



## STATEMENT

### OUR COMMON EUROPEAN FUTURE

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3 **Europe finds itself at a historical junction. In the last 60 years after signing the Rome treaty, the**  
4 **continent has seen peace, prosperity and progress. However, the very foundations of our common**  
5 **project have come into question by raising populism and nationalism. This is not merely a European**  
6 **matter, also on a world-wide scale inclusive sustainable developments has been tossed aside in**  
7 **favour of short-term crisis management, inducing increasing inequalities and precarious living and**  
8 **working conditions.**

9 **SOLIDAR as a progressive civil society network has a different vision for our common future which**  
10 **guides our European and global engagements with members, partners and allies. We want to be the**  
11 **most democratic civil society network!**

12 The promises of fair globalization have been eroded by recent obsessions for austerity driven policies  
13 combined with the *financialization* of our economies, the economization of social, commodification of labour,  
14 cultural and education sectors and the “launch” of a new arms race.

15 The pursuit of erasing economic, social and cultural rights, reduction of social, development expenditures and  
16 investment for the benefit of the happy few rather than communities at large had a devastating effect on  
17 people’s trust in democracy, deliberative decision making and established institutions, including the European  
18 institutions.

19 People feel abandoned, left alone by the States and governments, with their daily concerns of decent work,  
20 social protection, access to education, housing, health, care, social and public services, lack of social  
21 investment and real integration policies. There is a need for change and protection in uncertain times.

22 Unfortunately, right wing and populist movements (represented by people like Trump, Duterte, Putin, al-  
23 Assad, Orban, Kaczynski, Erdogan and others) are abusing this feelings to gain support and retract from our  
24 common future, locking people in nationalist, racist and even violent rhetoric that has disastrous effects and  
25 gaining ground.

26 Change is needed, but change and transitions that bring again peace, prosperity and progress. Key parts of  
27 the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development offers this transformational and universal framework for our  
28 common future and provides sustainable responses to today’s challenges. It brings us back to the pursuit of  
29 equality of income, knowledge and power, making our social justice cause distinct from neoliberal and illiberal  
30 tendencies.

31 For that reason the SOLIDAR General Assembly 2018 call upon to change course and to stop the European  
32 and global forces of political obscurity.



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33 Time has come not for a new narrative, but for a substantial change of policies which allow to rebuild trust of  
34 citizens in a renewed European integration project which is more than only Treaty and institutional changes.

35 A change needs to be based on our values of solidarity, equality and social justice and is striving for:

- 36 - **Ending and preventing violent conflict and wars.** End the spread of nuclear, chemical, biological  
37 and (advanced) conventional weapons. Promote peace and peaceful coexistence.
- 38
- 39 - Applying a **democratic rule of law** that allows living together in our communities and facilitates  
40 integration.
- 41
- 42 - Reinforce **deliberative and participatory democracy** to strengthen social cohesion in our societies  
43 that are deliberately being torn part for personal gain.
- 44
- 45 - Ensure access to **quality social services** should be universal as these services increase human  
46 capital, support inclusion.
- 47
- 48 - Focus on social investment, in particular for social inclusion and social integration for all.
- 49
- 50 - **End corporate and private tax fraud and tax evasion** to generate the revenues that are now  
51 absent and needed for investment in sustainable development and limit the risk of excessive **income**  
52 **inequality**
- 53
- 54 - Ensure **effective guarantees against entrapment**, making a second chance a right, by providing  
55 basic set of social guarantees that allow for a decent standard of living.
- 56
- 57 - Establish **employment at a living wage**; by setting minimum wages at an adequate standard of  
58 living.
- 59
- 60 - Stronger equality legislation should be promoted and its implementation should be ensured. It should  
61 include tools to **deliver on women's economic independence**; rights to social protection, gender  
62 equal taxation and the effective combating of in-work poverty.
- 63
- 64 - **Full access to fundamental rights** and equal opportunities for migrants must be ensured by  
65 enhancing equal access to economic, social and cultural rights and services.
- 66
- 67 - Ensuring non-discrimination and equal treatment for vulnerable, marginalised and excluded groups as  
68 well as promoting plurality in society through **challenging racism, xenophobia and violence**.
- 69
- 70 - Access to **quality and affordable non-formal and informal learning and vocational education**  
71 **and training** for those most at risk of poor skills proficiency has to be ensured.
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- 73 - Ensure public investment to **build sustainable social protection systems** that empower people to  
74 participate in society and have access to decent work prospective resetting Dublin agreement in  
75 solidarity approach, sharing refugees between state members, ensuring humans' rights and respect  
76 of international conventions to all people along the migrant process.

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