



TOGETHER

Let's build a new Europe

Paris, 20 October 2017
National Assembly





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On 20 October The Spinelli Group held a European Meet-Up in Paris titled « Together – let's build a new Europe ». On that occasion **more than 300 participants** of all ages and from different European countries engaged in a debate with national and European members of parliament, Commissioner Pierre Moscovici and representatives of the civil society. It was **one of the biggest pro-European events** organised in the French capital since many years.

The initiative highlighted that both political representatives and citizens are not willing to accept the status quo and that they want to change things. It was clear from the debate that the pro-European impulse stemming **from President Macron's election** and from the positions of both the French executive and the current parliamentary majority as regards the future of Europe marked a historical change in the role that France is willing to play in the development of the European project. In particular, it enables the kick-off of ambitious reforms aiming at creating a **more efficient Europe that is closer to its citizens**.

Pierre MOSCOVICI,

European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs

"I find President Macron's speech fundamentally positive and important, but real change will come only if words are followed by a strategy and deeds. Populism is still out there, it does not disappear with a speech.

On the Eurozone, I am strongly in favour of a European Minister of Economy and Finance double-hatted Vice-President of the European Commission and President of the Eurogroup and fully accountable to the European Parliament.

It is not sustainable anymore that the Eurogroup decides on the destiny of the European peoples behind closed-doors."

Marielle de SARNEZ,

Chairwoman of the Committee for Foreign Affairs of the French National Assembly

"I approve President Macron's speech at 100%. The European project will be relaunched in a democratic way, because tomorrow's Europe will be built by the people. To this aim, I support the idea of pan-European lists for the next European Parliament elections and I call on Members of national Parliaments to put Europe at the core of their everyday activities."





Sabine THILLAYE,
**Chairwoman of the Committee for European Union Affairs
of the French National Assembly**

“For years have European national leaders Europeanised mistakes and nationalized merits. This period is over. Europe needs more political union with stronger democratic control. As a step in this direction, the system of *Spitzenkandidaten* for the European elections in 2019 should be reiterated.”



Elmar BROK,
**Member of the European Parliament (EPP, Germany),
President of the Union of European Federalists, Co-Chair
of The Spinelli Group in the European Parliament**

“The French National Assembly is the right place to be in this moment. Macron’s speech is one of the great speeches of the last decades. We need these speeches, we need these ideas, even though not all of them will be accepted. Germany has the duty to respond to Macron’s proposals on the Eurozone, because it cannot continue to be only based on rules, it has to become a real economic union. Also European big countries are small when compared to the rest of the world. They just haven’t realized it yet.”

Mercedes BRESSO,
**Member of the European Parliament (S&D, Italy), former
President of the Committee of the Regions of the EU,
member of the Board of The Spinelli Group.**

“The European Parliament is the institution of European democracy. The proposal of an ad-hoc parliament for the Eurozone composed of representatives of national parliaments does not meet the standards of transnational democracy that the European Parliament can ensure. A European Minister of finance should be accountable to the European Parliament.”



Xavier PALUSZKIEWICZ,
Deputy for the 3rd constituency, Meurthe-et-Moselle.

“I’m proud to be French and I’m proud to be European. After Emmanuel Macron’s speech at Sorbonne we are called to engage in democratic conventions to relaunch the European project. ”



Brando BENIFEI,
**Member of the European Parliament (S&D, Italy),
Member of the Board of The Spinelli Group**

“I am a European federalist. In order to have a balanced competition in the single market we need a strong social union and for this to happen the EU budget must have more resources. The EU can be expected to tackle unemployment seriously only if its resources are fit for the purpose.”





Alain LAMASSOURE,
Member of the European Parliament (European People's Party group, France)

“Following Emmanuel Macron’s election Europe is finally back in the French political debate and France is at long last back on the European stage, ready to play its role in shaping Europe’s future.”



Christopher GLÜCK,
President of the Young European Federalists (JEF Europe)

“*Responsabilité and solidarité* are the two key words that will probably shape the compromise between France and Germany on the future of the Eurozone. Northern countries need to understand that if they want the euro they need to accept some extent of transfers in times of crises.”



Pierre-Alexandre ANGLADE,
Vice-President of the Committee for European Affairs of the French National Assembly

“Political will is the key towards a European Defence Union. France’s view is that all of the instruments provided by the Treaty of Lisbon should be used. All EU Member States are in danger if they don’t stick together.”



Ana GOMES,
Member of the European Parliament sub-Committee on Security and Defence (S&D, Portugal)

“For the security of all European citizens, it is essential for the EU to develop joint military capabilities and to become more independent as regards its own defence. This would also benefit the democratic control of the common defence policy. In the longer term, the EU should strive to get a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.”



Florent BANFI,
President of the Union of European Federalists France

“In Europe too much money is wasted because EU Member States do not coordinate their military expenditure. A group of willing Member States should swiftly kick-off further integration of their defenses, including through the further development of existing structures such as Eurocorps. More consensual decision-making in foreign policy should be developed simultaneously.”

