

December 2017.

Dear friends and colleagues,

'We forgot to do things that are effective rather than those that are just dignified or decorative', Walter Bagehot once said. From 2008, Europe struggled with multiple (vicious) issues at the same time. Business was not finished. Populism, nationalism, obscurantism, political revisionism and separatism flourish. However, despite of many barriers still to overcome, like the effect of the German elections, new dynamics in politics and among citizens did start discussions again about Europe's future.

Traditionally, the Foundation delivers some retrospections and prospects at the end of the year:

- Donald J. Trump was inaugurated as the 45th President of the United States and introduced a policy of transaction based thinking and acting;
- the 'dying story' of Europe changed some course towards a cautious revival, but the intention to restart the project did not provide yet (princess) Europa the value she deserves;
- the EU agreed to increase the level of relationship with Africa and of exchanges with Russia on foreign policy issues;
- the lowest brutest form of life in the area of the Levant got some change towards a bit of credit for dignity of the human being.

But with this, our world has not been solved from vicious problems.

Next year, it will be 70 years ago 'The Congress of Europe' was held, servant of the 'Grand Design'. 800 Delegates gathered in The Hague in The Netherlands to determine the political, economic, social and cultural frameworks for the establishment of a united Europe. A wide range of philosophers, artists, economists, journalists, church leaders, lawyers, professors, entrepreneurs and historians also had an active role in the congress. That was the beginning Europa did start the most successful integration experiment of all time, building an ideal of a civil society and in this world the largest area with common prosperity and long-lasting peace. **Such idea of transcendence should continue to challenge** in stead of entering narrow dead end ism-ideologies.

Step by step, using the concept of differentiated integration and approach of multi-level governance, Europe is on the road to more unity. But as we know, Europe grows in looking for a form and finds its way very often due to major setbacks. Civic culture is also searching for a compass, lifestyles whereby every person can borrow and can contribute in order to assemble together towards a better society, supported by a modern economic system linked to sustainable development as laid down via the UN.

It is excellence at being human, a skill which helps a person survive, thrive, form meaningful relationships and find happiness. We ask to join, to construct and to complete a strong, democratic and united environment. It is in this context, together with the hope to inspire, that we offer the **Foundation's calendar 2018** and that we ask to take up characteristics of the virtual 'C21 fellow':

'Be tolerant, strive for a way of life based on ethics, basic virtues, justice, beauty, truth and greatness, provide for an enlightened spirit and common-sense smarts, have knowledge of history and use it for broadest positive impact, take today's issues and come up with solutions to resolve problems in societies, let raise awareness on transformations underway and their consequences for our society.' Only by all taking part and by supporting the Sustainable Development Goals, we are able to get closer to a state of flourishing, thriving, good fortune and/or successful social status.

We encourage to redistribute these findings and to use @C21fellow to contribute in the interest of the progress of our future.

Best regards,

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Feeling EUROPE fosters and guides European values and affairs to achieve more understanding and involvement with the aim to advance prosperity and wellbeing. For that purpose the desk promotes (knowledge about) European values and affairs, takes position as nexus between citizens, institutions, Europe, her identity and everything that is related in wider sense, mainly concerning cultural, philosophical and political fields. But also economical and technical fields are at stake. Furthermore, the desk does research work, delivers resonance and keeps up a website. The foundation is an outgrowth from the conferences 'Europe, Beautiful Idea' (5th) and 'The Sound of Europe'