



**60 YEARS OF THE ROME TREATY:** The Conference on Europe's future and the March for Europe



**IED PUBLICATION:** 60 Years of the Rome Treaty and its Eternal Legacy for the European Project



**NEXT IED EVENTS:** April-June 2017

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR WORK

### NEWSLETTER April 2017



### EDITORIAL

On 25 March 2017, we celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome that laid down the key foundations of the greatest integration of European countries. By signing the Treaty, six states – Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany – not only established the common market that had no parallel in history but also agreed to proceed together towards “ever closer union between peoples and states”. Since then, this Community welcomed other 22 states and made Europe one of the most peaceful, democratic and progressive regions of the world.

After 60 years, however, our continent stands at the crossroads. A number of severe problems such as terrorism, massive migration and social and economic insecurity revealed the weaknesses of the European project and led to unprecedented rise of populism and nationalism that directly caused the British vote for Brexit and influences the French presidential elections now. Similarly as the Founding Fathers of the difficult post-war period, we are now standing in front of the historic task which is to build a better and stronger Europe.

Through our research activities and by initiating global debates at our international conferences, the Institute of European Democrats will try hard to contribute to this task and prove to all Europeans the unprecedented benefits of the European Union. We will keep explaining that the EU is here for every single European, every one of us. We will be proving to the citizens that even though populist propositions may look attractive at first sight, these simplistic proposals would ultimately worsen their living standards – the happenings on the other side of the Atlantic are already proving this. All Europeans need to realize that the EU is the only and best possible way for a peaceful, prosperous and secure future for all of us. All democratic and pro-European political parties, organizations, think-tanks as well as individual citizens must join their forces and revive a European spirit which has been born sixty years ago in Rome. It is now or never and the Institute of European Democrats is prepared to use all its powers and resources to contribute to defend the idea of a united Europe. The difficult times we live in require brave actions of all of us who believe in a democratic future of our continent.

## IED's participation at the Conference of the European Democratic Party dedicated to the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome:

### Europe's Future Hangs in the Balance – Proposals for a EU Refunding



On the important occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rome Treaty, the IED participated at the Conference organized by the [European Democratic Party \(PDE-EDP\)](#) titled *“Europe's Future Hangs in the Balance – Proposals for a EU Refunding”*.

The Conference took place on the eve of the Rome Treaty's Anniversary on **24 March 2017** at the premises of the Chamber of Deputies in the heart of the Italian capital. This event was the part of the official celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome.

The Conference hosted several key public figures coming from many EU countries as well as from the EU Institutions. This included the EDP Co-President Francesco Rutelli, the Members of European Parliament Marielle de Sarnez, Nathalie Griesbeck, Claude Rolin and Antonio Marinho e Pinto, several members of the Italian government and the Members of Parliaments and politicians from several EU Member States.



The invited speakers discussed the reasons why it is so important to remember the legacy of the Rome Treaty and what this Treaty represents for Europe today. They also debated what the EU should do in order to regain the trust of Europeans in the European project and in a unique integration that has started 60 years ago.

In the adopted [Declaration of the European Democrats](#), the Members of the European Parliament and national/regional parliaments reaffirmed their commitment to re-launch the process of European integration which has ensured the decades of peace in freedom, free movement and economic, social and civil growth for the European continent. They agreed there is a need to revive the process of integration, to strengthen the democratic dimension of Europe by joint efforts of the civil society and the Institutions and to step greater transparency because Europe cannot be built without the citizens' consent.

Through the Declaration, the participants demand a detailed roadmap for the re-launch of the integration process, paying particular attention to the issues of common defence system, refugee management, protection of European borders, reinforcement of policies for the inclusive growth of the European economy, social rights and the definition of the mechanisms of "enhanced cooperation", which are now indispensable after Brexit. A new "Community" impetus from the EU-27 is needed in order to prevent the recurrence of choices such as Brexit and to counteract the isolationist and xenophobic wind that is spreading everywhere nowadays.

## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome:

### March for Europe 2017 in Rome

On Saturday **25 March 2017**, the IED participated on the *March for Europe* that gathered hundreds of Europeans who believe in a strong, united and democratic Europe. The March was organized by several pro-European organizations on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. The aim of the March was to show the support for the European project and urge for a re-launch of European political unity. More than 10 000 citizens from all over Europe gathered in the centre of Rome in order to defend the idea of a united Europe. The March was opened by several Members of European and national parliaments.



At the same day, there were Marches for Europe organized in more than 30 European cities such as Berlin, Brussels, Paris, Madrid, Warsaw and also London. Altogether, on 25 March 2017, tens of thousands of Europeans walked to the streets to show that they oppose nationalism and populism and want to build together a united, democratic, solidary and strong European Union.

## Celebrating 60 Years of the Treaty of Rome:

### Contributions delivered during the EDP Conference at the Sala della Lupa, Palazzo Montecitorio, Rome (24 March 2017) dedicated to “Europe’s Future hangs in the Balance. Proposals for a EU Refunding.”

(Listed in the order of speeches.)



“Twenty years ago in Rome, as the Mayor of Rome I hosted the event for the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rome Treaty and the atmosphere of that celebration was completely different than it is nowadays. That time, absolutely nobody had wondered there would be anti-European demonstrations taking place throughout Europe just twenty years later. In this regard, it is necessary to highlight the importance of unity of all states, nations and peoples of Europe. We need to defend our European ideals because without ideals we have nothing. We need to explain to European citizens that the EU is a way and not a problem. In order to defend and protect Europe, it is also essential to protect our common European culture which is at the root of European identity we all share. All pro-European forces should lead the plan for a real re-foundation of the European Union and be real pro-European vanguards of today.”

**Francesco Rutelli**

Co-President of the European Democratic Party,  
President of Associazione Priorità Cultura, Italy

“It is convenient and important for Europe to be united because united Europe is much stronger and decisive than fragmented. European countries would be doomed to become irrelevant without the EU. We have to work together to stop this road into emptiness, we have to work together to reform the EU. All pro-European democratic forces should have so strong rhetoric as anti-EU populists have in order to be better heard by all European citizens.”

**Stefano Dambroso**

Quaestor of the Chamber of Deputies, Italy

“Culture can be a real catalyst of international relations. Our cultural heritage is extremely important for Europe and its future. Together with our culture, we need to enrich our democratic heritage and the legacy of the European Founding Fathers, such as Alcide De Gasperi, who once said that only by overcoming national sentiments we can achieve real democracy.”

**Flavia Piccoli Nardelli**

Member of the Chamber of Deputies,  
Chairman of the Committee on Culture, Italy

“Look at the achievements of the EU such as peace, prosperity, assurance of basic healthcare and social aids... people forget on them. It is like a vaccine – people are now forgetting that there were the times when the vaccine was not available and people were dying from many diseases. We really need to revive the European governance and re-think the significance of being together. We need the sound policies at the European level – policies that will develop science, technology, economy and bring innovations.”

**Beatrice Lorenzin**

Minister of Health, Italy

“The Anniversary of the Rome Treaty is crucially important day for the EU; however, there are many serious problems the EU is facing at the moment. We let the desire for Europe disappear and that is a huge problem. In 1957 in Rome, a new history was founded. A lot has been done despite there are many Europeans who still live in indecent living conditions and do not feel the achievements of the united Europe directly. We should recreate new conditions for re-birth of Europe. Although there are many challenges, precisely these challenges should encourage us to do everything possible to have a united Europe. We should create the conditions for a real Community. There is a lot to do, but we have to stand together and march towards a new revival. If we are all determined, we will succeed!”

**Nathalie Griesbeck**

Member of the European Parliament, France

“The European project is like a love story. We need to revive this love story, revive the process and get back to the basics – we need to provide social progress, good healthcare and fight inequality. We have to concentrate on the people who have been left behind and enhance social dialogue with all Europeans. Only through this we can restore the ‘European love story’.”

**Claude Rolin**

Member of European Parliament, Belgium

“With Brexit, populism, Trump, migrants, terrorism and a lack of economic growth, the EU is now facing the greatest challenge in its history. But as the history shows, Europeans have been always able to overcome any challenge. We have to re-establish the partnership among European states. The motto ‘stronger than ever, more democratic than ever’ has to be implemented. We have to also fight any attempt to attack our democracy which is our greatest heritage. After – hopefully – successful result of the elections in France, we can start to work on our future.”

**Antonio Marinho e Pinto**

Member of European Parliament and Vice-President of  
the European Democratic Party, Portugal

“Europe needs to become increasingly united. As former American President Barack Obama once said ‘the US and the entire world need a strong, prosperous, democratic and united Europe’. Hence we have to struggle to continue in the integration that has been commenced 60 years ago.”

**Giovanni Palladino**

Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Italy

“It is important to make compromises and find consensus because consensus is the key basis for the EU and its functioning. The events in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – Hungarian revolution and Polish revolts in 1956 or Warsaw Pact’s invasion to Czechoslovakia in 1968 – show us that the nations in Central and Eastern Europe managed to get through horrible things in order to reach liberty. The lesson of history shows us that unity is the only way how to keep peace and prosperity for Europe. All Europeans have to remain united and work together for the common cause.”

**Andrzej Potocki**

Vice-President of the European Democratic Party, Poland

“We have to protect the four freedoms that were formulated precisely by the Rome Treaty. We need a strong, united and solidary Europe in which each nation is respected equally. I hope that the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rome Treaty will bring renewed hope for Europe, higher standards for its peoples and better prospects for the future ahead.”

**Andi Grosaru**

Member of the Parliament, Romania

“60 years is a success, European unity is completely unique but nothing is perfect. We have to remove the obstacles and we have to do it now and not leave it to our children. No matter whether you are Italian, French, German, Greek or any other European nation, we all have the same goal we want to achieve – preserve our European Union.”

**Vasilis Spyrou**

Director of the Parliamentary Group of To Potami, Greece

“The years following the end of the Second World War were extremely difficult years during which Europeans had to face shortage of food, devastated countries as well as political and economic uncertainty. But despite extremely demanding post-war period, our predecessors gradually managed to get Europe on a right track. Now, it is our turn to write a new page in the European history. We need a new start for Europe, a concrete proposal.”

**Jean Marie Beaupuy**

Treasurer of the European Democratic Party, France

“Unfortunately, many people do not understand all the achievements of a united Europe. These people need very careful and precise explanation why the EU is a right thing and why they should trust in the EU. In this way, the past can really influence the future of the EU. Politics should be closer to our citizens and maybe we need to make political content easier to understand in order to reach more citizens. All politicians also must treat citizens as equals. The citizens need to have trust in politics and politicians again.”

**Gabriele Molinari**

Member of the Regional Council of Piemonte, Italy

“The EU project is a tremendous project. But I think we have forgotten what democracy really is. There is a problem with democracy in reviving Europe, we have a democratic deficit. We need more democratic Europe which will be also socially more conscious. European citizens will understand Europe better when Europe becomes more democratic and socially fair.”

**Gianluca Susta**

Member of the Senate, Vice-President of the European Democratic Party, Italy

“Europe’s future hangs in the balance. In the French elections, not only French democracy but all democracies of Europe are at stake because without France, the European project cannot feasibly continue. We have to prove that another Europe is possible. Imagining the EU as a puzzle, we have to move the puzzle pieces which are now in the wrong places into the right places and remove the wrong pieces of puzzle completely. Many people and especially young people forget what has been achieved. As a result, the rule of law in the EU is threatened, actually in some countries there are serious violations of freedom of press or the rights of refugees. We need to re-think the way the EU is governed and promote the idea of solidarity. We live in extraordinary times which require the replies that go beyond ordinary.”

**Sandro Gozi**

Under-Secretary of State for European Affairs, Italy

“The world has never been so dangerous. There is general destabilization, authoritative leaders, insecurity, migration, terrorism. One would imagine that day after day Europe would grow more and more united to face these challenges and we see the exact opposite! It is now or never. We have to defend our original, unique ideas. It is our duty to give a renewed price to Europe. It is the time to correct its weaknesses and restore the trust of citizens in the European Union. In order to reach that, we have to create jobs, increase employment, improve social security, develop economy and increase safety. Also it is vital to have less bureaucratic EU Institutions. A lot of decisions have to be made and many policies need to be implemented, but all decisions and policies must respect the will of people. We need a real European revolution!”

**Marielle de Sarnez**

Member of the European Parliament, Vice-President of MoDem, Secretary-General of the European Democratic Party, France

## **Celebrating 60 Years of the Treaty of Rome:**

### **Other Contributions**

(Listed in the alphabetical order.)

“It is important to remember the legacy that Rome has left to us, the European citizens. Not just in economic growth, but in freedom and civil rights. It is important to remember it specially for us, the youth, because we will have to develop this project and decide where we want to arrive in order to improve our rights and freedoms. Europe is the key and the unique way for that.”

**Asier Areitio**

Secretary-General of the Young Democrats for Europe, Spain

“Now it is the time for an ‘ever closer union’. It is not about a common market or Schengen it is about living together promoting cooperation and respect of human rights among the EU Member States and beyond. Democracy and equality to move and express freely, among European nations and peoples.”

**Kyriacos Christofides**

Board Member of the Young Democrats for Europe, Cyprus

“The Treaty of Rome was a vision of a better future for the next generations. Our lives in the EU are now completely different than before, that is a fundamental effect of this Treaty, particularly concerning the free movement among all Member States. Now the EU needs a new vision but no one seems able to create it. Transparency and authority in continental subjects should be next objectives to renew the European vision we need.”

**Charles Coudoré**

Member of Young Democrats for Europe, France

“We need to enhance European solidarity and maintain the ideas, principles and goals of European integration. At the same time, we need to show respect and consideration for the particularities of each country, based on its size, economic conditions and geographical position. The main goal is to have a democratic, prosperous, peaceful Europe emanating from the people and focused on the people.”

**Marina Demetriou**

Member of the Board of Directors of the Institute of European Democrats, Cyprus

“The Rome Treaty was the materialization of the idea of cooperation and solidarity among the countries and citizens of Europe. After years of dictatorship and bloodshed, the Rome Treaty constitutes a historical landmark that restores and brings dignity, freedom, welfare and peace to Europeans. It is essential to be practical and resolute in solving the problems Europeans face in order to gain the confidence of the people. Europe must be effective, placing the people at the center of its political action. It is necessary to activate more cooperation and integration among European countries and citizens.”

**Jose Marie Etxebarria**

Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of EAJ-PNV,  
Basque Country

“I see the legacy of the Treaty of Rome as an opportunity to reform the EU, to adapt its functioning to our time, to write the future of Europe. A priority should be to deepen and refine the existing projects before undertaking the next initiatives.”

**Dylan Hasenfratz**

Member of Young Democrats for Europe, France

“We should never forget that the Rome Treaty helped us to get out of the nightmare of European wars. Then, as now, we need a democratic, prosperous, equitable and attractive Europe. Those having government responsibility should look straight into eyes of European peoples and ask them what their real worries and aspirations are. An attractive Europe should be able to forge a common and lasting European identity in the respect to the beliefs, traditions and values decanted during centuries on its soil. A Europe of the peoples should guarantee the maintenance in harmony and mutual respect of the diverse and enriching national idiosyncrasies.”

**Jose Felix Merladet**

Deputy Secretary-General of the European  
Democratic Party, Basque Country

“60 years ago, the Treaty of Rome laid down the foundations of a Community of states that we call the European Union today. This important anniversary must give us the courage to fight for a united Europe and for all the achievements and benefits that the EU brings us. The Union is not Brussels but the Union represents every single individual European and the people must feel this – they must feel that the EU is here exclusively for them. The EU is the only option for a peaceful, democratic and prosperous future of Europe and we need to improve it, move it closer to the citizens and ensure better living conditions and security for all Europeans. The EU is the right and only way.”

**Antonio Parziale**

Honorary Consul of Moldova and President of EDS,  
Slovakia

“After 60 years from the Treaty of Rome there are no barriers between the citizens of the 27 states of the Union and all citizens have the possibility to live and work where they prefer. However, it is necessary to increase the involvement and the sense of membership to ‘one big nation’ and intensify the dialogue between the European Institutions and the citizens.”

**Mattia Ronchi**

Member of Young Democrats for Europe, San Marino

These contributions were delivered in private interviews.

### Special Publication:

## 60 Years of the Rome Treaty and its Eternal Legacy for the European Project.



The **Treaty of Rome** was signed in the so-called Eternal City of Rome exactly sixty years ago, on **25 March 1957**. Together with the Treaty of Paris of 1951, the Rome Treaty is the most important legal basis for the modern-day European Union. **This epoch-making document laid down the key foundations of the**

**greatest integration of peoples and nations in European history that made Europe one of the most peaceful, prosperous, stable and advanced regions of the world.** The 60th Anniversary of the Rome Treaty is an important opportunity to remind ourselves of the original goals of European integration and the achievements the idea of united Europe has brought to our continent over the past six decades.

The fundamental legacy of the Rome Treaty needs to serve the EU Member States as a recipe how to resolve the serious crises the EU is facing nowadays and re-unite all Europeans for a common path towards an “ever closer union”.

The Treaty of Rome led to the following significant achievements of European project:

#1 Guarantee of Peace

#2 Democracy and Rule of Law

#3 Ensured Human Rights

#4 Economic Progress and Prosperity

#5 Social Well-Being

#7 Freedom and Openness

#8 Equality and Solidarity

#9 Education and Science

#10 Global Influence

All pro-European and pro-democratic political forces in the EU need to use the fundamental legacy of the Rome Treaty for addressing the critical issues the EU is facing. In particular, the following steps are necessary:

EU has to respond to populism and political extremism resolutely  
 EU has to take the result of the British referendum as a chance for democratic refoundation  
 EU has to reinforce its security and defence system  
 EU has to provide more effective management of migration and refugee flows  
 EU has to address social and economic insecurity and unemployment  
 EU Institutions have to re-gain citizens' trust  
 EU has to react to climate and environmental changes

[Read our Special Publication dedicated to the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rome Treaty!](#)

**What's next?**

## **OUR NEXT EVENTS**

### **Israel – Palestine: A New Chance for Peace?**

IED Conference in collaboration with *Sabino Arana Fundazioa*  
 Bilbao – Basque Country, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### **EU at the Crossroads: How will 2017 national elections change the face of Europe?**

IED Conference in collaboration with *Európska Demokratická Strana*  
 Bratislava – Slovakia, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017

### Women's Spring Event

#### How long do we still have to go? How can we stop violence on women?

IED Conference in collaboration with *Citizens' Alliance*  
Nicosia – Cyprus, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017

#### EU vs. Information War. Will we survive until 2020?

IED Conference in collaboration with *Fundacja Demokratyczna*  
Warsaw – Poland, 25-26<sup>th</sup> May 2017

#### V4 Europe – The positive scenario for Europe's Future.

IED Conference  
Budapest – Hungary, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017



### **Institute of European Democrats**

Rue de l'Industrie, 4  
1000 Brussels – Belgium  
Office: 0032.2.2130010  
Mobile phone: 0032.485.936514  
info@iedonline.eu  
[www.iedonline.eu](http://www.iedonline.eu)

*This Newsletter received financial support from the European Parliament. Sole liability rests with the authors of the texts and the European Parliament or the Institute of European Democrats are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.*