

Under the High Patronage of the European Parliament

THE EUROPE WE WANT

Competition of ideas announced by the “Accademia delle Scienze dell’Istituto” in collaboration with the Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna, the City of Bologna, the Emilia Romagna Region and with the sponsorship of the “Fondazione del Monte di Bologna e Ravenna”

• PREAMBLE AND OBJECTIVES

1) The League of Nations (1919) could not secure a long period of peace after the First World War that radically changed the geo-political structure of the European continent that was determined to stay true to the principle of balance among great powers.

2) Only after the dramatic sequence of ruthless dictatorships, which denied all forms of humanity, and a second world war that upset the whole world giving rise to long-lasting consequences, a spirit of moral and cultural rebirth arose that inspired the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This proposed to all mankind the necessity to build a shelter in defense of itself and solicited the governments of all Countries and the awareness of the citizens to implement its principles.

3) Starting from these premises, fully confirmed by the Constitution of the Italian Republic, the firm conviction was engendered that one should avoid the errors made in the past through a cooperation among those nations that the various events of a long history had placed on opposite sides. The troubled route that led to the European Union started from economic relationships, but very soon one felt the need to establish relations aimed at the construction of a cultural and social life based on the protection of human rights, on work and education, on the equilibrium between environment and development, on solidarity and integration.

4) From ideas that seemed to be utopic only, like those included in the Ventotene Manifesto (*Towards a free and united Europe*) of 1941, one arrived at the Treaty of Paris (1951) which gave birth to the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), at that of Rome (1957) which established the European Community and, finally, at that of Maastricht (1992) which marked the birth of the European Union. The extraordinary success of this development, which was confirmed by the Treaty of Lisbon (2007), solicited Europe to identify itself as a community based on the respect of the individual, on democracy and on equal opportunities. Values that secured a long period of peace and favoured civil, social and economic growth in the Countries of the Union. Something which is unprecedented in the historic sequence of events of our continent.

5) In the last few years some remarkable limits have been highlighted in the political action of the European Union which certainly require significant reforms, but they are not such to obscure or even cancel the widespread stability and the growth in adherence to values of pacification and development. Values which represent a reference point and, in many respects, an attractive model in a period in which the globalization-induced crisis brings back conflicts and shortcuts that jeopardize the fundamental rights of individuals as citizens of the world.

6) The institutional and functional structures of the European Union need substantial changes and its policies need to be improved in order to be able to face new challenges; Italy as one of its founders can neither avoid them, nor fail in counteracting the success of resurgent nationalisms whose only outcome would be the stagnation or the conflicts revival.

7) However, one should keep in mind that in such an advanced community as is the European one, no reform can be afforded by the individual States. Isolation does not allow to successfully compete on issues of great international concern like industrial development and environmental protection; the progressive impoverishment of large sections of the population, the major migratory flows which are distinguishing marks of our time.

8) Research, education, knowledge can and must give their contribution to this transformation. It is with this purpose that the Accademia delle Scienze dell'Istituto di Bologna, intends to announce a competition of ideas composed of 4 prizes, open to young researchers and scholars, on the following subject: *The Europe we want*. We believe it is not difficult to understand the reasons why the competition of ideas which is the subject of this announcement originates right from this Academy that since its foundation (1690) has had a close relationship with all "*The Literati*"; from this University, which has been the "*Alma Mater Studiorum*" and inaugurated the *Erasmus Program*, the *Magna Cartha Universitatum* and the *Bologna Process*; from this City and from this Region, that based their progress and their cosmopolitan spirit on the abolition of the peasant serfdom, as attested by the *Liber Paradisus* (1257).

• PRIZES

1) **Altiero Spinelli Prize**

Institutional powers and the policies of the future UE

2) **Simone Veil Prize**

Education, research, work, and citizenship

3) **Robert Schuman Prize**

The policies for an environmentally compatible industrial development

4) **Antonio Megalizzi and Barto Pedro Orent-Niedzielski Prize**

Communication means for a widespread outreach of the activities of the Commission and the European Parliament

The prizes will consist in the publication of the winning original essays and a financial contribution of 5000 euros each, to be used at a European university or at a research institute of internationally recognized value, of which the contestants should provide evidence when submitting their application.

• **RECIPIENTS AND RULES FOR PARTICIPATION**

The Competition of ideas is open to graduated of the second cycle (graduated not over five years ago), PhD graduates and PhD students of European universities who are under 38 years of age; the contestants should submit an unpublished original essay, either in English or in Italian, on one of the four above-listed subjects.

The text length should range between 150000 and 300000 characters. Texts should be submitted within **30 JUNE 2020** both by e-mail to the address presidente@accademiascienzebologna.it and by registered mail with return receipt to the address: Accademia delle Scienze dell'Istituto di Bologna via Zamboni 31, 40126 Bologna.

• **DOCUMENTS**

Together with the text the contestants should submit the following documents:

- the application duly filled in by using the form herewith attached;
- a short report (max 3000 characters, including spaces) illustrating the researches or the activities to be performed abroad and the period of their stay;
- an acceptance certificate of the hosting university or research institute;
- the duly signed and dated curriculum vitae.

The organizing committee, acting as guarantor, will be constituted by the organizations that promote and support the initiative. The panel of judges who select the winners of the competition will be appointed by the organizing committee. The outcome of the competition shall be published in the month of September of the year 2020.

Bologna, Accademia delle Scienze dell'Istituto di Bologna, July 2019

The President

Walter Tega

Professor Emeritus, University of Bologna



ACCADEMIA DELLE SCIENZE
DELL'ISTITUTO DI BOLOGNA

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