

# BUILDING EUROPE

## V. GISCARD D'ESTAING AND J. DELORS SPEAK TO YOUNG EUROPEANS

Stéphanie Baz | *Communication's Officer at Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute and Press Adviser of Founding President Jacques Delors*

Nadège Chambon | *Senior Research Fellow and in charge of Citizen dialogue at Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute*

**E**ustory-France, a History Competition, was officially inaugurated in Paris on 14 November 2012. **Six young people** from several European countries took part in a debate with **Valéry Giscard d'Estaing**, former president of the French Republic (1974-1981) and **Jacques Delors**, former president of the European Commission (1985-1995) and founding president of *Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute*. The encounter was inspired by the meeting between Helmut Schmidt and six young people organised by the Körber Foundation in Hamburg on 14 April 2011. The debate entitled "Building Europe: a project, more than one generation" was attended by almost 1,000 people, mostly high school students, who got the opportunity to ask questions in their turn. The debate was moderated by Arnaud Leparmentier, journalist (*Le Monde*). It was organised in partnership with Eustory-Network, the *Association des professeurs d'histoire-géographie (APHG)*, the European Youth Parliament, the *Université Paris 4 - Sorbonne*, the *Maison de la mutualité*, the *Taurillon* and *Toute l'Europe.fr*.

### Introductory welcome



**Yves Bertoncini**, the director of *Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute*, reviewed the fundamental purpose of the Eustory Competition, which is held in France for the first time in 2012-2013 but which has existed in Germany since 1973. He voiced his heartfelt gratitude to Jacques Delors and to Valéry Giscard d'Estaing for agreeing to share their experience and analysis by taking part in the debate on the construction of Europe. He told participants that their discussion would address the story of this historic process which has meant peace for Europe, as the Nobel Peace Prize indicates. The debate would then move on to today's Europe, in the grip of an economic crisis, and finally, to the future of Europe. Yves Bertoncini dwelt at some length on a project to which both guests at the debate made their contribution, a project that is crucial to the construction of Europe,

namely the blueprint for a **European Monetary Union**. He pointed out that Valéry Giscard d'Estaing worked tirelessly in the 'seventies for the creation of the "**European Monetary System**" in conjunction with his counterpart at the time, German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. On his part Jacques Delors worked hard some years later to ensure that France stayed in the system, and subsequently to ensure the launch of the **Economic and Monetary Union** at the turn of the 'nineties, with the critical support of François Mitterrand and of Helmut Kohl, among others. Thus "it is largely thanks to these two men that we have the euro in our pocket today".



**Barthélémy Jobert**, the chancellor of *Université Paris 4 - Sorbonne*, said that he is very happy that his university has granted its patronage to this meeting with young students who are going to be Europe's future citizens. He reminded his audience that the

Sorbonne is one of the oldest institutions in Europe. The Sorbonne has been breathing life into Europe by participating in and fostering the exchange of ideas on the continent for over eight centuries. People from all over Europe have flocked to the Latin Quarter from the outset to pursue their studies. And today, Université Paris 4 continues to open its doors to Europe, with some 10% of its students hailing from various European countries, often thanks to the Erasmus programme which, he argued, should not be scrapped. In conclusion, he said that Europe was made for people and that the institutions are there to serve the people.

## Introduction<sup>1</sup>



**Arnaud Leparmentier (AL):** Both of you rank among Europe's fathers, and you are both front-rank witnesses to Franco-German friendship, you Valéry Giscard d'Estaing with Helmut Schmidt and you Jacques Delors with Helmut Kohl.

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, you helped to set up the European Council, the European Monetary System, you fought for the European Parliament to be elected by direct universal suffrage, you brought Greece into the EU and you contributed to the drafting of the European constitutional blueprint.

Jacques Delors, you are one of the men behind the austerity turn in 1983, in your capacity as François Mitterrand's finance minister. That was a thoroughly European act which allowed France to remain in the framework of the monetary system, you were the president of the European Commission who imparted a fresh boost to integration with the "Delors Packages", and you were an architect of the single currency.

**The Schuman Declaration launched the construction of Europe on 9 May 1950. You were twenty-five years old at the time. How did you react to the news? Were you able to gauge the declaration's historic importance?**

**Valéry Giscard d'Estaing (VGE):** I am happy to take part in this debate and I would like to greet my "old classmate" Jacques Delors, because even though we come from different sides of the political divide, we were both at the Lycée Blaise Pascal in Clermont-Ferrand, one year apart.

My first truly European feeling came with Schuman's appeal, in 1950. I was a student at the ENA, the French National Administration School, at the time. I rapidly opted in favour of Europe. And in fact my graduation class at the ENA took the name of "Europe" in the very same year that Schuman made his appeal.

Europe is a tremendous project for peace built over several generations, the first generation being the one of Jean Monet and Robert Schuman five years after World War II. The multi-generational aspect of the European project is of the utmost importance. **I remember that the first Germans I saw in 1945 were the ones I was shooting at. A mere five years later, in 1950, Robert Schuman's appeal confirmed that the Franco-German war was over.**

**Jacques Delors (JD):** I was just as stirred by Schuman's appeal, which was a lofty moral and spiritual gesture. Robert Schuman told the Germans: "We will not forget, but we will forgive". I was twenty-five at the time, I was working at the Bank of France and I was already a member of the CFTC, the French Confederation of Christian Workers. My father had been seriously injured in World War I but despite that he was in favour of reconciliation.



**AL: 2012-2013 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Élysée Treaty celebrating Franco-German friendship, which was signed by De Gaulle and by Adenauer. What do you think of General De Gaulle's attitude to the construction of Europe?**

**JD:** Initially General De Gaulle had misgivings about the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) but he was quick to understand how useful it was when he took office, so he decided to maintain the commitment. With the Treaty on the Common Market, De Gaulle realised that France could adapt to a changing world. It did not come easily, as shown for instance by the empty chair policy in 1965, but at the time they managed to agree to work together despite their differences.



**VGE:** I was a member of Charles De Gaulle's government, in the role of finance minister, for seven years. I still believe that we shall never again see a statesman of his stature. He was an outstanding personality with a historic vision, with physical courage, and he was totally dedicated to his task. The man had a versatile temperament and an open-minded intelligence that enabled him to opt for Europe despite his misgivings. When General De Gaulle first took office, he was opposed to the construction of Europe because he cast his mind back to the war and to the pre-war era, which had been a dramatic moment for France. In Charles De Gaulle's view, none of that should ever be allowed to happen again, hence his mistrust of Germany and his drive for French rearmament. So initially he was thinking more in terms of an armistice than of reconciliation, but he proved capable of developing his thinking and of signing the Élysée Treaty.

His meeting with German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer was crucial. Adenauer was another remarkable man. They did not take to each other much but they respected each other deeply, and **from that moment on Charles de Gaulle's attitude changed towards Germany, which was doing everything in its power to wipe out all trace of the war.** The Élysée Treaty launched the Franco-German entente, an event of primary importance for the construction of Europe.

**AL: All attempts at political union in Europe have failed. What do you think of that? There is no political union. Should it come via the euro? What needs to be done in the future?**

**JD:** Political union was a flop, so things got off the ground with the economy. Now, the trouble with the economy is that it is a pretty remote concept for the man in the street. And in those circumstances it is very difficult to bring about political union. When Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the then German foreign minister, was preparing the Maastricht Treaty back in the early 'nineties, he would say: given that we have a common policy, we need a common defence system. But not everyone agreed. It was virtually impossible to impart a fresh boost to the construction process through politics, so we used the Single Act and the creation of the euro instead, which are Europe's opportunities. The French and German economies were different at the time of the European Monetary System but the governments took the risk of setting it up to pave the way for the single currency. It is our good fortune to have a single market and a single currency; it is a mistake on the European leaders' part not to have carried through with the job of forging political union after the creation of the euro.

**VGE:** The Franco-German entente has existed since the dawn of the European construction process. First of all, in geographical terms as the two countries are two huge entities which have to form one large market. Now, as soon as you have a large market, you need a common currency. A currency is both a tool and a question of identity. There are more euro notes than dollar bills circulating in the world today! Try to envisage the crisis without the protection of the euro, with the devaluation of over twenty different currencies!

(...)



## Debate with young Europeans

Six young Europeans, either students or young working people, of six different nationalities, are called on to ask questions on three topics: the present, the past and the future.



**1<sup>st</sup> panel** – From the Europe of the founding fathers to the present day: what role should history play in the construction of Europe?

**Roman ROOBROECK, from Belgium, aged 19, winner of the Eustory Belgium Competition (2011)**

*The European Union has won this year's Nobel Peace Prize for its contribution to peace and reconciliation, to democracy and to human rights in Europe for over six decades. This prize reminds us that the European integration process's initial purpose in the 'fifties was to preserve peace and to prevent war on European soil after World War II. At the beginning it was far from a foregone conclusion that war would not break out again ten years later. When did you start to realise that it had become inconceivable for the peoples of Europe to make war on one another? Do you think that deeper European integration will make it possible to preserve peace in Europe?*

**VGE: War and battlefields have now disappeared from the European stage when they were part and parcel of it for centuries.** The EU has caused even the very notion of war to disappear. No one today believes that the countries of Europe could ever make war on one another. That accomplishment is an unprecedented achievement. Forty-four years went by between 1870 and 1914, and about twenty between 1918 and 1939. Today we have not had a war for over sixty years. **Ironically, the trouble with that is that people are now saying that is enough, we are**

**being told that the end of war, thus peace, is no longer a driving force for the EU.**

**JD:** Europe's weakness lies in the fact that our countries are both unchangeable and changing at the same time. **When the tragedy began in Yugoslavia, the countries (France and Germany in particular) did not immediately see eye to eye. But where the governments of the time showed wisdom was in setting aside their differences and deciding to forge the Maastricht Treaty in order to take things even further. Defence Europe is in limbo, economic and social Europe is moving forward, and political Europe is still finding it hard to move forward.** More common stances in the foreign policy sphere would be welcome, such as a common energy policy for example.

**Zosia WĄSIK, from Poland, aged 22**

*The Iron Curtain split Europe into two blocs for over forty years. While countries in the West were uniting and rapidly developing, countries such as Poland, my own country, remained under the influence of communism. They developed more slowly and less effectively. This situation was turned on its head in after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Mr. Delors, you were president of the European Commission at the time. What were your hopes regarding the end of communism? Did you think that it would be possible to unite the two parts of Europe? And today, 23 years on, do you think that the two Europes - Western Europe and Eastern Europe - have disappeared?*

**JD:** After the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Commission's first gesture was to propose an aid programme for those countries formerly known as the "Eastern Bloc". Poland caught up some years ago. From an economic standpoint, Europe immediately held out an outstretched hand, although enlargement was implemented a little too fast, and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing agrees with me on that point.

**AL: Do people still hold a negative view of these new countries today?**

**VGE:** As Jacques Delors quite rightly pointed out, there was a wave of emotion linked to the fall of the Wall at the time. **Those countries, under the Soviet yoke, suddenly found themselves free in**

**one fell swoop and they felt European again. There was a legitimate impetus of enthusiasm in their direction but there was no debate on how to organise enlargement.**

The Maastricht Treaty is a political treaty which was not sufficiently explained to the new members: they joined the EU to be protected and to obtain aid, but not to take part in the EU's political construction. Today they are ill at ease because construction has gone ahead, particularly with the euro, but without them.

**2<sup>nd</sup> panel – Is Europe's heritage threatened by the economic and social storm?**



*Schima LABITSCH, from Austria, aged 21*

***Populism has been a feature in every European country since the crisis, both in those countries that are in difficulty and in those that are footing the bill. In my country, Austria, the parties to the right of the political spectrum which are demanding a halt to solidarity with the countries in difficulty are gaining in popularity. At the same time, my Greek friends tell me about the terrible unemployment, economic stringency and strong social tension in their country. How can we promote solidarity, how can we get people to agree to help citizens in a difficult situation?***

**VGE: There is no euro crisis.** The poor old European currency is not in the eye of the storm. The euro has a better exchange rate against the dollar today than it did when it was first introduced (1.27 as opposed to 1.17), it has protected Europe's economies from inflation (which has been lower than in the United States for the past ten years), and it accounts for 25% of the world's currency reserves. Thus no one lost out with the introduction of the euro.

Today's crisis is "organised speculation" against the sovereign debt of certain countries on the one hand and against the euro on the other. This speculation is driven by such financial markets as New York.

Some countries have managed their public finances irresponsibly. **The euro shelters countries from stupidity, and certain countries have taken advantage of that by deepening their deficit and their debt.** It is only normal that such abuse should have led to our current situation.

**JD:** The financial crisis came from the United States but it has pointed up the fragility of the euro system. Why? Well, when a country has a national currency, the exchange rate acts as an alarm bell if it behaves irresponsibly. In the olden days, when there were national currencies, politicians acted reasonably in order to keep confidence buoyant and to avoid devaluing their currency, because there was a high political price to pay for that. But with the euro, there has been a considerable amount of financial irresponsibility. Certain countries have had a field day in the shelter of the euro which has been protecting them.

**AL: Is there an ideological right-left divide over the issue of European solidarity?**

**VGE: I find it ironic that the criticism is being levelled at those who are paying rather than at those who have spent too much.** There is no reason for countries that have properly managed their finances to be asked to pay for those that have not. Without wishing to indulge in any anti-Greek demagoguery, we should be aware that Greek civil servants' salaries rose by three times as much as those of German civil servants between 2001 and 2012. It is not austerity, it is putting things back in order. People are being asked to make efforts that they should have made before, with normal growth. The problem lies in the fact that the countries in a critical state are being asked for cuts that are too sudden and too brutal, which triggers social problems. So we need the situation to be better managed over time.

**JD:** Some countries are obliged to make up for their irresponsibility while staying in the euro. If they quit the euro, they could alter their exchange rate but their losses would be even worse. Those countries that are not affected have made a major effort, especially Germany, but I agree that the price which the Greeks and the Spaniards are having to pay in

terms of suffering, of unemployment and of poverty is very high. The representatives of the “Troika” (the IMF, the ECB and the European Commission) bicker amongst themselves, but they should go down into the streets in Athens or in Madrid to see whether their bickering is in proportion to the tragedy in those countries. **My position is that we should be “Saving Private Greece”,** but if the reforms are only punitive in nature, the EU’s image will take a beating with public opinion, so **we need a system balancing support for development on the one hand and stringency on the other.** But we have not got there yet.

*Jonathan DUPASQUIER, from France, aged 26*

***The euro is coming under fire. For instance, people say that the European area is not suitable for a single currency. They also say that the level of integration is not sufficient to allow us to emerge from the crisis. Are you satisfied with the way the single currency is functioning ten years after it was introduced? And how do you see its future panning out?***

**VGE:** Before the crisis, the European institutions proved capable of curbing the excesses that accompanied the introduction of the euro. I am turning towards President Delors, who has no part of the blame, but the fact of the matter is that the Commission acted irresponsibly. It never said a word about the way Greece was managing its finances, it never alerted people to the fact that the country was not playing by the rules.

**JD:** As President Giscard d’Estaing says, no one drew people’s attention to that fact. If the EU finance and economy ministers had wanted to, they would have seen that the Spanish government was forging recklessly ahead in the property and housing market. **When the euro was introduced, the duties that it entailed for each country were underestimated.** The monetary pole was well designed, unlike the economic pole. That is why, as long ago as 1997, I proposed a pact for the coordination of economic policies with the stability pact. Without it, the euro zone will not have all the means it needs to defend itself.

The firemen are hard at work but we need architects too. **We need to devise a system in which the economic and monetary aspects play the same role,** we need to set up a deliberate strengthened

cooperation for the euro, with a budget, with means for intervening, and we need at least to discuss the harmonisation of company tax. But that is not easy in itself, and in addition, Europe certainly is not being helped by the current economic climate.



**AL:** ***Would you say that the worst of the crisis is behind us? Are we off the hook for the time being?***

**JD:** I would not say that. **We are still in a phase where we have to tread extremely carefully.** The economic situation worldwide is not favourable to Europe’s economic recovery. I am sorry that the French people were not told more about the real situation during the election campaign. We have been suffering from a handicap in the sphere of competitiveness for a long time now.

**VGE:** I think that we are approaching the end of these attacks levelled at one or other country in the euro zone, but I agree about the global crisis because there is uncertainty in the United States. **No one can say whether Europe is going to get started again or not.**

The ten-year bond rate has dropped (in Italy, Spain and France), we are heading towards the end of the crisis. The speculators’ strategy began by targeting the more fragile members because its effects were stronger in the feebler economies, but those countries (Italy, Spain, Portugal) have bravely improved their situation; France was not part of the programme.

We are also suffering from deindustrialisation in Europe. Industrial output only accounts for 12% of GDP these days, as opposed to 25% or 30% in the recent past. Growth is very weak and unemployment is hitting unsustainable levels. We are facing a difficult situation.

**3<sup>rd</sup> panel – How can we overcome today’s political difficulties in order to build the Europe of tomorrow?**



**Lucie DRECHSELOVA, from the Czech Republic, aged 24**

***European integration is by no means compact: the EU comprises 27 member states, the euro zone 17 and the Schengen area only 22. As a Czech, I see a danger that countries like France may move forward together while countries like the Czech Republic remain peripheral. Do you share this fear of a Union split along those lines? What future can Europe offer to those countries that wish to join the EU?***

**JD:** What we call “differentiation” is definitely on the cards because not all of the member countries can move forward at the same speed. As Hans-Dietrich Genscher used to say: “No country can prevent the others from moving further down the path to integration, but those that do move further down that path cannot force the others to follow them”. I have never believed that the euro would be the currency of all EU member states. The euro zone could develop with this enhanced cooperation tool, but of course it would have to continue to abide by the rules governing the group as a whole in order to remain consistent with the EU27.

You know, the current situation is already highly differentiated among member states. Some of them can move ahead faster in the field of family law, taxation on financial transactions, and soon also the euro zone. The situation has become even more complex with the crisis: there are the 17 in the euro zone, there are the 25 that have signed the fiscal compact, and then there are the 27 and the United Kingdom which resorts to blackmail. The real issue, the real

problem is: do we agree to take the extra step forward? Do we agree to have more effective governance or not?

**VGE:** I agree, and indeed I will go even further than you. **The 27-strong Europe is ungovernable and yet it is due to get even larger!** Faced with people questioning Europe’s usefulness, we need to make a strong gesture. We should propose that the euro zone become a monetary, budgetary and fiscal community managed along federal, democratic and simple lines to replace unanimous decision-making, because we need to rekindle the Community spirit.

**The euro community is a currency and an independent central bank.** A fiscal community means that company tax or property tax develop in a converging sense. The ultimate aim would be for the workers or businesses in the zone to have the same currency, the same taxation and the same budget discipline. To achieve that, we need a pact to which the countries would have to reply by a “yes” or “no”. A secretary general for the zone would be appointed, and he or she would subsequently become the finance minister.

**Valentin KREILINGER, from Germany, aged 24**

***People often say that democracy could be improved in the EU and in the euro zone. The European Convention which you chaired, Mr Giscard d’Estaing, attempted to address the issue and to strengthen citizen participation in the European project. What do you propose to do in order to diminish certain European citizens’ perception of distance from the EU? Should we strengthen the European Parliament in order to strengthen democracy?***

**VGE:** The present system is not very democratic. The way in which the president of the European Council was appointed was totally undemocratic, and there is no specific parliamentary institution within the euro zone because the European Parliament includes deputies from countries that are not in the euro zone.

What we need is **a parliament for the euro zone, which would meet in Strasbourg**, comprising European parliamentarians and national Parliament’s representatives of the finance committees. But we should remember that, if it were simply

a coordination zone, it would collapse, just as happened back in 1955.

**JD:** To get European democracy to work, I believe that the national representatives should be the ones to make the biggest effort. In the United Kingdom, the country least willing to pursue integration, the prime minister appears before the House of Commons before each European Council meeting and again after the meeting to report on its developments. **Europe cannot exist unless the representatives of member countries talk about it as a common project, as a family.**

**I always think like a former Commission president, so my stock-in-trade tends to be compromise and small steps, rather than the bold leaps forward advocated by President Giscard d'Estaing.** In view of the reluctance evinced by non-member countries, I think that small steps, comprising an enhanced cooperation designed to consolidate the euro zone, would be useful for a start. But in the longer term and in terms of the overall vision, I agree with him.

I would offer a warning concerning the European Parliament: it is the only institution elected by all of the citizens, so it comes in for a lot of criticism! What do the media ever tell us about it? I note that if there were a majority and an opposition, Europe would make no further progress, because progress is often occasioned by parties from different sides of the political divide thrashing out an agreement on a given measure.

### A selection of questions asked by high school and university students in the room



**Marjorie, aged 17, final year of high school in Economic and Social Studies, Lycée André Malraux in the Department of Seine et Marne**

**British Prime Minister David Cameron has signed an agreement providing for a referendum on independence for Scotland, to be held in 2014. Could that happen? Would Scotland continue to be a member of the EU?**

**JD:** If Scotland became independent, it would have to apply to join, and the same is true of Catalonia. The treaty stipulates that the EU should concern itself with maintaining its member states' territorial integrity. These issues must be addressed inside member states, not outside, which is why neither the European Parliament nor the Commission adopt a position on them.



**Inès, final year of high school in Economic and Social Studies, Lycée Charles Peguy in Bobigny**

**In your view, is allowing federalism and abolishing national sovereignty the only way to strengthen Europe?**

**JD:** No, I believe that countries can transfer certain forms of sovereignty, but that they are not going to lose their sovereignty in its totality. The disappearance of national sovereignty was something the pre-war federalists wanted because nationalism was in danger of triggering a war. But I have never been convinced about that idea. I am in favour of a federation of states because federalism is the sole means for making decisions among sovereign states. **What is killing Europe is its inability to prepare a decision, to thrash it out in a democratic manner and then to act.** A Europe 27 is ungovernable. We need to be able to vote by qualified or super-qualified majority in the euro zone. We should beware of the implicit transfers of sovereignty in the euro zone.

**VGE:** I am happy that this question has come up because **I would like to warn you against using**

**the word sovereignty**, which has become demagogic. It suggests that people are free to take (or not to take) decisions concerning them. Freedom to decide or to choose is not total, it depends on the circumstances, on agreements forged in the past.

**The correct word we are looking for here is identity.** Personally, I feel a strong bond with French identity but I abstain from using the word sovereignty because, for instance, I would prefer taxation to be common. Those who harp on about sovereignty would like us to believe that it is organised systems that deprive them of the freedom to decide. That is nonsense. It is the magnitude and the issue itself that deprive them, or otherwise, of that freedom. Several years ago we set up a European air traffic control system, when the French, the Dutch and the Italians all had different systems before that. Now, that was not a loss of sovereignty, it was simply a matter of common sense! We need to take great care. Countries need to maintain their identity, their culture and their history, but the right to make decisions must be exercised at the national or international level on the basis of the issue involved.



***A Master 2 student at the Institute of European Studies***

***People are talking about salary devaluation with the fiscal compact. Is there not a certain***

***inconsistency here, when the European project was intended to be a blueprint for prosperity?***

**JD:** Imagine for a moment that there is no EU and that each country has to tackle its own problems. Do you believe that we would not have the same deindustrialisation issues? The same problem of pressure on salaries? On the contrary, the EU has produced stronger economic growth than would have been the case if the countries had acted separately.

The real issue is discovering whether, facing the emerging powers and the geopolitical and economic upheavals taking place, there is strength in unity – in this case in the Union – or not. If we fail to join together, we are going to have a lot less clout by 2040 or 2050.

***AL: You were twenty years old in the 'fifties, while before us we have today's young generation. Is there not a missing link, a missing generation? In other words, the people who have been presidents of the Republic since Mitterrand?***

**JD:** We need to show a certain amount of understanding for people in government, and above all, we should never impart lessons from the grandstand while the others are playing the game on the pitch.

I was on the Commission at a lucky time. It is the mood of the times that has changed. People are afraid of globalisation, they fear for their identity and they tend to fold in on themselves, or even to fall back on the nation state. And then there are the populists.

Governments are facing a genuinely difficult task right now, they lack a vision and the ability to impress that vision into a series of initial steps capable of generating further progress. Most governments no longer dare to do that.

1. Warning: the following text is a partial transcription of the debate.

# BUILDING EUROPE: A PROJECT, MORE THAN ONE GENERATION

VALÉRY GISCARD D'ESTAING AND JACQUES DELORS  
QUESTIONS FROM YOUNG EUROPEANS

WEDNESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2012

## PROGRAMME

### 14.00 > **Introductory welcome**

Yves BERTONCINI, director of *Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute*  
Barthélémy JOBERT, chancellor of Université Paris 4 – Sorbonne

**14.10 > Brief illustrated retrospective** of the construction of Europe and of the contributions made by Valéry GISCARD D'ESTAING and Jacques DELORS

### 14.15 > **Introduction**

Valéry GISCARD D'ESTAING, former president of the French Republic  
Jacques DELORS, former president of the European Commission

**Moderation:** Arnaud LEPARMENTIER, journalist with *Le Monde*

### 14.30 > **1<sup>st</sup> panel – From the Europe of the founding fathers to the present day: what role should history play in the construction of Europe?**

Questions asked by:

Zosia WAŚIK, from Poland, aged 22

Roman ROOBROECK, from Belgium, aged 19, winner of the Eustory Belgium Competition (2011)

### 14.50 > **2<sup>nd</sup> panel – Is Europe's heritage threatened by the economic and social storm?**

Questions asked by:

Schima LABITSCH, from Austria, aged 21

Jonathan DUPASQUIER, from France, aged 26

### 15.10 > **3<sup>rd</sup> panel – How can we overcome today's political difficulties to build the Europe of tomorrow?**

Questions asked by:

Lucie DRECHSELOVA, from the Czech Republic, aged 24

Valentin KREILINGER, from Germany, aged 2

### 15.30 > **Questions asked by high school and university students & answers**

## What is the Eustory Competition?

Originally set up through an initiative of the German [Körber Foundation](#), the “EUSTORY network” comprises associations and foundations in 22 countries, which subscribe to the project of highlighting the European dimension of history for young people. To this end, every year the members organise a History competition for high school students on topics tailored to suit each country. The competition, which has been held for forty years in Germany and for eleven years in Europe, is being offered to French high school students for the first time, for the academic year 2012-2013, by the [Association des Professeurs d’Histoire Géographie](#) (APHG) with the support of *Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute*.

## What does the competition set out to achieve?

With the crisis which Europe’s economies, and the euro zone economies in particular, are currently experiencing, the peoples of Europe are becoming aware of their interdependence in a painful context. Thus the younger generations are “familiarising” with the European project in the context of a crisis unprecedented in its sixty years of existence. This initiative is designed to send out a European message to those generations who are forming their political opinions of the European Union today, a message enriched by the analysis and the hindsight of figures who have played a role in its construction.

## Who can enter the competition, and how?

The competition is open to students from years 11, 12 and 13. Candidates can submit either a dissertation (max. six pages) or a slide show (max. 20 slides). They may work individually or in groups and send the jury a manuscript, a printed document or a digital file on a removable data storage medium (CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, USB key). The file should contain no more than three documents (photographs, excerpts from speeches and so forth) in boxes. All sources of information must be mentioned.

**Subject of the 2012-2013 competition:** “The wars of memories in Europe (16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries)”.

For information regarding the Eustory-France Competition, please click [here](#).

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info@notre-europe.eu  
19 rue de Milan  
75009 Paris - France  
www.notre-europe.eu

