The Political Construction of Europe

Antwerp | 16 May 2019

Prof. dr. Steven Van Hecke

@VanHeckSteven
• **Narratives** (plural) of European integration/EU
• Underlying **assumptions**/implicit views
• Political **predictions**
Narratives of European integration/EU

1. Peace
2. Culture
3. Religion
4. Prosperity
5. Solidarity
6. Democracy
7. …?

- ups & downs
- retorics v. empirics
- presence or absence
THE MIND AND BODY OF EUROPE

As artists, intellectuals and scientists, and first and foremost as citizens, it is our responsibility to join the debate on the future of Europe, especially now, when so much is at stake. Confidence in Europe needs to be regained. In light of the current global trends, the values of human dignity and democracy must be reaffirmed. Populist and nationalist narratives must not prevail.

*The Mind and Body of Europe* is our response to the call of the European Parliament and of the President of the European Commission to draft a new narrative for Europe for all citizens. This document is not a point of arrival. Rather it is a catalyst that we hope will trigger more contributions to the debate.

We believe that for there to be a true and well-functioning political body in Europe, an understanding of what Europe as a “state of mind” stands for is vital. We also know that a narrative tying Europe’s distant and recent past to the present and providing a vision for the future is equally essential.

Europe is a state of mind formed and fostered by its spiritual, philosophical, artistic and scientific inheritance, its spirit of community that is both consensual and pluralistic.
Underpromise and overdeliver: fulfilling the promise of Europe

Lofty visions do not create jobs or security. Nor does shouting from the ends of the political spectrum. Only hard work, Schritt für Schritt, produces results that benefit people in their daily lives. If we do that, and keep encouraging and calling each other to account, I have no doubt that we will fulfil the basic promise of Europe.

Thank you.
Le peac mondial ne saurait être sauvegardé sans des efforts créateurs à la mesure des dangers qui le menacent.

La contribution qu’une Europe organisée et vivante peut apporter à la civilisation est indispensable au maintien des relations pacifiques. En se fiançant depuis plus de 20 ans à ce but, la France a toujours eu pour objet essentiel de servir la paix. L’Europe n’a pas été faite, nous avons eu la guerre.

L’Europe ne se fera pas d’un coup, ni dans une construction d’ensemble : elle se fera par des réalisations concrètes conçues d’abord une solidarité de fait. Le rassemblement des nations européennes exigera l’opposition nationale de la France et de l’Allemagne soit diminuée : l’action entreprise doit toucher au premier chef la France et l’Allemagne.

Dans ce but, le Gouvernement Français propose de porter immédiatement l’action sur un point limité mais décisif.

Le Gouvernement Français propose de placer l’ensemble de la production franco-allemande de charbon et d’acier, sous une Haute Autorité commune, dans une organisation ouverte à la participation des autres pays d’Europe.

La mise en commun des productions de charbon et d’acier assurera immédiatement l’établissement de bases communes de développement économique, première étape de la Fédération européenne, et changera le destin de ces régions longtemps vouées à la fabrication des armes de guerre dont elles ont été les plus constantes victimes.
Culture

Kan kunst de wereld redden?

antwerpen93 Cultuurele hoofdstad van Europa

Instituut voor de Overheid
Religion
Prosperity
Solidarity

TITEL III
SOCIALE POLITIEK
HOOFDSTUK 1
Sociale bepalingen

Artikel 117

De Lid-Staten erkennen de noodzaak, verbetering van de levens-
standaard en van de arbeidsvoorwaarden van de werknemers te
bevorderen, zodat de onderlinge aanpassing daarvan op de weg
van de vooruitgang wordt mogelijk gemaakt.

Zij zijn van mening dat een dergelijke ontwikkeling zal voort-
vloeiën, zowel uit de werking van de gemeenschappelijke markt
waardoor de harmonisatie der sociale stelsels zal worden bevorderd,
as uit de in dit Verdrag bepaalde procedures en het nader tot
ekaar brengen van wettelijke en bestuursrechtelijke bepalingen.

Artikel 118

Onverminderd de overige bepalingen van dit Verdrag en over-
eenkomstig de algemene doelstellingen daarvan heeft de Com-
missie tot taak, tussen de Lid-Staten een nauwe samenwerking op
sociaal gebied te bevorderen, met name op het terrein
— van de werkgelegenheid,
— van het arbeidsrecht en de arbeidsvoorwaarden,
— van de beroepsopleiding en de voortgezette vorming,
— van de sociale zekerheid,
— van de bescherming tegen arbeidsongevallen en beroeps-
ziekten,
— van de arbeidshygiëne,
— van het recht zich te organiseren in vakverenigingen en
van collectieve onderhandelingen tussen werkgevers en werk-
nemers.

Te dien einde is de Commissie in nauw contact met de Lid-
Staten werkzaam door het verrichten van studies, het uitbrengen
van adviezen en het organiseren van overleg zowel omtrent vraag-
stukken die zich voordoen op het nationale plan als omtrent die
welke de internationale organisaties raken.
DETERMINED to work together to promote democracy on the basis of the fundamental rights recognized in the constitutions and laws of the Member States, in the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the European Social Charter, notably freedom, equality and social justice,

CONVINCED that the European idea, the results achieved in the fields of economic integration and political cooperation, and the need for new developments correspond to the wishes of the democratic peoples of Europe, for whom the European Parliament, elected by universal suffrage, is an indispensable means of expression,

AWARE of the responsibility incumbent upon Europe to aim at speaking ever increasingly with one voice and to act with consistency and solidarity in order more effectively to protect its common interests and independence, in particular to display the principles of democracy and compliance with the law and with human rights to which they are attached, so that together they may make their own contribution to the preservation of international peace and security in accordance with the undertaking entered into by them within the framework of the United Nations Charter,
Democracy
Als we de Belgische democratie willen verbeteren, is het aangewezen om te kijken wat we van Europa kunnen leren, vinden STEVEN VAN HECKE en WOUTER WOLFS.

Europese lessen voor Belgische politici

In de aanloop naar de verkiezingen op 26 mei maakt deze lezing een doorbreking van de Belgische democratie, zo lijkt het wel. Het beeld dat weert geschetst, neemt niet beter af. Terwijl de reeks Oorlogskabinet maakt (DE 98-99 najaar) wees op de grijze zone waarin de elites en de enz. van de Belgische democratie, slechts een klein politieke slagen en die andere verhagen van parlamentenleden te vervullen de regering afgedwongen

Niemand betwijfelt dat, hij misschien wel in de derde pacotina en van het parlementsysteem een groot geloof heeft. Onze democratie voelt dus het, maar de vaan is dat we met een goede woord er en dat er een nieuwstaat waarin de regering, niet overal gevoel, in de overheid die autoriteiten hebben. Euro

Beter dan de lidstaten

In de context van democratie in de EU is het een voordeel van perfect. Ten aanzicht van haar eigen lidstaten, maar ook tegenover andere landen, bijvoorbeeld in de Midden-Oost wordt de Unie een mal figuren, dat is aangestuurd dan wel haar

1. Belangengroepen die het beleid van de EU instellingen willen beïnvloeden, moeten zich registreren in de Europese Unie en over een parlementssysteem kunnen worden geplaatst. Zelfs de meest stevige en staatsreformatie wordt in de Unie niet meer gevoerd en er is een nieuwstaat waarin de regering, niet overal gevoel, in de overheid die autoriteiten hebben. Euro

Het Europese Parlement in Brussel. © J. Boga
Futuring Europe

Draft version of the manifesto by the Metaforum working group, for discussion at the symposium of 28 November 2018

The working group consists of:

Coordinator: Steven Van Hecke, European integration
Alex Andrione-Moylan, European and global governance
Katja Biedenkopf, environmental governance
Minne Casteels, pharmacology
Paul De Grauwe, international economics
Raf Geenens, philosophy of law and ethics
Elise Muir, European law
Karel Van Acker, sustainable materials and circular economy

Metaforum KU Leuven
www.kuleuven.be/metaforum
(1) What the EU should do, is to redesign its model with a view to effectively combining an ‘open economy’ approach (enabling it to be a powerful actor in a global economy), with a sufficient level of social protection and solidarity, both at the national and the European level.

(2) The EU should redefine its shared values and present a more positive common vision of Man as part of a system solidarity both at the national and the European level.

(3) More initiatives are needed to breathe life into the European Pillar of Social Rights.

(4) This should not only be to the benefit of the so-called movers that are mobile, flexible, skilled, multilingual etc., but also to those that find themselves in rather precarious circumstances merely because they are, for instance, low-skilled or part of a vulnerable group such as young, elderly people or migrants.
(5) Strengthen the integrated approach (particularly making the economic model compatible with social, environmental, climate goals) to avoid policy compartmentalisation.

(6) The EU needs greater strategic long-term thinking, a broadly shared view on the kind of goals the EU sets itself, for instance, what types of societies it wishes to create.

(7) Invest more in fundamental and multidisciplinary research.

(8) More national and European leadership to counteract false perceptions and to scale down the sometimes unrealistic expectations.

(9) Initiatives to engage with citizens and to reconnect the European integration process with the domestic sphere.

(10) The EU has still a global role to play.
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Sibiu | 9 May 2019
The Sibiu Declaration

We, the Leaders of the European Union, have gathered in Sibiu to discuss and look ahead to our common future.

In a few weeks, Europeans will elect their representatives in the European Parliament, forty years after they first exercised this fundamental right. A Europe re-united in peace and democracy is but one of many achievements. Since its inception, the European Union, driven by its values and freedoms, has provided stability and prosperity across Europe, within and beyond its borders. Over the years, it has grown into a major player on the international scene. Gathering around half a billion citizens, with a competitive single market, it is a leader in worldwide trade, and shapes global politics.

We reaffirm our belief that united, we are stronger in this increasingly unsettled and challenging world. We recognise our responsibility as Leaders to make our Union stronger and our future brighter, while recognising the European perspective of other European States. That is why today we unanimously agree on 10 commitments that will help us live up to that responsibility:

- We will defend **one Europe** - from East to West, from North to South. Thirty years ago millions of people fought for their freedom and for unity and brought down the Iron Curtain, which had divided Europe for decades. There is no place for divisions that work against our collective interest.
- We will stay **united, through thick and thin**. We will show each other solidarity in times of need and we will always stand together. We can and we will speak with one voice.
- We will **always look for joint solutions**, listening to each other in a spirit of understanding and respect.
- We will continue to **protect our way of life, democracy and the rule of law**. The unalienable rights and the fundamental freedoms of all Europeans were hard fought and will never be taken for granted. We will uphold our shared values and principles enshrined in the Treaties.
- We will deliver **where it matters most**. Europe will continue to be big on big matters. We will continue to listen to the concerns and hopes of all Europeans, bringing the Union closer to our citizens, and we will act accordingly, with ambition and determination.
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We will always uphold the principle of **fairness**, whether it be in the labour market, in welfare, in the economy or in the digital transformation. We will further reduce disparities between us and we will always help the most vulnerable in Europe, putting people before politics.

We will give ourselves the **means to match our ambitions**. We will provide the Union with the means necessary to attain its objectives and carry through its policies.

We will **safeguard the future for the next generations of Europeans**. We will invest in young people and build a Union fit for the future, able to cope with the most pressing challenges of the 21st century.

We will **protect our citizens** and keep them safe by investing in our soft and hard power and by working with our international partners.

**Europe will be a responsible global leader**. The challenges we face today affect us all. We will continue working with our partners in the world to uphold and develop the rules-based international order, to make the most of new trading opportunities and to jointly tackle global issues such as preserving our environment and fighting climate change.
This evening I want to talk to you about three things: **Urgency. Determination. Hope.**

Three significant words for the European project these days – when you look at the world, at all the challenges but also opportunities ahead, at home and abroad.
Improving the effectiveness of national justice systems

National justice systems play a key role in upholding the rule of law, restoring confidence and the return to growth.

**Background**

National justice systems play a key role in upholding the rule of law, restoring confidence and the return to growth.

To improve the effectiveness of national justice systems, the European Commission relies on several tools. They are

- European semester
- structural funds supporting justice reforms
- technical assistance on justice reforms
- cooperation and verification mechanism
- European e-Justice portal
The Future of the EU27 (1/2)

• “the Member States!” … but no agreement
• “the EU institutions!” … but no agreement
  = slogans (no majorities and nothing concrete)

• Brexit + elections in France and Germany
  = 2016-2017 lost year…
• 2018 detailed plans?
• 23-26 May 2019 European elections
  = no leap forward neither an implosion
New seat projections for the next European Parliament EU28

Parliament released today the fourth and final set of seat projections, based on a cross-section of national polls, on the composition of the next (9th) European Parliament (751 seats).
The Future of the EU27 (2/2)

• no big changes unless crisis
• small, incremental steps in a number of policy areas
• differentiated integration: it already exits and even works
• under the waterline = acquis
  = the strength of the status quo

• paradox: change leads to standstill
• EU = dependent, complex and multi-speed
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@VanHeckesteven