



EUROPEAN IDEAS

Sub-questions for the European Ideas Discussion Workshops in preparation of the Dialogue with Commissioner Mme. Viviane Reding on 22 April

Organized by the **Representation of the European Commission in Luxembourg** and **European Ideas**

## 1. Europe's responses to the financial and economic crises

### General questions :

Quelles sont les **origines de la crise** ?  
What are the origins of the crisis?

Pourquoi critique-t-on tellement les **paradis fiscaux** alors que le paradis fiscal en soit n'est pas la source même de la crise ?  
*Why do we criticize fiscal paradises when in fact they are not the origin of the crisis?*

Who is and should be in charge during the **crisis**: Member states or the supranational institutions, especially the EP?

S'il y a effectivement une réponse de l'Europe à la **crise financière**, celle-ci est-elle adéquate ? Si vraiment on avait trouvé une réponse à la crise, celle-ci serait déjà résolue. Or, ceci n'est pas le cas.  
*If there is a European response to the crisis at all, is it adequate?*  
*If we had found a response, there would be no crisis anymore. However, this is not the case.*

Quels ont été les défauts des **politiques budgétaires** et monétaires des états membres ?  
*What went wrong with the budgetary and monetary politics of Member States?*

Comment la **Grèce** espère-t-elle sortir de la crise, considérant qu'elle est non seulement endettée, mais doit payer également des taux d'intérêts élevés ? Quel est l'avenir de la Grèce ?  
*How can Greece strive for overcoming the crisis, considering she is not only highly indebted, but now also has to pay high interest rates?*

Les "**euro-obligations**" promues entre autre par la Commission: est-ce que la possible introduction des "euro-obligations" ne serait pas un faux signal aux Etats-Membres de la zone Euro hautement endettés (Chypre, Grèce, Espagne...) et un pas envers une « Union de transfert » ?  
*Eurobonds promoted among others by the European Commission: doesn't the possible introduction of Eurobonds give false incentives to highly indebted Eurozone Members such as Cyprus, Greece or Spain, and will it not lead to a "transfer union"?*

A quoi servent aujourd'hui les **critères de Maastricht** ? Ne faudrait-il pas les réviser étant donné qu'elles ne sont plus respectés par les pays.  
*Are the Maastricht criteria still valid, considering that they are not respected by Eurozone Members? Do they need a revision?*

Should there have been a bigger EU budget despite national austerity measures? Should there be an "EU tax"?



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### Euro

Quel est l'avenir de l'Euro ?

*What is the future of the Euro?*

Quelles sont les raisons essentielles pour apporter du jour au lendemain des **limitations aux libertés fondamentales de l'union européenne**, en limitant la libre circulation de capitaux et en proposant de retenir à la source une part des épargnes des titulaires de comptes bancaires en Chypre?

*What are the reasons for limiting fundamental liberties in the European Union by restraining free movement of capital or proposing to withhold a certain part of savings of account holders in Cyprus?*

Comment peut-on concevoir une **Union Européenne fondée sur des libertés** (p. ex : liberté de circulation des capitaux) et **droits** (p. ex : le droit de la propriété) fondamentaux quand ces derniers sont, de temps à autre, suspendus afin d'être au service d'autres **intérêts économiques ou financiers** ? Entre autres, l'exemple récent de Chypre.

*How can we conceive a European Union that is based on fundamental freedoms (f. ex : free movement of capitals) and rights (f. ex : right to property) when those are, from time to time, suspended to serve other economic or financial purposes ? The recent example of **Cyprus**, among others.*

### Unemployment

Considering that the chances for a young unemployed person to find a job are very low, young employees more and more often have to work on a temporary contract, and there are significant skills mismatches on Europe's labour market, how can the EU respond to the growing rate of **youth unemployment** and ensure young Europeans stability in terms of the financial crisis?

What measures will be taken in the new future to tackle unemployment on the European level? Will these measures entail a **growth package** or a **New Marshall Plan**? How will we foster employment with monetary and fiscal policies?

Who should be in charge with regards to youth unemployment? The idea is to start looking at this broad problem of (youth) unemployment on a more micro level and identify the **eventual causes underlining** it, e.g. unpaid internships, advertising real jobs as traineeships, speculations with the so called concept of 'job growth', etc. Is it time to change the way we think about youth and employment?

### Luxembourg

Prenant en compte la dépendance du Luxembourg du secteur financier, est-ce que les mesures employées en **Chypre** pourraient également toucher le **Luxembourg** ?

*Taking into account the dependency of Luxembourg on the financial sector, is there a chance that the measures taken in Cyprus would also be applied in Luxembourg?*

Is the EU and are national governments doing enough in order to **promote and encourage entrepreneurship**, innovation and creativity?



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## 2. The European Year of Citizens, rights associated with EU citizenship

### The necessity of a common identity

Are European Citizen Rights enough to link, build or raise a **common identification** as European Citizens? If not, what else should or could be done?

### Asylum system(s)

What can be done to improve the **asylum system** of the EU in the long-term and the situation of refugees in the EU right now?

### Gender issues

How could the EU encourage **young women to stand up for themselves** in a male-centred society? How can EU bring more women into politics and help women to realize that they can be as good in leadership positions as men?

### “Positive discrimination”

Les « **discriminations à rebours** »

*Effects and justifications of « positive discrimination »*

### Judicial reforms

Reform of small claims regulation, common European sales law, EU justice scoreboard, consumer insolvency and mortgage credit

## 3. The Future of Europe, economic and monetary union, political union

### Collective identity

To what extent does Europe need a **vision shared by all citizens**?

What does it mean to be a **European citizen beyond cross-border rights and services** and more in terms of a collective identity?

### The future of internet law and data protection

#### **Comprehensive reform of data protection rules:**

- regulation to enhance opportunities for companies wanting to do business in the EU's internal market while ensuring a high level of data protection
- Mme. Reding said that the EU was determined to respond decisively to any attempts by US lobbyists – many working for large tech groups such as Google or Facebook – to curb the EU data protection law.



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### Political Union

Commission recommendation for **nomination of Commission president by EP** - importance of this evolution for the institutional perception of the Union

Le **droit de vote pour résidents, étrangers**

*Voting rights for residents, non-nationals*

How could we have a united Europe with more than 20 parliaments?

Are the proposed reforms for the Commission enough to make it a more **democratic and transparent** institution?

Should the EU foster stronger foreign policy cooperation with the **development of a true Common Foreign and Security Policy** as a goal?

What is the potential and the importance of a reform of **European Parliament elections** aiming at electing a certain number of representatives on a **Europe-wide level**?

### United States of Europe

Dans un moment où la confiance des citoyens dans l'Union européenne n'est pas encore véritablement rétablie, la création des "**Etats-Unis d'Europe**" n'est-elle pas aperçue comme prématurée même comme utopique?

*Considering that the confidence of European citizens in the European Union is still not re-established, is the creation of a "United States of Europe not perceived as premature or utopian?*

**Quand** est-ce Madame Reding pense que les "Etats-Unis d'Europe" pourront vraiment se réaliser? Combien d'années seront nécessaire pour le développement d'un tel projet?  
*According to Mrs. Reding, when could the vision of a "United States of Europe" become true? How many years would be necessary for this project to develop?*

Dans l'hypothèse où il y aurait un désaccord sur la création des "Etats-Unis d'Europe" au sein de l'Union européenne-même, est-il envisageable de continuer le projet qu'avec un **certain nombre d'Etats**, ou simplement au sein de la **zone Euro**?

*Assuming that there would be a disagreement on the creation of a « United States of Europe », would it be possible to implement this vision with only a part of EU member countries or simply with the Eurozone?*

**Two speeds Union:** remedying the sharp decline?

The alienation of peoples of Europe with **Europe ideals**