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Messaggio di Saluto agli YoungMEPs 2016

I want to send my warmest regards to “We the Young People of Europe”, the meeting where you are mirroring the European Parliament and you are experiencing a bit of what we are doing every week, every month, in the activities of the European Parliament in Brussels and in Strasbourg. In fact, I am recording this videomessage for you in a day of extraordinary plenary meeting, that happened due to the outcome of the UK referendum.

I know that one of the topics of the meeting you’re having is the migration and refugee crisis. I’ve been working a lot on it. I’m the reporter of the European Parliament on the Integration of refugees in the labour market; my report will be approved - hopefully - next week in the plenary of July and you know that migration and the external dimension of European Union is such a crucial issue at the moment in the debate of the EU. You also are having your meeting in a place, in Puglia, that is in the heart of the Mediterranean sea and in the centre of this complicate situation of complicate neighborhood, complicate management of migration and refugee in-fluxes. So, I’m sure you’re having very interesting discussions on this, very good reflections coming from your debate.

As I mentioned, I’m recording this video message - that is my greetings and my support for the initiative - from the plenary meeting that we extraordinarily had today for the results of UK referendum. I want just to make few reflections on this, on Brexit, for your debate. I was myself in London the day of the vote. I went there after a Brussels mini plenary that we had just a few days ago. In fact, I went myself to London because I was an Erasmus student in London and I’m really attached to the city, to the UK itself as European Country. Unfortunately, the British people chose differently, even if we know that Scotland, Northern Ireland and London have chosen antithetically, and in fact today also in the Plenary, we had colleagues from Northern Ireland and Scotland who were underlining this a lot and that will a

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big constitutional crisis because part of the UK, “parts” of it, have clearly expressed that they will not want to leave European Union, so in this critical moment we approved, as European Parliament, a resolution that advocated for a few crucial issues.

One is the exit procedure, that the receding from the EU by UK starts swiftly - we say immediately - according to the article 50 of the Treaty, because we cannot endure a long period of uncertainty that is damaging for UK but also for EU. We can't think of our businesses, of our economy, of our society, we are unable at the moment to make any project at medium term because we have no idea of what will be (in one year, one year and half, two years maximum) the real situation of the conditions of commerce, of investment, of exchange of mobility between UK and the rest of the EU.

So this uncertainty has to be as shorter as possible to avoid the damage for both, us (EU) and the UK. That was one of the points of the resolution. An other big issue is that the rest of the EU has clearly understood and clearly advocates - at least the EP very strongly - that we need to build a new path for integration. Exploit as much as possible the Lisbon Treaty. This means new instruments of welfare state, of governance at economic level, of banking union, of fiscal union, against fiscal dumping, in eurozone first of all, and in all the EU. New instrument of cooperation in defense, in foreign policy, in fight against terrorism, in protecting our external borders, in building a common asylum system, that is in fact already there but not working.

We can do a lot of these things I've been listing, I would say almost everything, through the existing institutional framework, the Lisbon Treaty, and through the enhance cooperation, but we also need to put in place, and we said it in the resolution, a prospect of a treaty reform, of change of the treaties of the European Union so that we can build a core of Federal Union that can be an avant-garde of change and of transformation at a new level, a new level of commitment to investments, of infrastructure development, of foreign policy and defense to an extent that is not possible within the Lisbon Treaty. So, we must do as much as we can with what we have, but also build a road map to change the institutions. I am a federalist, I really believe that the example of Altiero Spinelli, who was an Italian Antifascist whose name is on the door of the building where I'm now. This building of the European Parliament, the main one, is named after Altiero Spinelli, one of the Founding Fathers of the European Union. I really believe in the idea of a federal union. I think that the sovereignty, the politics have so

much lost due to globalisation, to changes in the structure of the power relationships in the world, this struggle of politics during these years to deliver solutions, will be solved and sovereignty will be regained, if we really pull it together at a higher level. We need to do that! We need to build an European core Federal Union inside the larger European Union, that can really deliver for the citizens.

I think it can be a new engine of development and I am really supportive of the projects that also some member states - also Italy - have put very clearly forward in terms of migration compacts, of a minister of finance for eurozone, and many other things. I think that if some countries will push, together with the support of the European Parliament, we can transform this Brexit crisis into an opportunity of change and of development for a more democratic, more accountable and more effective European Union. Not just the bureaucratic union sometime we are in some of our endeavours; we can really be instead a union of growth and of democracy. More of that we are now, many things that we are already doing, are exceptional: mobility, peace, cooperation. We built a really beautiful project in this decades, but we really need to change now, and the UK referendum was a ringing bell for all of this.

I think that this are some core messages that are in the resolution of the European Parliament. If I may say a critique, I would like to say that there is not a clear commitment in the Parliament Resolution (because there was the need to build the compromise among different political groups) in order to have a Citizens Convention to start the treaty revision, to start discussing the new institutional framework. I think that without involving the citizens, we will never be able to build a real democratic Union. We cannot accept the kind of Eurocratic alternative to real debate by civil society. The change of European union can not be build only in the palaces; it can not be built only by government officials, it must be built by citizens. So I think that the path of civil society engaged in a Citizens Convention is absolutely necessary and I will fight for that so I want to thank you for what you are doing because learning about the institutions, mirroring them as you say, and creating occasion of discussion of proposal of understanding the institutions in their working also to propose ways to ameliorate them is crucial. So thank you for your work, thank you for what you are doing, and i hope that we can continue cooperating together for a better Europe, a Europe for citizens, a Europe for all, a Europe that is serving the interest of European people.

Thank you!

