



EUROPEAN IDEAS

# EUROPEAN IDEAS – OUR COMMON FUTURE

## European Ideas Discussion Workshops



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### *Is the European Union democratic?*

Whether you argue in favour or against this proposition: why is democratic decision-making important in a political system? What is the aim of a democracy? After finding an answer to these questions, to what extent does the European Union have to be democratic in order to achieve its goals? Many would argue that economic integration would eventually push forward political integration. Do you agree? Finally, to what extent do European countries have to be politically unified in order to defend the interests of their citizens?

What questions come into your mind when thinking about this topic? What are the main points that you would like to discuss with fellow students, professors, professionals, and experts?

Please submit your sub-questions either through email to: [philippe.ternes@europeanideas.eu](mailto:philippe.ternes@europeanideas.eu), or on our 'European Ideas – Our Common Future' facebook event page (link available through the European Ideas Facebook page).

*We are looking forward to receiving your ideas!*

### ➤ *What is 'European Ideas'?*

**European Ideas** ([www.europeanideas.eu](http://www.europeanideas.eu)) is an **independent** and **non-partisan platform** encouraging an **open debate** about **current issues** directly affecting the future of the European continent. Our principal aim is to bring European politics closer to the citizen and foster the **dialogue** between European Union institutions, representatives and Europeans. Our website features exclusive video-interviews, lectures, opinion pieces and short articles by academics and policy-makers on European affairs. Our contributors have included Viviane Reding (EU Commissioner), Johannes Hahn (EU Commissioner), Vesna Pusic (Croatian Foreign Minister), Daniel Cohn-Bendit (MEP), Ewald Nowotny (Governor of the Austrian Central Bank), Simon Hix (London School of Economics), Brendan Simms (University of Cambridge), Jan Zielonka (University of Oxford) and many others. Our project is also one of the national winners of the 2012 European Charlemagne Youth Prize that is awarded by the European Parliament.

### ➤ *'European Ideas – Our Common Future'*

The '**European Ideas - Our Common Future**' initiative features discussion workshops involving students, politicians, experts and professors on specific issues concerning the future of the European Union. European Ideas Discussion workshops aim at fostering a **European identity** in order to raise awareness about our **common human needs** and to focus on these needs within policy-making. Furthermore, discussion workshops create a **dialogue** between different teaching institutions and give students and young professionals the opportunity to **communicate** their own ideas about the future of the European Union. The discussion workshops involve a **continuous follow-up process**, with the results of the workshops being published on our website and further discussion rounds building upon the obtained results.

If you wish to get in touch with young people that want to actively shape the future of Europe as well as experts in the field, please refer to our **Information Sheet for participants** for more information on the discussion workshops and guidelines for participation.