First act: The education in Europe celebrated in the Spanish Parliament (Madrid) the 27th of June of 2019.



The 27th of June the first act of the project *Talk about Europe* had taken place at the Spanish Parliament. The main aspect of this event was the education in the European Union, which is consider one of the priority aspects of the European Union. The next decade is going to suppose a deep change in the enterprises, the employment, social relations,... because of the technologic and digital revolution. This revolution is also going to affect the education.

In that sense the education systems must adapt itself to the new times without forgetting the objectives of the education: the formation that prepares people to live in its time.

The objectives of this event were enormous and the EU is one of the actors that should take a principal role in the education. In that way the event is going to be summarise answering the following questions: Is the Spanish educational system prepare for the new scenery? Which are the fails and de benefits of the Spanish and European Educational System? Which should be proposing to the EU?

The event started at 10 am hours in the Spanish Parliament with a presentation of *Mr. Francisco Aldecoa*, the president of the Spanish Federal Council of European Movement and professor of International Relations in the Universidad Complutense of Madrid. He talked about the new political cycle and how, even of what it is showed in the mass media, the European

project is alieves than ever. In that sense, he informed about the Eurobarometer, published on February, March, May and June, that evidence a better image of the European Union (with the exception of Italy).

Furthermore, it was presented the Democracy table survey called "pull of the drives of behaviour and attitude of citizens" as abases to contrast the European elections' result which conformed an European Parliament were the four big groups are defenders of the integration and the continuation of the European Union and its values.

The next speaker was **Mr. Eugenio Nasarre**, Vice-president of the Spanish Federal Council of European Movement, who talked about the education, "<u>The key for the development of the European Union</u>". He was followed by **Mr. Alejandro Tiana**, Secretary of State, who spoke about "<u>The tasks from the European objective for the Spanish education system</u>".

After this three speech that created the context of education and the European coordination need in this aspect, stated the first round of debates with the name of "Fundamental challenges for Spain". In this table spoke Mr. Angel Soler, Teacher of Economic Structure in Universidad de Valencia and member of the Valencian's Institute of Economic Research, who gave some ideas about the "Early school leavers"; Mr. Gregorio Robles, Teacher of telecommunication in Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, who talked about "The digitalization"; and Mr. Francisco López Rupérez, Ex-president of the State School Council, who informed about the "Basic points for the improvement of the quality". After that they opened the debate in order to discuss with the public.

After a small break the second round table started. This one, under the name of "an education opened to Europe" counted with three speeches. **Mrs. Coran Martinez Iscar**, General Director of Spanish service for the Internationalization of the Education opened the table with a speech about "The cooperation programs in the European Union". After her, **Mr. Xabier Gisbert**,



former General Councillor of Education in London and Washington, spoke about "The linguistic competences". Finally Mr. Jochen Müller, Director of the European Parliament representation in Spain spoke about "The actions of the European Union in education and the perspectives for the future". Again, after the speeches the debate was opened to the general public.

As it was said before the conclusion of this act is going to be formulated as an answer of the following questions:

What has been done in Spain and in the European Union?

In the last years the Spanish educational system has been suffering a modernization with the use of technological tools such as tablets, laptops and digital blackboards. All these tools were implemented in primary and secondary schools because the young people normally have more abilities with the technologies. It can be said that if they are technological natives their education must be technological. However it is also true that there is a rejection of the teachers to use the technology. Some of the explanations of this rejection is the lack of knowledge of how to used them.

Other of the new implementation that is taking place in Spanish education is the bilingual system following in that sense the recommendations of the European Union that the students should have an education based in one native language and at least one European language. In some autonomous political region the education is, neither bilingual but trilingual so the students study in Spanish, Catalan, as a co-official language, and one or two European languages such as English or/and French.

At the European level it was important to remember the importance of Marshall's Plan to reconstruct Europe and that supposed the creation of an European legislation in education composed by three levels (primary, secondary/high school and university).

Even the education is not a competence of the European Union there were some programs at European level in this aspect. The first, and probably more important, it is the Erasmus project. This project, which was a completely successful program, is one of the priorities of the new European Commission that announced that is going to increase the financial support of the project.

In the same line the European Commission is also going to invest money in the Erasmus Mundus Master and European Universities project in order to continue promoting the European

values. It is important also to remember that the exchange of students it is useful in order to fight the anti-European myth and the populism.

What are the fails and the benefits of the European Union in this aspect?

The principal benefits of strength of the Spanish educational Sistema can be found in the last stage of the education. That means in the university stage. So, because of the implementation of the Erasmus project and the important (for the personal and curricular experience) more and more students in Spain choose these options. In that sense and with the results that came out few months ago Spain is the leader of emission and reception of Erasmus Students.

In the same line, the Spanish university were working in the European project about European universities that supposed the creation of international degrees. One more example is Erasmus Mundus Masters in which the Spanish universities are participants.

On the other hand the principal fail is that in the Spanish Education System there is, still, a 10.6% of early scholar leavers. These leavers normally share very specific characteristics such as a difference between gender (men or boys are the highest percentage of early leavers) and foreign. This phenomenon is not something unique from Spain and it is possible to find similitudes with Italy or Bulgaria. One of the solutions that it was proposed to reduce the number of early scholar leavers was to inform about the benefits of having post mandatory studies (better salary, more possibilities of find a job...) and to study which are the deep reasons of this leaving (familiar characters, environment, ...).



What should be proposing to Spain and to the European Union?

One of the proposals that was formulated was that we need, in Spain but also at the European level, to question ourselves why and how we can or we should use the digital tools in the academic world. In that sense, it is needed to respond to the rejection of the teachers with formation, speeches...

Another idea was the necessity of Spain to transform the education in one or the political priorities.

Finally it was said that Spain, as an European country, must change the education system in order to produce better (in an academic meaning) young citizens including elements such as creativity and innovation. It was proposed in that way to increase the number of interchanges of young not only in the Erasmus program but also with new programs for youngest students.

Act 2. The Future of Europe in the new political cycle in Real Monasterio de Yuste the 10th of July of 2019.

The 10th of July the second act of the project Talk about Europe took part with the name of "The future of Europe in the new political cycle" as an activity of the summer course named "The European integration process".



The event had the aim of express the revival which is suffering the European project even it is said, in the television and other mass media, that is in declive. Againts that opinions the European Union is deeping the integration stateting to be a more social and citizen Union. So in that event it was proposed to expose the development and the improvent and assessment of the European Union (the economical policy, social aspects...).

For that it is necessary to wonder ourselves What is the European Union during the new political cycle? What are de benefits and the fails of the European Union? What is the perspective of the new European Commission? And finally what are the perspectives that we should do to the European Union?

This event was opened by **Mr. Francisco Aldecoa**, President of the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement, who talked about "The improvement of the European Union" in order to demonstrate that European Union is not in decline. With the Brexit the European Union incremented it's cohesion and cooperation between the European members, the citizens and the institutions. After the Brexit, which is supposed to take place in October of 2019 (now January of 2020), the European is revival and one example of that is that the 70% of the European Parliament are defending the European project.

After that **Mrs. Victoria Rodriguez**, Professor of International Relations in Universidad de Nebrija, spoke about the "Future of the Foreign Policy of the European Union" and **Mrs. Mercedes Guinea**, Professor of International Relations of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, expressed her ideas about the "Future of the social pillar of the European Union".

Mr. Jan Pomés Lopez, Technical Director of the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement, talked about the "Activities of the European Movement and the new Agency of the European Commission" in order to speak about the new projects and how the European Movement is going to coordinate with them. Finally, Mrs. Lara Garlito, Member of the Extremeño Council of the European Movement, spoke about the "Future of the Europe from the regional perspective of the European Movement".

After the five speeches, there were a discussion with the public in which it was possible to extract different conclusion which are going to be summarized in the answer of the following questions:

What is the European Union doing in the environment of the new political cycle?

Since 2008 the European Union incremented its activities even of the economic crisis and the implementation of Lisbon Treaty (signed in 2007 and implemented in 2009). In that sense, in the last years the European Union has improved aspects as: the legislative capability of the European Parliament following the ordinary procedure; the existence of a social pillar, the redesign of the Economic and monetary Union after the 2008 crisis and, finally, the transformation of the European Union as a global, defensive and diplomat actor.

Starting from these points nowadays we are in a new political cycle where the President of the



European Commission, Ursula Von der Leyen, is going to focus her attention in critical and important aspects for the European Union such as the climate change where she created a Green Deal office or the migration.

Finally it was talked about the social rights in the European Union where the speakers mentioned the importance of the work made by Juncker Commission (2014-2019) which created an action plan composed by 20 points extracted of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. In that sense the EU nowadays is more social searching gender equality, defence of labour rights....



What are the fails and the benefits of the European Union?

First of all neither a fail or a benefit it is important to mention the fact that the European Union now is conscious about that it cannot depend of the "American Allie" for the protection and development of the international politics. SO now there is the necessity of find a new Autonomous Strategy, especially in the defence aspects, as it is included in the Global Strategy of Federica Mogherini.

Another benefit, which has been mentioned, is the approach of the European Union to the citizens in order to become a more social institution, defending the social, labour, gender equality rights.

However, there is still some debility in the EU which is not only consequences of the populism and Euroscepticism but also with a conflict in the international system that can be described as Hobbesian while the EU is an Kantian actor. So the Union, as a multilateral actor, promote this kind of international order following the ideas of the United Nations

What are future plans of the European Commission?

The European Commission as the rest of European Institutions is going to start a new political cycle with the European Elections of May and the consolidation of the institutions, in

November the Commission and in December the European Union Council. All of them have established four main priorities: the first one is the reinforcement of the rule of law in the EU. The second one is deeping the economic and monetary union and relaunch the Unique Market. The third objective is the Green Deal. And the forth one the promotion of the European values in a global strategy in order to promote the multilateralism against a bilateral system.

What should be proposed to the European Union?

One of the proposals is the necessity of introduce new mechanism that maintain economically the rule of law and the protection of social rights just in case that the national state could not supply it.

Also it was proposed that the European Union Should reinforce a democratic system where there is a strong Parliament, in order to correct the intergovernmental steps that the EU has done in the last decade. In the same line, this step started by the transformation of the unanimous decision of the majority (2/3 of the chamber).



Act 3: The consolidation of the European Union as a global, defensive and diplomatic actor

The third act of the project Talk about Europe took place the 17th of July in Miramar's Palace of San Sebastian as an activity of the Universidad del Pais Vasco's summer course called The reinforce of the European Union in the new political cycle (celebrated between 17th and 19th of July).



This activity started with the introduction of **Mr. Francisco Aldecoa**, President of the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement who talked about the importance of the European Union in the international system and why the role that it takes is so important.

After his speech there were a debate table with three speakers **Mr. José Luis de Castro**, Professor at Universidad del Pais Vasco, **Mr. Noe Cornago**, Professor of International Relations at Universidad del Pais Vasco; and **Mrs. Ivette Ordóñez**, Doctor of International Relations by the Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

Later, there was a discussion with the participants to the event.



In that sense, in the speeches and the discussion it can be collected important points that are going to be summarized in the following questions:

What is the present situation of the European Union as a global, defensive and diplomatic actor?

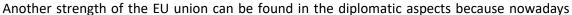
In the last years the European Union were defining its role in the international system with the aim of have an important sit and take more responsibilities. With that objective the EU made, by Federica Mogherini, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Global Strategy called "A global vision, a collective action: a stronger Europe" published by the European Union Council on 28th of June of 2016 (two days after the Brexit referendum).

Following this global strategy the Union is planning to achieve an autonomous strategy in order to act also when it is necessary, and becoming a regulatory power which defence a global order based in rules and following United Nation example. This idea is based in Paris agreement about the climate change, which cannot be possible without the European Union's works.

Nowadays there is the idea of become a defensive power which necessary start by having our own defensive system. In that idea, the speakers exposed the advances which are doing the European Union in defence policy such as the 34 PESCO project that were implemented since December 2018. In 17 of these projects Spain took a leader role.

What are the fails and benefits of the European Union?

If we focus our attention in the benefits of the European Union it should be mentioned the capacity which has the European Union in order to coordinate different projects about investigation for defence. In that way, the 34 PESCO projects are a strong advance not only to arrive to an autonomous strategy situation but also to improve the coordination within the states. These two elements could suppose more efficient budged for the defence system which, at the end, is the bases of each policy.





the European Union is able to defence common objectives in international conferences such as Paris' Treaty of the existence of only one voice (the European Union voice) in international forums such as G20

However there are also some debilities. For example it was mentioned that the EU need to improve the logical aspects of the defence because the PESCO projects, nowadays are focus on investigation aspects rather than in the operability of defence forces of the European countries.

Other debility is that the foreign affairs or taxation decisions of the European Union Council must be taken by unanimous. It should be important to transform this kind of decision in a qualified decision.

What kind of proposal can be proposed to the European Union?

One of the ideas that were proposed was to reinforce of the role of the European Union in the world. That idea comes after the changes the Washington policy and the distance which is taking Trump administration from European Union policies. In that sense would be a good idea to develop an autonomous strategy with and autonomous defence force. If the EU achieves these elements, it will be able to protect itself, solve external crisis and help third weakness states. So these are indispensable points that the new European Commission should answer.

A good step in order to achieve this objective is going to resize the unanimity of the PESCO, reformate the system in order to extent the decision by a qualified majority.

It is also needed to reinforce the communitarian method which worked in the economic ground and now it is time to translate it to the geopolitical ground. For that it is needed to redefine clearly the strategic priorities in the UE. The international reality is changing deeply so we need to think about the new role that Europe needs to take in the world.

For that the EU need to reform the Treaties and include them in the European agency the aim of create a foreign affairs service with the tools to become to be a diplomatic actor in the international system.

Act 4: The development of the fundamental rights and the European citizens celebrated in Pamplona on the 30th of August of 2019.



The forth act called the development of the fundamental rights and the European citizenship took place the 30th of August divided in two events one during the morning in the public university of Navarra and the second one during the evening in the private university of Navarra.

In that sense the objective of this event was to show the advances that the European Union has been doing since the born of the fundamental rights (social, political and labour) that made possible to talk about the European citizens.

The event stated with a welcome speech by Mrs. Reyes Beruezo, member of the Navarran Council of the European Movement; Mr. Juan María Sánchez Prieto, director of the I_

COMMUNITAS Institute; y
Mr. Pablo Pérez López ,
Scientific Co Director of
Culture and Society
Institute.

After this welcome act started the first round table title "Development of the fundamental rights and European citizenship.



Backgrounds, present situation and future challenges" directed by Mr. Juan María Sánchez Prieto. The speakers in this round table were Mr. Juan Antonio Yanez Barnuevo, Spain Ambassador, who talked about "The European citizenship: basis and first steps"; Mrs. Alicia Chicharro, Professor of Public International Law and International Relation of the Universidad Pública de Navarra, who talked about "Europe, the challenge of the unity and the diversity without discrimination"; and Mrs. Eugenia López –Jacoiste who exposed "The fundamental rights of European Union citizens: the crossroad between the liberty and security".

After the speeches there was a discussion with the participants moderate by **Mr. Jan Pomés López**, General Director of the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement.

At midday there were a lunch with the speakers and the participants to the event in the university canteen.

During the evening the second round table took place by the title "Development of the European citizenship and the social rights". This table was moderate by Mr. Alberto Pérez Calvo, Professor of International Law and President of Navarra Council of the European Movement. The speakers were Mr. Eugenio Nasarre, Vice president of the Spanish Federal Council of European Movement; Mrs. Mercedes Guinea, Professor of International Relations at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid; and Mrs. Inmaculada Baviera, Professor of Labour Law at the Universidad de Navarra.



After the debate with the public there were a close act with the speeches of Mr. Pablo Pérez Lopez, Mr. Juan Maria Sanchez Prieto, Mr. Alberto Perez Calvo and Mr. Francisco Aldecoa.

In order to summarize this event it is going to follow the usual method of questions:

What is the current situation of the EU in fundamental rights and citizenship?

In the last European elections, celebrated during the month of may of 2019, the citizen participation increased 9 points in comparation of the previous European elections and

overcome the European media of 42% in 2014 to 51% this year. That it is an example of the interest of the population for the European institutions and the European projects.

In that sense, the new political scenery there is a new European strategic agency where there is a defence of the human rights, the liberal democracy and de deeping of the social Europe and the rule of law. That is new because, as the speakers said the European Communities did



this Treaty.

not born with a social base however this was created along the years. It was in Maastricht Treaty in 1991 were we can talked about the European citizenship with the four liberties. It is important to remember that one of the speakers, Mr. Juan Antonio Yañez, was one of the most important people in the Spanish Government of Felipe Gonzalez in the negotiation of

This social construction born with some difficulties because it needed to join the diversity of the union, that means that it cannot be a monolithic union however it need to fight, as it is doing nowadays, against the racial, gender, or labour condition discrimination.

In the last years the European Union fought itself in a crossroad between the rights and the values of the European Union based in the roots of the Brexit and the increase of the populism. So the challenge is to fight the anti-Europeans and populism parties. In that way the European Union needs to be more social and has a strong European citizenship in order to stop them.

What are the fails and the benefits?

The main strengths that stood out are those that are split from the last political cycle that ends in November 2019. It highlighted the importance of the Gothenburg Summit on November 17, 2019, which was made possible thanks upon leaving United Kingdom of the European Union.

As well as the extensive social rights program of the Juncker Commission that has greatly improved the social and labour rights of European citizens and that were directly extracted from the European Social Charter.



Another strength, and, perhaps, one of the most powerful. is building a real notion of European citizenship by the ERASMUS + Program which, through the possibility of connecting young Europeans through academic exchanges, allows to create a true notion of European citizenship among young people where they can share the values of the Union and create European couples whose children feel more European than from the respective countries of their parents (it is estimated that since it began, 30 years ago, the ERASMUS + Program have already been born more than 1,000,000 "Erasmus children").

One of the weaknesses mentioned during the speakers' intervention was the relationship between European values of freedom and security and as in many cases security has prevailed over freedom, to the point of restricting it, as in the case of freedom of expression for security reasons. This is linked to the turning point of the Paris attacks perpetrated by the DAESH and the march of some European countries to fight against them. However, once the decline of the terrorist group in Syria began, many of these ex-combatants have requested their return to Europe claiming to possess European nationality. This has meant and is nowadays a political problem since initially they cannot be denied entry and should be subjected to a fair trial, but a clear framework for joint action at European level has not yet been established.

What has been the role of Spain in the development of the social rights and European citizens?



The entry of Spain together with Portugal into the European Communities was a fundamental change since Spain claimed a greater political and social character within the European construction, then of an economic nature. This meant that Spain has made important contributions, especially the funds creation of for the development of social cohesion. To this was added the idea of European citizenship introduced in the IGC,

which gave birth to the Maastricht Treaty, by the Spanish delegation where **D. Juan Antonio Yáñez** played a very important role among others. Thus, a citizenship linked to the rights inscribed in the values of the Union was created.

What should be proposed to the EU?

Regarding the development of the fundamental rights of European citizenship, it was proposed that an obvious challenge that has to be faced, such as highlighting the international position of the European Union as a supporter of fundamental rights by exporting the values of the Union itself, what can only be achieved through a strengthening and deepening of the

European Society Model, reinforcing a social and citizen Europe that focuses on the protection of individuals and where they have an important role in European construction. At the same time, the need for the Union to establish early training for European citizens in terms of European citizenship, whether through a European Common History, shared values, was proposed... Similarly, it was indicated that this training and education in the values of the Union should begin, as Monet said, by culture.

Act 5. The strength of the democratic operation of the European Union in the new political cycle celebrated the 2nd of September of 2019 in Santander.

The 2nd of September took place the fifth activity of the project about Europe called "The strength of democratic the operation of the European Union in the new political cycle" in Universidad Internacional Menedez Pelayo celebrated in Magdalena's Palace in Santander.



This act had the objective of describe the current situation of the European Union at institutional level, the political and economic advance and how the speakers understand the European Union after the Brexit and what are going to be the consequences of the Brexit in



the European Union.

The activity counted with speakers such as: Mrs. Araceli Mangas Martín, Professor of Public International Law and International Relations in the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and member of the moral politics and sciences Real Academy; who talked about "Between the necessary and the possible European Union" Mr. Enrique Barón, Ex-president of the European Parliament and President of Honour of the Spanish, who spoke about the "Democratic advances in the institutional system".

After the two speeches there was a debate with the public moderate by Mr. Luis Norberto Gonzalez Alonso, Professor of International Law in Universidad de Salamanca. Of this debate and of the speeches can be extracted some relevant conclusions.

What is the current situation of the democracy of the EU?

To begin, we can say that the situation of democracy in the European Union is quite good, although it is improvable. The democratic level of the European Union, as the political one is very high, although we can improve it even more by incorporating mechanisms for the to refine the responsibilities of the Eurogroup. In any case, the democratic level of the European Union is higher than even in some countries of the Union itself. As an example, it was exposed the parliamentary control that the Commissioners candidates need to pass. It is a system of, individual, accountability that each of the commissioners need to pass before taking possession. No member country of the Union has it in its national system.

On the other hand, the slow but constant path of European democracy is also mentioned, and how, little by little, we passed from Coal and Steel Community (with 6 members who were participants of the Secondo World War) to building a supra national entity to which the member states are transferring more and more responsibilities.

After that, he turned to a supranational entity with the aim of perpetuating a lasting peace, defending common values and promoting fundamental rights to the rest of the world articulated in a multilateral system among the other nations of the world. Thus, we can say that the European project has been gradually being built and founded; passing first from a strictly economic Union, incorporating the political Union and it is intended to incorporate the social Union, allowing additional aspects to culminate with a European Federation.

What are the strengths and weaknesses in the post-Brexit era?

As strengths of the European Union, it was pointed out the change that occurred in 2014 by which the president of the European Commission was chosen based on the Spitzenkandidat system, that means that the elections was based on the results of the European parliamentary elections and, thus, we could say that the European Commission was parliamentarized.

Likewise, the European Union has assumed a profound, peaceful revolution in which the state is determined to yield sovereignty to a supranational union to create a joint project.

Another of the strengths was the fact that the European Union has had democratization levels that, sometimes, and more in the last stage, are higher than in some of the member countries of the European Union itself. In this sense, a large part of the problems attributed to the EU, such as the lack of democratic quality, European hyper-bureaucracy ... are problems of the member countries and not of the Union.

On the other hand, the weaknesses were the fact that the Eurogroup does not have a great transparency which causes that they cannot account for their work. In this regard, the speakers also highlight the integration process, in the last 10 years, they have been specified on the intergovernmental side of the double soul characteristic of the European Union (a double soul that summarizes in an intergovernmental federation). In the same way, the current unfavorable situation in the Member States means that they blame the Union for their own problems further away citizens based on a falsely created vision.

What proposals can be made to the European Union in the face of this new political cycle?



Some of the proposals made were focus on the little transparency and non-accountability of the Eurogroup against the European Parliament That can be solved through an inter-institutional agreement in which the

agreement in which the president of the Eurogroup was helped by the vice president of economic affairs and even merge the presidency of the Eurogroup

with the vice presidency of economics of the European Commission by creating a Minister of European Economy.

Focusing on the defence of the European Union, the possibility of increasing controls and accountability mechanisms of, for example, the investments invested in PESCO projects was proposed. That can help citizens to enter in the defence debate and to understand where and why the money is being invested. Also, following this line, but on a more general level, the reinforcement of parliamentary and bicameral controls, in countries that have it, was proposed on the policies that their governments are carrying out within the European Union Council.

On the other hand, it was debated whether the responsibilities of the European Parliament could increase, thus improving the already high level of European democratic quality. Thus, it

was proposed, for example, that the mechanism of the European People's Initiative could become a popular legislative initiative to be submitted to the European Parliament, taking advantage of a reduction in the barriers in the requirements for presenting them with the aim of increasing involvement of citizens and their direct initiatives with the debate within European democracy. It was also proposed that a deeper and informer debate must be initiated on the creation of a single European electoral law that could already be used in the next European elections of 2024 together with the reinforcement of the Single Candidate system (Spitzenkandidata) already used in 2014 and which includes the TEU but that has to be improved.

Finally, it was also commented that, following the previous paragraph, the codecision system between the European Parliament and the EU Council, would be extended in other areas on which, until today, the European Parliament has not competence. These powers are in social, climatic, fiscal, energy matters ... This also leads us to the latest proposal, which is to eliminate the unanimous voting system in the EU Council to move it to a qualified majority voting system, in all those aspects that were possible as, for example, in the foreign or fiscal policy.

Act 6. Sustainable development in the EU the 12th of September at the public university (Oviedo)

The sixth act, headlined "Sustainable Development in the European Union" took place on September 12, at the Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Oviedo.

The purpose of this event, especially focused on young people, was to draw up an image of the changes taking place in European Union, where sustainable development, reduction of the environmental damages and polluting emissions have specially importance for the new Von Der Leyen's . For that, there was an important basis such as the book entitled "Progress and challenges of European integration after sixty years of the Treaty of Rome" published by the Asturian Council of the European Movement (CASME) that was shared out among all participants in the event.

The objective was to formulate questions such as: Is the European Union carrying out sustainable development? What is Spain's role in sustainable development? What are the weaknesses and strengths of the European Union in this development? And finally, What tasks should we propose to the European Union at Sustainable Development area?



The shared conclusions that could be drawn from the event are articulated in the answers to the questions asked in the objectives of the event. In this way:

Is the European Union carrying out sustainable development?

The European Union has been developing, from the moment of its creation until today, a sustainable development. However, for this to happen overcome the internal contradictions within the members of the Union (like deny climate change) was needed, in order to arrive at a common idea of what is understood by sustainable development. Once the obstacle has been overcome, a wide range of policies will begin to be developed that would constitute the community acquis and that would put in place an action policy to combat climate change.

In this direction, the new European Commission has made sustainable development one of its main objectives at the new legislature, creating a Green Pact or "New Green Deal" that will be managed by the Executive Vice Presidency, lead by the Dutch Frans Timmermans. The newly elected President, Úrsula Von der Leyen, has committed to present within the first 100 days a series of measures that will follow F. Timmermans's portfolio.



What is Spain's role in sustainable development?

Spain's role in sustainable development has take place under the mandate of the European Union. As an example, Spain belongs to the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure, a European project, whose main objective is sustainable development and pollution mitigation.

Similarly, there are many Spanish cities that, following European proposals, have begun to develop legislative frameworks to curb pollution of big cities. However, the evidence that there is still a long way to go was clearly highlighted.

What are the weaknesses and strengths of the European Union in this regard?

The main strength of the European Union is the progress that has been made over the past few years that has allowed the creation of a strong acquis in the field of sustainable development. This is joined by both youth and citizens in general, increasingly involved and awared of sustainable development, as well as a personal involvement of some leaders of the European Union in which the established plans and goals are met and even go beyond the objectives so far proposed.

However, as a weakness, it is noted the fact that there is still a disconnection between the population and some member states that should be corrected with the participation of European citizens.

What tasks should we propose to the European Union in terms of Sustainable Development?

Following the debate, several proposals could be extracted. First, that the proposals set forth by the new Von Der Leyen Commission be materialized and that it could even go further with the objectives currently proposed. It should also be noted that there is a need to coordinate all the actors involved: individual citizens, citizens as a whole, companies, social partners, European states and institutions to achieve a strong and strong commitment to make Sustainable development a reality.

At the same time, it was proposed, as already mentioned, the establishment of a greater citizen participation in the construction of the Union, as well as a greater participation of the young European population in the fight against climate change and in favor of sustainable development.



The seventh act of the project Talk about Europe took place in Carlos de Amberes Foundation and it was called "Central and East Europe"

This activity started with the hypothesis that some countries of the European Union, in special the central and eastern ones, which were the lasted in being incorporated to the EU, has been losing the European enthusiasm so they area development populist practices and political parties against of the European values.

In that way the new European Commission, European Parliament and European Union Council, has the objective of change this situation. They need to transform again the disconfirmation with European enthusiasm.

So, the first event started the 17th of September with a briefly welcome act of Mr. Miguel Ángel Aguilar, president of the Spanish Journalism organization. After that the first round table named "30 years after the Berlin's Wall Fall" took place. In it spoke Mrs. Marlene Wind,



Director of the European Policy centre of Copenhagen University; Mr. Pavel Telicka, Expresident of the European Parliament and Ex European Commissioner of health and consumer protection; and Mr. Lukasz Kaminski, Ex president of the Nacional Memory Institute. This table was moderated by Mrs. Victoria Rodriguez, Professor of International Relations and Vicesecretary of the Spanish Federal Council of European Movement.

The second event took place the 18th of September. It was called "*Tribalization, sense of belonging and emotions for youth*" where participated: **Mr. Sami Naïr**, Politologist, philosopher and French Sociologist participated; **Mrs. Ana Palacio**, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs; **Mrs. Cristina Gallach**, High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda; **Mrs. Francisco Aldecoa**, President of the CFEME and, moderated the same, **Mrs. Aurora Mínguez**, Excorrespondent of the RTVE in Berlin.

The conclusions of these two events are going to be present:

What is the current situation in Europe?

After the fall of the Berlin Wall, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe found themselves in the situation of choosing, for the first time in a long time, what they wanted their future to be. Many of them, including Poland, the Czech Republic or Hungary, entered the European Union with stronger enthusiasm and become part of NATO.

However, this situation of emotion and hope in the European Union over time has been falling apart, especially as a result of the economic and political crisis that has taken place in Europe. Some of these countries have neglected economic issues to fully focus on the struggle, which, in their view, is essential against climate change.

In this sense, there has been a change in the idea of democracy from the basis of the rule of law to understand it as the right of the people. That has given white card to populism and egocentrism in some countries of the European Union. They begin to look more for themselves than for European construction.

But in recent years this situation has taken a turn. As evidenced by the latest published surveys, as well as the Eurobaormeters or even the same results at the last European elections, from May 23 to 26 of this year. They show how society has not renounced to the European values and has not been sold to the far-right anti-European parties. It is true that some of the countries of central Europe are ruling leaders or parties that are questioned in liberal and democratic terms, but if we look at the European electoral results of last May we saw how in all the countries of Eastern Europe (except for Hungary) the three large pro-European political families (Popular, Social Democrats, Liberals and even green) supporters of fundamental values and rights have obtained a similar result than in the European average, (they obtain 68% of the total of MEPs elected compared to almost 70% at European level).

What has led the European Union to this situation?

One of the issues that was mentioned as a possible cause of this European disaffection was the forgetfulness of the exceptional nature of what happened in 1989, as the population following, the fundamental values, assumed the risks to defend themselves without implying a bloodshed. But, over the years, this has been forgotten.

Along with this, the imbalance was also highlighted in the memory of the communist past and as there are countries that see an injustice in the past because there was no conviction or prosecution of the crimes committed.

Finally, it was established that this "egocentrism" of some countries has led, for example, President Macron to an approach to Russia with whom he seeks to extend throughout the Union and that it has automatically caused suspicion of the Baltic countries which do not want to be part a similar type of alliance, but without which a solid agreement with Russia cannot be built either.



What are the steps proposed by the new Commission?

The election results have shown that within the European Union there is still a force (69% of Parliament) of the Europeanist parties that want to maintain and deepen the European construction against the Eurosceptic parties and this has also moved to the countries of central Europe .

In this regard, Von Der Leyen, President of the European Commission, has affirmed that she is ready to begin a democratic re-foundation that fights against the threats of populism by trivializing European values through tight control of the democratic behavior of member countries. Also the new structure of the European Commission, is an example of this will where countries of central Europe and those of the east have been given a leading role in those portfolios in which they feel more linked, as may be the case from Poland with Agriculture, Hungary with Neighborhood and Enlargement ...

For this reason, and based on the distributed portfolios, an idea is shown to promote youth participation within the Union, such as, for example, with the extension of the multi-annual budget for Erasmus + scholarships.

What tasks must be proposed before this fact?

One of the facts that was proposed and that directly affected the new Commission is that it must be fully involved in the management of internal problems and become an exemplary institution where not only join the member states and work for them, but that civil society and especially young people acquire a more relevant role in the construction of the European federal project.

At the same time it became clear that in the European Union there is a need to establish an intergenerational pact where young people return to matters postponed by elders defending common European values.

Leaving the youth aside, but without abandoning the proposals, the need to combat the divergence between the Euro economies was mentioned since, otherwise, the Euro may not be able to cope with a new economic crisis.

Finally, it was proposed that the European defense industry must be linked to the internal market with the aim that, in the short term, Europe will be able to defend itself without needing NATO.

Act 8: Deeping in the Economic and Monetary Union the 24th September at Ibercaja bank heardquarter (Zaragoza).

The 24th of September took place the eight act of the project Talk about Europe called "Deeping in the Economic and Monetary Union" celebrated in Zaragoza.

This session started at 11h with a welcome presentation of Mr. José Luis Aguirre Loaso, President of Ibercaja bank; Mr. Juan Alberto Belloch Julve; President of Aragon Council of the European Movement; and Mr. Francisco Aldecoa Luzárraga, President of the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement.

Once the session was inaugurated, the coordinator of the event Mr. Román Escolano began the presentations. After that, Mr. Fernando Fernández, Professor IE and Coordinator of the Yearbook of the Euro, Mrs. Isabel Riaño, Deputy Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Economy and Business. They made their presentations on the subject moderated by Mr. Mikel Iturbe, Director of the Heraldo de Aragón.

Finally, a debate was held with the participants of the participants moderated by Mr. Mikel Iturbe. From this debate a series of final conclusions were drawn, closing the event around 2:00 p.m.

Retrieving the questions we were asking at the beginning, we will summarize the shared conclusions set out in the final debate.







SESIONES HABLEMOS DE EUROPA: "PROFUNDIZACIÓN DE LA UNIÓN ECONÓMICA Y MONETARIA"

Sesión 24 de Septiembre de 2019 a las 11:00 h. Ibercaja: Patio de la Infanta, C/San Ignacio de Loyola, 16, 50008 Zaragoza

11:00 h. Saludos de bienvenida a los participantes

D. José Luis Aquirre Logso

Presidente de libercaia

D. Juan Alberto Belloch Julve Presidente Consejo Aragonés del Movimiento Europeo

D. Francisco Aldecoa Luzárraga Presidente Consejo Federal Español del Movimiento Europeo

11:15 h. Presentación de la sesión

D. Román Escolano Olivares

Vicepresidente del Consejo Aragonés del Movimiento Europeo

11:30 h. Exposición y debate

D. Román Escolano Olivares

Ex Ministro Economía y Ex Vicepresidente BEI

D. Fernando Fernández

Profesor IE, Coordinador Anuario del Euro

Dña. Isabel Riaño

Directora Adjunta Gabinete Ministra Economía y Empresa

D. Jonás Fernández

Eurodiputado, Miembro de la Comisión Económica y Financiera

Moderador

D. Mikel Iturbe Mach

Director Heraldo de Aragón

13:30 h. Conclusiones

14:00 h. Clausura

14:15 h. Vino Español

Colaboran







What is the current situation of the European Monetary and Economic Union?



The architecture of the Economic and Monetary Union is still unfinished, but it would be unfair to forget how much has been done since the financial crisis of 2008-2011. In particular, the European Stability Mechanism (MEDE) has been launched; The supervisory landscape has changed radically, as we move on to the Single Supervisory Mechanism (MUS) to the responsibility of significant banking entities and finally, we have

a new regulatory and institutional framework for bank resolution, which has already undergone a first practical application test. None of this existed six years ago and, in fact, some of these elements were considered simply impossible. There is work ahead, but it has certainly been much achieved.

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the current European Monetary and Economic Union?

The main strength is the consolidation of the Euro itself as a strong and stable currency, with an impeccable track record of low inflation. And with a very high popular acceptance, as the

Eurobarometer indicates. Europeans see in the euro an element of trust and protection against an uncertain global environment. This is his enormous strength. Its weakness is that there are still pending steps to complete the institutional design of the EMU, which should be closed as soon as possible. The euro has just turned twenty, it is a young currency still in historical terms, but it is already a consolidated reality and loved by citizens.



What proposals can be made for the future on the European Monetary and Economic Union?

The so-called "Report of the Five Presidents" perfectly described in 2015 the way to go. The most important elements missing are: a single bank deposit guarantee insurance; a more finished formula for bank resolution; a common financial asset for the Eurozone; and a fiscal stabilization instrument, which allows economic shocks to be absorbed without overloading monetary policy in excess. All of them are key points. Legislative proposals have been on the table for a while now; now what is necessary is the political will, as was the case in Maastricht, or later after the Greek economic crisis in 2012.

Act 9. *EU Migration Policy for 2019-2024, society speaks, institutions reflect* the 25th September at Casa África (Palmas de Gran Canaria)



The ninth act took place on September 25th, in Casa África of Palmas de Gran Canaria. It was titled "EU Migration Policy for 2019-2024, society speaks, institutions reflect".

The act had the objective to convey the common vision of the European Union on migration policy that has to become a community policy and not an element of confrontation but a



policy that provides a reflection on the current situation in the Mediterranean Sea.

The event began at 16:00 p.m. with the inauguration of the session by **Mrs. María del Mar Julios Reyes**, President of the Canary Council of the European Movement, and **Mr. Francisco Aldecoa Luzárraga**, President of the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement.

After that, the first round table entitled "The Speaking Society" started. It had four speakers: Mr. Nicolás Mba Bee Nehama, who presented the "Contranarrativa on African immigration. An anti-racist look", followed by Mrs. Ada Santana Aguilera, who spoke about "The university perspective", Mr. Juan Carlos Lorenzo, whose presentation dealt with "The protection of the most disadvantaged migrant", closing the first round table, Mrs. Irene Bello Quintana, held a presentation on "Migration, integration, inexcusable obligation".

At 18:00h the second round table began under the title "Institutions reflect" which again featured four speakers. The table started with the presentation Mr. Lue André Diouf, on "Migrations, the need to shape a State policy". For her part, Mrs. Milagros Fuentes González, spoke about "Canary Islands, migrations and administrations, a model in development". Commander Mr. Agustín Barros Núñez, made a presentation about "FRONTEX, migration management and rescue at sea". Finally, "The role of the EU in the Sahel" presented by Mr. José Segura Clavell.

From the fruitful event held in Gran Canaria, several conclusions could be drawn that will be presented following the questions that guided the event:

What is the situation of immigration policy in the European Union?

The European Union has been suffering in recent years a migration crisis that has led, together



with the economic crisis, an increase in populism and Eurosceptic parties in the European Union.

This has caused many young Europeans citizens considered that the European Union has been hypocritical in terms of the human rights treatment that it claims defend. This has

caused a frustration of the younger European citizens that has led to a questioning about the values of the European Union.

This feeling is very far from the reality. The main problem in this area is the misinformation regarding the real competences of the European Union to manage this type of humanitarian crisis. It should be noted that the European Union has very few competences, currently, in this area. Migration management, as well as border management are the exclusive competences of the Member States. The European Union is only the framework where agreements can be reached at the summits of heads of state, but neither the Commission nor the European Parliament has the power to legislate on this issue. Reference must also be made to the multiple debates and resolutions where the European Parliament has spoken in favour of a humanitarian and community response to the management of the migration crisis.

What are the weaknesses and strengths?

One of the main strengths of the European Union and, which has been developed in Spain, is the creation within FRONTEX of a coordinating body for the treatment and reception of migrants, as well as the evaluation of each of Individual cases That is to say, that the European Union is trying within framework of the limited competences that have they migration to do everything possible to face this crisis.



However, there are also important weaknesses, especially the fact that there is a strong disagreement, by civil society, regarding the means and solutions that have been offered to solve this problem (in the short term). For this reason, it is stated that it is a weakness that the debate on common solutions within the framework of the European Union passes only through agreements within the European Council between leaders of the Member States and that competition is not extended to community organizations such as Parliament European and the European Commission of the debate on the solution of the European crisis.

Along with this, there was evidence that the European Union is currently experiencing a demographic crisis with a fall in birth rates, which can be solved with the arrival of immigrants who normally have higher birth rates than Europeans. In addition, there is a need for labour in the member countries of the Union.

What proposals can be formulated to improve the migration policy of the European Union?

In this case, the proposals that were made were numerous. Starting with the need that exists in the European Union



for a true community policy in which both the regulations and the means used for the treatment of migrants are reviewed. This has to go through a transfer of migration and border policy, or, at least, of sharing these powers, which the Member States currently have, towards the European Union

At the same time, the close collaboration of the European Union with the countries of issuance of emigrants was proposed with the aim of promoting the development of peoples.

Finally, it was proposed that in all decision-making and debates about the migration crisis, the organizations of immigrants settled in the different member countries of the Union should be taken into account, the solution would be enriched by giving a social vision of the reality that both for migrants and for the rest of European citizenship lacks separately.

Act 10: The advances of the European Defence Policy the 30th September at Castilla la Mancha's University (Ciudad Real)

Finally, the 30th of September, took place the last act of the project Talk about Europe named *The advances of the European Defence Policy* in Universidad de Castilla la Mancha in Ciudad Real.

The objective of this activity was to raise awareness of the advances that the European Union has made in the area of defense, especially with the establishment of strategic autonomy, which, in the eyes of Spanish public opinion, have gone unnoticed. And that the European defense is one of the pillars on which the new political cycle of the European Union is based.

The event began with the inauguration at 12:00 with a small welcome speech of Mr. Miguel Ángel Collado Yurrita, Rector of the University of Castilla La Mancha; Mrs. Virginia Marco Cárcel, General Director of Institutional Relations and European Affairs of the Government of Castilla la Mancha; Mr. Francisco Aldecoa; and Mr. Juan José Rubio Guerrero.



Sala de Juicios. Facultad de Derecho y Ciencias Sociales. Ciudad Real. (UCLM)

Then, at 12:30 the presentation ceremony of the Manchego European Movement took place with the staging of Mr. Francisco Aldecoa and Mr. José Antonio Negrín.

The first round table, entitled "Advances in European defence policy", moderated by Mr. Eugenio Nasarre, Vice President of the Spanish Federal Council of European Movement, was attended by the following members: Mr. Juan Ramón de Páramo, Mr. Enrique Mariño Rodríguez, Ms. Victoria Rodríguez, Mr. Enrique Belda, Mr. Rubén C. García Servet.

After the first round table and before starting the second, a colloquial lunch was held with the



speakers of the event.

The second round table, entitled "Permanent structured cooperation - PESCO and its impact on industrial defence policy", was coordinated by Mr. Dionisio Ramírez. The speakers who participated in the debate were: Mr. Miguel Ángel Rodríguez, Mr. Juan José Rubio Guerrero, Mr. Francisco Aldecoa and Mrs. Mª Isabel Nieto.

Finally, between 6:00 pm and 6:30 pm the closing ceremony took place, with the participation of Mr. Francisco Aldecoa, Mr. Juan José Rubio Guerrero and Mr. José Antonio Negrín.

What are the advances that the European Union has made in defense?

The defence of the European Union has become one of the priorities of the new European Commission, the Von der Leyen Commission, which has established as its objective to promote this area of the European project.

In this sense, the European Union has also been reinforced by these advances, demonstrating that the extreme right was not as powerful as the mass media presented. For example, the extreme right could not manage to delay the deadlines for the appointment of the new institutions nor has it succeeded in obtaining a related commissioner.

The importance of industrial companies, especially Spanish companies, in the construction of defence policy with the aim of moving from being clients to partners was also highlighted. That is, establishing an autonomous market to provide the defensive union project with our own capabilities.

Finally, the importance of the weight of the European Union in world politics and in the international system was stressed. Emphasizing that alone, as autonomous countries, we are nobody.

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the Union in this area?



One of the strengths of the European Union is defence the that regional governments in Spain had established a strong commitment to the security and defence of policies the European Union that have been they carrying out in recent

years and have greatly favoured the cohesion of the citizens and their relationship with the Union.

What was established as weaknesses of the Union is the fact that there are still many steps to be taken before the European Union can be considered autonomous in defence. It is essential to build a European arms industry that does not depend on foreign industries that can reduce European independence, thereby reducing Europe's technological gap with the United States.



What proposals can be made to improve?

One of the proposals made, apart from the one mencioned before, need that the European Union to constitute a true autonomous defence industry, is the need for the

European Union to reinvent itself and continue with the commitments set forth in the Global Strategy presented by Federica Mogherini, High Commissioner of the European Union for Foreign Policy and Common Security, on June 28, 2016. Only through this reinvention can the Union leave the stumbling block of Brexit and populisms relaunched and with an innovative and social project. But for this, the participation of youth in the projects and the construction of the European Union is necessary.