

Declaration of the General Assembly of the International Pan-European Union

Osijek, 21st-22nd October 2017

We, delegates of fifteen national organizations of the International Pan-European Union, gathered in the General Assembly of the International Pan-European Union held this year in the city of Osijek, Croatia, express our will to support the European Institutions, the Member states and the Candidate countries on the way of a consequent strengthening of the European Union by political and economical reforms and a renewal of the Enlargement process.

1. As the idea of the Schengen space of free movement for European citizens is one of the most evident manifestations of the European unity, we strongly support the inclusion of Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania, as members of the EU, into the Schengen zone as soon as the requirements are fulfilled.
2. We also support the continuation of the process of enlargement of the EU until all European states fulfil the requirements and become members of the EU. In South-Eastern Europe the countries candidates or aspiring to become members are: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo and Albania. From Eastern Europe we shall mention Ukraine. We urge the EU to help these countries in fulfilling the criteria and in joining the EU. We consider unilateral blocking of aspiring countries to become member states, such as Macedonia is facing, unacceptable.
3. The financial and economic crisis started in 2007 and 2008 is being gradually overcome, but has shaken the principle of solidarity in European countries and deepened the social gap between the rich and the poor, and endangered the Social Market Economy which must be restored. That is the proper way to strengthen European societies and to answer the needs of European citizens. Otherwise, they would turn to leftist and rightist populists who know how to deceitfully address their needs and wishes. Earnest European politicians should address those needs and aspirations with full sincerity and dedication.
4. Concerning the Brexit, we support the European Institutions and the Chief negotiator of the EU, Michel Barnier, in their efforts to preserve the interests of the European Union and its citizens. We oppose the biased interpretation that it is a step towards the disintegration of the EU. On the contrary, we are convinced that this event is a warning and an opportunity at the same time to strengthen the integration of the European Union on the political, economic and other levels, to strengthen its common defence policy and its active role in international politics.
5. One of the urgent tasks demanding a much more active political engagement of the EU is the migration or refugee crisis. The EU should envisage an appropriate common policy towards the migrants, but even more, it should face the causes of the migrations and help solve the problems in the countries in wider neighbourhood of Europe, wherefrom the migrants flee to the EU countries. This is the only way to peacefully prevent the uncontrollable migrations.

6. Among internal problems of the EU, we would like to stress the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity which are integrated into the fundamental documents of the EU, and on their basis we oppose the ideas of divisions and different speeds in the EU. We advocate solidarity, cohesion and common development.
7. We express our concern on the situation in Catalonia and encourage the Government of Spain and the regional representatives to find a peaceful solution respecting the European law.
8. We support the continuous improvement and modernization of education and life-long learning in the EU countries, including reasonable standardization (EQF etc.), we support the introduction of new technologies, including IT, but we oppose the reforms which eliminate the fundamentals of the good European classical humanistic education in the Greek, Roman and Christian heritage and values and education in national cultures and in plurality of languages, because without them we cannot educate future Europeans with European identity to guarantee the future of the European Union.