

# The Action Committee for Democracy in Europe (Comité d'Action pour la Démocratie en Europe)

## An Introduction

*Puissance Europe/Weltmacht Europ*, a transnational initiative network (<http://manifeste-continental.eu>), and the Bastille Committee (<http://www.comitebastille.org/>), campaigning for a tax reform and a corporate law reform in the EU, are to engage in **an action for democracy in Europe**.

In the EU, and even more in the Eurozone, democracy is threatened by **the powerlessness of member states** facing problems that they can no longer solve individually, and by **the inefficiency of common institutions**, whose governance has been confiscated by the European Council, where governments are pursuing their particular interests, and by the Eurogroup, who polarises the divergence between creditors and debtors.

Democracy, and not only in Europe, is also threatened by the iniquitous power of **deregulated finance**, which diverts governments from public service, and by **the wage, tax and social competition** between EU members states, which is contrary to the spirit of the founding treaties and to the common interest of Europeans.

For the banking oligopoly and dominant corporations in the manufacturing and services sectors, the combination of free capital movements, required by global financialisation, and the maintenance of tax borders, which enable them to escape personal and corporate income tax, is ideal.

In this respect, it is easy for the demagogues of self-isolation to blame the single currency and the free movements of persons for physical and economic insecurity, and to associate the naive hope for a return of glorious years to the closing of borders.

It is high time to take action. Predatory plutocracies surrounding Europe lure it to deregulate finance further and pull it down to political division. **If Europe is to bring to its citizens and the world an alternative to deregulated finance, the common good should take precedence over short-term speculative gains, and businesses and jobs should not be left to arbitrary decisions by shareholders only, but placed under the control of all stakeholders.**

The strategic goal will be to create, alongside national democracies, another democracy, equally sovereign, and founded on the shared need for **a common capacity of public action up to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century**, and of a single legitimate negotiating power, in front of the financial oligarchy and continent-sized nation states.

The foundations of this **double democracy** will be provided by an autonomous budget, endowed with its own resources, to guarantee financial stability, alongside monetary stability which will still be the mandate of the ECB, as a lender of last resort in a fully-fledged banking union. National and European multi-annual fiscal programmes should not be guided any longer by intangible rules, but coordinated, taking into account the Eurozone macroeconomic situation, according to a counter-cyclical logic and under control by respective parliaments.

What we propose is neither a constitutional leap, nor self-isolation, but a fiscal leap, one of political solidarity, the leap to a European public power.

The CADE initiative is open to all individuals, NGOs, networks and campaigns who can recognise themselves in this introduction, all those whose own innovations are barred by the political division of Europe and the inaction and paralysis of governments and common institutions, and all those in need of the continental prospect of a multiple and augmented democracy.

Those innovations can shape a realistic plan for **a possible Europe** if their promoters are helped out of their isolation, commit themselves to common campaigns, exchange their projects and experiences, understand that they complement one another, combine their forces, however modest, and place an irresistible pressure on governments. Such a pool of innovations can

result into the prospect of a **European Civil Pact, paving the way to a participative constitutional process.**

Below is a non exhaustive list, starting with innovations that are directly related to the committee's strategic goal :

**- national and European laws of fiscal responsibility equalising public debt and public capital ;**

**- a European borrowing capacity (Euro-bonds) ;**

**- a role of investor of last resort assigned to a European Treasury ;**

**- promoting the role of development public banking and responsible financing.**

**- switching progressive taxation from income to net assets**

**(<http://www.comitebastille.org/p/tax-on-net-assets.html>) and abolishing personal and corporate income taxation**

**(<http://www.comitebastille.org/p/il-faut-abolir-tout-impot-sur-le-revenu.html>) ;**

**a reform of corporate law substituting a stakeholder capitalism for the shareholder one ;**

- completing the banking union and the legal separation of non-bank functions from the retail banking proper ;

- the development of local and complementary currencies ;

- the introduction of public digital platforms for payments to end the private banking monopoly in this field ;

- a European New Deal (NewDeal4Europe) to speed up the energy transition to a sustainable development ;

- a codevelopment programme for the Mediterranean and Africa to control migrations ;

- a QuantitativeEasing4People in parallel with any QE for the banks ;

- a Precariat Charter

- a unconditional citizenship income.