



**Memorandum
to President Juncker and his Commission
to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.
October 1st, 2014.**

A Positive Agenda for Peace and Qualitative Growth for 2014-2015

Given that "history has taken steps backwards", EPE proposes two initiatives which should be synchronized to engage in new dynamics for peace and prosperity: the Positive Agenda for Peace and Qualitative Growth for 2014-2015 (qualitative means economically sound, ecologically sustainable and socially just). This dynamics covers two scales of action and two types of action to be developed in synergy in the field of multi-stakeholder partnerships:

1. economic recovery within the EU with the help of an *Alliance of 10 European innovation partnerships* as the second pillar of the Europe 2020 Strategy¹;
2. a new EU- East/South neighbouring countries partnership with a *Three-Sea Alliance* (Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea) for security, energy and ecological transition, green and blue growth;

The time has come for Europeans to play a catalyst role again at international level, in our neighbourhood, in the European Union and on our territories through multi-stakeholder partnerships that can speed up the major transformation engineered at these four levels in order to launch a new sustainable development cycle taking two elements into account:

1. the agenda for peace and security is closely linked to the agenda for sustainable energy, water, raw materials, climate and biodiversity : a Three Seas Alliance designed as a new Helsinki process would help respond to this need.
2. we are entering another long cycle (Kondratiev cycle) in which " green/blue growth"- a combination of energy and ecological transition and a circular, environmentally sound and collaborative economy - as a leverage for innovation, new technologies, new demand, new business models - will be one of the main drivers. Therefore we need 'transformative partnerships' at a large scale which would be secured by the Alliance of 10 European Innovation Partnerships.

To this end, in the field of multi-stakeholder partnerships, it is clear that European institutions, the EU Commission and external services, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions play complementary roles, though with insufficient synergy to create a scale effect. These bodies must also better cooperate with one another as well as innovate! They should launch together the *Positive Agenda for Peace and Qualitative Growth for 2014-2015*. This agenda will contribute to peace as well to :

1. the reindustrialization of Europe in a circular-economy approach is closely linked to international cooperation in the field of system management and value chains of critical raw materials
2. accelerate the energy and ecological transition towards a circular, environmentally sound and collaborative economy at Territorial level (Regions & Cities)

¹ After 2015 Mid-term review

We have entered an era marked by the decline of peace in the world, serious deterioration of the rule of law and in some places a return to barbaric times. History has taken "*dreadful steps backwards*" whereas we need resilience and cooperation more than ever in the face of global threats such as the Ebola virus and climate change.

In addition to managing emergency situations linked to wars, natural or manmade disasters, refugees and migratory flows, the European Union – which bears some responsibility in the deterioration described above – should act as the spearhead in the battle for rebuilding peace and trust, making globalization more civilized and reaching the sustainable development goals which are to be set by the United Nations. This is a positive agenda based on a "peace and qualitative growth" strategy on the part of the European institutions and the living forces of Europe. The "peace and human security" and "prosperity and green growth" agendas have been largely developed by international authorities, from the United Nations to NATO and the OECD.

European political, religious, business and civil society leaders should initiate new international initiatives to build a synergy of forces at all levels so that a model of "planetary civilization, resulting from a dialogue between major historic civilizations with their memories, cultures, languages and spiritualities can emerge"² and be an accelerating factor in the energy and ecological transition. The time has now come for Europeans to play a catalyst role again at international level on the basis of four initiatives (see below).

How to connect "the power of many" in the digital era with a "collaborative economy" and "sustainable development" as a triple vector for new prosperity is the key issue being raised at global and local level. It was Jeremy Rifkin that popularized the concept of *lateral powers*³. If the European Union and its Member States want to take the opportunity of the 2014-2019 legislature to give new impetus, the EU work programme in 2014 and 2015 should focus in particular on radical collaboration – *co-revolution* – between European institutions and "lateral powers", which are not only the actors of millions of silent revolutions, young people and bloggers but also, for example, trade unions, pension funds, cities and churches. Europeans can build "prosperity for all" within the carrying capacity of ecosystems – which means redirecting globalization, de-financializing the economy and building a fairer world marked by greater dignity and increased solidarity – if they can better "coordinate" their actions (those of EU Powers and States) with those of Lateral Powers in Europe and in the world.

The previous economic cycles were all rather catalysed by technologies (steam, railways, steel, electricity, ICT) which resulted in dislocation but huge efficiency gains. Sustainable Circular economy/resource efficiency linked with the energy transition will pave the way of a '*performance economy*' resulting in huge efficiency gains but, as well, a new demand and creative construction based on new territorial sustainable development plans designed with business and civil society in the framework of a 'collaborative economy'. The growth agenda has to be driven by the semester process to put in place the right framework conditions for investment and systemic change as well as new forms of multi-stakeholder partnerships in a collaborative economy developed at territorial, European and international levels.

As in other periods in history, there should be a *synchronicity* between various types of initiatives, whose convergence will help rebuild trust and generate new prosperity – hence the following proposals for a Positive European 2014-2015 Agenda of its institutions and its networks (Network Europe), taking four elements into account:

1. the agenda for peace and security is closely linked to the agenda for sustainable energy, water, raw materials, climate and biodiversity;
2. we are entering another long cycle (Kondratiev cycle) in which "green growth" (see OECD documents) is one of the main drivers;

² Frédéric Lenoir, *La guérison du monde*. Ed Livre de poche 2012, p 68.

³ Jeremy Rifkin, *La troisième révolution industrielle. Comment le pouvoir latéral va transformer l'énergie, l'économie et le monde*. Editions Les Liens qui libèrent, 2012.

3. we need *'transformative partnerships'* at a large scale. Initiatives have been taken at UN⁴ and EU level – with the European Innovation Partnerships – but we need to quickly scale up.
4. the reindustrialization of Europe in an environmentally sound circular-economy approach is closely linked to international cooperation in the field of system management and value chains of critical raw materials.

EPE calls on relevant European authorities and economic, social and environmental actors to take two initiatives:

1. A second pillar for the Europe 2020 Strategy

Within the framework of the 2015 review of the Europe 2020 Strategy, a second pillar should be launched, namely an Alliance bringing together 10 European Innovation Partnerships (EIP).

The Alliance of 10 European Innovation Partnerships and their Covenants

1. EIP for Smart Cities & Communities*, Covenant of Mayors*, Internet Covenant
2. EIP on Active and Healthy Ageing
3. EIP MED-EU Youth and a Collaborative Economy
4. EIP on Raw Materials* & Covenant on Circular Economy 2022
5. EIP for Capital Stewardship and its Covenant of Retail Banks & Covenant of Institutional Investors
6. EIP on Water*
7. EIP for Sustainable Agriculture
8. EIP for Post-Carbon Economy and Energy Covenant
9. EIP for Oceans and the Blue Economy and its pillars such as the H2020-MED programme*
10. EIP for Bio-economy and its Rural Empowerment Covenant.

* EIP, Covenant or Programme already in place.

After the AHO Report⁵ *'Outriders for European Competitiveness'* which underlined that EIP's are *'a tool for systemic change'* the Commission is here invited to complete the series of five existing EIP's. A meeting between the actors of the 10 partnerships should be organized by the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

2. A New Neighbouring Policy with a Three-Sea Alliance (Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Caspian Sea)

This Alliance would be a kind of new Olympic ring involving the European Union and its neighbours while being inspired by precedents such as the ECSC and the Helsinki Process within an institutional architecture that would ensure peace and the rule of law, environmental protection, with "baskets" like in the Helsinki Process. One of these baskets would concern the energy transition and green growth.

Current forms of cooperation with Europe's neighbouring countries do not allow for it or have failed to do so. Our prosperity is largely interdependent on that of the countries bordering the three above-mentioned seas. Our proposal is to establish new mechanisms with a dual objective:

- putting a stop to three forms of violence: violence between and within States (linked in particular to access issues regarding energy, water, raw materials, land), state violence (governance) and violence among social classes (social solidarity). Peace at the borders,

⁴ "Catalyzing Transformational Partnerships between the United Nations and Business" - UN Global Compact, in Cooperation with Unilever and Dalberg.

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/outriders_for_european_competitiveness_eip.pdf

domestic civil peace and social justice and a healthy environment are precious goods, which must all be reinforced by new forms of partnership.

- generating an energy and ecological transition and green growth for inclusive sustainable development through multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The EU Italian Presidency in 2014 could be an opportunity for convening a diplomatic conference on *Peace and Green Growth* in 2015, preparing for a Three-Sea Alliance and its baskets, one of which would concern "energy transition and green growth". In the longer term this Alliance would replace the partnerships launched by the EU in the eastern region of the Union and the southern Mediterranean area.

Conclusion. In the field of multi-stakeholder partnerships, the European institutions themselves should better cooperate and innovate!

*"The issue at stake in the 21st century is the shift from nature processing to human processing, redefining the notion of common good, unfolding our potential of intelligence and conscience, opening a new development cycle and putting our intelligence in the service of value, in other words in the service of our soul power"*⁶.

Will Europeans head this *major transformation* in which we *change structures, we change society while changing ourselves*, to paraphrase Edgard Morin⁷?

To this end, the 2014-2015 period must be the time for implementing a *positive agenda*, in addition to managing emergency situations in terms of peace maintenance, citizens' protection and refugee aid. This positive agenda should be jointly supported by the institutions, civil society, business and trade union circles working in synergy with one another. It is therefore necessary for European institutions themselves to cooperate better, in a novel way. Regarding multi-stakeholder partnerships, the three EU institutions play highly complementary roles, though with insufficient recognition and synergy to create a scale effect.

This is why EPE is calling on the European Commission President, the High Representative for foreign affairs and security policy and the Presidents of the European Parliament, European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions to launch together the Positive Agenda of the European institutions and the living forces of Europe for Peace and Qualitative Growth for 2014-2015.

EPE and its members remain at their disposal to contribute to this agenda.

⁶ *Une vision spirituelle de la crise économique*. Ed. Y. Michel 2012, p 153.

⁷ *Ibidem*, p 29.