

The Future of Europe – Scenario

Europe in 2015: Greece, Spain, Portugal and Ireland are bankrupt. The major banks of Germany, France and the UK have been nationalised and operate under government control. Luxembourg and Austria have given up on their offshore banking strategies, and the City of London has been placed under common legislation. Economic perspectives are depressing. Russia, China and Brazil have offered to lend money to the Europeans.

Meanwhile, the citizens of Europe have lost their last bit of trust in European institutions. The majority is convinced that neither the European Union nor the Council of Europe will survive this fundamental crisis.

In this atmosphere of hopelessness, the Parliament of the European Union and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe have decided to meet, for the first time, in joint session to discuss and shape the future of Europe.

Each political party has tabled 2 proposals (called motions) about the future of Europe for this joint session. These motions are discussed in joint committees, with members from both Parliaments attending.

One of the most controversial motions comes from the Pirate Party: They suggest to extend the Schengen area to include all member states of the Council of Europe and to change the external border policies to comply with human right principles.

The joint “Committee on the Freedom of Movement and Mobility in Europe” has organised a meeting to discuss the motion, with a public hearing of experts and civil society. **The meeting starts at 10:45 in Room Giorgia.** After the hearing, the Committee will vote about its recommendation on the motion to the joint Parliament.

The meeting will be moderated by the Chair of the joint committee. It consists of:

- (1) 3-minute inputs from three experts on key topics, followed by
- (2) one-minute statements of all invited civil society organisations, followed by
- (3) the political parties, declaring and explaining their positions in 2 minutes each,
- (4) the coffee break which can be used to liaise and lobby, followed by
- (5) a half-hour discussion between parties, experts and civil society, and finally
- (6) the secret vote of the committee on their recommendation to the parliaments.