

**nova
europa**

Sammlungsbewegung für eine Europäische Republik
Rassemblement pour une République européenne
Raggruppamento per una Repubblica europea
Movement for a European Republic



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Manifesto

Agreed by the founding General Assembly on December 1, 2003
Supplemented and amended by the extraordinary General Assembly on October 23, 2010

Our self-conception

Nova Europa considers itself a modern centrist movement whose members commit to common republican values, to the economic model of the eco-social market economy and to the goal of the foundation of a federal European State, the “**European Republic**”, consisting of continental European EU-member states around France and Germany.

We regard the three pillars of European identity as a set of shared values for such a European Republic, namely

- the **Greek-Roman tradition** of the active, policy-shaping citizen who takes action for the common good,
- a value system exhorting charity, as – in spite of all tragic violations – founded in the **Christian-Jewish spirituality**
- and the **enlightenment** to intellectual maturity and self-respect as well as the civil revolutions, especially the French Revolution and the previous American Revolution, with their declarations of human and civil rights.

Nova Europa was founded by modern Christian-Democrats. As a “Movement for a European Republic” we are now open for all interested people sharing our goals and our conception of human beings and society – regardless of whether these positions are based on religious or general-humanistic attitudes.

As progressive centrist movement we are searching for political solutions to urgent challenges of our time. By abandoning ideological barriers, we develop and pursue a modern policy following conservative values.

Our conception of human beings

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” (Article 1, Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations on December 10, 1948). Endowed with rationality, freedom of will and conscience every human being is considered a “person” and therefore entitled to inalienable, universally valid **human rights (personality)**. Fundamental human rights include the right to life, physical integrity, health, **freedom** and security, gender equality, **equality** before the law, protection against arbitrary actions, the right to the assistance of a lawyer in case of criminal accusation and a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, the right to sexual self-determination and free choice of partner, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion including the freedom to change religion or belief, the right to freedom of speech, assembly and association, an order of state, society and economy based on freedom and justice, economic and social conditions that enable everyone to live decently and the preservation of the natural environment. The

natural environment is not only the base of existence for human beings today but also for following generations.

Those rights correspond with obligations. Due to the double nature of human beings, as individuals and as “social beings”, they are directed to and dependent on society. They are responsible for the right order of society (**common good**, general welfare), as well as for their fellow human beings (**solidarity**).

Republican values

Corresponding to this responsibility, freedom does not only mean being free from the state but also the right to take an active role in shaping the community. **Liberal democracy** makes both possible, individual freedom and the citizens’ freedom to actively shape their communities within the state.

Liberal democracy is characterised by **civil rights**, such as general, free and equal voting rights, the diversity of opinions, religions and ideas, by the separation of powers and rule of law and by the unconditional protection of human rights. As **laical** or **secular** states liberal democracies guarantee religious and ideological neutrality of government.

The freedom of the individual, its freedom of opinion and religion, is limited by human dignity, human and civil rights as well as by general welfare, including rights of following generations. Therefore, it is in fact morally required to stand up against any kind of ideological or religious fanaticism, racism or intolerance and to take action to protect the liberal democracy, freedom, human dignity and human and civil rights. Such a “**defensive democracy**” is furthermore characterised by measures such as prohibitions of extremist political parties and of extremist individuals’ political activity as well as by the protection of fundamental human rights like human dignity of women and gender equality.

The right to taking an active role in shaping the community demands the participation of the citizens. The smaller the community, the more directly participation can take place. Therefore, states and federations – particularly the European Republic that we are aiming at – should be established in accordance with the principle of **subsidiarity**. Subsidiarity means that policy-shaping competences should be delegated to the lowest level possible, which – to be consistent – also means that political issues that, on a lower level cannot be attended properly and efficiently, should be delegated to a higher level. To secure a federal structure of the European Republic we consider a strong second chamber of parliament – in which every federal state is represented equally independent of the size of its population – as necessary.

Direct democratic participation is necessary when it comes to profound changes in the state system like overall amendments of the constitution of a state. Generally, however, the legislative power should be exercised by elected representatives, who – committed to

general welfare and to their voters – take decisions in accordance with their conscience. Fundamental human rights shall be secured by a constitutional guarantee of continuity. A constitutional and therefore legal abolition or restriction of these human rights shall be impossible, not even by a referendum.

Representative democracy requires political parties bringing together citizens with the same political goals or interests. Percentage hurdles (proportional representation) or majority vote systems prevent fragmentation of political powers and maintain the effective functioning of parliaments. Democracy requires the involvement of the general public. The media are mediators between the policies pursued by political parties and the citizens. A variety of free and independent media – avoiding the dominance of media companies – is a precondition for well-functioning democracies.

Schools and universities, as places of enlightenment and social integration, shall impart those republican values to the European younger generations. Learning widely spoken European languages – as English, French and German – shall facilitate communication between European citizens from all over the continent as well as the development of a European general public as basic condition for a well-functioning European democracy in a European Republic.

Academic autonomy and freedom is a precious good that must not be restricted for any other reason than to protect human dignity and life. Scientists', engineers' and physicians' ethos and sense of responsibility constitute the most effective protection against disregarding human dignity through research or unethical use of scientific findings.

Eco-social market economy

Freedom from the state includes the freedom to economic activity on one's own responsibility and for one's own profit. A free society therefore requires market economy as well as the right to property, free choice of career and the right to establish a labour union. But the pursuit of self-interest does not automatically lead to the common good. In order to keep market economy working, to protect those who find themselves in a weaker position and to guarantee shared prosperity we need a regulatory framework (monetary system, competition law, labour legislation, consumer protection laws ...) and economic policy – particularly in order to achieve full employment. In this way, high efficiency – the strength of a market economy – can be ensured.

The distribution of the national income has to be carried out in accordance with the principles of social justice, solidarity and common welfare. Therefore, wage negotiations should be conducted at industry level in order to establish balance of power between employers and employees. In addition, institutions which ensure social balance and re-distribution of income (pension insurance, health insurance, nursing insurance, accident

insurance, unemployment insurance...) are needed. In an international context, development policy and fair global rules for doing business are necessary. Due to the threat to our natural environment induced by a human-caused climate change and the poisoning and destruction of ecosystems and due to the shortage of resources this continental European economic and social model, the “Social Market Economy”, needs to be further developed towards a sustainable and – at best – world-wide, ecologically sustainable social market economy. This Eco-Social Market Economy should make use of the price mechanism (ecological true-cost pricing, polluter-pays principle) and of competitive principles as instruments of environment protection policy.

A European Republic would lay the foundations for a successful realisation of an ecologically sustainable, social market economic policy in Europe, as in a globalised world the necessary “primacy of politics over economics” can only be achieved by huge, economically significant states. Due to the economic and geopolitical strength of a European Republic a pervasive European impact on the establishment of the necessary international regulatory framework for the creation of a worldwide eco-social market economy would be ensured.

International security and global responsibility

Large and small states, international corporate groups and enterprises, organisations of the civil society as well as every individual are responsible for the development of mankind and of our planet Earth. Not only climate protection and the realisation of a stable, socially just world economic system requires global thinking and acting but also the lasting establishment of a system of global safety, prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the protection of men against genocides and barbarity.

A European Republic – due to its size and significance – would bear a global responsibility. This responsibility should be realised with the instruments of diplomacy, economic incentives or sanctions and – as a last resort – even through military means. The foreign and security policy of a European Republic should serve the purpose of the maintenance of a liveable environment (as base for the development of mankind and of other species), of civilisation (“freedom of barbarity” – human rights) and of global social justice and peace.