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on the occasion of the 60th anniversaries the European Communities
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Madam President,
Madam de Gasperi,
Dear Professor Romano Prodi,
Honorable Colleagues,

As many of you have said there is a history of Europe and there is the future of Europe. On the history first - I am convinced that we, Europeans can be proud of the last sixty years . On the future, some of us believe the best is yet to come. But a good future will not come by itself. It can only be made by the men and women of Europe.

While addressing the future, many would agree that we must be pragmatic but also visionary. And it is not a secret that not everybody, also in this beautiful hall, has the same views on which way Europe should take when moving forward.

Some contemplate a multi speed Europe, some fear disintegration od the Union in such a scenario. I am convinced we will find a solution here if we reflect and work on it together.

The European Parliament has set out its views on the future of Europe on February 16 in two resolutions proposing a two step approach to EU reforms.

First, exploiting fully all legal possibilities of the current Treaties to make Europe respond more effectively to challenges.

And second, providing solutions that would make the Union capable to responding to people's needs and dreams which cannot be achieved with the tools currently existing in the Treaties. This is, therefore, only feasible through a future Treaty change. We, in the EP, see a treaty change not as an objective but as a tool needed to better address citizens' expectations, in the changing world where challenges increasingly do not respect national borders.

To come to a shared long term vision, which is badly needed as Mme Dreyer speaking on behalf of Bundesrat said, we need to engage in debates in the spirit of the Commission White Paper, offering to all EU citizens inclusiveness and ownership of the future of Europe.

Each of our institutions should act according to its constitutional role but, without any doubt, in good cooperation.

As you know, we in the European Parliament, respect and value highly our cooperation with national parliaments and are ready to work together to make the lives of Europe's citizens better, in freedom and security.