EUROPE NEEDS URGENT REFORM!
Europe is currently experiencing a plethora of crises: economic, social, political, institutional. The people who make up this continent, beset by doubt and mistrust, are turning away from the very idea of Europe. For all those who share the European ideal, this represents an immense challenge that requires a decisive and appropriate strategy that will rebuild a sustainable and competitive economy in a world that is now witnessing the emergence of new empires.

It is for this reason that the PDE is seeking to bring radical reform to the European project and offer Europeans new solutions that are daring, yet credible, to chart a course for a new approach.

It is this challenge that we have decided to take up together.
IF WE ARE TO REFORM, WE MUST

DECIDE

The European Union must demonstrate that it has a firm grip on reality and is capable – as it has been for many years - of making tangible improvements to people’s lives, rather than making them more complex. In this regard, the people of Europe are no longer prepared to settle for the same old empty statements and utterances. Talk cannot hold sway over action indefinitely.

LISTEN

Our institutions have become indecipherable and seem to be disconnected from people’s daily lives. The man and woman in the street want nothing to do with an abstract, unreal Europe, a Europe of technocrats speaking an intimidating language. We must listen to these people, these taxpayers, these voters to whom we are accountable at a time when unemployment - and especially youth unemployment - and social despair are reaching unprecedented heights.

EXPLAIN

The euro, wherever it is used, does not threaten our purchasing power, but protects it. This has to be reiterated and demonstrated. The European Parliament represents and defends the people who elected it. This, again, has to be reiterated and demonstrated.

DARE

Growth in Europe has stuttered to a halt, but we must reject rabble-rousing and stop thinking that there will simply be a return to the old status quo that reigned before the crisis broke in 2008. The language of the easy option is out of date.
Europe must remain a model of social justice, humanism and prosperity. It is not a fortress and will not surround itself with walls. Yet it is not a land of plenty where the wind blows where it will - in other words, it is not open to every abuse, to organised gangs or the trafficking of human beings.

In the PDE, we must be proud of our values and those of a Europe where living can be more human, more just and more worthy than elsewhere. The values of a Europe where cultures, languages, peoples and minority nations are entitled to respect and recognition, where inequality between territories is justly divided.

Our political family, that of the Founding Fathers of Europe, has been the inspiration for an exemplary model of dialogue, union and reconciliation. It is up to us to restore sense to the 21st century, in a world without limits, filled with promises - but also laden with threats, totally different and waiting to be invented.

The Commission led by Jean-Claude Juncker has set itself some ambitious targets: economic, social, fiscal, energy-related and strategic. This is why we must put our vigilant and demanding faith in him.

Maximum resources, attention and demands must be granted to education, training and research. Otherwise our continent will inevitably be condemned to playing a secondary, catch-up role.

In the new world order, Europe must have its own voice; a voice that carries and a voice that is listened to. And when it speaks, that voice must be believed and respected whether on matters of diplomacy, defence, security or trade - not to mention promoting human rights and respect for human dignity. We are a long way from achieving that aim and we watch it cruelly disregarded close to or within the confines of the Union, from Ankara to Melilla, Donetsk to Lampedusa.

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