

Manifesto for a Citizens' Europe: a Project Europe not a Europe of Rejection

Today, in a Europe marked by the rise of europhobes, eurosceptics, and the extreme right, and in anticipation of the coming Kingdom of God, I boldly affirm my faith in the future of Europe.

I refuse to accept the democratic tragedy of the European elections of 25 May 2014, which have pierced the heart of Europe.

I refuse to believe that the citizens of Europe will accept that isolationism and misunderstood national interests are gaining ground; on the contrary, I believe that, united in the diversity of their opinions, they will together resist and pursue their European project.

I refuse to believe that rejection and disdain of the political class will produce more and more abstainers who lend support to the extreme vote by not going to the urns, and that a wind of regression will sweep across our continent.

I refuse to believe that a Europe marked by a lack of transparency, by incomprehension, by the rejection of a certain technocracy and the political parties will make European citizens incapable of pursuing their immense project: **a project of peace, of social justice, of solidarity among nations, of freedom of movement for people and ideas for a European continent at peace that offers us an extraordinary place to live.**

The consternation of citizens is understandable in the face of an illegible European construction, of a society of multiple exclusion, and of well-founded fears of seeing a multi-speed society emerge on the continent, and of fears provoked by mistaken ideas about the European Union.

I nevertheless understand that transparency and focusing attention on what has been achieved in Europe will help revive the fires of this tremendous project initiated by visionary politicians. And that, united, Europeans will succeed in taking up the challenges they all feel with the same urgency.

Our faith helps us not to give up, helps us to put those in distress back on their feet, to contribute to the visibility of the Kingdom of God in our world.

Yes, I wish to affirm that our Christian faith is a source of project and not of rejection.

Yes, the love that God gives us, the certitude that life will be victorious over death, **the example of Christ who put those left behind at the heart of the Gospel** changes how we see our neighbours. The morning of Easter transforms our lives: like the women distressed by a negative discourse, we are called upon to resuscitate, to rally, to set out once again.

The Spirit of God does not make all human beings the same; on the contrary, at Whitsun it manifests diversity. God thus created the Church, a community where all express themselves in their own languages, where diversity triumphs.

Protestants, Catholics, Anglicans, Orthodox, European Christians: do not give up the struggle; let us engage in the European debate; let us question the politicians and the high officials; let us live to the full our European citizenship, which transcends borders; **and let us affirm with a loud and strong voice the dignity of all human beings; let us proclaim a message of welcome and not of rejection; let us denounce all violation of the dignity of humanity.**

Let us pray together throughout the continent for this immense project of peace, of welcome for others, and for the respect of human dignity.

Solange Wydmusch
Protestant, European Citizen.

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