

# *Mission Statement for the European Union*

The origins of the European Union lie in the ambition to guarantee peace in Europe. The fact that war between the nations of Europe is no longer conceivable is evidence of its success. However, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Europeans face new challenges and opportunities. This Mission Statement outlines where action at European level is needed.

The EU's mission is:



To guarantee peace, freedom and security in and around Europe.



To promote and protect democracy and universal rights in Europe and around the world.



To strengthen Europe's economy and to promote solidarity around Europe by working in partnership with national, regional and local government.



To make it easy for Europe's citizens to live and work throughout the Union.



To promote equality and tolerance of diversity in Europe.



To promote and facilitate cooperation between Europeans, at individual, local, regional and national level, and in both the public and private sectors.



To protect Europe's environment.



To ensure that Europe's voice is heard in the world.



To listen to its citizens, be accountable to them and work for them in a transparent and decentralised way.



# ***Proposal by the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe in the Committee of the Regions***



## **@ What is a mission statement?**

A short document which states clearly why a particular organisation exists, what it intends to do, and for whom.

## **@ Why a mission statement for the European Union?**

It is evident that for an increasing number of Europeans the purpose of the EU in the 21st century is not clear. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, most citizens understood that its main objectives were to guarantee peace, democratic stability and prosperity. However, as opinion polls suggest, an increasing number of people, in particular younger generations, feel that fighting for peace, democratic stability, and prosperity in Europe are battles of the past. The relevance of the European Union in the 21st century needs to be restated.

The ALDE Group in the Committee of the Regions strongly supported the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe, because it is a document which brings greater clarity to the manner in which the EU functions, but the reality is that the proposed Constitution does not answer in a clear and simple way what the EU is for in the 21st century. Citizens must be able to find the answer quickly in a simple and short document. The ALDE Group in the Committee of the Regions therefore proposes that a new kind of flexible and short instrument be developed for the EU which is specifically addressed to Europe's citizens: a one-page mission statement.

## **@ Why not make this part of the Constitution?**

The EU mission statement could be made part of the Constitution, but a separate document is proposed for the following reasons:

1. There is a need for a short document that clearly identifies the purpose of the EU in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and it should not depend on the future of the Constitution.
2. The Mission Statement should have a semi-official status so that it can be amended relatively easily to reflect future challenges. The procedure for amending the Constitution would make it difficult for the EU to keep the Mission Statement relevant and in touch with changes in society.

## **@ How long should the EU mission statement be?**

No more than one page, and it should have very clear and brief sentences which explain where action at European level is needed.

## **@ What should it say?**

The document should be drafted assuming that any citizen reading the Mission Statement will be thinking "why *should* the EU exist?". It must be immediately clear to any citizen reading the Mission Statement that the objectives listed can only be achieved at European level or that there is a clear role for EU institutions to provide added value. The mission statement should therefore focus on those areas where the need for action at European level is clear.

