



**myEuropeanDream.eu**

*Three months to meet the European dream...*

## **PresentationFile**

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# The European Dream in 2011

*“Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.”*  
Robert Schuman, May 9<sup>th</sup> 1950

In 2011, the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), the first realisation of a united Europe, would have celebrated its sixtieth birthday. Throughout these sixty years of existence, European integration has reached many of the goals its Founding Fathers had fixed.

A sincere and lasting peace, economic and monetary integration through the creation of an interior non differentiated market and of a single currency, the progressive integration of the twenty-seven Member States, the development of a self sufficient common agriculture and of a shared web of means of communication and the Erasmus program, are some of Europe’s many achievements.

Yet, today Europe has to face a new wave of scepticism resulting from budgetary and institutional failures as well as from the consequences of the world economic crisis. These challenges Europe hasn’t been able to tackle properly because of a lack of political ambition, which hides a bigger threat: the increasing distance between the Union’s citizens and the European dream.

While the European integration is seen as having lost its historical mission since the fall of the Berlin Wall, voters abstain more and more frequently, support European budget cuts and question the *de facto* solidarity Schuman called for. Europe is not a solution anymore but a problem, a comparative disadvantage.

The answer to this mistrust has to be political, through the reinforcing of the Euro zone, the establishment of new mechanisms that promote solidarity and take into account the necessity to cut public deficit and better coordinate national policies, the increase of the European budget through the establishment of a European tax, the action in favour of a green growth...

Nevertheless, this political answer cannot suffice in itself. Citizens who wish to give new meaning and new energy to the European Union also have to propose solutions so that the European Union can keep playing an important role on the international scene with the USA and the new emerging powers.

Describe the present challenges Europe is facing, explore its cultural patrimony, interrogate its youth and its hopes, such is the project of my European dream!

## The myEuropeanDream.eu Project

The myEuropeanDream.eu project has several goals both individual and collective:

- Create an **open** website where everyone will be able to find all the basic **information** on Europe and **talk about** one's own European dream.
- **Meet** the young Europeans who, in each of the twenty seven Member States, live and make the European dream possible.
- Explore fundamental principles and collective landmarks that make the **unity** of the European continent and distinguish it from the *American Dream* and the models of developing countries.
- **Discover** the architectural and cultural patrimony of the European Union through written, photographic or video reports.
- Show the great events that marked the **history** of the European nations and of the European Union.
- Pay tribute to the actions of the men and women who inspired, founded, kept alive and are reforming the European **collective ambition**.
- Present how the European institutions work, the **challenges** they have to face and a series of European progressive solutions.
- Make a video documentary on Europe's riches and its political and cultural **diversity**. Show the image the young generations have of the European dream and how it can evolve.
- Live my European Dream!

## The route around Europe

The full route can be found at this link:

<http://maps.google.fr/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=fr&msa=0&msid=216606402591750803912.00049a7253d1a2193de0c&z=4>

The journey will be mainly done by train using the Pass Interail. However, some parts of the journey can only be done by plane and ship.

Hosting will be retained (through websites such as couchsurfing.org) in order to cut spending and meet more people.

## The website

The content of the website will ally written articles posted every day during the journey and sections open to internet users (written testimonies, photos or videos of their European dream in the European language of their choice).

The articles will be classified in the following categories: "EU institutions and policies", "focus on a European neighbour", "History of the Europeans", "Visit of the European patrimony", "quote/statistics of the day", "European Letters" and "European Cinema". Interviews of young Europeans in each city of the journey will also be posted.

Connection tools to social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Dailymotion...) will be available on the website and since most of the website's pages will be written in French, an automatic translator program will be used to translate them in English.

## The documentary and the photo expo

The result of the journey will be a **52 minutes** documentary film available at the end of the year 2011, directed with the production company **Plaisir d'images**.

The documentary will be on the **renewal of the European Dream**. It will put together the images filmed in the European capitals, the interviews of the key figures of the European Union and the hopes of the young Europeans met throughout the journey.

Steps will be taken with Plaisir d'images to show the documentary film on TV or to make a DVD out of it.



[www.plaisirdimages.fr](http://www.plaisirdimages.fr)

[contact@plaisirdimages.fr](mailto:contact@plaisirdimages.fr)

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At the end of the journey, an exposition of around thirty photos symbolizing the European Union motto "United in Diversity" will be shown in Paris.