

Let Europe Arise

70 Years Churchill in Zurich

European Future Leaders Conference: for a federal, unbureaucratic and independent Europe

Zurich, 28 April 2017 – Europe must become more federal again, centralist and bureaucratic structures must be dismantled and it needs a common defence and security structure which is independent from NATO and the US. These are three of the central demands of the first European Future Leaders Conference, which brought together 54 young men and women of 20 to 26 years of age from 37 European countries.

The first ever European Future Leaders Conference was initiated and organised by the Circle Zurich Friends of Winston Churchill in Cooperation with the three student organisations Erasmus Student Network, Young European Swiss und Model United Nations as well as the Malik Institute. Besides delegations from Switzerland and the EU countries states like Russia, the Ukraine, Turkey and Serbia participated as well.

Based on the initial question of the conference «How do we achieve the Europe we want to live in by the year 2030?» the participants defined 16 key issues to be discussed in detail. The conference took place in November 2016. Now the organisers present their final report with the collected proposals which had been put forward in the context of the conference workshops.

The call for transparency, accountability and institutional reforms

The conference participants asked for a Europe united and strong towards the outside. This Europe would have to go beyond today's EU. However, this construction would have to be largely more decentralised than the EU of today. Europe as a confederation of states should focus on defence, foreign policy and security.

In this context the conference participants demanded substantial reforms of the EU, like e.g. a leaner and more efficient administration, more transparency and accountability of the institutions towards their citizens on a national and supranational level.

Regarding security towards the outside the conference participants called for an independent European Military Organization EMO, independent from NATO and the US. Moreover, they encouraged Europe to create a common structure for the prevention of cyber terrorism, the European Cyber Security Organization ECSO.

More of the essential demands of the European Future Leaders Conference are in the field of education and communication. The 54 conference participants demanded transnational public European radio and television channels for culture and news. Moreover they called for a better integration of European issues in the national school curriculums of the individual countries. The

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creation of a European identity will need more time than the conference horizon of 2030, as the final report says.

The final report of the European Future Leaders Conference 2016 will now be presented to the universities by the conference participants and published on social-media-channels. This will ensure that the discussion on Europe initiated in this conference will be taken further by those who are responsible for this future.

Further questions:

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