



An Open Letter to Our Fellow Europeans

Article

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As Europeans begin to cast their votes in EU elections, we write to you from the Adriatic island of Cres. This setting reminds us of the fragility but also the enduring spirit and beauty of our continent. Neither is to be taken for granted, as we have bitterly learned once again in recent years.

Today Europe faces an array of profound challenges: war and insecurity, economic inequality, climate change, political fragmentation and the rise of extremism. How we choose to respond will shape our collective future.

It is precisely in these moments of uncertainty our shared values become paramount. To paraphrase Jean Monnet, the very idea of Europe is to unite people.

Indeed, the European Union is a symbol and example of what can be achieved in unity, diversity, and solidarity. In these elections, we must remember and uphold these foundational principles.

We must strive to create a fair Europe in which prosperity is shared across the continent. We must safeguard our environment, taking action to preserve the natural beauty of places like Cres for future generations.

In times of mistrust and extremism, we must cherish and fortify our democratic institutions and encourage one another in civic participation. We have to resist divisive forces by fostering a European spirit of dialogue and mutual respect.

Our shared values are still the ones that make the European Union a force for good, both on the continent and on the global stage.

To cast a vote is to benefit from a legacy of peace and liberal democracy. Each voter has a part to play in protecting and building on that legacy.

We urge you to vote with a vision of a better, united, tolerant and broader Europe in mind. We need representatives committed to *European* ideals and a vision in which future generations on this continent will flourish together.

As the poet John Donne once wrote: "No man is an island, entire of itself, every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main."

Writing as Europeans to all Europeans from one of the islands of Europe, we know that our common strength lies not in isolation and fear but in our ability to face common challenges together, and with hope.

In solidarity,
Europe's Futures Fellows and Alumni

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