

EMI Vision of the Future - Almaty Conference

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The horrors of World War II and the destruction it legated to the European continent, pushed a group of people led by Sir Winston Churchill to envisage a future in which such events would no longer take place. The vision of a united continent, in which countries and peoples would live together in peace and prosperity, needed a structure through which the energy of the citizens and civil society organisations could be channeled; and the European Movement was born. It was October, 25, 1948, in The Hague.

A united, federal and prosperous Europe, founded on the principles of peace, democracy, liberty, solidarity and respect for Human Rights and the environment is the vision that has motivated generations and served as the compass for the actions of the European Movement over the last 66 years. Much has been done and much progress can be accounted for, but there is still a long way to go before we can consider our mission accomplished.

The European Movement's vision of the future doesn't concern Europe alone though. Already in 1948 our founding fathers hoped that the success of European integration would become a blueprint for other regions of the World, and for the World itself: the above mentioned principles, and a governance model in which individuals – both in their social dimension as citizens, and in their biological dimension as living beings – come before countries and nations and economic interests, are to be shared and enjoyed by all.

That's why the European Movement liaises between citizens and civil society organisations, on one side, and governments and international (European) institutions, on the other, to promote a trans-national democratic system in which resources are pooled and cooperation is applied to keeping peace, bringing prosperity and security to all, and protecting the environment.

We believe that through organisations such as the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the European Union, much progress has been achieved in Europe, and we are convinced that deepening these processes of European integration will only bring further and incremental progress. Together with the 76 civil society organisations that constitute our network and the millions of citizens they represent, we will keep working with the decision makers and other civil society partners to fine-tune this vision of the future, and to make it a reality.

This can only be achieved, however, through an open, inclusive and solution-oriented dialogue involving all interested stakeholders, as only an integrated vision can be sustainable and successful in the longer-term.