



2018 WORK PROGRAMME

Europe is once again sparking interest and hope. At the same time, it faces challenges, both outside (Trump, Russia, its neighbourhood) and inside (Brexit, nationalism, political crises) its borders. Against this promising yet unstable backdrop, our think tank is focused more than ever on its primary goal of **developing operational ideas able to move forward the project of a united Europe**, a project which it also strives to promote, in particular via the new **Académie Notre Europe**¹

With the 2019 European elections almost upon us, our work programme for the next year is based on the expectations jointly expressed for the European Union. It is rolled out, like a triptych, with a view to studying the conditions and solutions that will allow Europe to assert itself as a **values-based power**, in real terms beneficial **to all** and moving forward via a unity project with a necessary **differentiation** element, in particular as regards the Euro.

By tackling these challenges, we continue to draw inspiration from the experience of **Jacques Delors** and to update his positions, achievements and intuitions. He is the driving force behind our work. We are also working from the analysis of the European project made by **Enrico Letta** in his book of interviews and that of **Pascal Lamy**. We continue to follow closely European current affairs which are dense and often full of unexpected turns, which will unfailingly lead us to adjust our work.

This provisional programme has been drawn up in close cooperation with the Jacques Delors Institut - Berlin, where it is also used as a guiding principle. Through blog posts or tribunes, briefs, policy papers and reports that are fuelled and furthered by expert seminars, conferences and events, in particular with our partners and in the media, we will play a role in stimulating and influencing European debate throughout 2018.



¹. See page 9

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THE EVENT OF 2018 .



More than 15 years on from its launch, the Economic and Monetary Union is not yet standing on “its own two feet”, to use the phrase by Jacques Delors, who wants 2018 to be the year in which this strategic project for the Euro’s future is revived. With its offices in Paris and Berlin, and now its representation in Brussels, the Jacques Delors Institute intends to play a proactive role in reconciling the French and German views, so that the EMU may recover the ambitions inherent to the single currency.

Following its European Steering Committee meeting held on 9 December 2017 in Paris on the revival of this project, the Institute will continue its work on the Eurozone and will organise a major event in Berlin in May 2018, under the high patronage of Jacques Delors, with a view to promoting an exacting and ambitious view of European integration through the Euro, together with concrete recommendations.

This event is part of our work on the “Economic and Monetary Union, a project to be revived”, described on page 7.



François Villeroy de Galhau, special guest of the Jacques Delors Institute’s European Steering Committee meeting, December 2017

EUROPE, A VALUES-BASED POWER ■

Today, Europe must develop in a more chaotic world, punctuated in particular by the return of empires and the myth of the strong man. The EU itself is experiencing populist movements and is challenged from the interior by breaches of the rule of law. This part of the work programme aims to take the pulse of these current trends and to develop new tools in response to them. Taking no action would result in a Europe which is deprived, divided and discredited. In terms of global threats, it assesses the European responses currently being drafted in the field of defence to keep the **promise of security** expected of the European project. This section also covers the assertion and dissemination of European values and the understanding of the fundamental principles of EU membership.



How best to respond to the impairment of the rule of law in the EU?

The governments currently in place in Hungary and Poland have clashed with the EU institutions. Other coalitions may follow this drift, which must be carefully analysed and countered by appropriate instruments.

How can democracy be revitalised in Europe?

The EU is often criticised for a democratic deficit. The coming 2019 European elections are an opportunity to consider other forms of citizen participation in the European decision-making process. More broadly, the rise in nationalism with authoritarian undertones, the increase in abstention from voting and the boom of social networks are shaking up conventional democratic life, which must reinvent itself.

How can European values be promoted worldwide?

In a world which is no longer euro-centric, the European Union's founding values deserve to be better asserted and disseminated. They stand out even more as several powers are moving away from them (Trump administration, the regimes of Putin and Erdogan).

Geostrategy and a European defence structure

Trump's election was a reminder for Europe to take charge of its security, already threatened by terrorism and a more troubled neighbourhood both to the South and to the East. Against this backdrop, the project for a European defence structure acquires a new legitimacy and awaits progress to be analysed.

For a European narrative

The European project needs to be endorsed by those at whom it is aimed. The lack of a European feeling of belonging is the longest and most complicated to overcome. Our Institute is playing its part in this effort, through a range of initiatives aimed at various citizen groups.

EUROPE FOR ALL ■

Has the European project got to the point where it is only understood by connected urban polyglots? The results of recent elections across Europe, and in particular in France and Germany, have brought social and geographical divides into sharp focus. These divides raise the question of the European Union's current ability to reach those who feel relegated, or even excluded, and to keep its **promise of solidarity**. This section of the programme explores the tools which need to be revised with this in mind, at a time when debates are beginning on the next multiannual financial framework (2021-2027), which are set to be intense. It covers in particular various population categories, including the complex issue of migrants.



Which instruments and budget are required for a Europe with enhanced solidarity?

The negotiation of the EU's post-2020 multiyear financial framework raises the question of the future of the different European structural funds (ERDF, Cohesion Fund, ESF, etc.). Their relevance, use and visibility are challenges that need to be clarified in support of this long debate.

For users

Europe directly concerns European citizens as consumers, passengers, patients, Internet users, farmers, etc. with a requirement of competitiveness and protection, to be assessed and strengthened.

For workers

The major changes in the global economy (globalisation and automation) raise key training and mobility requirements that Europe must anticipate and support, while remaining faithful to its social model. In view of this, the Commission's project to give the European labour market its own authority, in response to the improper use of posted workers in particular, coincides with the need for wage convergence for which the Eurozone must be a driving force.

For the youth

With youth unemployment still very high in Southern Europe and economic changes which threaten and reinvent future jobs in equal measure, the EU is facing a challenge which calls for mobility and training, including in languages. This concerns young people of all levels. As a stakeholder of the "Erasmus for apprentices" (Erasmus Pro) programme, our Institute is continuing its activities to promote apprentice mobility.

For the most deprived

Europe has never been wealthier and yet it has still not succeeded in combatting poverty. Staying true to Jacques Delors' commitment to righting this wrong, which must also involve the EU at its level, we take part in gaining a better understanding of poverty with stakeholders in the field.

For human mobility

The refugee crisis has shown us that Europeans are divided on this complex and politically sensitive issue and the difficulties inherent to developing new tools in response. An assessment of the instruments in place and concrete recommendations are necessary to organise human mobility in the 21st century, set to be a key issue in the 2019 European elections.

FOCUS ■ A EUROPE- AN BUDGET TO WHAT END?

2018 will be a year of intense debate on the next multiannual financial framework (2021-2027), which will set out the European Union's priorities and the resources it is prepared to dedicate to them. The European budget has a real impact on the lives of European citizens in various sectors. In this both economic and political area in which contrasting approaches to European construction are at play, the Jacques Delors Institute will leverage its experience to play an active role in the discussions, calling for a budget which is both ambitious and innovative in its expenditure and in its revenues.



A DIFFERENTIATED EUROPE ■

Europe must remain united with regard to compliance with its values and to reach all citizens in the diversity of their situations. The purpose of an “ever closer union” does not preclude a differentiated approach to integration. The creation of the single currency calls for further harmonisation for the Member States which have adopted it. Brexit, for which preparations are set to continue throughout 2018, may free up the deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union so that it may finally stand on its “two feet”, according to Jacques Delors’ expression, and that it may keep the promise of prosperity made by the European project. The integration of the Eurozone, which requires a Franco-German basis, must not overlook the Union of 27 Member States and its single market, one of the EU’s strong assets, as ironically stressed by Brexit.



The Economic and Monetary Union, a project to be revived

The Euro is more than a currency. At a time when new proposals are being brought to the table to deepen the Economic and Monetary Union, the Jacques Delors Institute, working from Paris and Berlin, wishes to reconcile the different views in France and Germany, a precondition for any progress. Our work follows on from our “Repair and prepare” report for a more integrated Eurozone.

The Union without the United Kingdom, the challenge of Brexit

The prospect of a British departure from the EU reconfigures the Union and European policy. By taking part in several working groups on Brexit, our aim is to monitor closely these unprecedented negotiations in order to clarify their repercussions and recommend solutions.

The Union of 27+ and “Greater Europe”

Brexit has highlighted the importance of the single market for the remaining twenty-seven Member States. Progress must continue to be made, in particular in the key area of digital technology and also in terms of taxation.

The Energy Union

With the launch of its Energy Union project, the European Commission has taken up the idea to create a “European Energy Community” put forward by Jacques Delors as early as 2010 and set out in our report dated January 2015. The Jacques Delors Institute’s acknowledged expertise in European energy policy will be used to pursue our proposals in greater detail, in order to step up an energy transition focused on citizens, based on renewables and energy efficiency, driven by innovation and including a strong social dimension.

THE ACADEMIE NOTRE EUROPE ■

Initiated by Enrico Letta, President of the Jacques Delors Institute, the Académie Notre Europe is a place for training, dialogue and knowledge sharing on European policy.

For the last twenty years, the Jacques Delors Institute has been developing extensive expertise on European issues, together with the creation of a broad network of top-level decision-makers, experts, practitioners and contributors of European construction. The Académie leverages this veritable treasure trove in launching a training course aimed at companies, media outlets, institutions and also individuals of all ages and backgrounds who wish to begin or further their training in this field.

Such a project is an integral part of the information and lifelong training missions that are in the genes of the Institute to which Jacques Delors lent his name. The modular courses offered by the Académie are always part of a training approach based on exchanges between experts and practitioners on Europe and citizens who are already active or who wish to become so.

At a time of great excitement for the European project and of major change in France, the Académie meets the particularly strong demand for knowledge on EU policy.

The Académie Notre Europe provides its members with an innovative approach to European issues, offering them a flexible educational pathway that is updated in line with current affairs. All activities involve practitioners and figures of European construction. The training also includes various trips to find out more about the EU's institutions and its stakeholders across the continent.

The Académie has set itself a twofold objective for its pilot year:

- To foster dialogue between opinion leaders and key players in European construction through modules dedicated to journalists
- To train young people aged between 18 and 26 free of charge, through classes given by contributors of the highest level

Through their encounters with practitioners of European issues, with top-level contributors who will share their vision of Europe, and through field trips to Brussels, Strasbourg, Rome or Berlin, members of the Académie Notre Europe will acquire more in-depth knowledge and will be able to discuss European construction and its future while forging long-term ties with others.

Officially opened on 10 November 2017 in the presence of Enrico Letta and Pascal Lamy, the Académie is welcoming 27 young people and 7 journalists for its pilot year. They will benefit from this opportunity over twelve sessions which will come to an end in June 2018.

Find all our publications and follow our work on our new website:

www.delorsinstitute.eu