



PROMOTING LEADERSHIP IN THOUGHT
THAT LEADS TO ACTION

THE WEALTH OF NATIONS REVISITED

CADMUS

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CADMUS VISION

The world is in need of guiding ideas, a vision, to more effectively direct our intellectual, moral and scientific capabilities for world peace, global security, human dignity and social justice. Today we face myriad challenges. Unprecedented material and technological achievements co-exist with unconscionable and in some cases increasing poverty, inequality and injustice. Advances in science have unleashed remarkable powers, yet these very powers as presently wielded threaten to undermine the very future of our planet. Rapidly rising expectations have increased frustrations and tensions that threaten the fabric of global society. Prosperity itself has become a source of instability and destruction when wantonly pursued without organizational safeguards for our collective well-being. No longer able to afford the luxury of competition and strife based primarily on national, ethnic or religious interests and prejudices, we need urgently to acquire the knowledge and fashion the institutions required for free, fair and effective global governance.

In recent centuries the world has been propelled by the battle cry of revolutionary ideas — freedom, equality, fraternity, universal education, workers of the world unite. Past revolutions have always brought vast upheaval and destruction in their wake, tumultuous and violent change that has torn societies asunder and precipitated devastating wars. Today the world needs evolutionary ideas that can spur our collective progress without the wake of destructive violence that threatens to undermine the huge but fragile political, social, financial and ecological infrastructures on which we depend and strive to build a better world.

Until recently, history has recorded the acts of creative individual thinkers and dynamic leaders who altered the path of human progress and left a lasting mark on society. Over the past half century, the role of pioneering individuals is increasingly being replaced by that of new and progressive organizations, including the international organizations of the UN system and NGOs such as the Club of Rome, Pugwash and the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. These organizations stand out because they are inspired by high values and committed to the achievement of practical, but far-reaching goals. This was, no doubt, the intention of the founders of the World Academy of Art & Science when it established this institution in 1960 as a transnational association to explore the major concerns of humanity in a non-governmental context.

The founders of WAAS were motivated by a deep emotional commitment and sense of responsibility to work for the betterment of all humankind. Their overriding conviction was on the need for a united global effort to control the forces of science and technology and govern the peaceful evolution of human society. Inhibiting conditions limited their ability to translate these powerful motives into action, but they still retain their original power for realization. Today circumstances are more conducive, the international environment is more developed. No single organization can by itself harness the motive force needed to change the world, but a group of like-minded organizations founded with such powerful intentions can become a magnet and focal point to project creative ideas that possess the inherent dynamism for self-fulfillment.

The Editorial Board

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A Mediterranean - EU Community for a New Era of Mankind

Appeal

And suddenly everything is different! With the Arab Spring we are entering into a new era while the European Union itself is facing huge challenges. This is the time to innovate! Diplomacy, economy and society have to be rethought to respond to the aspirations towards a new development model, the strengthening of the rule of law, and the establishment of a new framework for integrating regional economies. In addition to the differentiated approach the European Commission is proposing that the ‘Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity’ open to all Mediterranean Countries, and that a ‘Mediterranean-EU Community (MED-EU)’, limited to countries having embraced real democracy and a peace agenda, should be launched.

Indeed, the visionary response to the Arab Spring should be the building up of ‘Institutions’ to take initiatives leading to peace and prosperity at the regional level, secure the enforcement of the rule of law, and protect citizens. We call for a Mediterranean-EU Community which would have a High Authority (three men and three women), a Senate directly elected by the citizens and a Council of Ministers while the European Union would keep its European Council, its Commission and its European Parliament.

A specific Court of Justice of MED-EU would be established in Strasbourg next to and working with the European Union and Council of Europe Courts of Justice. MED-EU would have mediators in the field of armed conflict, water management, human rights and association rights. Non-Mediterranean countries would be welcome as observers.

MED-EU would be a community of countries of the Mediterranean Region with the European Union acting on behalf of its members. Members of MED-EU would be committed to peace, democracy, human rights and sustainable development.

MED-EU would have four ‘baskets’ to address : (i) Peace and Human Rights, access to information, right to expression, participation and justice (ii) Green Economy, water, energy, food, green and connected cities (iii) Integrated Economic Region (iv) Youth.

MED-EU would have its headquarters in Istanbul (the High Authority), Tunis (the Senate) and Strasbourg (the Court of Justice) while the EU would keep its headquarters in Brussels, Luxemburg and Strasbourg. MED-EU isn’t an alternative to the EU accession process addressed to the Balkan countries and Turkey.

Observing that all the previous efforts to design initiatives at the Mediterranean level failed for the same reason, the MED-EU founding declaration would state that “Israel and Palestine have vocation to join the Mediterranean-EU Community and Jerusalem should become the Capital of the Community once both Israel and Palestine reach a peaceful agreement, secured democracy and security”.

A Diplomatic Conference of the Countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea, the Arab League, the African Union and the EU with participation of Russia, the United States, China and Japan should design new institutions for the Community. This Conference should be prepared by:

- a Civil Society Congress to shape a roadmap for each basket
- a Financial Conference to get the public and private financial institutions, including Sovereign Funds, to agree on the financial support to a Marshall Plan in support of the implementation of the baskets.

The Mediterraneans as well as the Europeans and Mankind as a whole, are in front of a ‘great transition’ and a ‘transformation agenda’ for several reasons from a political, economic and ecological point of view.

With a Euro-Mediterranean Community, Mediterraneans and Europeans have again the chance to lead the ‘great global transition’ by example, building a new ‘community of values and rights’ beyond cultural diversity, to secure prosperity for all and move gradually and peacefully to a new era of mankind.

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