

# Be-Eu

## A BETTER EUROPE

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1<sup>st</sup>Event

### THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY: NEW CHALLENGES

Capoterra (Italy)  
Aula Consiliare del Comune di Capoterra  
12th March 2018

EU is crossing structural crisis, which is undermining its principles. Today, the concept of EU integration seems to fade in the light of the current crisis and European citizens mostly see the future of Europe pessimistically. The majority of Europeans thinks that things are going in the wrong direction. The European principles, and especially the principle of *Solidarity* is undermined by the raising of *euro-scepticism*. **The European Solidarity is intended as a series of norms and values, under the political, economic and social point of view, uniting not only the member countries but also the citizens.**

The last year European Union celebrated six decades of socio-economic solidarity. Speaking in 1950, Robert Schuman, a former French prime minister and one of the architects of the EU – [stated](#) that Europe would be “built through concrete achievements which first create a *de facto* solidarity”.

**The principle of solidarity is at the centre of the European project and its integration process** – created as a direct response to the nationalist rivalries that led to World War II.

However, for a peaceful, united Europe, Schuman pointed out the need to combat what he called the *état d'esprit contraire* (a contrary state of mind), which had characterised the European nation-states' antagonistic mentality. To him, the attachment to national sovereignty led to a culture of separation, hegemony and superiority. This, he believed, gave rise to political nationalism, protectionism, cultural isolationism, mistrust, resentment and hatred. This “contrary spirit” needed to be substituted by the notion of solidarity, which Schuman defined as the meeting of “fraternity and the instinct of enlightened conservation

Questions of solidarity go to the heart of the European project. While solidarity implies ties of support and sympathy across national boundaries, notions of EU solidarity have been under strain in recent years. Today, Europe's economic and refugee crises, the rise of nationalist sentiments across the bloc, and Brexit are testing the EU's resolve to remain on the path of united solidarity.

During the event we will debate about the different concepts of solidarity, such as: financial and economic solidarity; Asylum and border management solidarity; Solidarity and intra-EU mobility of

workers (social solidarity). **You have to present your vision of *European solidarity and the possible solutions in order to ensure a better future for European Union and its citizens.***

**Key Points for the event, presentations and the debate (according your perspective and point of view)**

- How citizens in your country see the European Union?
- How to promote Solidarity (under political, social and economic point of view) in the European Union?
- How to develop a concrete solidarity at European level between member states (toward the United States of Europe?)
- Solidarity and responsibility in the European Union. Is there a sense of Solidarity between member states today?

**DRAFT**

**12th March 2018**

**Capoterra, Aula Consiliare del Comune di Capoterra**

14.00 – 14.15 Welcome Speeches

- Mayor of Capoterra, Mr. Francesco Dessì;

14.15 – 14.30 Intervent of the Expert

14.30: 15.00 Round Table

"The European crisis, the solidarity and the new challenges for the European Union"

15.00-15.30 Debates

15.30-17.30 Visit on the field

19.00 Social Cocktail, debate with the local associations and conclusions;