving global problems locally (Herzogenrath)
+   citizenship and democracy are more than voting, citizens have participative duties and rights (Amsterdam, Brussels, San Sebastian, Antwerp, Amsterdam, Duisburg, Texel)
+   the EU has started a participation process about 20 years ago to fight the democratic deficit (Brussels)
+   mechanisms are already in place: the European Commission holds open discussions with civil society (Texel)

The European Parliament
+   good platform and a good way to start the democratic process in the European Union even though it is too small to be representative of every citizen of the European Union (Texel)
+   citizens can make it more diverse or representative through their vote (Texel)
+   good platform for dialogue, cooperation, guidelines (Texel, Brussels)
+   great achievements in the social area and general legislation (Texel, Brussels)
+   increased understanding of each other's cultures and needs (Luxembourg)
+   became stronger over time and was strengthened in the Lisbon Treaty (Duisburg)
+   has become a power veto-player in the legislative process and is making (informal) suggestions (Duisburg)
+   is more democratic than national parliaments through non-existence of government and less party discipline enabling many cross-country and cross-party decisions on the actual issue (Duisburg)
+   is there to alleviate things for the citizens, including those serving as MEPs (Liege)
+   first pan-European parties that create a European mindset and move elections away from national issues (Hambach Forest); a first group with its roots in Switzerland working towards a European party (Antwerp)

The European Citizens´ Initiative
+   it is amazing that it can even exist, and that it exists (San Sebastian, Duisburg)
+   ECIs on TTIP/CETA were the first time of a cross-border European consensus (Duisburg)
+   the ECI information campaign 2018 came too late, but at least it was done (Brussels)

Participation
+   people want to get involved (Witten)
+   citizen participation helps to tackle the democratic deficit (Brussels)
+   possibility to contact representatives (Hambach Forest) and Commission; usually always respond nicely (Duisburg)
+   possibility to protest to make one's voice heard (Hambach Forest, Antwerp) and create awareness (Cologne)
+   a community of states can do as well as single states through citizen participation (Cologne)
+   people are often more progressive than the political sphere (Zandvoort)
+   tendency to think referenda are decided through populist influences, but people are responsible and often well informed (Cologne)

DON'TS

-   the EU is not a real democracy (Dusseldorf, Berlin, San Sebastian); the EU is a democracy only on paper (Zandvoort)
-   we have not lived in a democracy for a long time (Berlin)
-   outdated democratic system (Rome)
-   EU has become less democratic since the last enlargement (Krakow)
-   the EU needs a democratic reform or it will fall apart (Hambach Forest, Cologne, Dusseldorf)
-   Council meets behind closed doors
-   no elected European president is undemocratic
-   EU democracy is forced upon the people (Dusseldorf)
-   diverging ideas of democracy in different member states prevents common standard and values; especially rightist states like Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Italy, more and more Austria; some are close to neofascist structures: checks and balances, especially jurisdiction, treatment of opposition and NGOs (Duisburg); populist states endanger the EU from within (Cologne)
-   the EU needs to change its structure: currently weak state, how the President, how officials are appointed is not approved by the citizens; change is needed if you want citizens to join (Ghent)
-   disappointment of the EU not going further (Schengen)
-   the many already existing small programmes do not come together in a wider strategy (Dusseldorf)
-   the first two European conventions were ended after the ECI was introduced and politicians got scared of the discussions (Cologne)
-   the heteronomy that one cannot identify with anymore creates a disenchantment with politics (Witten)
-   many are not ready for a European Government (Munster, Bonn)
-   e-democracy can easily be manipulated and platforms/softwares are owned and shaped by single people and their visions (Brussels)
-   disinterest in politics because people are (too) well off (Munich)
-   prejudices: Europe is often seen as something people pay for without getting anything back in return (Ghent)
-   clown-esque policy scenery (Cologne)

Parties and elections
-   European elections and referendums e.g. about the European Constitution in France are used to punish or reward local governments (Rome) or punish certain candidates (The Hague). They are held on national issues (Schengen, Krakow) and promoted as a national issue with no reference to European parties which prevents the emergence of a European public sphere (Krakow)
-   currently only 2 pan-European parties (Zandvoort)
-   people know the orientation of their national European party members but not of the ones in the same coalition from other countries but indirectly support them through their vote (The Hague)
-   violations of democracy: only voting every 4 years, land grabbing, income inequalities (Brussels)
-   elections every 5 years is not enough participation (Amsterdam, Haltern am See, Dortmund) and people are tired of not knowing what happens with their voice afterwards (Dortmund)
-   low voter turnout (Hambach Forest, Duisburg)

- issues/interests represented at European level in the name of the citizens are not theirs (Munster, Rome) and hence they do not vote (The Hague)
- voting does not change anything (Cologne)
- continuously less people decide for continuously more people (Dusseldorf)
- elections themselves are the root of many problems and the party system does not work (The Hague)
- coalitions trading issues between parties without actual majorities in society is one of the problems of politicial parties (The Hague)/ actual majorities are not turned into action (Hambach Forest, Dusseldorf)
- no trust in the party system (Witten); people lost trust in the EU despite being pro-European (The Hague)
- it is hard to understand what the elections were about - it takes time to study it (Krakow)

People and politicians
- people do not feel represented (Munster)/political representatives do not represent their citizens (Munich) (party-cracy/oligarchy/ company-like structures to win posts and voices) (Antwerp, Ghent, Zandvoort, The Hague, Amsterdam, Brussels, Rome, Krakow, Texel, San Sebastian)
- communication deficit between people and politicians (Schengen, Hambach Forest, Berlin, Liege); citizens are so strongly disconnected from the politicians that they rely on social networks and do not believe politics anymore (Liege)
- difficult to make one's voice heard if the political representative is of another opinion (Antwerp)
- after the elections, politicians have all the power, people feel powerless (Antwerp, The Hague, Hambach Forest, Cologne, Liege)
- everything is organised around a few hundred MEPs, commissioners etc. without asking people's opinion (Liege)
- politicians only think about their own monetary advantage and not the citizens (Liege)
- politicians' fear of losing power or desire for power leads to treasuring up power (Antwerp, Ghent, Rome)
- keeping one's post decides: available information on e.g. climate change is not used, changes not started due to the fear of losing one's post in the next elections (The Hague)
- the fear of losing their jobs prevents politicians from creating a unified Europe: 1 president, one finance minister, one minister of defence (Schengen)
- power corrupts without politician realising it (Luxembourg)
- politicians do what they want (Wesel, Duisburg); no means of taking back control, no checks and balances (The Hague, Duisburg), people are in the role of petitioners before politicians and thus have no voice which leads to frustration (Dusseldorf) especially after having invested lots of efforts (Berlin)
- citizens' will is not depicted in European decisions which creates frustration and a hesitant use of existing participation mechanisms (Duisburg); politicians do not prioritise what the people want (Liege)
- people are not taken seriously by politicians (Berlin)
- top-down communication by politicians, immobilisation instead of equal dialogue (Berlin); an attitude of well-meaning elite towards the citizens (Rome); patronising attitude (Rome)
- always the usual suspects who engage and are the basis for decisions based on citizen dialogue (The Hague), mostly well educated, elderly male which is not representative (Berlin, The Hague)
- mostly discussions on Europe within the pro-EU bubble, also within civil society (Cologne)/ no dialogue across circles with differing opinions (San Sebastian); debates mostly among privileged people but many people have no points of contact with the topic (Hambach Forest)
- the EU/politics feel far away (The Hague, Bonn, Herzogenrath, Duisburg, Krzyzowa, Hambach Forest, Cologne, Berlin, Haltern am See, Wesel, Ghent, Brussels) and technocratic (Haltern am See); is intangible (Hambach Forest)
- young people are angry about the status quo, about not being listened to, do not want to give their voice to traditional parties later once they are allowed to vote (Krzyzowa)
- politicians are spending too much money (Antwerp)
- politicians care about numbers: money, re-election, votes (San Sebastian)
- politicians do not think long-term but from election to election (Witten, San Sebastian)
- politics are too slow, some decisions need to be taken much faster (Herzogenrath)
- too many institutions that put themselves above the citizens and then destroy the progress we could make because of influence by lobbyist groups, of politicians' self-interest, of caring about national pride (Brussels)
- the EU level as "recycling" for nationally unwanted politicians (Munster, Wesel)
- politicians do not act on their own, they only respond to movement and pressure (Witten, Bonn)
- too high expectations for politicians, most societal changes started with civil society (Haltern am See)
- always the same lies, never for the benefit of the citizen, still legitimisation of the state's intervention in terms of digital technology, the way of thinking, freedom of expression and so on (Liege)
- politicians have drifted off, hierarchy (Dusseldorf)

"And instead of our ideas, coming from the bottom and making their way to the top it is often this idea that it has to come from to top and be forced upon us. I think that will only (make) people more not willing to go along with these decisions."

Participant in Zanvoort

Lobbyism

- lobbies endanger democracy (Cologne, Berlin) and have too much power (Munster, Dusseldorf, Haltern am See)
- lobbyists make policies and decide (Munster, Amsterdam, Texel, Duisburg, Berlin, Antwerp)
- even hand in complete law formulations (Munster)
- decisions made by illegitimate bureaucrats in night meetings behind closed doors together with lobbyists (Cologne)
- lobbyists extremely pressure politicians (Duisburg); lobbies blackmail European institutions with the threat of loss of employment (Hambach Forest, Duisburg)
- lobbyists who have the means and profit from decisions make the decisions without democratic resistance leading to further anti-EU sentiments, worsening reputation and people not feeling represented (Hambach Forest)
- politicians focus on lobbyists and supporting the economy/making money and not standing behind their people creates disenchantment with politics (Berlin)
- the EU is not at the service of its citizens but serves the lobbies which gives rise to populism (Liege)
- incomprehensible for citizens how certain decisions seeming counterproductive came into being. It plays into the hands of populists (Haltern am See)
- the EU is an elite project (Munster, Ghent) where always the same people have their interests represented (Berlin)
- an elite of 1000-2000 people has the power but cannot comprehend precarious living situations (Liege, Hambach Forest) and they undermine democracy (Hambach Forest, also disagreement voiced)
- power is inherited in big enterprises and publishers from generation to generation (Hambach Forest)
- civil society is not strong enough to compete with lobbies (Berlin)

Participation

- current institutional set-up actively tries to prevent citizen participation (Hambach Forest)
- the petition system is too unknown and not binding (Amsterdam)
- petitions and non-binding referenda create frustrations if people's choice is not implemented (Bonn)
- political reaction needed after process of citizen participation (Berlin)
- direct democracy at European levels above elected national state level has to be well-thought through (Bonn)
- direct democracy at European level: danger of domination of most populated countries, regional coalition building and mutual blocking, no possibility for negotiating compromises (Berlin)
- might be too challenging for the EU at this point: danger of populist/ anti-democratic countries/ juxtaposing ideas of the "good" result (Berlin)
- direct democracy is useful on a lower scale but not at European level (Hambach Forest): direct democracy is dangerous because people tend to take uninformed gut decisions (Cologne)
- people will not vote for the common good, e.g. when it comes to climate change, so governments need to decide even though it might be undemocratic (Zandvoort)
- intransparency in the political process creates policies without room for citizens to intervene if they do not agree with the policy (Texel): intransparency of the institutions (Duisburg)
- introducing referendums without the right to initiative: they do not give real power to the people but are empty promises designated for a certain response (Ghent, Berlin)
- top-down referenda like Brexit (Schengen, Herzogenrath); Brexit is not a referendum but a plebiscite because of its top-down character; the process was hampered by misusing emotions and allowing no time to form an opinion (Cologne) and no definition of consequences (Munich)
- solely top-down decision-making: people are not willing to go along with these decisions (Cologne)
- without means of participation, the EU will stay far away from its people (Bonn)
- how do you want citizens to have a positive vision of the EU if you do not give them the means to express themselves? (Liege)
- thinking of people being too limited to take decisions (Rome, Antwerp, Ghent)
- distrusting citizens (The Hague)/arrogance (The Hague)
- listening to citizens when it comes to complex issues is not the best solution (Hambach Forest)
- people need individual mental readiness for democratic power to prevent media manipulation (Dusseldorf)
- only people with certain capacities are able to engage politically (Berlin)
- people are discouraged and do not dare to voice their ideas even in very safe settings (Berlin)
- plurality of languages makes common deliberation hard (Rome)
- civil society has lost the ability to shape Europe (Cologne)
- fighting for ways to participate is too difficult (Hambach Forest)
- people feel like the only way to coerce any change/force politicians into anything is to stay home (Antwerp) or to force an open ear through founding initiatives at local level that grow bigger and cannot be overheard (Ghent)
- citizens know their civic duties but don't know their (democratic) rights (Antwerp) and means to participate (The Hague)

- citizens do not participate anymore (Maastricht)
- economic inequality undermines the system: people need a safe living and time to care about democracy and become politically active citizens (Rome, Munster, Brussels) and to educate their children in democratic and ecological issues (Dusseldorf)
- it is often not possible for citizens to get engaged: many people are preoccupied with their own poverty and little governmental support, many long-term diseases are not recognised (Liege); no belief in Europe because people are not looked after at all, of what is happening in the underclass of countries: crime, no protection, the EU is not democratically elected (Maastricht)
- only when your daily needs are satisfied, you can fight for a better society (Brussels)

European Citizens' Initiative
- is underdeveloped and should be the basis for further configuration of the EU (Schengen)
- gathering one million signatures is too hard (Brussels) and the Commission does not want to give away its decision-making power (San Sebastian)
- too weak of an instrument because of its non-binding character (Hambach Forest)
- the non-binding character is problematic and not rewarding for citizens and their tremendous efforts (Dusseldorf)

Protest
- protest is out of powerlessness, not because it makes people happy (Amsterdam)
- especially young people who do not have the right to vote do not have any (other) chance to demand change and are even discouraged to protest and defamed as liars (Krzyzowa)
- young people's protest is not taken seriously by politicians, they are e.g. instructed to protest in their free time only (Krzyzowa)
- no political reaction to protests (Dusseldorf, Berlin, Antwerp, Cologne)
- people protest but politics' reaction takes a long time (Hambach Forest)
- no political reaction to protests on article 13 has made many people lose trust in the party and representative system (Krzyzowa)

The European Parliament
- does not have real functions (Cologne, Duisburg, Hambach Forest) and it is thus unnecessary to take the European elections seriously/ keeps people from identifying with the political construction (Cologne)
- does not have enough power and relies too much on the European Commission and the Council: power is stripped away from the Parliament and thus the citizens which does not make it a representative democracy (Texel)
- the European Union still an economic union (Berlin, Witten) where the Parliament has little power (Witten)
- no right to initiative (Duisburg, Hambach Forest)
- parliaments not representative of societal diversity, e.g. women constantly underrepresented (Bonn, Texel)
- no real parliamentary decision-making system: heads of states decide in the European Council (Bonn, Dusseldorf) without a European vision Duisburg)
- undemocratic set-up because there is no European government that the Parliament can vote out of power (Amsterdam)
- MEPs suffering from time pressure, lack of information and pressure for compromise leading to mini steps (Berlin)
- always the same MEPs, so people do not expect anything from the European Parliament (Liege)
- possibility to overrule the Council might lead to countries leaving the EU (Duisburg)
- no charismatic leaders/Spitzenkandidaten that people can identify with such as in national elections (Duisburg)
- no way of entering the EU Parliament without being a member of a long established party (Munster)

The Council
- national ministers block decisions and boast themselves with what they have prevented at home while accusing the EU of not being capable of acting (Dortmund)
- unanimity is the end of every democracy: the ones not ready to act and compromise decide for everyone (Dortmund)
- the Council is not fit for designing European Constitution because of its national orientation (Rome)
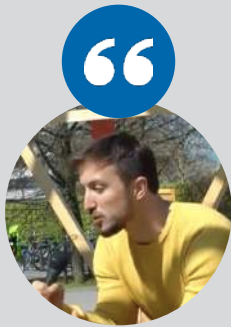
Countries vs. the EU
- countries claim positive developments for themselves and blame negative consequences on the EU (Schengen, Duisburg, Witten, San Sebastian); countries speaking of the EU as a costly liability without mentioning the positive aspects (Texel,

"Since the 90s I have been striving for direct democracy and this is a long process that has discouraged me or my generation, of course. That so little is happening when it comes to direct democracy in Germany, in the EU. And now the youth is taking up this topic and the idea of Europe. That encourages, I'll say, my generation again, I find this incredibly important what happens there. And of course we have to go into the schools and talk to the pupils about democracy, direct democracy, about the EU and promote this discussion. And we need to massively support these Fidays for Furture demonstrations. And that's what's happening."

Participant in Schengen

Zandvoort); the EU as a scapegoat (Schengen)
- national states reinforce the fear that the EU is getting too powerful (Duisburg)
- countries think in national advantages (Rome)/ Europe is about national politics (Schengen, Hambach Forest, Cologne, Bonn, San Sebastian, Duisburg), which prevents change (Zandvoort)
- politics are discussed at national level, European public sphere is too small: prevents the basis for a supranational discourse (Hambach Forest, Brussels)
- governments do what they want, there is more freedom for governments than for citizens and governments only have a certain standard they have to meet (San Sebastian)
- most reform ideas have existed for a long time (transnational lists, lobby transparency) and also single action e.g. Macron's reforms are not supported by the other member states (Duisburg)
- no common method of how to interpret laws and regulations among EU states (Artikel 67 des Arbeitsweisevertrages)
- the EU only works if nation states promote it and hand over sovereignty (Hambach Forest)
- subsidiarity to national states fosters representation of only national interests and complicates consensus/ compromises at European level (Duisburg)
- supranational structures often interfere in local actions or restrict them (Hambach Forest)
- EU policies are perceived as something not shaped by nation states (Hambach Forest)

- the EU controls its member states e.g. cleanliness of air (Dusseldorf)
- the European Court of Justice always passes strong laws which limits room for manoeuvre of the political sphere and national states, e.g. freedom of establishment which is good for free movement of capital but encourages establishment in countries with low tax obligations (Witten)
- nobody knows how many decisions are already taken at the European level at the expense of nation-states (The Hague)
- binding and even unanimous EU-decisions are already not implemented by certain states (Duisburg); perception of low commitment even of those politicians who directly work with the EU reinforces disenchantment with the EU (Duisburg)
- big countries have too much power (Amsterdam)
- underrepresentation of small states that can easily be overruled (Amsterdam)
- it is already impossible to handle the EU's own countries, so how can we expect to rule the world? (Liege)
- the EU is turning into rigid state with strong external borders (Dusseldorf)
- German hegemony (Dusseldorf, Herzogenrath, Haltern am See) creates resentments and migrational flows (Dusseldorf); Germany and France dominate the system (Duisburg), simultaneously, inequality has grown in Germany which stands against a solidary Europe (Haltern am See)

Populism
- "democracy without democrats" (Hambach Forest) which provides ground for right-wing politics to grow as an attempt to get back control over one's life (Munster)
- people do not feel heard (Munich, Schengen), cannot participate (Krzyzowa) which provides ground for populism (The Hague)
- truly anti-democratic parties can come to power (Zandvoort)
- right-wing pressure (Dusseldorf), right-wing organised more effectively, pressures journalists to propagate their views (Haltern am See); future is under pressure from anti-democratic forces within the EU (The Hague)
- politically uninterested or uninformed citizens can easily be influenced (Duisburg)
- people are not interested in politics anymore which helps populist or anti-establishment parties to rise (Krakow)
- if the elite, the oligarchy running the European Union had taken the trouble to listen to the citizens, if it had gone through the trouble of making actual promises to agree with them and to partly argue with some of their political visions, we would not have seen the rise of populism (Liege)
- no internal debate, no criticism possible without being accused of being a populist (Krakow)
- only right-wing has utopia (Cologne)
- helplessness of how to fight Euroscepticism also among population (Cologne)

Education
- the current educational system has produced well-educated AFD and their idea of man (Hambach Forest)
- the current educational system does not provide sufficient education which means people have to provide alternative, additional education themselves (Hambach Forest)
- people want alternative learning systems: private schools, e.g. Steiner, are always booked out and only a certain part of the population can afford them (Dusseldorf, Herzogenrath); fosters a two-class society (Herzogenrath)

-    education on EU/politics is not (sufficiently) provided (Texel, San Sebastian, Duisburg), even at higher educational levels: how are people supposed to participate if they do not understand how the EU works? (Brussels)
-    the educational system does not create responsible citizens needed for a European public sphere (Duisburg)
-    the fear of bad grades prevents open exchanges on Europe in schools (Herzogenrath)
-    the member states want to keep education a national competence which prevents a European educational programme (Brussels)
-    the educational system is not participatory enough (Hambach Forest)
-    the educational system is underfinanced (Dusseldorf)
-    performance pressure among young Europeans (Herzogenrath, Berlin)
-    schools do not educate, they indoctrinate (Brussels) for consumption and not for solidarity (Herzogenrath)

RECOMMENDATIONS

General
»   make Europe (more) democratic (Munster, Texel, Witten, Cologne, Brussels); a Europe of the people (Ghent)
»   a renewal of representative democracy (Witte) to make Europe more democratic (Bonn, San Sebastian)

»   combine representative and direct democracy (Cologne, Dortmund, Dusseldorf)
»   three-pillar-democracy: democratically legitimised representatives, direct democracy with referendums and citizen participation (Cologne)
»   judge democracies on the basis of their results, not their organisational structure (Zandvoort)
»   collect new ideas to move forward and not backwards in ecological and democratic issues (Schengen)
»   a harmonisation of national laws to create union, a much bigger impact for e.g. climate protection and to limit the power of governments (Amsterdam)
»   a stronger focus on youth and long-term crises e.g. climate change (Gdansk)
»   decision-making: not a German Europe but a European Germany (Amsterdam)
»   less bureaucracy (Liege)
»   find a way to design democracy for an ordinary person who has a lot of work, priorities, and anxieties about the future (Rome)
»   get more into contact with poverty to better respond to people's needs (people in the streets, people receiving social welfare) (Liege)
»   a fault-tree analysis of democracy to overcome the general emotional acceleration of how things should be and to expose systematic threats (Rome)
»   focus on topics that are important to people instead of smaller regulations (Zandvoort)
»   use leftist networks to counter right-wing pressure (Dusseldorf)
»   do not set expectations too high: maximum goals lead to disappointment if they are not reached and are another proof for citizens that Europe is not working; several coexisting concepts (Bonn)
»   replace politicians with retired people: respects demographic change, paid through pensions, people from all professions are available (Berlin)

Citizen Participation
»   more citizen participation (Bonn, Hambach Forest, Haltern am See, Rome, Wesel, Liege, Rome, Duisburg, Maastricht)
»   creates a better understanding of Europe and makes it more legitimate for citizens (Maastricht)
»   make politics more interesting for people (Duisburg)
»   stronger bottom-up tools (ECI, protest) with a cumulative outcome (Brussels, Duisburg)
»   foster bottom-up approaches (Zandvoort, Cologne, Berlin, Haltern am See, Ghent, Rome, Brussels, The Hague, Amsterdam, Hambach Forest, Dortmund)
»   introduce a system for locally started, growing initiatives to be heard at higher level (Ghent, Zandvoort, Munster, Witten, Luxembourg)
»   new tools for citizen participation (Haltern am See, Duisburg, Krzyzowa, Rome, Maastricht, Hambach Forest, Herzogenrath, Maastricht) on all levels (Cologne, Duisburg)
»   invite to use them and realise the incredible potential for Europe (Rome, Maastricht, Hambach Forest, Herzogenrath)
»   create local structures for people to participate (Cologne); democracy needs to become more grassroots and alive (Hambach Forest)
»   local and regional systems tackle anonymity and increase felt possibilities for political participation (Dusseldorf)

» low-threshold ways to involve citizens of all educational backgrounds (Hambach Forest)
» more co-decision-making and implementation of European programmes by civil society (Witten)
» respect demands from civil society and demonstrations (Krzyzowa)
» support civil society and youth (Schengen, Duisburg); support citizens' participation efforts instead of hampering them (the Commission at first did not approve the ECI on TTIP/CETA and was later overruled by the ECJ) (Duisburg)
» strengthen the network of existing civil society initiatives (Cologne)
» make Europe and participatory mechanisms more understandable for citizens (Schengen, Texel, Krzyzowa)
» less complex information (Schengen) on participatory mechanisms that are already in place (Texel)
» build up European identities for successful democracy (Rome)/ for people to care about Europe and participate (Brussels)
» a culture of citizenship and citizen participation independent from political parties (Rome)
» compulsory voting (Liege)
» use examples of best practices (Dusseldorf)
» e-democracy
    » to connect citizens (Brussels)
    » to bridge the gap between citizens and politicians (Brussels)
    » if citizens appropriate the tools for petitioning, participatory budgeting etc., they become a joint effort of citizens, politicians and civil society (Brussels)
» keep the slow political process as it leaves more time for the democratic discussion process, more time to get everyone aboard and to find a viable solution (Hambach Forest; Duisburg)

European Public Sphere
» the EU should create a European public sphere (Brussels, Herzogenrath, Duisburg, Rome)
» create more and holistic, innovative, consultative dialogue formats (Munster, Hambach Forest, Berlin) also between citizens and politicians (Ghent, Maastricht, Brussels, Texel, Liege)
    » as contact point with the EU (Herzogenrath, Cologne) for people to realise their voice is being heard in politics (Hambach Forest, Texel)
    » to bring people closer together and foster exchanges of opinions (Rome, Antwerp, Cologne, Texel)
    » in cooperation with local governments to streamline findings (Ghent)
    » to enable nuanced positions and critical discussions on the EU instead of a division into pro- and anti-EU (Krakow)
    » seek equal exchanges with, listen to (young) people, work for them and - as the citizens' employee - take their concerns and wishes seriously (Krzyzowa, Cologne, Dusseldorf)
» formats:
    » Agora/ European Public Sphere: open spaces in public places, institutionalised, make the EU physically tangible, people know they can come, speak up, will be listened to (Rome, Antwerp, Zandvoort, Amsterdam, Duisburg), followed by a respective change in policies (The Hague)
    » House Parliaments: politicians visit people's homes for a small convention in their language (Rome)
    » publicly financed citizens platform (Dortmund) where regionally selected people are invited to give their opinion on certain topics (Zandvoort)
    » citizen representatives sitting in the European Parliament and politicians visiting citizens (Liege)/ one-day exchanges between politicians and citizens to understand each other's position (Liege)
    » sortition to improve the communication between representatives and citizens through having citizens comment on different issues (Liege)
    » seek exchanges with scientists and affected citizens on respective topics to maximise positive outcomes (The Hague)/create instruments for affected citizens (Hambach Forest)
    » youth committees in cities that propose ideas and through the process learn about political participation (Munster)
    » a European Convention (Cologne, Dusseldorf, Herzogenrath, Duisburg, Berlin, Haltern am See):
        » elected and randomly selected parts (Rome); two chambers: citizens through sortition and secondly politicians (Rome)
        » elected, randomly selected and a self-organising free part (Rome)
        » people and experts independent from organisations and parties (Berlin)
        » the final suggestion made to the Commission could be worked out by a convention of the citizens who initiated the citizens' initiative, as they are the experts (Berlin)
        » representative of society (Berlin)
        » sufficient time of discussion and argumentation followed by a European-wide referendum (Cologne, Texel)
        » e.g. on the European Monetary Fund, social standards (Cologne)

Direct Democracy

» take the courage to trust people and give away power (Antwerp); trust citizens to be smart enough to participate directly in decision-making (Rome, Antwerp, Ghent)

» more direct democracy (Rome, Antwerp, Ghent, Maastricht, Zandvoort, Bonn, Munster, Amsterdam, Schengen, Witten, Duisburg, Luxembourg, Krzyzowa, San Sebastian, Hambach Forest, Berlin, Dusseldorf, Herzogenrath, Haltern am See, Liege):

> » it is essential for the survival of the EU (Haltern am See)
> » permanent and bottom-up (Herzogenrath, Maastricht)
> » makes representative democracy more representative (Amsterdam, Berlin, Luxembourg)
> » citizens as the sovereign are able to turn majorities into action (Hambach Forest, Duisburg, Dortmund, Witten) and experience own strengths (Cologne)
> » if people can take responsibility, they will (The Hague, Rome) and will learn to use democracy responsibly through practise (Wesel, Dusseldorf, Schengen, San Sebastian, Liege)
> » feeling of ownership of the laws people helped design and voted on (Berlin, Maastricht)
> » turns voters' frustration into positive creativity and action for own topics (Wesel, Munich)
> » efficient and effective: eliminates intermediary step through direct communication and fast decision-making (Liege)
> » citizens' leadership on borderless topics like climate change and migration (Zandvoort)
> » helps to correct political decisions taken at supranational levels (Witten)
> » fosters political discussions in people's everyday life (Dortmund)
> » involves citizens through debates on issues (e.g. climate change) (Luxembourg, Rome)
> » citizens can participate cross-party, cross-policy on an issue in European policy making (Duisburg, Bonn, Munster, Cologne, Dortmund) and direct democracy is thus real democracy (Amsterdam, Witten)
> » right to initiate + referendums like in Switzerland (Antwerp, Maastricht, Amsterdam, Schengen, Cologne, Munich, San Sebastian, Dusseldorf, Haltern am See, Krzyzowa)
> » compulsory voting in referendums (Amsterdam)
> » ensure minority protection in the referendum process (Berlin)
> » provide information to the people beforehand (Amsterdam, Cologne) and enable fair discussions (Schengen) starting at least 6 months ahead (Munich)
> » different approaches/materials for different levels of education so everyone feels called upon to participate (Rome)
> » sortition to have people comment on informational materials before a referendum for better understandability and to avoid institutional and media biases (Amsterdam)

» boost the discussions instead of direct democracy to make them more interesting (Brussels)

"But I think we also have an imbalance in the construct, in the construction. On the one hand, the individual nation states are more likely to be the ones that set the course; on the other hand, we have the Parliament and then the Commission, and I would have liked it if we no longer had these nation-state constructs and would indeed then have transferred the full power to the Parliament, so that the Commission, the government, the so-called legislative body would be formed from this Parliament, and then we would indeed have a Europe that is directly elected by the citizens, voted for and acted in the interests of its own voters. That would then be an additional aspect with the lobbyists and I would agree with you on that."

Participant in Duisburg

Levels of decision-making

» subsidiarity (Berlin)

» strengthen local decision-making to prevent bureaucracy, to make decisions faster and more tangible while keeping a certain standardisation when all of Europe's citizens are concerned (Hambach Forest)

» strengthen regional decision-making (Witten) to fasten change (Herzogenrath)

» opinion gathering: method of systemic consensing at local level to then scale up (Bonn)

» look at and think in microstructures and scale up (Rome)

» foster a Europe of the regions instead of national states (Dusseldorf, Dortmund): democracy works best at local level (Rome); conveyance to European institutions through the Council of the Regions (Witten)

» move more competencies from the national to the EU level (Wesel, Duisburg) to limit national competencies, especially in finance and social policy areas and soothe countries like Poland and Hungary (Duisburg)

» a federal Europe delegating more power to the European institutions and away from national governments (Texel)

Lobbyism and transparency

» more transparency (Bonn, Duisburg, Texel, Krzyzowa, Cologne, Haltern am See, Wesel)

» lobby transparency (Brussels, Dusseldorf)

» lobby transparency register (Duisburg, Hambach Forest)

» limit the influence of lobbies, also to speed up the processes (Duisburg)

»   reasonable decisions even if they are uncomfortable (Brussels)
»   politics need to take back the primacy from the economy (Duisburg)
»   same opportunities for all interest groups including civil society (Dusseldorf)
»   capable European officials with high moral capabilities (Maastricht)
»   democratically controlled institution/person at European level in the case of abuse of power (Rome)
»   tackle distrust through
        »   live streaming all meetings (Amsterdam)
        »   recordings of meetings and abstaining from rhetoric games (Cologne)
»   create accountability and transparency so politicians follow-up on their promises from before the elections (San Sebastian)
»   important to provide citizens with respective information through media, EU-communication (San Sebastian)
»   Europe not as a proponent of "old" power politics, but of a new kind of conception of power (Maastricht)
European Constitution
»   a European Constitution through a citizen participation process (Duisburg, Berlin, Dortmund, Rome); a mid- or long-term dialogue on a new European Convention to first find a common basis (Munster); a convention on a European Constitution with politicians and civil society (Cologne, Haltern am See)
»   a bottom-up, inclusive discussion process followed by a European-wide referendum after a sufficient amount of time (few years) (Duisburg); citizens lead the convention with a European-wide referendum in the end (Haltern am See, Dortmund)
»   a referendum at the end demands an active decision of whether citizens want to be European citizens (Cologne)
»   a European Constitution would strengthen the acceptance of the EU among citizens (Duisburg)
»   a Constitution that people can identify with (Bonn); serves as common orientation point, based on shared values that everyone can agree on such as solidarity, transparency, democracy and human rights (Munster)
»   a European Constitution could promote human rights and the concept of democracy abroad (Rome)
»   a real European Constitution as a starting point to tackle other issues like financial equalisation (Cologne)
»   let (young) people develop a proposal for a European Constitution (Rome)

Institutions
»   need to modernise (Dusseldorf, Haltern am See, Cologne)
»   create a common method of interpretation of laws and regulations (Duisburg)
»   enable strong institutions for the regulation of community and great communal tasks (Witten)
»   open and tolerant representatives in office (San Sebastian)
»   more young people with different educational backgrounds in politics (Hambach Forest)
»   a (directly) elected head of European Commission (Ghent, Duisburg)
»   possibilities for scrutinisation of the Commission by the citizens and elected candidates (Amsterdam)
»   strip agencies, the Commission and the Council of their power (Texel)
»   end unanimity in the Council (Duisburg); end of unanimity in all EU institutions (Dortmund)
»   decisions taken less by European Court of Justice but through country cooperation (Witten)
»   expert committees voting on decisions that affect citizens (Texel)
»   the United States of Europe as a far away vision (Cologne): foreign minister, common taxes and positions (Cologne, Texel, Dusseldorf)
»   a European government that can introduce monetary retributions for non-solidary actions and the breach of binding decisions (Cologne)
»   a shared vision/utopia (Dusseldorf, Duisburg, Witten, Herzogenrath, Cologne, Haltern am See, Bonn, Berlin, Herzogenrath, Ghent, Amsterdam) which clarifies basic questions i.e. the role of financial markets, taxes of international enterprises (Dortmund), European foreign policy (Dortmund, Texel, Cologne), climate protection, peace keeping (Texel)
»   develop a strategy on how to reach that vision and bring others along (Cologne)
»   strengthen international agreements to solve wicked problems (Hambach Forest)
»   introduce rules worldwide so that countries which just acquired civil rights cannot go back to dictatorship and that people can use to pressure their government (Rome)
»   create a regulatory framework to facilitate (consumer) decisions (Dusseldorf)

The European Parliament
»   make it more democratic for people to identify with their representatives (Bonn)
»   introduce right to initiative (Munster, Schengen, Dusseldorf, Duisburg, Cologne, Haltern am See)
»   strengthen/ enlarge competencies (Munster, Duisburg, Duisburg, Cologne, Texel, Witten) through citizen participation (Dortmund) for people to take European democracy seriously (Cologne)

» should have the final say instead of the executive (Dusseldorf)
» dissolve national structures and give full power to the European Parliament which then elects the Commission as a government for an EU truly elected by the people and acting in their interest (Duisburg)
» votes on European Government (Munster)
» the European Parliament should represent the people and check on the European Commission (Texel)
» women's quota and gender parity in party leadership (Bonn)
» speak up to become more visible (Krakow)
» be more transparent so citizens can double check if you act in their will (Texel)
» multi-body sortition (Amsterdam); representatives through sortition, criteria like gender equality, regional representation, education, replacement of 173 of MEPs every 6 months, regular cooperations with journalists and scientists to keep in touch with the "real world", agenda setting through a randomly selected group that differs from the one working on the topic afterwards to prevent corruption (The Hague, Amsterdam)
» committed and focused candidates (Wesel)
» more action against nuclear power plants (Krzyzowa)
» could understand itself as a European Convention and arrange for certain innovations like common European financial policies (Cologne)
» 2 chambers in the Parliament: 1. Council of ministers as representatives of national states, 2. European Parliament as people's chamber (Liege, Witten); European Council as second chamber with elected members (Cologne)
» stop moving between Brussels and Strasbourg (Antwerp)

European Citizens' Initiative
» make the ECI more known to citizens and make it attractive to sign (Brussels, Duisburg)
> » lower signature threshold (Berlin)
> » a more transparent reaction to ECIs (San Sebastian)
> » a binding European-wide referendum at the end of the citizen-initiated process (Berlin)/make the ECI binding (Ghent)
> » obligation for a draft law by a committee formed by the initiators of ECI, experts and ordinary citizens, possibly MEPs (Berlin)
» follow up on the successful ECI Minority Safepack (Texel)
» before making the ECI more well known a European public sphere is needed (Brussels)
» a positive example needed to show it can work and achieve something (Duisburg)

European Constitution
» a European Constitution through a citizen participation process (Duisburg, Berlin, Dortmund, Rome); a mid- or long-term dialogue on a new European Convention to first find a common basis (Munster); a convention on a European Constitution with politicians and civil society (Cologne, Haltern am See)
» a bottom-up, inclusive discussion process followed by a European-wide referendum after a sufficient amount of time (few years) (Duisburg); citizens lead the convention with a European-wide referendum in the end (Haltern am See, Dortmund)
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» a real European Constitution as a starting point to tackle other issues like financial equalisation (Cologne)
» let (young) people develop a proposal for a European Constitution (Rome)

Education
» a European-wide educational programme
> » to fight fragmentation and attitudes detrimental to the European project (Brussels)
> » to make people understand that their voice counts (Hambach Forest)
» strengthen initiatives working towards education on the EU in national curriculums (Brussels)
» EU classes in city halls (Texel)
» education on Europe in kindergartens, schools, families (Dusseldorf)
» equal opportunities to study across Europe; provide the financial resources needed (Herzogenrath)
» in school:
> » education on the EU (Maastricht, Rome, Ghent) and European institutions to make people feel like European

citizens (Rome, Ghent)
» more political education (Duisburg)
» EU studies about available participatory tools (Texel); on the European idea (Duisburg)
» democracy and citizenship education (Munich, Schengen, Dusseldorf, Liege, Ghent), education for opinion building, argumentation, expressing your voice and independent thinking (Brussels, Texel, Hambach Forest, Liege)
» education for abstraction and empathic capacity (Maastricht)
» philosophy starting from first grade
» media education (Wesel, Duisburg)
» use of solution-oriented, manipulation and advertisement free social networks as playful way of democratic education (Dusseldorf)
» participative structures in schools with elected class/year representatives and agenda setting by students (Krzyzowa)
» open spaces to experience democratic and responsible behaviour (Hambach Forest)
» interdisciplinary education (Hambach Forest)
» create and foster free alternative educational systems like Steiner schools to guarantee equal opportunities (Dusseldorf)
» get rid of the numerus clausus (Herzogenrath)
» get rid of A-levels (Herzogenrath); introduce A-levels for solidary thinking as the basis for the right to vote (Herzogenrath)
» language is also culture: languages (Cologne) should be taught by people from the respective country (Schengen)

Elections
» introduce a negative vote as an alternative (Rome)
» lower the voting age to 16 (Krzyzowa)
» transnational lists (Rome, Witten, Schengen, Bonn, Hambach Forest, Duisburg, Texel, Dusseldorf, Haltern am See, Dortmund, Brussels, Munster) and constituencies to foster a European identity (Bonn) and to serve as a link between citizens and EU institutions for more citizen involvement (Brussels)
» smaller constituencies so people feel connected to their representative and there is more communication with constituents (Texel)
» distinguished, provocative even visionary proposals by parliamentary groups for an actual choice (Wesel)
» 2 votes for European Parliament: first vote for an MEP, and second vote for a party (Hambach Forest)
» right to vote tied to residency (Cologne)
» more direct elections (Ghent)
» sortition instead of voting for representatives in decision-making institutions (The Hague)

Economy

What can we say about the EU and its economy? While participants often mentioned how the EU had positive economic effects for the majority of countries, in many places they also mentioned feeling like the EU was still mainly an economic union instead of a union based on the people and their needs. Our current neoliberal economic system as the cause of many of our current social problems was also one of the main points of criticism: downward competition, exploitation, social inequality.

Recommendations were mostly related to creating a new European economic system that puts people and not profit at its centre. This orientation also needs to be included into new and existing agreements, like the Lisbon Treaty. Concepts mentioned included an economy of the common good, a social market economy and sustainability. Equal and reliable working conditions are to be sought and investments in and for society to be made.

Taxes were a main cause of anger and also one of the main starting points for improvement. Ideas ranged from a wealth tax, revenues through receiving a share of the revenue-neutral value-added tax, a financial transaction tax, a social source tax, taxation through an economy of the common good to a uniform European tax system to prevent tax evasion.

In many places the EU's austerity policy and the rescue package were disputed, sometimes understood as having long-term positive effects, mostly perceived as blackmail and further exploitation of the already weakened country Greece.

DOS

+ much criticised rescue package for Greece has had lasting positive effects (Duisburg)
+ difficulties with Greece and Portugal just show that finances have been mis-managed but not the idea of a European Union (Luxembourg)
+ being part of the European Union helped Portugal a lot (Luxembourg)
+ Germany keeps Europe together and profits a lot from it (Cologne)

DON'TS

- Europe is about the economy and not about the people (Berlin)
- "downward competition": only profit-oriented action, competition, social and environmental standards are undermined (Bonn)
- a liberal, sustainable economy is difficult, growth is limited (Texel)
- free trade agreements continue to exploit weaker regions (Bonn, Wesel)
- capital can move much easier than people; companies can move their places of production relatively fast (Munster, Duisburg)
- enterprises act European-wide but are taxed differently in different countries (Bonn); taxes are a problem in Europe (Maastricht)
- companies relocating to tax havens (Witten)
- taxes are forced donations, less money can be used for other things, taxing work is absurd (Witten)
- European investments are often not well managed at/combined with regional or local level (unfinished roads etc.) (Luxembourg)
- many investments in the agricultural sector without social balancing between small and large farms (Haltern am See)
- an EU reporting obligation of large companies is difficult to verify (Bonn)
- how can the banking union be used to expand the social system? (Bonn)
- Greece is still in austerity, cannot do any investments and development (Luxembourg)
- high unemployment rates in Spain, falling wages, inequality - Europe does not take care of them (San Sebastian)
- Germany and France pay too much in Europe, but are not innovative enough (Cologne)
- Germany is the main beneficiary but does not give anything back (Bonn)

"I believe that this is a fundamental problem, that all our systems and structures are commercialized from the ground up. (...) There are a lot of projects and a lot of great people on the way and trying to bring about massive changes, because we also get to see again and again in the scientific community that things are getting really serious and that we have to do something about it now and not only in 10 or 20 years, but we actually have to start yesterday. And I believe that the common good or the community is a very strong key to bringing about really qualitative and long-term, sustainable changes."

Participant in Dusseldorf

RECOMMENDATIONS

» supranational framework conditions with people and society at the centre (Witten)
» a revision of the Lisbon treaty that puts people at the centre (Bonn)
» renunciation from the principle of profit maximisation (Herzogenrath)
» change priorities away from productivity (Brussels, Herzogenrath)
» an economy of the common good on EU-level (Bonn, Herzogenrath)
  » incentive systems, link with education (Bonn, Krzyzowa),
  » European money and bank directive (Witten, Dusseldorf)
  » more cooperation and solidarity in the economy (Witten, Dusseldorf)
  » add European Credit Initiative to the statutes of the Central Bank to create financing opportunities for enterprises engaged for the common good without profit orientation and favouring global solidarity (Witten, San Sebastian, Bonn, Rome)
  » a basic income (Herzogenrath, Munster, Witten)
» a social market economy (Bonn)
  » establish equal redistributive and insurance systems for social security all over Europe and later worldwide, i.e. insurances, unemployment benefits (Amsterdam, Witten)
  » same living standards (Rome, Duisburg, Cologne, Wesel, Witten, Cologne)
  » no social dumping (Witten, Cologne)
  » to reconcile capital, labour and goods: close the borders or introduce minimum standards (Munster)
» a new, sustainable economic system: living in smaller communities with the necessary infrastructure, power structure-free, dissolution of nation states (Hambach Forest, Herzogenrath)
» equal, reliable working conditions in Europe (Bonn, Witten):

» a European minimum wage (Bonn)

» a European working time regulation (Cologne)

» more transparency regarding the European funds, more control of economic processes (Witten)

» better integration of European and local level for successful European investments (Luxembourg)

» stop tax evasion (Bonn, Haltern am See)

» a European minimum tax rate

» a uniform European tax system (Bonn)

» create tax justice (Haltern am See)

» own taxes for the EU from the economic sector

» a corporate tax to finance social transfer payments directly from the EU to its citizens (Bonn)

» Europe receives a share of the revenue-neutral value-added tax to not punish high incomes that generate the overall welfare (Bonn)

» a wealth tax (Bonn)

» a financial transaction tax (Bonn) that can be used for sustainable measures (Duisburg)

» a social source tax to ensure a good social budget for the state (Bonn)

» taxation through an economy of the common good: taxation based on the damage to society or the environment (Dusseldorf)

» a tax on machines that take away jobs (Bonn)

» ceilings on income, power, live working time (Hambach Forest)/a maximum income: the income surplus is used for the common good (Hambach Forest

» investments for and in society:

» infrastructure, caretakers, teachers (Bonn)

» artificial intelligence, ecology (Cologne)

» European financial equalisation (Munster); Germany to make capital available to other countries (Munster)

» austerity policy must not be repeated (Duisburg)

» prevent a Europe shaped by the Troika and Brussels-dominance (Dusseldorf)

» satisfaction with what is available (Berlin)

» good and steady laws to attract investors (Luxembourg)

» recognition of standards to capacitate free trade, thorough monitoring of compliance (Duisburg)

» fair trade instead of free trade agreements (Dusseldorf)

» more effective trade routes (Gdansk)

» more cooperation in agriculture (Luxembourg, Ghent)

» better standards for animal farming (Ghent)

european public sphere

REGION

Environment

The environment and climate change in particular, was one of the most engaging regions for passersby and invited guests across all ages and backgrounds. People wanted to speak up and make their voice heard. Participants named climate change as the main problem and the main threat of our time. They criticised political action as being too slow and political decision-makers for ignoring the issue and refusing to take citizens' wills into account even when expressed in long-lasting, energy-draining demonstrations all over Europe. However, citizens' responsibility in addressing the problem through responsible consumption was raised many times. The persistent wasteful mindset and way of living in a throw-away society stands against sustainable living. The economy was seen as one of the main problems regarding climate change with its strong lobby-veto players successfully preventing change. Many participants highlighted the global perspective of the issue, with its roots and current difficulties of tackling it in continuing (neo)colonialism, exploitation and unfair expectations of developing countries and inequal living and pollution standards across the world.

A few positive comments focused on a changing mindset among citizens and politicians when it comes to climate change and climate protection. Some of the favourable effects mentioned were Russia's new trade routes due to the Arctic Ocean becoming passable for trade and the global issue of climate change challenging our Eurocentric way of thinking.

Participants demanded to make the global threat of climate change a political and societal priority, to take action immediately and to show European leadership a holistic approach. In the political realm, we need joint inclusive measures and more multilateral cooperation across countries and beyond Europe. Large investments in sustainability, regulations, and the stronger inclusion of this topic in discourse are needed. A change in economic system was demanded. Ideas involved fostering sustainable ways of production, Corporate Social Responsibility, and charging real prices for goods including costs for recycling and proper disposal across the EU to share the burden. Moreover, citizens need to be encouraged in responsible consumption, plastic has to be replaced with reusable and recyclable products, and more communication and awareness raising are necessary to have bottom-up support for measures. Another idea is to terraform the Sahara so that it becomes a habitable place.

DOS

+ positive consequences for some stakeholders: Russia using the Arctic Ocean as a passable route for trade (Brussels)
+ climate change really challenges our Eurocentric way of thinking about the economy (most developed, best way of living) and forces us to look out for other options (Brussels)
+ mentality/mindset is changing among citizens (Antwerp), the economy and parties (Zandvoort):
  + China is turning environmentally friendly (Antwerp)
  + EU is a good place to start the movement and is getting active (Brussels)
  + some EU regulations are already in place or soon implemented: arranging catering facilities, using less plastic etc. (Zandvoort, Texel)
  + many opportunities in Europe: technology started the ecological change (Cologne)
  + already good initiatives: using food waste from casinos to create power in a zero waste circle (San Sebastian)
  + Corporate Social Responsibility is growing in the economic sector (Zandvoort)
  + people take to the streets (Antwerp)
  + Fridays for Future (Liege) as international pioneers, motivate others (e.g. parents for future) and give hope (Dortmund, Schengen)
+ already small changes contribute (Antwerp)

DON'TS

- climate change and pollution is the biggest problem (Gdansk)/ most important issue (Hambach Forest, Liege, Duisburg) we have at the moment
- it is almost too late (Zandvoort, Texel, Hambach Forest)/it is too late (The Hague, Luxembourg, Gdansk)
- fear of the future (Dortmund)
- cannot fight it (Brussels), so far measures had only little impact (Hambach Forest)
- drastic change needed but tools are missing (Brussels)
- for many people not a real threat yet (Duisburg)
- very far away from necessary target (Zandvoort)

Political Realm
- political action too slow (Antwerp, Duisburg, Herzogenrath)/ reluctant (Texel, Brussels)
- no political reaction to expression of peoples' will, e.g. climate demonstrations (Antwerp)
- era of internet and communication, but really difficult to communicate wishes to politicians (Gdansk)
- action against rising sea levels will only be taken when it is too late (Antwerp, The Hague)
- political denial of environmental crisis (Antwerp, Zandvoort)
- the elite is never pro-environment due to money (Antwerp)
- political dependency on votes prevents uncomfortable but necessary climate measures (The Hague)
- no one wanting to take the first step (Zandvoort)
- European bureaucracy prevents timely solution (Gdansk)
- single member states blocking climate measures because of national interests e.g. Poland (Duisburg)
- problematic trilogy: European Parliament most progressive and ambitioned in climate issues but slowed down by the Commission and the Council (Duisburg)
- if parliaments could be held completely accountable for their decisions, that would mean a very big push for environmental laws (Brussels)
- political abuse of global warming through western politics to slow down economic development in India and China (Antwerp)

Society
- environmental issues/urgency not taken seriously by the population (Antwerp, Zandvoort) because they do not feel it (Luxembourg)/ the righteous mentality is not there (Antwerp, The Hague)
- attitude among people and politicians of not taking responsibility (The Hague, Zandvoort) and instead blaming problems on others (Zandvoort)
- people putting their comfort above the earth's wellbeing (Zandvoort, The Hague)

- the system does not work: resistance against (drastic) political measures (The Hague)
- throw-away society (Texel)/ identity and happiness based on consumption in the Western world (Brussels)
- not enough recycling (Texel)
- people not aware of how plastic affects the environment, their food and health (Texel); people polluting the environment by burning plastic (Krzyzowa)
- plastic too easy to produce (Texel)
- disrespect of humans for nature/feeling of superiority/false feeling of understanding and being able to control the environment (Brussels)
- people starting to live ecologically friendly might not be enough (Antwerp)
- organic food too expensive (Berlin); more expensive than polluting and endangering products (Texel); sustainable living and buying organic products currently only possible for wealthy citizens (Amsterdam, Antwerp)
- erroneously describing climate change and sustainable food as leftist or elite problem while the most affected are the least developed countries (Amsterdam)
- no subsidies available for sustainable household renovations/ responsibility for costly investments rests with the citizens (Amsterdam)
- too many cars and too much traffic (Antwerp, Zandvoort)
- growing plane travel (The Hague)
- narrow-minded, one-sided and harmful way of getting information: most information from social media (Zandvoort)
- wasteful technology such as too susceptible toilet flushing (Antwerp)
- centralised trash collection in the public space in cities that liberates people from the responsibility to clean up (Antwerp)

"That, of course, is what we want from Europe, the ecological agricultural turnaround. Because conventional agriculture, as it now works, simply has real social and economic consequences that we cannot afford to pay for. So there is the title "Next to us the Flood", but the Flood is already coming back."

Participant in Bonn

Global perspective
- European but also worldwide problem (Antwerp, Brussels, Texel, Dortmund); Europe cannot change anything on its own (Antwerp)
- different standards and needs in every country (Antwerp)
- developed countries caused the current environmental situation while developing countries are affected the most (Brussels, Duisburg)
- deliberate interconnections: social degradation and climate change (Antwerp)
- developed countries try to enforce standards on developing countries that only developed countries can afford (e.g. ban on plastic bags) (Antwerp)
- developing countries are left alone with the environmental consequences and usually developed countries only get active when affected themselves (Brussels, San Sebastian)
- developed countries are the biggest polluters (Antwerp)
- India and Pakistan, low-wage countries with close to no emission standards are the biggest polluters (Antwerp)
- in Russia it is more profitable to cut forestry and to not sort garbage (Luxembourg)
- political abuse of global warming through western politics to slow down economic development in India and China (Antwerp)

Economy
- capitalism is and has always been the largest cause of environmental problems (Antwerp)
- impossible to fight the economy (The Hague, Brussels)
- people working in polluting sectors are mostly against climate measures (Antwerp)
- large enterprises carry a lot of the responsibility (Zandvoort, Antwerp)
- economy favours things connected to fossil fuels and artificiality (Brussels)
- way more subsidies/lower taxes for fossil energies than for alternative sources (The Hague)
- lobbyism prevents climate change policies (Brussels, Hambach Forest)
- some companies pretending to produce environmentally friendly (e.g. large recycling campaign at H&M and scandal about burning hundreds of unsold jeans at the same time) making it difficult for consumers to consume responsibly (Texel)
- large-scale deforestation (The Hague)

Consequences
- existential threat to ecosystem, humans, human food chain, islands, polar ice (Brussels)
- loss of sea biodiversity (Antwerp); no time for ecosystems to adapt (Brussels)
- pollution (Zandvoort)
- plastic problem (Zandvoort, The Hague) in the seas (Texel) has existed for decades (Antwerp)
- water pollution and littering does not necessarily have an immediate effect; the effect comes through travelling trash (Antwerp, Texel)
- global warming (Zandvoort), melting polar ice (Antwerp)

- nuclear waste (Antwerp)
- smog (Antwerp), emissions (Zandvoort, The Hague)
- drastic change in climate seasons (in India) (Zandvoort), weather changes (Brussels)
- EU is responsible for people dying in other parts of the world (Brussels)
- only but especially coming generations will be impacted (Antwerp, Zandvoort, The Hague)
- what goes around comes back around in a few years (Antwerp)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Political Realm

» political action needed now! (Antwerp, Zandvoort, The Hague, Brussels, Texel, Hambach Forest, Antwerp); concrete measures needed (Zandvoort, Krzyzowa, Dortmund)

» show leadership, you have to guarantee our safety and existence (Zandvoort, Hambach Forest, Duisburg); be courageous and take the initiative (Brussels, Luxembourg)

» focus on the environment (Herzogenrath); replace old thinking (Duisburg, Dortmund): climate change needs to become a priority (Zandvoort, Dortmund, Liege)

» the tools are already there - it is time to use them (Brussels)

» develop a holistic approach including citizens, politics and international organisations (Antwerp, Brussels)

» combine the economic, social and political sector with environmental policy (Antwerp)

» clearly communicate actions and consequences for the citizens and especially the young generation (Zandvoort, Krzyzowa, Dortmund)

» move away from justifying all non-taken action with the argument of loss of employment (Zandvoort)

» let the EU become the global leader in environmental policies (San Sebastian); the EU plays an important role in tackling the issue (Texel, Duisburg)

» connect measures to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (Duisburg)

» joint inclusive measures (Hambach Forest, Herzogenrath, Duisburg, Berlin, Dortmund) and more multilateral cooperation across countries and beyond Europe (Antwerp, Zandvoort, Brussels, Texel), e.g. offering support to Poland to transform their electronic system (Duisburg)

» European minimum standards/minimum climate goals (Duisburg)

» work out a climate protection concept with every city (Hambach Forest)

» take the issue seriously and include it more in the discourse (Antwerp, Hambach Forest)

» take the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals more seriously (Gdansk)

» regulations (Texel); European environmental laws (Berlin), carbon tax (Luxembourg, Witten, Hambach Forest), binding force! (Hambach Forest)

» regulations for Europe to become a low emission zone (Antwerp)

» regulations for companies to produce ecologically friendly (consumers can only buy what is in the store) create equal conditions among enterprises (Texel)

» found a global environmental institution that sets CO_2-emission-ceilings (Antwerp)

» "ecological dictatorship": communal collective enforcement of ecological decisions (Luxembourg)

» foster bottom-up action and inclusion into the larger political process (Zandvoort, Brussels); evaluate the use of direct democracy (Zandvoort; Brussels)

» citizens are demanding change from their representatives: listen to the people, support youth actions like Fridays for Future, and cooperate together (Berlin, Brussels, Dortmund)

» a new Fridays for Future party (Dortmund)

» large structural investments needed (Zandvoort)
   » the EU as sustainable technological pioneer (Zandvoort)
   » solar panels, wind energy etc. (The Hague)
   » shared sustainable technology (Herzogenrath)
   » ecological public transport (Luxembourg)
   » infrastructure for electric cars (Zandvoort)
   » subsidies for sustainable investments in private households to support positive development (Amsterdam)

» ensure an infrastructure for environmental measures, for example waste separation (Luxembourg)

» lessons in school to raise awareness (Luxembourg), connect education and the environment (San Sebastian, Duisburg)

» take the diversity of countries into account (Duisburg)

» social inequality is aggravating: take global interrelations into account and harmonise them with environmental policy (Duisburg)

» wealthy countries need to move forward (Zandvoort)

» support of developing countries also in environmental measures (Antwerp)
» a two-speed Europe so single/groups of states can go ahead (Duisburg)
» use our privileges (money, power, education) to make others go along (Hambach Forest)
» young political candidates are mostly more concerned about the environment (Antwerp)
» respect the right to life of humans, animals and plants (Antwerp)

Economy
» a change in economy is overdue (Texel); change the system (Liege)
» the industrial sector needs to move ahead with environmentally friendly behaviour as they often are the frontrunners for political action (Antwerp)
» the choice between the economy and the environment needs to be made (Antwerp)
» prevent lobbyism against climate measures (Hambach Forest)
» economy of the common good (Herzogenrath)
» relocate money from subsidies in fossil energy to the transition to sustainable energy (The Hague)
» foster existing sustainable ways of production:
  » production of tearproof nylon tights has long been possible (Brussels)
  » incentivise; create a platform for these producers (Brussels)
» charge real prices for products, i.e. including costs for recycling and proper disposal across the EU to share the burden (Brussels)
» big polluting companies need to pay (Zandvoort)
» stronger fact shaming of big polluters (Zandvoort)
» foster Corporate Social Responsibility among companies (Zandvoort, Amsterdam); make companies more aware of their responsibility for staff, consumers, society (Texel)
» pressure on the economic sector through societal consensus (Zandvoort)
» go local when it comes to food production and processing to prevent unnecessary kilometres (Amsterdam)
» stop companies from using plastic as packaging (Texel)
» ecological declaration like taxes' declaration with a limited ecological footprint and fines for overstepping it (Luxembourg)
» more transparency on animal testing (Krzyzowa)
» more transparency on animal testing (Krzyzowa)
» support sustainable innovations so that business and their products become more sustainable (Gdansk)
» investigative journalism should also focus on climate change, report on what companies do against climate change to create transparency between companies and citizens (Zandvoort)

Resources
» terraform the earth through transforming the Sahara into a tropical region again (Brussels)
» create a positive environmental feedback loop so that new ecosystems develop (Brussels)
» sustainable deforestation (Antwerp)
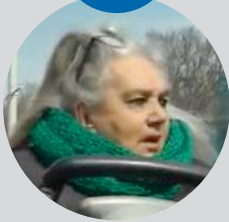» traditional Indian farming is much better for the environment and also more effective (Brussels)

Society
» first step: people taking up their responsibility, starting the change and getting in contact with their MEPs (Texel)
» encourage and support citizens in responsible consumption and less consumerism (San Sebastian, Hambach Forest, Antwerp, Zandvoort, Brussels, Texel, Liege, Gdansk, Herzogenrath)
» collect and promote sustainable ideas/solutions (Brussels)
» reduce/ban plastic (bags, food wrappers in supermarkets) (Antwerp, Zandvoort, Amsterdam, Liege) and foster the use of reusable products, e.g. drinking bottles, cups, edible plates and cutlery (Gdansk), hemp products, metal or cardboard drinking straws, degradable plastic, wood, paper (Antwerp, Texel) and bio products (Zandvoort), also financially (Texel)
» recycling (Antwerp, Texel, Gdansk, San Sebastian) and reparations instead of throw-away society (Amsterdam, Brussels)
» less is more: reduce the standard of living to stop the use of oil-based products (pharmaceutics, plastic, fuel etc.) (Brussels); stop pretending developing as a society can solve the issue (Brussels)
» promote electric cars (Antwerp)
» foster bike culture (Antwerp, Zandvoort)
» support local initiatives (Brussels)
» strengthen the belief that change can happen (Brussels)
» more communication (Brussels) and (positive) awareness raising to have bottom-up support for measures:
  » do not focus on costs and losses but individual contributions (Zandvoort), great taste of vegetarian/vegan food

"The European Union has responsibilities and is actually doing something (...) in order to fight climate change. And maybe we could say that it's a better environment to start this kind of movements and at the same time it is important that also these transnational movements can create opportunities to share and to involve citizens in the fight for climate change."

Participant in Brussels

"What about the emissions? Those planes? The kerosene that is used there. And all those planes... there are more and more planes! There are more and more passengers, people always wanting more and more. Yes, that's the economy, you can't do anything against that anymore. You can't undo it anymore."

Participant in The Hague

(Amsterdam, Brussels) and encourage local, seasonal consumption (Amsterdam)

» awareness raising on the ecological price of cheap products (Texel), resource shortage and environmental issues (Luxembourg, Duisburg, Dortmund)

» definition needed to underline the global scope of the phenomenon (Brussels)

» use advantages of social media and film for campaigns (Antwerp)
» interdisciplinary education on climate in schools (Antwerp)

EU Copyright Reform

> ❝
>
> "The alternative would have been a system similar to the private copying levy. Here too, his would have been possible in that quasi-portals would be obliged to give the sum X of their monthly turnover to a collecting society."
>
> Participant in Dortmund

As this topic was mainly discussed in Dortmund, all comments can be found below.

DOS

+ a positive sign that it has become easier to express yourself and get more information (Dortmund)
+ Google has contributed to today's prosperity/well-being (Dortmund)
+ protects the rights of artists (Krzyzowa)

DON'TS

- E-Commerce Directive puts copyright law in a precarious position or it is no longer considered at all (Dortmund)
- Article 13 is often misinterpreted; only the values of the legislator should be passed on and protected works licensed and made available to the public; no censorship (Dortmund)
- not only Youtubers, but also experts, condemned Article 13 (Dortmund)
- many young people think the policy is destroying the Internet (Dortmund, Krzyzowa)
- people's protest is ignored and vilified (Krzyzowa)
- consumer society has music publishers in mind and not authors (Dortmund)
- the EU Copyright Directive: legislators can easily allow a lot (Dortmund)
- advertising revenues are now collected on the Internet, which no longer fit with the copyright (Dortmund)
- what would be the alternative to upload filters? (Dortmund)

RECOMMENDATIONS

» protect the rights of authors (Dortmund, Krzyzowa)
» one cannot allow insult under freedom of expression or fraud under freedom of action; a balance of fundamental rights needs to be created (Dortmund)
» alternative: private copy levy system (portals must pay a share of their monthly turnover to collecting societies) (Dortmund)
» companies working with data should also pay withholding or retention taxes (Dortmund)
» agree on a reform with the population, users, the parliament and continuously remain in dialogue (Dortmund)
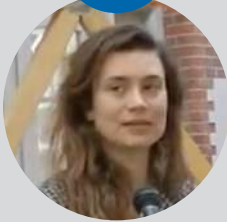» abolish either copyright or modern business model (Dortmund)

REGION

Food

Food quality and security was mainly discussed in Amsterdam. The problems voiced regarding food related mostly to sustainability, health and production or consumption. Participants alluded to consumers being unaware of where their food comes from, a focus on aesthetics instead of taste, a loss of vegetable diversity, overconsumption, animal welfare, the impossibility to grow one's own food, and the food issue being hard to tackle as it is interlinked with capitalism, climate change and democracy . Solutions brought forward included the end of overproduction, regulations for production and import to foster local initiatives, encouraging bottom-up initiatives, providing subsidies, supported public gardening, awareness raising campaigns and the sustainable use of agricultural fields.

DON'TS

- many people are unaware of where their food comes from, the food process and the consequences for the environment (Amsterdam)
- consumers' trust in appropriate conditions of meat/food production (Amsterdam)
- all responsibility is given to the consumer (Amsterdam)
- overproduction and standardisation of food, focus on aesthetics (Liege, Amsterdam)
- loss of taste (Amsterdam)
- much food containing lots of chemicals for better aesthetics (Liege)
- loss of vegetable diversity: specialised farming of only a few (local) vegetables, animal livestock and dairy (Amsterdam)
- growing production of fruit and vegetables that consume a lot of water (mangos, avocados) and damage the environment (Amsterdam)
- often not enough room to grow own food (Amsterdam)
- animal welfare (The Hague, Amsterdam)
- animal food production takes up agricultural spaces (Amsterdam)
- overconsumption in the capitalist system/market economy (Amsterdam)
- wicked problem: interlinked and intersectoral issues of capitalism, climate change, democracy (Amsterdam)
- a lot of European regulations that people cannot influence (Amsterdam)
- focus on monetary advantages and plurality of actors at European level prevents timely solution/regulation (Amsterdam)
- free trade agreements like TTIP (Amsterdam)
- chicory root poster campaigns with EU branding: waste of money or positive game changer? (Amsterdam)
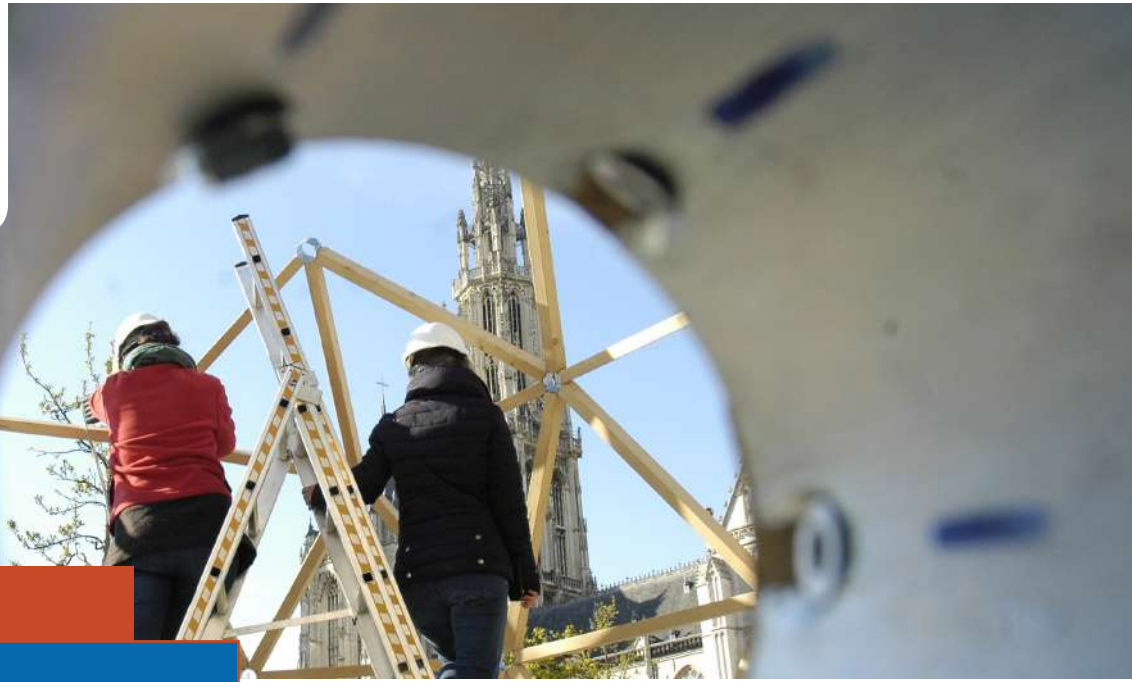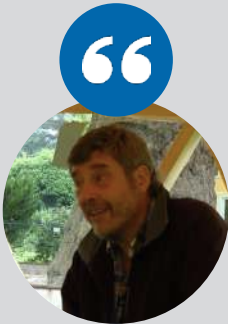- the industry only changes if it makes economic sense (Amsterdam)

RECOMMENDATIONS

» stop overproduction (Amsterdam)
» problems have become too huge for the government to ignore them (Amsterdam)
» regulation to give room to local production: ceilings and production guidelines for
    » meat production (Amsterdam)
    » imports from overseas (Amsterdam)
    » food damaging the environment (mangos, avocados) to treat them as the luxury goods they are (Amsterdam)
» EU-regulation for
    » supermarkets on food origins (Amsterdam)
    » public water supply (level of fluoride etc.) (San Sebastian)
» subsidies and stimuli for diverse vegetables/non-environmentally damaging food industries (Amsterdam)
» encourage
    » local food production/industries (Brussels, Amsterdam)
    » production of seasonal and diverse vegetables (Amsterdam)
    » local activism (Amsterdam)
    » bottom-up approaches and exchange: much will and action already at the local level (Amsterdam)
    » public gardening, private gardening, shared gardens/plots (Amsterdam)
» specialists on site to support public gardening and community-building and help out with technical equipment (Amsterdam)
» use of agricultural fields for food production directly and not animal food production (Amsterdam)
» further awareness raising campaigns on:
    » environmental damage (Amsterdam)
    » animal welfare (Amsterdam)
    » problems of food production (Amsterdam)
    » responsible consumption (Amsterdam)
    » cost of transportation from abroad (monetary and environmental) (Amsterdam)
    » positive approach: encourage people to go vegan/vegetarian, show tasty recipes to prevent defensiveness and top-down attitudes (Amsterdam)
    » also increases pressure on enterprises (Amsterdam)
» calendars with seasonal food to be distributed in supermarkets (Amsterdam)
» sticker system on food (green = local) (Amsterdam)

REGION

Geopolitics

> **"**

"Europe is being rearmed, militarized, trying to control other countries. I personally find it scandalous that Macron, who is celebrated as a great European, has been awarded the Aachen Peace Prize. Someone who is calling for the EU to be rearmed! So we are in danger; I believe we have now reached the point where Europe is trying militarily to assert its interests worldwide, and that cannot be a prospect for the future."

Participant in Herzogenrath

A region we did not expect to find in the Catalogue of Ideas, but which we added based on suggestions from our guides, was "Geopolitics". While participants appreciated the EU as a peace-bringing project, they also worried about the increasing militarisation and international policies unfavourable to the interests of the European Union. A European Army, geopolitics including Europe's ambitions as a global player, and its possible partners are all discussed in this section.

DOS

+ Europe has never been so long without war; people need to value more the safety and peace it has brought us (Munster, Maastricht, The Hague, Cologne)
+ the EU allows for a relatively global approach to global problems (Hambach Forest)
+ the EU is a good counterweight to the US (Herzogenrath)

DON'TS

- increasing militarisation (Haltern am See), also because of economic interests (Herzogenrath) and based on growing nationalism and populism (Cologne); European postcolonialism for resources and respective militarisation (Herzogenrath)
- protectionist tendencies growing (Cologne)
- Cold War rhetoric (Haltern am See); connotation of fear (Russia, terrorism) and same development on the other side (Herzogenrath)
- strong manipulation of EU-policies through NATO (Berlin); double structure NATO and European military go into one direction (Haltern am See)
- military alliances force to take sides (Berlin)
- many young people do not think of militarisation as their topic (Berlin); we do not realise anymore what an achievement growing up without a war is (Berlin)
- disarmament policies mostly voluntary work (Berlin)

-    transporting arms to Syria, Iraq etc. (Witten)
-    peace not possible without Russia and China on our shared continent Eurasia (Munster)
-    alliances between Russia, China, the US are being built and the EU is too slow (Wesel)
-    Russian and US interests play a much bigger role than European citizens' interests, as the crisis in the middle east and the refugee crisis have shown. Europe is not able to protect the interests of its citizens and the right-wing powers are exploiting this (Dusseldorf)
-    times of peace endangered through the end of a wealthy era. We have to pay for exploiting the developing world (Cologne)
-    the future depends on the decision by wealthy countries if they are willing to support other countries in Europe (Amsterdam)
-    no peace treaty has ever been made after WWII (Berlin)
-    movement towards surveillance state (Berlin)
-    oligarchy and politics acting for a new world order slowly being established through a cashless society; cameras everywhere, giving up privacy for "safety", weather warfare and geo-engineering (Antwerp)
-    all the violence that physically manifests itself in all parts of the world is directly an expression of all the violence that we collectively use as humanity. (Maastricht)

RECOMMENDATIONS

"But if we say how do we organise security, external security? Then it can also be European. And I am in favour of a European army. That they say "we invest a great deal in the military, we perhaps have to channel military capacities more strongly at European level. Arms agency is the key word, but perhaps European army is the second, and then financial resources would certainly be freed up."

Participant in Bonn

»   a European army as an idea to strengthen the European project (Berlin, Bonn)
»   no European army and dissolution of NATO (Berlin)
»   a European disarmament minister (Berlin)
»   public discussions on whether citizens want rearmament (Haltern am See)
»   positive legitimisation: more EU in domestic security and when it comes to solving foreign policy issues (Bonn)
»   freedom of conscience not only for military service but also tax declaration. Option to declare that personal taxes should not be administered to military budgetary planning (Berlin)
»   foster peace in neighbouring regions: stop arms exports (Duisburg)
»   maintaining the nuclear non-proliferation treaty would establish a really progressive superiority (Berlin)
»   a peace treaty would facilitate relations with Russia (Berlin)
»   Russia as an important partner in the Baltic Sea region (Gdansk)
»   maintain friendship with Russia (Haltern am See, Herzogenrath)
»   better relations with Russia (Maastricht)
»   Europe will be forced to further integrate for (geo)political reasons due to threats coming from world powers such as China (The Hague)
»   China is a huge financial opponent, and we need to unite to keep up with them (Luxembourg)
»   a strong Europe that can compete with the US and China (The Hague)
»   Europe in the future has to act as an independent power bloc. We can have our own identity and our own notions of power, separate from the USA (Maastricht)
»   Europe can become a world power (Maastricht)
»   the future of Europe includes Western Balkans (Cologne)
»   further globalisation is the key for a successful Europe, improved inter-human interactions and openness between citizens in Europe (Maastricht)
»   think the whole world as a unit, not only Europe (Bonn)
»   look more at non-EU: how is the EU perceived? (Dusseldorf)
»   transnational challenges like migration, the climate change crisis require transnational approaches (Schengen, Witten, Duisburg, Cologne, Bonn, Brussels)
»   maritime spatial planning (Gdansk)

> **"** "Yes, inclusion concerns everyone. Inclusion is more important than ever, that it is carried out into society and there is a lot to discuss about the topic because the topic is important, it concerns us all."
>
> Participant in Vienna

While inclusion concerns everyone and the Europe Dome is of course barrier free, the region of "Inclusion" was specifically visited in Vienna. All in all, equal opportunities and accessibility must be created for all: participation in society, sports, infrastructure. Stronger financial support to challenges oneself and break down barriers are crucial. Awareness raising and exchanges are needed to find common ground, fight stigmatisation and to discover the person behind a disability.

DOS

+ inclusion is important, it concerns everybody (Vienna)
+ the courage to fight and humour lead to change (Vienna)
+ respect for needs is sometimes difficult because of complicated communication, but supported communication/supported writing offers great opportunities for those concerned (Vienna)
+ the desire to continue to support good efforts (Vienna)
+ exchange among affected persons is important and encouraging (Vienna)
+ disabled people have a right like everyone else to participate in public life (public transport, sports, etc.) (Vienna)
+ many people with disabilities want - and already do - actively participate in social life and "mingle with the people" (Vienna)
+ people with disabilities have the same desire to participate as people without disabilities (Vienna)
+ open events (e.g. "football culture") are often well received; it is not even necessary to call them "inclusive events" (Vienna)
+ bands, musicians etc. who stand by "being different" and publicly support it (Vienna)
+ living with people with disabilities can open doors and be very enriching (Vienna)
+ UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: promoting dignity and equal enjoyment of all human and fundamental freedoms (Vienna)

DON'TS

- difficult implementation of inclusion, much doubt and scepticism. How can more recognition be achieved for those affected? (Vienna)
- inclusion difficult for mentally handicapped people (Vienna)
- affected people do not feel comfortable in all areas of society (Vienna)
- affected people want to be "among people" (Vienna)
- blockades are very large in the heads of many (Vienna)
- little awareness of difficulties in everyday life (steps, etc.) (Vienna)
- reduction of personality to disability (Vienna)
- difficult communication through desire for political correctness (Vienna)
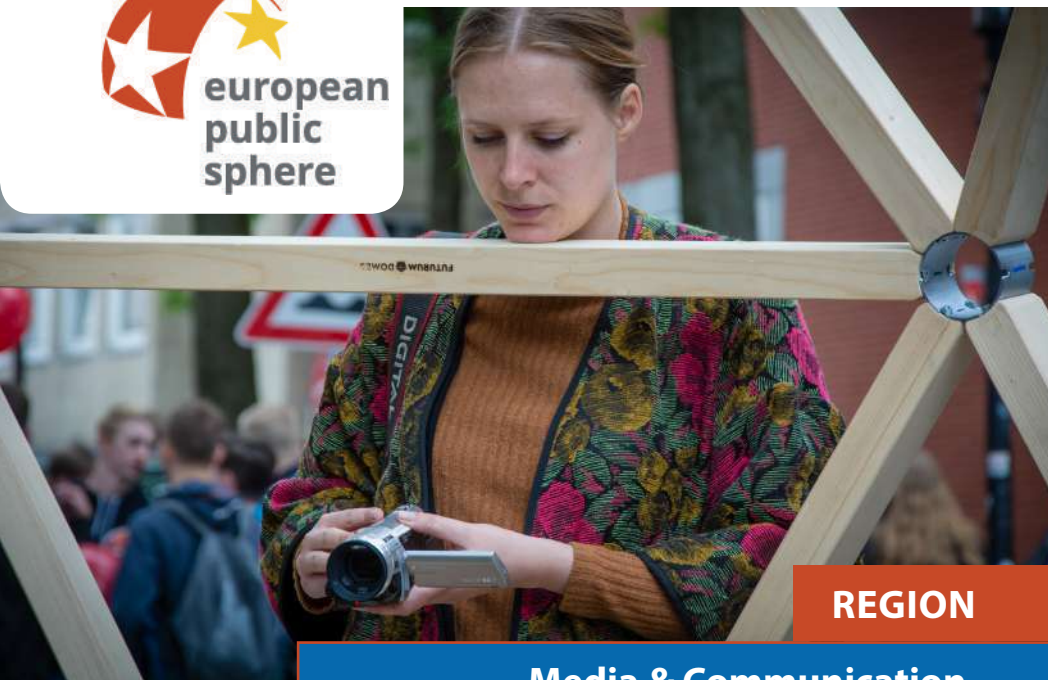- discrimination in finding a job (Vienna)

- politicians tend to be guided by votes, public image and budget constraints meaning little financial support from the state for facilities for people with disabilities (Vienna)
- many institutions call themselves "inclusive", although they do not deal much with the meaning of the word; namely, that inclusion takes place where the term ceases to exist (Vienna)
- inclusion must not turn into the opposite and exclude people without impairment (Vienna)
- media often exaggerates the everyday life of a person affected. Impairment should actually not be important at all (Vienna)
- inclusion is not so easy - conditions for special needs have to be created (e.g. if you want to abolish special schools) (Vienna)
- the real danger comes from digitisation and automation because people become superfluous as a result (Vienna)
- supported communication: many years of work and possible falsification through helpers guiding the hand (Vienna)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- equal opportunities for all (Vienna)
- more offers for people with and without disabilities (Vienna)
- new Equal-EU projects where different associations come together (Vienna)
- inclusion through sports clubs (Vienna)
- affected persons should participate in society (Vienna)
- it is also the responsibility of people without disabilities to promote a better life for those with disabilities (Vienna, Antwerp)
- meeting at eye level, respect for human rights, inclusion as an attitude towards those affected, open ears, respecting and taking the other seriously (Vienna)
- people with disabilities must be treated equally in all areas of life, including job search (Vienna)
- non-disabled people need to break down barriers (Vienna)
- more public acceptance and awareness, also for people with disabilities that are not immediately visible (Vienna)
- the prerequisites for disabled people to participate in public life must be created (public transport, sport, voting etc.) (Vienna, Berlin)
- legal regulations for barrier-free building for the benefit of everyone (Vienna)
- small changes such as e.g. setting up handicapped accessible ATMs (Vienna)
- reducing public barriers is important for the quality of life and well-being (Vienna)
- awareness more raising, even among young children (Vienna)
- a new idea of "normal" so that marginal groups (people with a migration background/disability etc.) also fall under this category; extension of the concept of inclusion to all marginalized groups (Vienna)
- affected persons should also have an understanding for non-affected persons that some cannot deal with being different/ have to get used to it (Vienna)
- stand up for the things that are important to you and become active (Vienna)
- learning independence and the ability to make one's own decisions for life (Vienna)
- more self-empowerment, also in personal assistance, creating opportunities to assume responsibility for a maturing process (Vienna)
- do not wrap children in bubble wrap: they have to learn to challenge themselves and get to know their bodies (Vienna)
- more support for parents (Vienna)
- inclusion is everybody's business (Vienna)
- the economy should perhaps have to provide funds for inclusion and social services (Vienna)
- more financial support from the state (Vienna)
- abolish special schools (Vienna)
- basic income for all - there are many weak people in society (Vienna)
- open discussion rounds and exchanges like the Dome Talk are very positive, ALL people must be heard (Vienna)

REGION

Media & Communication

Another region we were not planning on visiting is the region of "Media & Communication". However, as so many tips were brought forward by the participants, we decided to devote a short chapter to this topic. While a few positive opportunities for information are mentioned below, the media was criticised for not covering the EU or mainly covering negative aspects. In many places, participants characterised the EU as having its own severe communication deficit: too complex, too complicated, too much, not the right channels to reach the audience, prioritisation of only a few languages. The recommendations? Better and stronger promotion and marketing, communication of advantages and possibilities, fetishisation, reporting, raising your voice, digitalisation, easier language, reliable sources, the revitalisation of movements favourable to the EU...

DOS

+ Press Centres of European institutions with the possibility to sign up for a newsletter in your language (Texel)
+ the EU provides lots of informational materials (Munster)
+ English: enables communication with people from all over the world (Luxemburg)

DON'TS

- the EU is not covered in newspapers (Dortmund, Munster, The Hague). The EU is supposed to be a Europe of the governments (Munster, The Hague)
- fragmented media landscape prevents European public sphere (Brussels); leads to citizens being surprised about decisions (Dortmund)
- fake news (Brussels) are faster than true news (Antwerp)
- agenda behind news on the internet mostly hidden (Brussels)/prone to hijacking and the spread of misinformation (Schengen)
- higher coverage of anti-EU stance in Brexit (Antwerp)
- mass media mixes European Union, Brussels, countries and people (San Sebastian)
- the EU itself has a communication problem (Duisburg)
    - people are not informed properly (San Sebastian, Liege); despite its overarching importance, people do not know enough about it (The Hague)
    - no understanding of how European decisions affect citizens daily lives (Zandvoort, Krzyzowa), also due to complicated processes (Krzyzowa)
    - it is unclear to citizens what the benefits of the European Union are and what the EU has done for them (The Hague)
    - the information does not reach the people (Texel)/is not well communicated (Schengen)
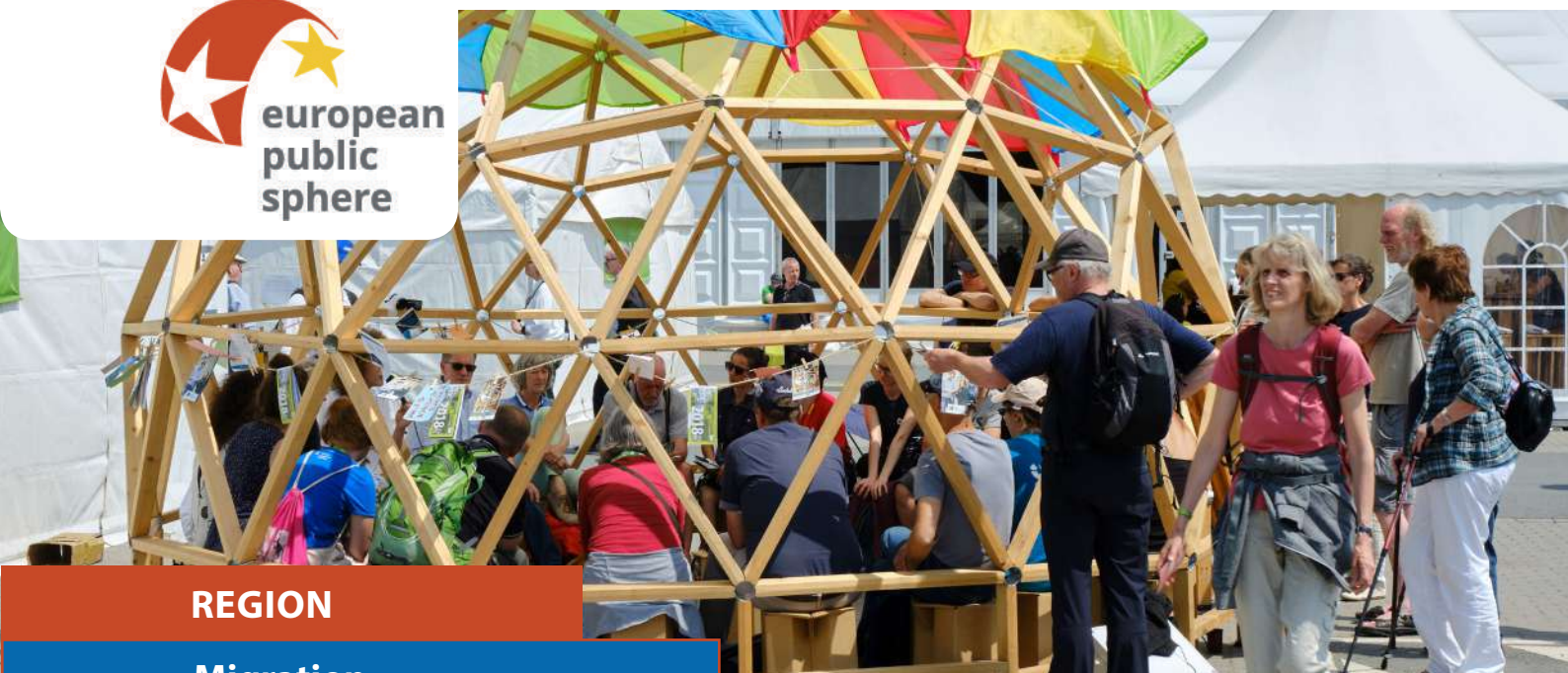
- no access to information; no points of contact with citizens and no real opportunity to get informed (Herzogenrath, Cologne); time to browse through the wealth of information on advantages and disadvantages of the EU for everyday citizens (Munster)
- getting and staying informed properly to form an opinion is basically a full-time job (Berlin); the EU bureaucracy (Duisburg) is so complex that no normal person can understand what is going on (The Hague)
- European communication/language style not understandable for citizens even when working on important topics (Texel)
- it is impossible for citizens to understand what is happening in Brussels (Texel, The Hague, Cracow)
- much communication e.g. on Facebook is in English, German and French but not in all 24 EU languages (Texel)
- communication between citizens is also done in English even though Europe has many more cultures and despite the only English speaking country leaving the EU (Luxembourg)
- communication is very important, but often manipulated even at the base, in schools (San Sebastian)
- explanations by the government/European institutions cannot solve the problem: top-down communication, people's distrust in the political system prevents learning from political institutions (comes across as propaganda for political structures) (The Hague)
- paradox: saying that you have to educate people seems paternalistic but if people do not have the basic or medium capacity of understanding how things work, they are easily trapped (Brussels)

RECOMMENDATIONS

» communicate common values and ideas (Cologne)
» marketing department for European citizens (Krakow)
» do a better job at promoting the EU, e.g. "We raised the standards of living for you", through food, water or environment. It is possible to connect the citizens back to the EU (San Sebastian)
» active promotion on the possibilities Europe offers (Zandvoort, The Hague)
» claim positive developments through Europe for Europe (Rome, Bonn, Cologne) and introduce correct reporting duty for local/national governments (Bonn); make injustice public (Cologne)
» focus on EU activities outside of the EU bubble to make people care about Europe (Brussels)
» raise awareness that the EU is not only in Brussels but shapes people's daily life (Krzyzowa, Cologne, Bonn, Dusseldorf) and that people across continents often share the same problems (Cologne)
» help people realise that institutions work for them and positively impact them (Amsterdam)
» more explanations of the advantages of membership, European processes, reasons for the EU and its purpose (San Sebastian)
» a European spirit: the EU has to promote cultural ideas using certain fetishisation with the current market working on fetishisation (Krakow)
» revitalise movements favourable to the EU like Pulse of Europe (Rome, Cologne, Hambach Forest)
» demonstrate EU-backing in society (Hambach Forest) and positive achievements instead of focusing on negative outcomes (Duisburg)
» be louder, more confident, energetic (Dusseldorf), enthusing as radical as those endangering the EU (Cologne)
» a European newspaper in different languages to create a European public sphere and European identity (Rome, Brussels); news from the EU but also examples of best practice from the national level (Rome)
» 1 page of Europe in every newspaper (Munster)
» EU communication in all 24 EU languages (Texel)
» a platform/parties that channel available information on Europe (Munster)
» use digital channels to make information more appealing and innovative (Brussels)
» news on Europe and reliable information sources (Hambach Forest)
» use notifications/advertisement on social media so people do not have to search for information and hand out information in schools so young people do not need to buy it (Hambach Forest)
» open source information flow to rule out fake news (Brussels); open source movement can produce at low cost what is available to everyone; from the cradle children can learn participation and sustainability, people can get organised together through free and cost free software (Hambach Forest)
» create points of contact with citizens so they actively use EU advantages (Berlin)
» get in contact especially with the anti-EU side (Cologne)
» it is national governments' responsibility to get people interested in Europe and tell them that Europe is important (Schengen)
» make the survey by European Commission (May 2018) less abstract and complicated (Wesel)

REGION

Migration

After several smaller regions - still worth a visit! - the cooperating regions of "Migration" and "Integration" require a bit more time. Both regions are still independent, and that is also how we treat them in this Catalogue of Ideas. However, the categories often overlap which is why we have summarised the regions together and present a joint set of recommendations at the end of the chapter "Integration" for a better and more holistic overview.

While the arrival of new people can be enriching for any society, while people want to integrate, and while the migration "crisis" does not deserve its name, the lack of a clear definition for migration and integration hinders a successful debate on the topic. Participants from this region strongly criticised the slow process before leaving respective reception centres, the EU's lack of action and the non-existence of a joint solution. Populism, discourse enabling and promoting prejudice, segregation, discrimination and hatred, missing interaction between locals and newly arrived, the stress between integration and assimilation, and the lack of real and honest solutions abroad are all subtopics our guides took a look at in more detail.

As the solutions brought forward for migration and integration are similar, identical or overlapping, they are presented at the end of the next region "Integration". Recommendations focus on how to improve the process of immigration, e.g. providing guidance, secure standards, prevent ghettoisation and facilitate the job search as a major milestone to successful further integration. Moreover, participants demand for their political representatives to get active and find a European solution - best in democratic interaction with the citizens.

When in "Migration and Integration," one should not miss to find solutions abroad in people's homelands but without the negative consequences of loans and other current neocolonialistic and EU-profitable approaches. Micro-credits, fair trade and fair salaries for officials to fight endemic corruption are some of the ideas. Regarding the issue of discrimination, which was mentioned in nearly all places, we need to work on our discourse and enable exchanges through e.g. meeting places. A "we" versus "they" discourse fostered by many politicians and exploited by populist forces is unacceptable and needs to immediately put to an end. Migration must become a discussable issue and a re-humanisation of those seeking refuge is inevitable. At the same time identical and social fears must be taken seriously instead of directly shaming people as racists and effectively turning them into such. The idea of multiple identities needs to be promoted, more awareness raising and education on Europe's responsibility, the reasons for migration, peaceful co-existance and acceptance would help.

DEFINITION AND THOUGHTS

- moving from one point to another and stay there for a longer period of time (Zandvoort)
- leaving one's homeland for another country (Ghent) and trying to build up a life there (Zandvoort)
- moving to somewhere else and recognising one's civil rights and duties like voting, participating, working etc. and adapt (Ghent)
- motivation to immigrate to Europe: terrible misery, poverty (Ghent); people who are not well in their home country migrate to another country (Ghent), war, dysfunctional economy, dictatorship, climate change and they come to Europe for a better life (Zandvoort)/ if we were in their shoes, we would also come to Europe to seek happiness (The Hague)
- no clear definition, which leads to problems (Liege)
- question of who is the owner of a place arises (Zandvoort)
- now it is an economic issue, but climate migration will be much stronger and a fortress of Europe is impossible to set up because of the reciprocality of other countries (Liege)

DOS

+ the "migration crisis" is not a real crisis (Hambach Forest, Cologne)
+ newly arriving people can be more of an economic asset than a liability (The Hague, Herzogenrath)
+ The new world in which we live is made possible by immigration (Liege)
+ immigrants in Britain were important for today's wealth (Antwerp)
+ there are lots of people who understand the importance of immigration, solidarity and respect (Krzyzowa)

DON'TS

Process
- migration brings problems if you have a large influx in one place (Zandvoort)
- refusal to find European solution and Mediterranean countries being left alone with a large influx of immigrants, leading to
- the deterioration of the European project and the rise of populism (Zandvoort, Munster)
- the idea of solidarity, respect and a concerted approach was completely abandoned during the refugee and financial crisis where countries were left alone in their sufferance and then forgotten, like Greece (Hambach Forest, Munster, Duisburg)
- Europe's weak point: taking responsibility and solidarity (Ghent)
- the actions of dominating Western countries do not reflect the spirit of the whole EU (Krakow)
- people who are pro-EU attack other countries for not going along with the European Union demands while these are the demands of a Western sphere and of how the laws of the European Union are interpreted (Krakow)
- being an EU member does not mean a country is obliged to share the burden as migrants were not taken in on behalf of the EU, but on behalf of the sovereignty of nations but a discussion and a united solution are needed (Krakow)
- migrants are being accepted while there is no compromise on what to do with them (Krakow)
- divisions in the European Union: Eastern European countries implement segregationist policies but forgot that their situation has changed thanks to Europe (Liege)
- unbelievable and shocking: countries that entered last, e.g. Hungary and Poland fight immigration the most even though the EU needs these people who are also willing to take jobs locals refuse to do (e.g. Volvo and the harbour in Ghent are constantly looking) (Ghent)
- a rejection of immigration by either the Anglo-Saxons or the countries of the South fearing a replacement of their cultural and ideological identity (Liege)
- migration can be of great economic value to Europe but the opportunity is not used; highly educated migrants are not employed in the best way (The Hague)
- Migrants with a completely different religious background are allowed far too much. Sunday-Islam schools cultivate all kinds of hatred, and no one intervenes. No thought is given to what is going on, and no action is being taken (Maastricht)
- lack of solidarity with people living in bad living conditions around the world (Hambach Forest, San Sebastian)

Discourse
- migration is a very politicised word (Liege)
- mainly negative associations make it hard to have a proper discussion about migration without respective prejudices coming from the media and politicians (Liege)
- the discussion about migration has to do with the Second World War (especially visible in Germany). A fear of repeating the treatment and stigmatisation of certain ethnic groups by the majority brings the discussion on migration to a close (The Hague)
- dehumanisation of human beings by media and politics – we need to humanise again (Ghent)

- the way we talk about refugees, the word 'refugee', the word 'flow of refugees' is not right. There has never been a flow, the number of people coming here is manageable but a 'stream of refugees coming towards us' suggests they pose a threat, and the idea is now in many people's minds (Ghent)
- narrow meaning of migration in the public discourse creates problematic attitude. Only related to people coming to the EU from poorer countries or countries with other problems and not migration as a whole (Zandvoort)
- instead of looking at the positive side, Europeans have the feeling that immigration is something terrifying, taking away our culture, something that is dangerous for us. A lot of the negative side is often seen and stressed by the media (Liege)
- migration and integration is an extremely sensitive topic because it touches upon identity at the basis of who we are as Europe, as people, what our culture is, to what extent we adapt our culture (The Hague)
- the way the EU deals with integration is detrimental to the matter: identity politics through distancing ourselves from the other, especially refugees and migrants, creating a whole "us" versus "they" way of thinking. Politicians play a major role in this and do nothing about the we-they dialogue. The emptiness is dangerous (Ghent, Liege)
- politicians often reinforce stigmas and fear (Zandvoort)
- politicians are voted in office because of their detrimental position and statements towards immigration and use of discourse to win votes (Ghent)
- immigration has become a key issue during the European elections, not to find solutions but to point out a culprit (Liege)

Populism
- abstinence of European action: the void is filled by nationalists or people against the European project who do not look at what unites us and that we should be able to move forward (Ghent)
- populists touch on something that highly needs to be discussed by people but in a way that does not further alienate different societal groups from each other (The Hague)
- no dialogue possible with (radical) right-wing extremists (Ghent)
- right wing populists using migration to get media attention (Ghent)
- traditional parties were used to giving the same answers to the same problems and so far have been unable to provide adequate answers to new problems, which is exploited by right-wing political parties (Ghent)
- established parties demonise voters of populist parties as madmen, racist, and stupid and completely miss the point of addressing why people voted for right-wing parties (The Hague)

Prejudice
- no points of contact: prejudices and hate exist, but very few people have met a refugee; no experience with diversity in one's daily life creates prejudice (Ghent)
- many local people feeling left behind and at a (financial) disadvantage compared to refugees
- immigrants as scapegoats for domestic problems: terrorism, economic crisis etc. (Liege, Maastricht)
- no way to free oneself from established societal ideas and structures (Maastricht)
- denying people living in unbearable conditions access to Europe and directly defaming them as exploiters of economic opportunities (Antwerp)
- feeling of political and social powerlessness when moving from one country to another (Maastricht)
- lots of racist people in Spain, lack of correct information and communication (San Sebastian))

Solutions abroad
- refugee situation was created through exploitation by wealthy nations/EU and is now coming back to us (Ghent, Cologne, Zandvoort, Munster): we are responsible for finding solutions (Cologne)
- refusal to take in refugees means the problem is simply shifting but not solved (Ghent)
- investments abroad are always tied to conditions to prevent financial losses, and it is difficult to break that circle (Zandvoort)
- the development of certain countries in Africa is mostly connected to loans. It does not create an equitable transaction but a long-term dependency, and the country remains the property of the ECB or the IMF, the particular country or a particular organisation that has granted a loan (Zandvoort)
- larger monetary flows from other countries in the form of loans into the EU than EU development aid into these countries creating dependencies (Zandvoort)
- the EU establishing obstacles to fair trade and market growth in other parts of the world (Zandvoort)
- The dilemma is that people feel it is unfair if migrants come to Europe but at the same time refuse to invest money abroad so that people can stay in their homeland (Zandvoort)

"I also think that what the population actually wants is not happening in the area of migration. (...) And that people's voices cannot move in the right direction. I think that... People do want to help other people, in principle. But it should not be the case that you lose control of it. And I now have the feeling that the citizens in the Netherlands, and also in Europe, have too little control over how many people enter and who enters. And if there are too many people coming in who are not very similar to how we want to live, then tensions will arise as a result of which we are reluctant to help people anymore."

Participant in The Hague

REGION

Integration

DEFINITION AND THOUGHTS

- learn to live together with the society that is already there (Ghent)
- integration instead of assimilation, but people have to be able to live with a country's current state without conflict and missionary ideas (Ghent)
- participate in society instead of staying within one's own "club" (Zandvoort)
- it is about making a contribution to our society (Zandvoort)
- respect for each other (Ghent)
- integration guaranteeing one's security and getting people grounded is a long process (Zandvoort)

DOS

+ people want to integrate and crime is only due to misery stemming from a lack of support (Ghent)
+ great to see how much people want to participate, how much they just want to have a job, take good care of their children and for them to go to a local school, while on the other hand also wanting to keep their own values and culture. Keeping that balance is a very logical thing to do and also a sign of respect (Zandvoort)
+ personal contact often solves the issue (e.g. neighbourhood, work). People from all ways of life suddenly coexist or engage with each other (Ghent, Zandvoort)
+ already a lot of initiatives against right-wing extremism in many places: neighbourhood associations, exchanges of ideas, opinions, cultures, concerts, cooking in the afternoon – all to ensure that the issue is present in society (Ghent)
+ integration in some parts of the EU (e.g. Netherlands) is possible with the English language only (Zandvoort)
+ integration in terms of ideas, ideals, and participation is possible without local language (Zandvoort)

DON'TS

Process
- the EU has an immense problem with integration. Refusal to take action to integrate at EU level creates social time bombs (Ghent)
- very regrettable that most people stay in reception centres over a long period of time, so it often takes a long time before they can actually integrate (Zandvoort)
- integration after leaving reception centres is not possible without necessary language skills etc. It paralyses people, creates a vacuum, and is not favourable to integration (Zandvoort)
- integrating directly after one's arrival is not always possible: some people are traumatised or need additional support (Zandvoort)
- the concentration of newly arrived people in one spot creates ghettos (Liege, Ghent) and lastly a cultural problem (Ghent). The mistake has already been made by Europe in the 1960s, and it is repeating itself (Liege)

Interaction
- not much mixing between those who are here and those who arrive here, so everyone creates their own idea of what a migrant is and what they are looking for (Liege)
- European diversity is not a matter of fact for many people (Dusseldorf)
- part of the population, especially the poorer part, pays a higher price creating negative attitudes while the people least affected by migration - rich, isolated neighbourhoods with no connection to migration - are in favour of migration (The Hague)
- a large influx of people creates cultural frictions (Ghent) and fear (Zandvoort)

Discrimination
- Europeans mostly expect assimilation (Ghent)
- prejudices (Ghent)
- negative looks and attitudes in public towards people with migrational background (Ghent)
- the hard work of most "foreigners" is often underestimated and are seen as lazy (Ghent)
- The dilemma is that if people should integrate ("they do not integrate!"), they need to be allowed to get a job ("they are stealing our jobs!") (Zandvoort)
- racism and abstraction: people often think negatively about immigrants while not associating their migrant friends as a person with a migrational background, preventing a positive connotation of migration (Ghent)
- people's selfish behaviour prevents a welcoming and sharing attitude. Exaggerated reactions arise as soon as people with migrational background are involved (Ghent)
- often little patience for people with broken language skills (Zandvoort)
- people are not judged by the same standards. "You have to respect the laws of the country", but people do not have an answer when asked, "What about the native Belgian who does not respect the laws?" Vision of integration is false, distorted, and just to stigmatize a certain community (Liege)
- current youth from the 2nd, 3rd and even 4th migrational background generation have a different vision of "western culture", withdraw into themselves, and are tired of being controlled because of facial features, of not getting a job because of an Arabic or Turkish name, of being judged because they are Muslim (Liege)
- negative image of European institutions among people with migrational background as they are used to discrimination and being treated as second class citizens, which, in turn, stimulates the formation of own groups (Liege)

Process
» take more people in (Krzyzowa, Ghent). Everyone who wants to live according to the same standards that we hold our domestic societies accountable for: respect of law, honesty etc. (Ghent). People should be free to come (Zandvoort)
» spread newly arrived people to different places to prevent the creation of ghettos and lastly a cultural problem (Ghent)
» integration, i.e. learning the language, needs to start right away. People need to move out of reception centres much faster (Zandvoort)
» having an accent is not a negative thing, but people should master the language to the point that they can have a conversation (Ghent)
» integration needs to be well planned. People need to be able to integrate (Ghent, Cologne)
» guidance/advice needed on culture, language, shelter, work, schools, democracy, and participation for newly arrived people (Ghent) and on what is expected from them (Zandvoort)
» create a balance: possibility to participate while keeping one's own faith, culture etc. or that one can adapt it (Ghent, Zandvoort)
» secure education for young immigrants (Wesel); recognise good education and certificates (Herzogenrath)
» there are plenty of jobs (in the Netherlands), including warehouse work, where newly arrived people can earn money, come into contact with local people, and integrate more quickly (Zandvoort)
» nuanced immigration regulations for those staying long-term and those staying temporarily; treat them like people, provide opportunities to learn small things to contribute (Zandvoort)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Political realm
» a Europe open to the world that does not shut itself off in its privileged position, but remains open to people and immigration (Krzyzowa)
» find a European solution (Krakow, Zandvoort, Wesel)
» take care of our responsibility and create a distribution system together (Ghent)
» equal distribution of refugees, but no "pushing around" (Duisburg, Haltern am See)
» governments need to get active and enable/ensure integration through providing the necessary infrastructure, otherwise all those affected will stick together even more (Ghent)
» democratic interaction with the population needed for the situation not to worsen: many foreigners come to Europe, and

many more will come in the future. The population simply needs to be asked whether they really want this to happen (Zandvoort)

» a department/place established by several political parties or organisations that everyone including locals can go to if they do not understand a letter that they got from the (local) authority (Zandvoort)

Solutions abroad

» take in a reasonable amount of refugees, and help them in the places they are coming from (The Hague)

» improve economic conditions in people's homeland (Zandvoort); enable a self-determined build-up of the economy and of wellbeing (The Hague)

» create opportunities through small-scale sustainable, environmentally-friendly investments in Africa without imposing own projects (Zandvoort); condition of no corruption (Zandvoort)

» large scale microcredits for African ideas (Zandvoort)

» pay fair salaries to administrative employees in Africa to break the circle of corruption (Zandvoort)

» fair trade with less obstacles put in the way of African markets through the EU, and less creation of dependencies through extremely profitable loans for and by the EU (Zandvoort)

Society and discrimination

» it is only possible to integrate secondary cultural characteristics like music and food, not characteristics that create a people Expectations need to be adjusted (Ghent)

» we need to lower our expectations of newly arrived people regarding acquiring language skills, finding work, etc. before they enter the EU (Zandvoort)

» migrants should not want to change local traditions/culture that are important to the people (The Hague)

» coexistence can unite us. It must be initiated/taught during childhood, creating an innovative Europe that is much more tolerant, much more open (Liege)

» education on diversity (Ghent, Liege)

» people with European ancestors in the former colonies celebrate their ancestors' culture on many occasions and in traditional ways. We should allow people coming to Europe to do the same thing (Zandvoort)

» more exchanges and projects that are easy to implement (Wesel)

» create dialogue opportunities between locals and newly arrived people (Ghent) and with the anti-immigration side to discover the real fears behind the stance (Liege)

» start a local app/platforms to meet and engage (Ghent), enable points of contact/meeting spaces in daily life to fight fear and prejudice (Ghent, Liege)

» not everyone having racist thoughts should directly be stigmatised. Our brain is based on compartmentalising and putting people in these small boxes. Stigmatisation creates a vicious circle where people are effectively turned into racists (Liege)

» racist acts, segregation, discrimination need to be punished (Liege)

» the same standards of law should apply to everyone (Ghent)

» fight prejudice/stereotyped thinking (Ghent)

Discourse

» try to develop the idea and make people understand that identities are multiple: a person can be e.g. Belgian, Catholic Belgian, Muslim Belgian and democrat Belgian (Liege)

» explain to European citizens the European vision of immigration (Liege), solidarity, and whether it includes people outside of Europe as well (Haltern am See)

» more information on what the advantages and disadvantages of migration are (Zandvoort)

» explain to citizens why people are coming to Europe (Liege); clarify that people have to come here because of us exploiting their country and that we would do the same in that particular situation. People realise that the debate is not one-sided, realise their own responsibility, and are not able to send others away because of simple differences (Zandvoort)

» calm people down: people are not coming here to steal our wealth or welfare, but seek refuge from something that we would also seek refuge from, especially with rising sea levels in the Netherlands (Zandvoort)

» communicate that the situation will get worse with increasing climate change and other changes that we in Europe do not yet suffer from (Zandvoort)

» broaden the debate on migration to include people from "unproblematic" or wealthier countries who come to live in the EU (Zandvoort)

» immigration is happening, so make clear that people have to accept immigration (Zandvoort)

» a European instead of a national debate to continue integration (Krakow, Zandvoort)

» migration is a difficult problem everywhere in politics, but it should become an ordinary problem that can openly be discussed instead of directly calling people racist for their opinions (The Hague)

» awareness campaigns on extremism (Ghent) and fostering critical thinking (Ghent)

» move away from "us" against "the other" ways of thinking and politics (Ghent)

» less scaremongering through media (Ghent))

"So they tell me "Yes, but you have to respect the laws of the country where you are". Yes, I respect them but, when I ask them the question differently: "And the native Belgian who does not respect the laws, what does that mean? (...) They don't have an answer, so I tell myself your vision of integration, it's false, it's distorted and that's it. (...) It's just once again to stigmatize a certain community."

Participant in Liege

Unity

United in Diversity, the motto of the European Union was a topic across many stops. Participants mentioned the EU as a point of unity, highlighted the importance and the difficulties of differences and identities. Pros and cons of a single- and multi-speed Europe were voiced. Our guides collected sources of disrupting tendencies and recommendations to foster unity and support among EU-citizens such as exchanges and education.

DOS

+ Europe can unite us (Ghent). We are growing together in Europe (Luxemburg)
+ the EU is a new phenomenon, and we are in the process of unification (Luxembourg)
+ unity is lived and offers a lot of opportunities in border regions, border triangles etc. (Ghent, Schengen, Maastricht)
+ countries like Luxembourg with nearly 50% of European citizens show that integration is possible (Schengen)
+ Europe is bigger than Europe itself, e.g. many people in the Caribbean feel part of it (Maastricht)
+ strong characters in politics like Trump constitute an opportunity for the EU to create a feeling of unity/common ground through counter figures (Duisburg)
+ diversity not only across different countries in the EU but within countries (Munster)
+ multiculturality (Maastricht, Berlin, Cologne) in little space but with a lot of similarities (Berlin)
+ Europe is united in differences (Maastricht)
+ differences (languages, currencies) are disappearing but instead people meet each other, connect, and have love in common (Maastricht)
+ the discussion is worth it (Cologne)
+ the EU is proof that introducing a joint set of rules and peaceful cooperation at the supranational level is possible (Witten)
+ the EU itself is powerful and can bring about change for the harmonisation of laws in national states through the need for implementation by Member States (Amsterdam, Maastricht)
+ Europe as a way to overcome nationalism (Witten)
+ many layers of identity: a person having lived in different places can easily identify as a European and feels part of an international community (Luxembourg)
+ common history makes it easier to identify with Europe than with other parts of the world (Luxembourg)
+ many advantages and privileges as a member of the European Union and as a holder of an EU passport (Cologne)
+ communication technology helps us get closer (Luxembourg)
+ programmes like InterReg as tools of international collaboration (Wesel)
+ no borders (The Hague, Maastricht), very fluid and cool (Maastricht)
+ we all work together towards certain goals (Maastricht)

DON'TS

- a single-speed Europe leads to deceleration, desolidarisation, and single states as veto-players (Duisburg)

- Europe is already a two-speed Europe which hampers solidarity: Schengen zone, Euro zone (Duisburg)
- EU has grown too fast for the people, and now it is very difficult to turn back (Maastricht)
- the Eastern European countries were asked to join but were not ready which negatively affects people in Western Europe e.g. in terms of income (Maastricht)
- hard to find common stand among 28 countries (Duisburg)
- European Union is not a good organisation anymore (Amsterdam)
- so far, failure to anchor the EU in people's heads as attractive and long-term and failure to communicate the idea of Europe (Dusseldorf)
- region and nation determine one's identity versus world citizenship (Hambach Forest)/emotional and tragic connection to regional/national identity (Witten)
- Europe is too small, we need to think as world citizens (Munster, Duisburg, Witten, Cologne)
- nationalism prevents us from living together peacefully (Cologne, Hambach Forest)
- anonymity of large systems (Dusseldorf)
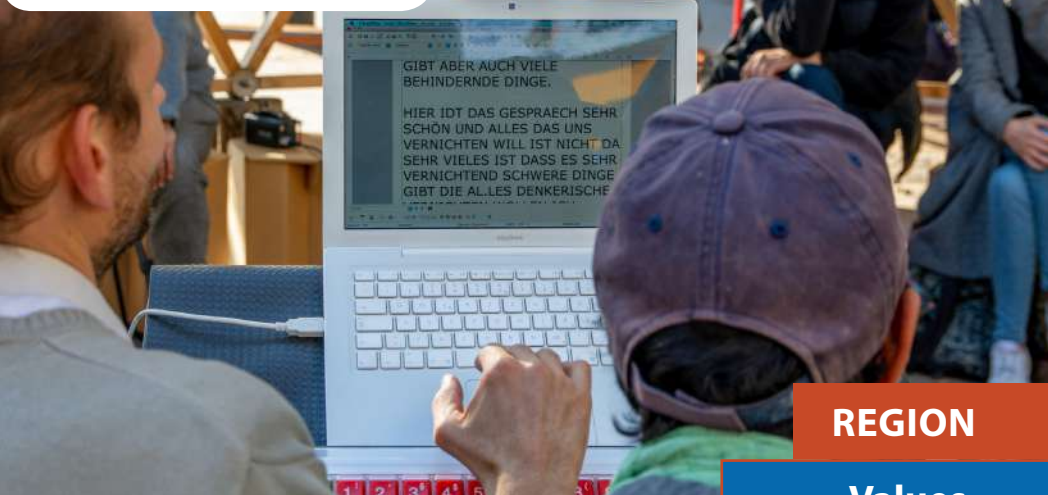- Europe is not yet part of people's core identity (Bonn)

"I guess, whenever I think of Europe, I think of connection, you know. So many different cultures and backgrounds, languages, histories, all coming together, especially with the EU, without the borders and everything. Just kind of, being very fluid, just being a cool place in that way. I love it because of that."

Participant in Maastricht

RECOMMENDATIONS

» "united in diversity" is the motto of the EU and we should live according to it (Ghent), consolidate unity and extend it (Ghent)
» different languages, cultural backgrounds, East-West division: the EU has already achieved a lot and should continue to build something together (Berlin)
» strength through diversity (Wesel): differences are mostly portrayed as negative but are actually a great opportunity for a multitude of cultures and exchanges (Luxembourg, Cologne)/ we should cherish diversity in Europe. We will find a way to understand each other (Maastricht)
» look at what unites as a foundation (Ghent)
» unity should be based on common values (Cologne)
» Europe needs a unity based on people, not only the economy (The Hague)
» make Europe an issue of the heart, not only head (Wesel, Bonn) to make it not only an elite, but also a citizen project (Bonn, Dusseldorf); arouse love for Europe: it is an enrichment for everyone (Wesel, Bonn)
» in the case of a new enlargement: carefully check the mindset of the country and its population for a shared foundation (Hambach Forest)
» make the Europarat part of the integration process to create cultural, economic, and political integration impulses (Munster)
» use anthem, flag (Ghent)
» find motors that can assemble everyone behind them: innovation, everything digital, artificial intelligence (Schengen)
» a two-speed Europe so those wanting more cooperation and solidarity can go ahead (Duisburg)
» the hope that Europe stays together without further scenarios à la Brexit (Ghent)
» patience: deep integration takes time (Witten)
» localism is the answer as it constitutes the basis for one's identity as a historically grown construct (Hambach Forest)
» a Europe of the regions (Herzogenrath)
» regional/national identity combined with EU advantages (Bonn)
» further foster programmes like Erasmus and Interrail for all backgrounds (Duisburg, Brussels, Cologne, Herzogenrath) especially for those who cannot afford to travel abroad (Munster, Hambach Forest, Herzogenrath) for a sense of unity to emerge (Witten) which will then in turn facilitate further developments (Hambach Forest, Cologne)
» youth exchanges (Rome, Cologne) on certain topics to create "ambassadors" that start change in their home country/region (Hambach Forest)
» school exchanges from an early age (Schengen)
» work exchanges (Schengen)
» free public transportation to enable exchanges (Bonn)
» free Interrail ticket for 18 year-olds to experience Europe directly when of voting age (Dortmund)
» promote the InterReg programme (Wesel)
» getting to know Europe not only through travel but residency in other countries (Cologne)
» make it still easier to move between countries, e.g. align family policies (Luxembourg)
» enlarge the political Europe, e.g. train services as European task, a European bank and insurance (Berlin)
» a European passport (Munster, Cologne); European citizenship (Cologne)
» stronger digitalisation: electronic visas, bus tickets etc. (Gdansk)
» European education to foster unity (Luxembourg)
» education on Europe on the costs of no Europe (San Sebastian)
» fight populism, xenophobia and racism (San Sebastian)
» understand and take dividing fears of the population seriously regarding the refugee situation. Germany as purser, of not being taken seriously, of losing one's job, of being repressed, of feeling like one's own cultural identity is threatened (Cologne)
» make sure regional languages like Frisian or Welsh survive (Texel)
» a monetary transfer of 30€ per month from the EU to all Europeans that people would recognise and positively associate with the EU (Haltern am See)

european public sphere

REGION

Values

Last but not least "Values", another short but wonderful region to visit! Our guides highlighted the many positive aspects of values: Europe as a community of values, a place of peace, freedom, movement, human rights, a unique area, and the region of the future. But we also see a crisis of "Values" perceivable in the prioritisation of the economy over all other values and rights, inequality, issues with and limits to social and human rights and a hypocrisy regarding lived and promoted values. And that is also what participants recommend a free, social, ecological, respectful, democratic, peaceful, sexy, solidary Europe full of love.

DOS

+   Europe is also a community of values (Cologne)
+   society is carried by all (Witten)
+   Europe is humanism for the whole world (Maastricht)
+   Europe means peace, freedom, liberality (Wesel, Haltern am See, Herzogenrath)
+   the EU has already reached a lot (Duisburg):
+   Schengen Agreement is a great achievement (Cologne)
+   highest standard of freedom that we should continue to strive for (Herzogenrath, Cologne, San Sebastian, Maastricht, Wesel, Haltern am See)
+   movement between countries, learning languages, traveling (The Hague), cultural exchanges, finding new friends across the continent (Cologne)
+   place where human rights thrive (Cologne)
+   self-determination (Luxembourg)
+   there is no alternative to Europe (Cologne)
+   Europe is something very valuable (Cologne)
+   Europe is unique (Rome, Bonn, Luxembourg, Herzogenrath)
+   Europe is the future (Rome, Bonn, Luxembourg, Herzogenrath)

DON'TS

EU in crisis:
-   economy and capital gain as main values (Antwerp)/ Europe is not a value-based union but focused on the economy (Duisburg)
-   EU policies promote neoliberalism instead of human rights
-   privatisation and profit-oriented thinking instead of welfare are the basis of the Lisbon Treaty (Bonn)
-   EU thwarts developments towards binding international agreements on the management of the economy on the basis of human rights at UN level (Duisburg)

- no freedom, equality, solidarity in the economy and choice of occupation (Herzogenrath)
- insufficient social system (Witten), social aspects not a priority (Dusseldorf, Haltern am See)
- social competencies mostly still lie with the national states (Haltern am See) and the sovereignty of states prevents common standards/rules (Witten) except in the Posted Workers Directive, but not much has happened there (Haltern am See)
- minimum standards can deepen differences (Witten)
- Commission not interested in redistribution (Witten)
- inequality (Herzogenrath, Luxembourg, Maastricht) and inhumanity of power (Maastricht)
- poverty in many parts of Europe (Cologne); high unemployment rates and poverty in peripheral countries (Amsterdam)
- creation of equal living standards neglected (Munster, San Sebastian)
- unequal standards in Europe for different social groups (The Hague)
- Apartheid-society (Berlin), slavery (Maastricht)
- Europe advancing too slowly: still talking about racism, discrimination, the role of women (Ghent)
- hypocrisy: the EU does not act according to its values (Berlin, Bonn): pretends to be good while people are drowning in the Mediterranean Sea (Berlin). No peace-making role in war in Bosnia or appliance of values.(Cologne)
- no court for humanity (Maastricht)
- loss of personal freedom of opinion (Witten)
- difficulty of implementing mutual love top-down (Maastricht)
- worry: the real solution might be the crisis (Amsterdam))

RECOMMENDATIONS

» a social Europe (Berlin, Wesel) away from focus on economy (Duisburg) to have happier citizens (Maastricht):
  » utopia of equals with equal rights and equal rights to social security (Cologne)
  » European social model (Duisburg, Cologne); joint policies are not only possible in the economic but also social sector (Zandvoort)
  » create social security networks to guarantee the human right of dignity for everyone in Europe (Witten, Bonn)
  » fair living and working conditions across the whole of Europe (Munster, Duisburg), so that people become supportive of the EU (Bonn)
  » stronger social rights (Witten)
  » less inequality (Herzogenrath) to create a European identity (Cologne)
  » standardisation in social standards i.e. insurance, unemployment benefits (Berlin)
  » European basic income (Dusseldorf, Berlin, Schengen, Maastricht) to guarantee inner freedom and being one's self which will automatically lead to less inequality, dispute and criminality (Maastricht)
  » no German domination (Texel)
» an ecological Europe (Dusseldorf, Cologne)
» equality (Haltern am See, Duisburg); a gender equitable Europe (Dusseldorf, Cologne)
» make the EU fair and sexy again (Cologne)
» a democratic Europe (Dusseldorf, Cologne, Munster, Texel, Luxembourg)
» a solidary Europe (Duisburg, Cologne, Duisburg, Munster, Texel, Luxembourg)
» a liberal Europe (Munster)
» respect (Cologne)
» respect for diversity (Hambach Forest)
» defend freedom (Haltern am See, Duisburg, Cologne)
» guarantee human rights (Cologne, Munster, Texel, Luxembourg)
» transparency (Munster, Texel, Luxembourg)
» love (Antwerp, Maastricht)
» stop violence (Berlin); peaceful instead of warlike (Liege)
» prosperous instead of lobbyist (Liege)
» keep open (Cologne) instead of closed Europe (Liege)
» use people's anger productively and constructively (Rome)
» cooperation (Witten, Herzogenrath, Antwerp, Texel, San Sebastian, Maastricht)
» defend unity (Haltern am See, Duisburg); become a (value-based) community (Witten, Herzogenrath, Antwerp, Texel, San Sebastian)
» preserve Christian ethics (Wesel)
» Germany as a role model for Europe: refugee intake, economic structure (Maastricht)
» go local: consumption of European products to strengthen domestic market (Cologne)
» stronger humanistic side of Europe (Luxembourg)
» court of humanity and love to measure love and foster cooperation (Maastricht)
» more child-friendliness (Berlin, Schengen)

» dialogue:
> » more open conversations so people listen to one another and learn to accept differing opinions (Maastricht, Dusseldorf)
> » values need to be re-debated every decade because of new developments and ethical ideas (Krakow)
> » patience, talks, understanding of and negotiations with Eastern countries (Duisburg)

» defend and develop further shared values (Dusseldorf); the European basic values are like a lighthouse that one should stand up for (Cologne)

» write down common values such as solidarity, transparency, democracy, progress, and human rights in a European Constitution (Munster, Texel, Luxembourg, Cologne)

» Europe has a lot of potential and stands for something - it needs to be used (Ghent)

» do not forget the value of Europe (Munster)

"What's catastrophic is that we don't think anymore. We need a revolution of humanity, justice, peace, and freedom. Seventy years of Europe is enough. You no longer have to think of the unity of Europe, you have to think of the whole world as one and reshape it."

Participant in Bonn

ABOUT US

EUROPEAN PUBLIC SPHERE

Initators

Democracy International e.V.
Originating from a network of democracy activists around the founding of the European Citizens' Initiative, Democracy International e.V. was formed as a non-profit in Cologne in 2011. Democracy International wants citizens to have more political power. The association pursues the goal of strengthening direct democracy and citizen participation at all political levels. A central interest is that international decisions are also taken democratically. Advocating for stronger co-decision making instruments within the European Union, Democracy International has been greatly involved in the 2019 revision of the European Citizens' Initative and the transparency vote within the European Parliament, obliging MEP in special positions to publicly disclose meetings with lobbyists for the first time ever. Democracy International is also the secretariat and main organiser of the largest conference on direct democracy worldwide, the Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy. The 2018 edition in Rome has seen more than 800 participants from all continents and more than 400 people participated in the 2019 Forum in Taiwan.

IG-EuroVision
The Initiative Society EuroVision was founded in 1999 with a view to the creation of a European Constitution. It envisions a functionally differentiated society which, within the framework of democratic agreements, builds on the free impulses and initiatives of all people, with an economic life oriented towards the needs of man and nature in global solidarity. In Austria, IG-EuroVision works towards the direct democratic supplementation of representative democracy. In addition to the European Public Sphere, its current focus lays on the European Credit Initiative for the free financing of an economy committed to the common good.

Partners

Mehr Demokratie e.V.
For more than 30 years, Mehr Demokratie has been fighting for the strengthening of democracy in Germany and Europe as a non-partisan, non-profit organization funded solely by donations. With its 10,000 members, the association works for the introduction of direct democratic procedures at all political levels, more transparency, and a more democratic Europe.

Internationales Kulturzentrum Achberg e.V. (International Cultural Centre Achberg e.V.)
The International Cultural Center Achberg was founded in the early 1970s. Its fields of activity are, among others, direct democracy through three-stage national laws or a perspective of the economy beyond capitalism and communism. In the decades of its existence, it has served as a meeting place for various civil society movements, such as the Prague Spring or the Ecology Movement, from which the Green Party emerged. To this day, social science research is being conducted against the background of the idea of the threefold structure of the social organism.

REVIEWS

VREDE ♥

Vivons Tous unis!
😊 ♥

Liefde voor iedereen
♥ haat voor niemand.
islamnu.nl

L'Unions fait
La force !
I.M

CONSTRUISONS
ENSEMBLE
AVEC PLUS DE TOLERANCE

qui m'y aille plus de bagarre
faire la paix

je souhaite que
la discrimination
disparu

l'europe oui, mais ne pour
oublier origine et ses tradition
et ton histoire ! sxy

-L'europe pensent
quoi du Gage ?

Malgré tout gardez
TOUJOUR le sourire
♥

Une Europe
ouverte et
sociale

Bonne securité sociale

Luisteren naar
elkaar !

BONHEUR

qui n'ai plus de racismes
dans le monde !!

WATER
FLUORIDATION
FREE
EU!

FOsiel olie
niet meer

Une éducation pour
les enfants au sujet
De l'ECOLOGIE

Geün Füe
EuROPA

parrol le nature palu

Linda aus Holland

Don't throw away!
Stop being
cosmetic about food!
Eat the food you grow!

Une vraie politique
écologique

Klimaol: mensen bewust
waken van het effect van
hun gedrag

Leuue
warm in april!

- Que peut-on faire
pour le climat?
- Pourquoi envoyer des
des voitures qui polluent
dans le monde?

Ecology, education
Equality, tolerance

Klimaat verandering

Je kan dat veranderen waar je invloed op hebt, al het andere zul je je op moeten aan passen [...]

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT & LIFE ALL TO-GETHER (POLITICIANS & citizens)

stop dieren mishandeling

POLLUTION
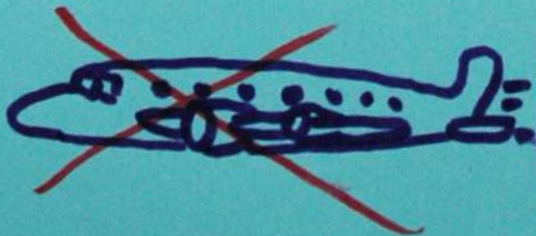
— less schoolsystem, More education
— more organisations to help the poor
— CLIMATE
— recycling
— organisations to awake awareness of (mental) Illnesses
— Racism & discrimination

Ich wünsche mir für Europa eine ökologische Landwirtschaft und eine gerechte finanzielle Verteilung der Gelder!

moregreenenergy in europe

We want a better climate! We are for our future! ♡

Bessern!
Klimawandel

Education, GREEN Transportation

TRUST IS LOST IN FOOD STANDARDS
↳ BUYING LOCAL NOW

Klimaschutz
Menschenrechte

Das die Bevölkerung mehr auf die Umwelt Achten und für unsere zukunft ohne Müll Kämpfen

ELKARTASUNA
Solidarity.

SOLIDARIA

Zusammen gegen Rechts

WIR SIND EUROPA!

We don't need more Europe or less Europe, we need a better, more social and equal, Europe.

Ich wünsche mir das die Grundbedürfnisse auf alle Menschen gleich auf geteilt werden

Gemeinsam STATT Alleine ♥

More Love

PEACE & LOVE ♥ ♡ FOR EVERY ONE !

Respeckt miteinander! Freundlichkeit

EU nicht als NATO Erweiterungsmantel sondern als Sozialprojekt

Europa tegen Racisme

Jeder akzeptiert jeden

POR UNA EUROPA MAS ARTESANA!
–
FOR A MORE CRAFT's EUROPE

For a Evrope beyond the Profit-MOTIVE

¡¡Por una Europa más allá del objetivo económico!!

VREDE in EUROPA
SAMENLEVEN
met verschillende cultuur.

+ d'Europe SOCIALE!

EU-Gemeinschaftspatente

Ein europäischer Weg der Wirtschaft und des Geldes
• globale Solidarität
• Gemeinwohl orientiert
• freie Finanzierung für Solidarische Wirtschaft

WEEE Please Reform!
=Disaster for Small Business & Startups

Die freie Finanzierung einer gemeinwohl-orientierte Wirtschaft ohne Profit Prinzip

SOZIALE QUELLEN-STEUER
http://KRITLIT.DE

Steuerschlupflöcher schließen !!!

Mehr Solidarität mit ärmeren Ländern Weniger Macht der Wirtschaft

¿Qué quieres para la ue? ¿Cómo la sueñas?

WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR THE EU?

L'Europe pour tout!

Mein Wunsch: alle bekommen was sie brauchen + werden unterstützt, ohne dass Abhängigkeit entsteht

I want a socially fair EUROPE

KEINE TOLERANZ GEGENÜBER INTOLERANZ !!!

Weniger soziale Spaltung

Das Weniger Menschen im Mittelmeer ertrinken
→ Sichere Fluchtwege nach Europa

für ein Europa ohne Kolonien!

SOLIDARITÉ

Ich wünsche mir für Europa, dass jeder von uns sich erstmal in die Haut der anderen reinversetzt – dann kommt es zu einvernehmlicheren Entscheidungen ☺ ☺

Solidarität

für Europa wünsche ich mir mehr Zusammenhalt, und dass nicht jeder nur an sein Land denkt und z. B. bereit ist, auch Flüchtlinge aufzunehmen. Es sollten auch die Wünsche der Bürger, besonders an

¿IMAGINAS CUÁL SERÍA EL COSTE DE LO "NO EUROPA? COLABOREMOS PARA SU REFUNDACIÓN.

I want...
a transparent
European Union!

Warum nur Europa?

An EU that defends consumers' rights & not lobbies! :)

TRANSPARENZ WIRTSCHAFTS- LOBBIES.

Informationelle Freiheit! Keine Überwachung der Bürger!

Ein Europa, in dem Ziele unter nachhaltigen & Zukunftsfähigen Gesichtspunkten gemeinsam festgelegt und solidarisch verfolgt werden. Kommerzielle Interessen danach!

Ich will private Haftung für politische Versprechen + Offenlegung von Politiker-Gehältern.
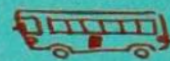
An EU that isn't controlled by LOBBYISTS!

Eine Transparente EU

plus d'integrité
au sein du
gouvernement

MEER 'BETROUWBAAR'
OPENBAAR VERVOER!
OVER HEEL EUROPA

Geven en nemen
in Europa

Europa:
graag meer:
. . . .

IK wil een algemeene overeen
komst voor alle Burger.
AS 4/4/19

SORTONS DES
TRAITÉS!

CONSTRUIRE

DEMAIN

cooperation inter pays
pour un système de transport par cher
dans toute l'europe (train etc.)

UNE EUROPE
DES CITOYENS
ET NON DE
L'OLIGARCHIE ET
DES LOBIES

Gedeeld dragen van
gezamenlijke verantwoor-
delijkheid: klimaat, migratie
en eerlijke economie

Politici: denk op de lange
termijn. Niet alleen aan
korte-termijn · verkiezings
resultaten.

Propreté

EUROPA:
please, meer
MENS, minder
MONEY

Klimaat wet Parys Moet behaald worden. Geen compromissen.

Einen gemeinsamen Atomausstieg

Klimaschutz
#da ist kein Planet B

An EU that preservs our resources for futur generations too

Weniger (Lastwagen) Verkehr, weniger Logistik zentra. Mehr Regionale Produktion + Verteilung! Der Verkehr frisst uns auf.

An EU that leads the world in the Climate change fight!

arrêter de faire des mauvaises choses et de poluer

Ein umwelt verantwortliches Europa

Bessere Tierschutzgesetze!!

An E.U. with strong environmental policies!

An EU that puts food + water quality first

Tax op plastic ↑
Tax op vlees ↑
Consuminderen promoten.

An EU that protects BIODIVERSITY!

I want an EU that.. protects the ENVIRONMENT!

I WANT AN EU FOR a BY the Citizens?

Europa für die Bürger und nicht für die Konzerne

Quiero una Europa social, para todas las personas

Grenzen los!

Europa muß für die

und nicht für Konzerne !

Europäische Arbeitslosen versicherung

Mehr Individualismus

Bürger da sein

My heart is broken because Europe is broken; we need to repair Europe and take collective action

Mehr miteinander, weniger „diskutieren", mehr machen und umsetzen

ERASMUS für Ausbildungsberufe ausbauen

Duale Ausbildung für alle europäischen Länder

Mit dem Rentenbetrug aufhören – überdenken zum Recht der langjährigen Arbeiter!?

Interrail für Jugendliche bis 21 J. Kostenlos

Erasmus für Azubis

Ein kinderfreundliches Europa – voneinander lernen, offen bleiben & doch eigenständige Ideen zulassen!

DASS VIELE (JUNGE) MENSCHEN EUROPA (u. andere Länder) BEREISEN, MENSCHEN KENNENLERNEN => DAS SCHAFFT VERTRAUEN!

Gründung / Ausbau von EUROPEAN CAMPUS / Europäischen Universitäten

gegenseitige Anerkennung von Berufsausbildungen

Ein Leben in Europa muss in jedem Alter etwas tolles mit sich bringen. Man soll nicht auf etwas warten müssen, sondern im Moment leben!

Weniger Bürokratie, und schon gar nicht für gurkenkrümmung etc., wahre Probleme angehen (steuern z.B

Weniger Armut besonders im Alter

Petition: Jede(r) Europäer hat das Recht auf 6 Wochen freies "Eurorail" (interrail f. Europa). minimale Investition max. Effekt

Infrastruktur für grenzüberschreitendes Reisen ausbauen (ÖNPV)

Doppelte Staatsbürgerschaft nach 5 Jahre in ein EU-Land!

binationale Studiengänge ausbauen

Quiero saber más sobre Europa, más movilidad, más integración.

Zuversicht

Europa
friedlich, respektvoller Umgang

Inklusion für ganz Europa, jede Klasse sollte zwei Lehrer dafür bereitstellen! Pro Klasse!

TOLERANZ FÜR EUROPA

Vertrauen

Europa als Teil der Welt, denn wir sind alle EINS!

Eine goldig-glitzernde Zukunft
◆ ◆ ◆

ich wünsche mir mehr gegenseitige Wertschätzung ......

Chancengleichheit
→ gleiche Ressourcen an ALLEN SCHULEN & Erwachsenenbildung

Chancengleichheit, zu werden was man will & Solidarität, wenn man auf dem Weg Hilfe braucht.

NO EGO! NO EGO! NO EGO! NO EGO! NO EGO! NO EGO!
Der Jugend Gehör schenken!
Weniger Kapitalismus!
Mehr soziales Miteinander & Füreinander!

mehr Politische Bildung

Mehr Geld für Schule und Bildung.

Die Hospiz sollte die Möglichkeit bekommen auch in d. Krankenhäusern Present zu sein – z.B. Caritas Das Sterben in Deutschland ist grausam!

I want...
a strong European Citizens' Initiative!

Demokratie ♡ ♡ ♡

Mehr Demokratie!

Mehr Mitsprache-rechte für die Bürger.

Formulierung klarer Ziele für Europa durch die Fraktionen im EP.

Einrichtung eines „Mitgliedstaatenrates" mit ähnlicher Funktion wie der dt. Bundesrat ⬆

Vereinfachung des europäischen Gesetz-gebungsverfahren

gesetzgebende Kompetenz für das EP in ausgewählten Bereichen

Initiativrecht für das EU-Parlament

weniger Nationalismus

gesetzgebung in's EU-Parlament!

JETZT ODER NIE
DIREKTE DEMOKRATIE
AUCH IN DER EU
Rob Kenius KRITLIT.DE

Weniger Problemfokus
mehr Handlungswissen
und positive
Erzählungen

Bessere Verteilung
zwischen den
Ländern →Absprache
→selbstloses Verhalten

- Freie Zone
- Miteinander u. nicht gegeneinander
- Zusammenhalten
- Starke Wirtschaft

Ich wünsche mir ein fried-
liches & harmonisches Zusam-
menleben innerhalb Europas.

Wir brauchen für
die Bürger von Europa
eine kulturelle Identität!
Etwas das uns verbindet!
und zusammen bringt!

Weniger Steuern

Ich wünsche Europa
Frieden und ein faires, gleichge-
sinntes Miteinander.
Ein Gefühl von Zusammengehörigkeit!

Europa wünsche ich
mir als Eins!

EU zerbröselt
gerade!

STOP AUX
INJUSTICES!!!

Anspruch und
Wirklichkeit
klaffen auseinander

Ein Europa
sozial, gerecht
ökologisch friedlich
gemeinwohlorientiert

Was ist Ihr WUNSCH für EUROPA?

Europe is the future

Separate countrys with separat identitys workis togthr.

Voor een 'Europees' Europa: beginnen bij ons

That everyone's voice is HEARD

eine gemeinsame Sprache

L'Europe, qu'en pensez vous?

Ook Europa: van PARTICRATIE naar DEMOCRATIE

EUROPE

Jugend muss gehört werden

weniger Bürokratie

Die Bürger sollen Europa neu gründen. ♥

Direkte Demokratie für Europa !!!

Demokratie !

Europa ist kein Ereignis, sondern ein Prozeß ... an dem wir arbeiten müssen !!!

Einheit und Stärke und mit einer Stimme sprechen

Ich wünsche mir ein Europa voller Gespräche wie diese hier unter der Kuppel ☺ ☀

Weniger Bürokratie !

EU braucht wesentlich mehr bestimmende Beteiligung der Bevölkerung

Mitbestimmung für die Bürgerinnen und Bürger

Ein Europa frei von Faschismus !

EURO partei wunsche ihnen gluck und reichtum

eine weitere Stärkung des EP gegenüb. d. Kommission

- Demokratie ist für. Alle in Europa. Nicht nur. In Berlin wichtig

(eu)regionale Initiativen für grenzüberschreitende Projekte (einfach) fördern

EUROPA-VERFASSUNG durch Volksabstimmung

Freiheit und Vielfältigkeit

PAIX
NIKILA ♡

EIN LIEBEVOLLES MITEINANDER AUF DEM GLOBUS UND KRIEGSFREI !!!

Peace ♡

GEEN HAAT!

FRIEDEN

Make love, not war ♡

Mehr LIEBE & EMOTIONEN ~~DIPLOMATIE~~ minimieren

ein friedliches Zusammenleben wünsche ich mir.

#NORASICH

Less nationalism, more love ♡

FreeDom!

Frieden ♡

(europäische) Diktatoren absetzen!

♡ PAIX

Ich wünsche mir
... ein friedliches Europa
... ein solidarisches Europa
... mehr Erklärungen über die Ziele der Europäischen Union

WENIGER KRIEGE/KEINE

FRIEDEN

MAX

Frieden in der Welt

Frieden

Frieden - Vernunft Spaß

Frieden für Europa

Frieden auf der Welt! Und das die Menschen sich verstehen

Waffen und der Verkauf von diesen, bringt niemals Frieden!! Share love, not hate!

Sicherheit

pEACE✓

Europa bietet einem viele Freiheiten

KEINE FESTUNG EUROPA SICHERHEIT DURCH FREIHEIT

EUROPE

Nous souhaitons qu'il y ait une relation de coopération entre les musées belges (Musée africain de Namur, de Tervuren, de la vie Wallonne) et les musées de l'Afrique orientale

n

محمد كريشون بحب كنت

M ♡

Aucune idée

♡

The 62 Dome Talks analysed

San Sebastiàn	1. Sun, 22.April 2018, Dome Talk "On the way to a new Europe"
	2. Sun, 22.April 2018, Dome Talk "On the way to a new Europe"
Bonn	1. Sat, 5 May 2018, Dome Talk "How can Europe becomemore democratic?"
	2. Sat, 5 May 2018, Dome Talk "How can we create a social Europe?"
Munster	1. Fri, 11 May 2018, Dome Talk "Europe, how to continue?"
Dusseldorf	1. Sat, 19 May 2018, Dome Talk "Europe, how to continue?"
Wesel	1. Sat, 26 May 2018, Dome Talk "Europe, how to continue?"
Witten	1. Fri, 8 June 2018, Dome Talk "Europe, how to continue?"
Herzogenrath	1. Sun, 10 June 2018, Dome Talk "Europe, how to continue?"
	2. Sun, 10 June 2018, Dome Talk "Youth and Europe"
Duisburg	1. Sun, 23 June 2018, Dome Talk "Climate and Europe"
	2. Sun, 23 June 2018, Dome Talk "Climate and Europe"
	3. Sun, 23 June 2018, Dome Talk "Climate and Europe"
Cologne	1. Sun, 1.July 2018, Dome Talk "Europe, how to continue?"
	2. Sun, 1.July 2018, Dome Talk "Europe, how to continue?"
	3. Sun, 1.July 2018, Dome Talk "Europe, how to continue?"
Hambach Forest	1. Fri, 17 August 2018, Dome Talk "Climate protection"
(Camp for future)	2. Sun, 26 August 2018, Dome Talk "Climate protection"
Rome	1. Thurs, 27 September 2018, Dome Talk "Democracy in Europe"
	2. Thurs, 27 September 2018, Dome Talk "Democracy in Europe"
Vienna	1. Tue, 16 October 2018, Dome-Talk "Inclusion"
Liege	1. Sat, 30 March 2019, Dome Talk "Digital Democracy"
	2. Sat, 30 March 2019, Dome Talk "Migration and Integration"
	3. Sat, 30 March 2019, Dome Talk "What do we expect from the new European Parliament?"
Brussels	1. Mon, 2 April 2019, Dome Talk "Citizens' participation in the EU"
	2. Mon, 2 April 2019, Dome Talk "Climate change and the EU"
Antwerp	1. Wed, 3 April 2019, "Dome Talk "Climate Change & the EU: What can a sustainable path for the EU look like?"
	2. Wed, 3 April 2019, Dome Talk "Citizens' Assemblies"
Ghent	1. Thurs, 4 April 2019, Dome Talk "What is the role of the EU regarding migration and integration?"
	2. Thurs, 4 April 2019, Dome Talk "What do we expect of our new European Parliament?"
Maastricht	1. Fri, 5 April 2019, Dome Talk "What connects us and what drives us apart?"
	2. Fri, 5 April 2019, Dome Talk "An appreciative dialogue about the EU in collaboration with the Foundation Maastricht and Dialogue"
Den Burgh, Texel	1. Thurs, 11 April 2019, Dome Talk "The EU's plastic waste problem"
	2. Thurs, 11 April 2019, Dome Talk "Our expectations of the new European Parliament"
Amsterdam	1. Fri, 12 April 2019, Dome Talk "Citizen participation"
	2. Fri, 12 April 2019, Dome Talk "The quality and safety of our food"
The Hague	1. Sat, 13 April 2019, Dome Talk "Peace and justice in Europe?"
	2. Sat,13 April 2019, Dome Talk "European integration"

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Zandvoort	1. Sun, 14 April 2019, Dome Talk "Climate change & the EU: What can a sustainable path for the EU look like?" 2. Sun, 14 April 2019, Dome Talk "What is the role of the EU regarding immigration and integration?"
Haltern am See	1. Sat, 11 May 2019, Open Mic/Dome-Talk "Europe"
Schengen	1. Sat, 18 May 2019, Dome Talk "European Integration" 2. Sat, 18 May 2019, Dome Talk "EU-regional experiences"
Luxembourg	1. Sun, 19 May 2019, Dome Talk "Climate change and democracy: To what extent does the EU operate according to its own mottos? 2. Sun, 19 May 2019, Dome Talk "What does it mean to be a small country in the big EU?"
Munich	3. So, 26.05 - 11:00 Brexit – Was bringen Volksentscheide?
Krzyzowa	1. Wed, 5 June 2019, Dome Talk „Youth engagement and resistance" 2. Thurs, 6 June 2019, Dome Talk „Youth and Europe"
Gdansk	1. Mon, 10 June 2019, Dome Talk "Sustainability, Youth Engagement, Role of Culture" Interviews with participants of the Baltic Youth Camp
Cracow	1. Wed, 12 June 2019, Dome Talk "The European Parlamentary Elections and the Rule of Law in Poland"
Berlin	1. Fri, 14 Juni 2019, Open Dome Talk at Tempelhofer Feld 2. Fri, 14 Juni 2019, Open Dome Talk at Tempelhofer Feld 3. Fri, 14 Juni 2019, Open Dome Talk at Tempelhofer Feld 4. Fri, 14 Juni 2019, Open Dome Talk at Tempelhofer Feld 5. Fri, 14 Juni 2019, Open Dome Talk at Tempelhofer Feld 6. Fri, 14 Juni 2019, Open Dome Talk at Tempelhofer Feld 7. Fri, 14 Juni 2019, Open Dome Talk at Tempelhofer Feld
Dortmund	3. Fri, 21 June 2019, Dome Talk "The EU copyright reform" with Axel Voss, MEP 4. Sat, 22 June 2019, Dome Talk "Rethinking Europe Ideas for the democratisation of the EuropeanUnion" with Karl-Martin Hentschel, board member Mehr Demokratie 5. Sat, 22 June 2019, Dome Talk "Environmentalism, climate protection - What do we need to save the world?" with members from Fridays For Future 6. Sat, 22 June 2019, Dome Talk "Is Europe capable of more democracy? Is more democracy capable of Europe?" with Sven Giegold, MEP

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