

Schuman Declaration 2017



Robert Schuman

calls for establishing

the Community of European Nations

in culture, science, economy, politics

rooted in Christian tradition



The Community of European Nations is a result of Robert Schuman's ideas and concepts. **He did not wish the quasi-state of Europe but Community of European Nations: “My idea is not to merge States to create a Super State. Our European States are a historical reality. From a psychological point of view, it would be impossible to do away with them. Their diversity is a good thing and we do not intend to level them down or equalize them” (Robert Schuman)**

The Institute of Schuman's Thought

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www.IMSchuman.com

www.SchumansGroup.org

www.EuropeanSchumanFestival.com

I. PREAMBLE

With the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of the European Economic Community (EEC), the European states and leaders from Brussels discuss the directions which Europe is to follow. Since February 7th, 1992 when the European Union has started to exist as a model of a super state and a negation of Robert Schuman's ideas, there could be observed a series of negative changes and increasing resentment among citizens of European states towards the direction followed by Brussels. The Brexit and other symptoms of discontent for abandoning Robert Schuman's ideas are the final signal alarm to redirect.

It is appalling that during the Rome Summit, March 25th, 2017 of the 60th anniversary of the signing the Treaties of Rome, the European politicians have not mentioned Robert Schuman at all. That could be perceived as ignorance for ideas which laid ground for a "miracle" of long-lasting peace in Europe for a period not known for centuries. The ongoing beatification process of Robert Schuman is a very important reminder of the significance of his ideas for Europe and the world.

The Treaties of Rome on 25 March 1957 resulted in establishing of European Economic Community. All politicians who silently ignore Schuman's ideas, not only destroy his vision, but also spoil the fruit that has been borne out of reconciliation in line with his concepts. That is why Schuman himself again calls for: **"Europe, go back to your roots"**. Together with him, we, for whom Europe was, is and should be shaped by the legacy of 2000 years of Christianity, altogether are calling **"Take Europe back"**.

The current crisis in Europe, the crisis of reconciliation and the unity of the continent is a result of abandoning the vision of the Founding-Fathers, articulated especially by Robert Schuman, and introducing the model of integration opposite to fundamental founding values like: Christianity, freedom, solidarity, diversity and patriotism. The Robert Schuman's ideas and goals have been abandoned after his death. In-fact opposite actions have been taken up what has led step by step to destruction. Their negative impact could be clearly seen: ideological secularism, the rule of oligarchy and restrictions to freedom, dominance of the powerful, bureaucratic uniformity, promotion of cosmopolitanism, Europeans deprived of their national cultures. **Schuman Declaration of 2017** has its goal to remind Schuman's voice and call for going back to roots, and to unite people of goodwill around Robert Schuman's goals and attitude. That way, he will somehow "resurrect" and allow Europe to regain its excellent appearance and condition. In this declaration we remind about neglected and abandoned nowadays pillars of the Community of European Nations and about directions of changes which should be taken up to return to Europe consistent with the vision of the Founding Fathers.

II. JUSTIFICATION

Robert Schuman, facing increasing evil and its horrible effects in the First and Second World Wars, had become a humble servant of God. He took up an effort of reconciliation between

the nations through deeds which allowed to lift the borders of hate among the nations, promote brotherhood among people and forgive all harms made.

On May 9th, 1950 Robert Schuman in his Declaration put a stress on modification of economic relations in Europe in a way to allow peace to thrive, not only in Europe but also in the whole world.

On April 18th, 1951, as a result of the Schuman's Declaration, the Coal and Steel Community was founded to neutralise the risk of consecutive wars. On March 25th, 1957 based on the Treaties of Rome, the European Economic Community (EEC) was established with the focus on economic affairs. Establishing the EEC was an important step of Europe into the direction of peace.

Implementation of the Treaties of Rome was taking place over a next few years. Robert Schuman died on September 4th, 1963 at the time of the early stage of development of the European Economic Community. It could be said that he passed away not completing his work because the aim was to build the Community of European Nations as the community rooted in the Christianity. According to Schuman a shift in the economic relations within the EEC was designed to be only the element in reaching the final goal in building **the unity, solidarity and peace** in Europe and in the world.

After 1963, after the Schuman's death, the EEC has begun to develop further and in 1973 the United Kingdom joined it. Since early eighties it has not been perceived as the continuity of Robert Schuman's vision and ideas and rather opposite, i.e. **the goal became a super state**, the superiority of institutions over building relations, **the opposition to the Christian values** (which are uniquely European values) **and destruction of the spirit of patriotism** as the love of the home country.

Finally, on February 7th, 1992 the Treaty of Maastricht was signed and the European Union has started to exist. This act is directly opposite to Robert Schuman's concepts, vision and ideas. Schuman never told about the Union which is not a Community of Nations. **The European Union is the first stage of building a super state, what Schuman warned against.** The European Union in the current state is resembling in many areas the totalitarian regimes which, as we know it, put aims of the system above aims of a nation, a human and a citizen, and in that way, they are diminishing freedom. Robert Schuman indicated that every social system, civil and religious authority has a subsidiary role for people. They should serve as a platform for achievement of true freedom of a human which has been received from God. Truly, the true love between people could be only achieved in freedom and thus leading to mutual respect between the nations and to a reciprocal service.



“The Christianity first has highlighted the equality of all men, regardless of class and racial affiliation, and popularized, according to the rule of Saint Benedict ora et labora, the morality of labour, assuming, that the duty to do so becomes a service to the Divine work of creation” (Robert Schuman)

III. THE PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY OF EUROPEAN NATIONS

1. Christianity

Europe would not exist without the Hebrew Decalogue, Greek philosophy and art, Roman jurisprudence and republican ideas. However, it is the Christianity which is the soul of Europe. It has shaped Europe as we know it - its vivacity, creativity and development depend on a creative link with its Christian roots. As a body without a soul is dead, so Europe without Christianity has no future. Any attempts to curb the activity and presence of churches and Christians in the public domain and in free public debate are anti-European behaviour. They destroy the unity of our continent, deprive of spiritual dimension and in effect lead to atrophy of freedom and solidarity and birth of violence and fanatics which come from contemporary ideologies.



“Democracy in Europe will be Christian or it will not be. An anti-Christian democracy would be a parody which would sink into tyranny or into anarchy. The democrat’s position can be defined as follows: he will not accept that the State systematically ignores religion or that it opposes it with hostility or contempt. Without being-unjust or self-damaging the State cannot ignore the extraordinary effectiveness of religious inspiration in the practice of civic duty and in protecting people against forces of social disintegration which are at work everywhere” (Robert Schuman)

2. Freedom

Freedom is the most valued treasure in Europe. It has been born in pain in a long and complex historical process. It is always fragile and needs protection against despotism and anarchy. Freedom of nations finds its way in democracy, i.e. in "government of the people, by the people, for the people" (Abraham Lincoln). And freedom of the human is indivisible, natural right offered by God. It manifests itself in freedom of conscience and religion, freedom of speech and assembly and association. It is a great threat for a united Europe that gradually but visibly freedom of nations and citizens is restricted by the European institutions and some Member States.



“Indeed, the word democracy cannot be applied to a government which refuses to acknowledge the existence of a people, i.e. a living community, which has an original heritage, aspirations of its own and particular mission it intends to carry out freely. Nor can it be applied to a government which repudiates the very idea of freedom and personal responsibility, which violently smothers diverging tendencies and criticism, classing this as criminal deviation” (Robert Schuman)

3. Solidarity

Solidarity is opposite to egoism in individual, social and national dimensions. It stems from evangelical message of love, peace and brotherhood. It is a great value being very fundamental for the project of uniting Europe. A man solidary with a stricken neighbour, middle class members solidary with poorer citizens and finally nations solidary with other nations in building a true community, where well-being of every, even the smallest and the humblest nation is equally important as those populated and influential. More-or-less open dictate of powerful and rich European countries hit foundations of the project to unite Europe. It marks the end of the community and return to the sinister era of national egoism.



“The consequence of this interdependence is that it is impossible to remain indifferent to the fortunate or unfortunate lot of a people. For a European with the capacity to think it is no longer possible to rejoice spitefully over his neighbour's misfortune; everyone is united for better or for worse in a common destiny” (Robert Schuman)

“Europe won't be built overnight, neither without obstacles on its way. Its construction will follow the way of the spirit. Nothing that lasts happens easily. Europe is already on its way. And beyond the existing institutions, the European idea, its spirit of solidarity as a community have taken root” (Robert Schuman)

4. Diversity

Europe has never been, is not and shall not be uniform. Diversity of cultures, customs and national, regional, local, ethnic, religious, economic and legal traditions are a great treasure and strength of Europe. Diverse nations of Europe are a gift for each other and as a community are unique quality and strength in the world. This diversity should be carefully protected, supported and developed. United in diversity. All attempts to diminish differences and uniqueness of nations, bureaucratic and administrative efforts to enforce cultural uniformity in the name of utopian ideology will lead to destruction of Europe and make a great harm to fundamental European values such as freedom of nations and their solidarity.



“My idea is not to merge States to create a Super State. Our European States are a historical reality. From a psychological point of view, it would be impossible to do away with them. Their diversity is a good thing and we do not intend to level them down or equalize them” (Robert Schuman)

5. Patriotism

Patriotism is love of the home country, its language, culture, tradition and history. It is opposite to cosmopolitanism and nationalism as well. European spirit stems from national identities and does not exist without them. At the same time, it transgresses these identities and comes out as a supranational community. That is why neither cosmopolitan nor nationalist is European in its true meaning. Cultivating patriotism in the European countries is the best cure for reappearing nationalism and separatism and it is a great aid in building European unity. Fighting patriotism is destroying the community, demolishing a common European home.



“To our mind, European policy is certainly not in contradiction with the patriotic ideal. It encourages the particular-nature and characteristics of each of its states and fosters the sound love for one’s own country which is a love that does not go in detriment of other countries. It wants to attain a unity in the fullness of its diversity” **(Robert Schuman)**

IV. THE PROCLAMATION TO THE CITIZENS OF EUROPE

We address all citizens of Europe who are proud of European heritage and long for revival of the community and the European unity based on the cultural heritage of enormous importance – its roots in ancient Greece in pursuit for beauty, truth and virtues, in ancient Rome in immense and still relevant civilization in the form of republican ideas and jurisprudence and in Christianity as the source for true freedom and solidarity among people.

There are among us those who call themselves Christians and those who do not call themselves so but still appreciate the impact of Christianity on building the European civilization. It is enough to walk the streets of European cities, see monuments or visit museums. It is obvious that without the Christian foundation no universal – as we call them nowadays – values would become permanent part of our culture, mentality and everyday life. If you see that the foundations are being destroyed nowadays that seemingly attractive ideologies of secularism, cosmopolitanism and political correctness lead to destruction of Europe and the European community – please do join us.

It could be perceived in so many European countries today that diminishing European culture and attempting to replace it with superficial construction resembling the Tower of Babel lead to – it should be stated that sadly – a situation where the Community of European Nations shakes in foundations, and we Europeans become strangers to each other and feel isolated in our own home.

No borders, free movement of goods and people, common currency – that all is not enough to build a durable community. As it was being said 60 years ago by Robert Schuman, a founding father of United Europe! We need for that purpose a common culture build-upon only one solid base which we have shared for centuries – the Christianity, at least present in culture and public life, even if it is not a personal choice and a relation with Jesus Christ.

If we do not turn back to Christian culture, it is rather no doubt, that it will be replaced by other culture alien to Europe. We have respect for it, but it disrespects what we value the most – personal freedom, a great gift from God for those who believe in Him and a great value for those who do not believe. Despite all differences among us in Europe we share recognition for freedom as a fundamental thing. It could also be a gift for people from other cultures who intend to stay in Europe for life but fully respect its heritage, culture and tradition.

Let us not deprive ourselves of true Europe with its rich and superb culture. Let us rise and fight for democratic changes which will bring back basic civic order in our European home countries and allow to build the European community based upon Christianity, freedom, solidarity, diversity and patriotism.

V. PROPOSED DIRECTIONS OF THE REFORM

- 1. The European Union should be shaped as the Community of European Nations.**
- 2. Politics should be understood as it has been originally, i.e. as a wise public service for the common weal** and there should be implemented the code of ethics for politicians as men of confidence.
- 3. The main priority for the community's institutions should be facilitating and supporting building relations between citizens** of the states - on all possible levels and in all possible manners in culture, education, religion and social life.
- 4. States of the Community should be totally free in internal law-making,** except for the minimal scope necessary for the functioning of the Community that will be approved unanimously by all members.
- 5. The area of joint management should be clearly defined,** excluding hegemony of the biggest states and anarchy caused by blocking votes. It should be mainly introduced in science, energy and defence policy.

6. **The tough anti-monopoly law should be introduced to actively fight predominance of multinational corporations** - securing sovereignty of each state in the Community in relation to corporations.
7. **The community's institutions should be ancillary in nature not commanding.**
8. **Research institutes should be evenly spread** all over Europe and there should be guaranteed an equal access to effects of their work for all members of the Community.
9. **Freedom of opinion should be guaranteed by countries** with acknowledgment that the Christianity is fundamental for the European culture.
10. **Community's funds should be spent in the first place to reduce the gap** in the economic development and social levels of countries and regions of the Community.
11. **The community's institutions should promote the Christian culture and traditions** on the European and global level.
12. **Economic solidarity should to be the basis for building economic relations** between the nations of Europe.
13. **The Community should strive to guarantee every human being the inalienable, right to life from conception to the natural death.**

Let's Return to the Schuman's Europe

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