

**Danuta Hübner**  
**Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs in the European Parliament**

**Priorities of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

*Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC)  
22-23 January 2017, Malta*

Yes, I agree with the deputy Prime Minister, Louis Grech that there are reasons to worry. Nobody will be able to convince the public tomorrow that it was not clear what was at stake today. Future generations will have the right not to forgive the leaders in power today the lost opportunities, the high opportunity costs, the regress in Europe, the damage to key values and principles that used to keep us together.

But we have to be sincere in asking ourselves whether this is indeed Europe that is falling or it is rather national egoism that is blocking needed solutions.

I do see growing risk of a small inward looking continent, lacerated by nationalisms, protectionism, xenophobia, intolerance, identitarianism, opposing globalization and trade.

But this would not be Europe.

So I trust that the Maltese Presidency - through the implementation of its program - will speak loudly for Europe.