



PLUS EUROPE CONFERENCE

CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE



Fifth Edition · February, 2014



Fernando Plaza

In October 2012, we, a group of concerned citizens initiated a civic movement that insists that economic and social stability of Europe can only be achieved through the unification of the continent.

We believe that Europe needs to rethink the status of the citizen in European Governance in order to become a robust democracy.

We want to influence European institutions, so that they grant citizens a new role as main actors in European Governance.

In order to attain our goals, we have created Plus Europe, an organization that works on the national and continental levels to forge an integrative model of Governance.

The following pages describe the Plus Europe Organization.

Fernando Plaza,
President
Plus Europe Conference

Ramon Masia,
Secretary General
Plus Europe Conference



Ramon Masia

Fifth Edition,
February, 2014



What is Plus Europe?



Plus Europe is a network of committed citizens that works to achieve an agile, fairer and closer European Union by offering a new model of European governance based on mutual respect between the citizen and the different levels of the European government.

As Europe's Governance model is still 'Work in progress', the role of the citizen in Europe can be transformed from a passive one of casting a vote every election year into a more proactive and participative role based on the three values of 'Liberté, égalité et fraternité'.



Manuel Herreros



Jaap W. de Zwaan



Onno Koerten



How is Plus Europe organized?



Plus Europe operates across the continent as a civic network



The Plus Europe Organization operates through several organs:

1. **The Plus Europe Association** is a registered entity. Its President is also the Secretary General of The Plus Europe Conference Organizing Committee.
2. **The General Secretariat** provides support and coordination to the European Organizing Committee (EUROCOM), the National Committees (NATCOMs) and the Advisory Board.
3. **The European Organizing Committee** (EUROCOM) is formed by the Presidents of each NATCOM. It decides where the Annual Plus Europe Conference will take place and also which Working Documents and Recommendations will be presented to European Institutions.
4. **The National Committee** (NATCOM) of each European country has a President and up to nine members made up of academics, entrepreneurs, professionals as well as other civic personalities.
5. **The Advisory Board** assists the EUROCOM and the General Secretariat in defining its long term strategies and proposes the Working Documents and Recommendations to be submitted to European Institutions in hopes of future implementation. These proposals are related to the domains of Free Enterprise, Education, Research, Finance, Fiscal and Social Policies as well as to other pertinent and timely issues.



Civic Participation in European Governance & The Plus Europe Association



Oliver Wiethaus

The Plus Europe Association acts as a bridge between citizens and European Institutions. It primarily works with committed citizens within business and professional sectors through nationally organized networks across Europe.

In each country, a National Committee (NATCOM) serves to identify entities with shared ideals in hopes of creating coordinated national networks of committed citizens and civic entities.

National Committees have a primary role in the preparation of the Annual Conference and in the selection of Proposals for Action. They are in communication with the European Organizing Committee (EUROCOM) and the General Secretariat as well as with other National Committees relaying information and best practices from their respective networks.



Rosa Ribas



Thomas Klischan



Jordi W. Carnes



Angela Turroni

Civic Alliances and The Plus Europe Association



The Plus Europe Association forges alliances, as an honest broker, between civic entities and European institutions by pushing reform for new roles for the citizen outside of the normal framework of casting a vote every election year.

The Plus Europe Association envisions having future alliances with other civic entities, such as European Chambers of Commerce and Savings Banks, among others.

European Chambers of Commerce defend General Business Interests and constitute a network of talented people throughout Europe and the rest of the world.

European Savings Banks have traditionally served the communities in which they originated by financing families and small and medium sized companies and through reinvesting in civic initiatives.

These civic institutions provide services to citizens and therefore, The Plus Europe Association wishes to collaborate with them





Fernando Plaza

The Plus Europe Conference The annual Civic Meeting Point



Wermer Braemscheute

The Plus Europe Conference is an Annual Meeting that takes place every spring. It is jointly organized by Plus Europe, selected European Rotary Clubs and Chambers of Commerce as well as other civic entities.

The conference focuses mainly on four basic areas:

- European Governance
- European Financial Convergence
- European Fiscal Harmonization
- European Social Policies.



Sen. Mario Greco

The goal is to generate debates oriented to the consolidation of a European Governance Model and to provide relevant documents in this respect.



Elmar Marent



Jean-Michel Reynaud



Ina Piperaki

The coming Second Plus Europe Conference, Brussels, 12 & 13 May, 2014



The Second Plus Europe Conference will take place in Brussels, at the [Committee of the Regions](#) (Bâtiment Jacques Delors. Rue Belliard 99-101).

Some 150 participants coming from different civic, professional, academic and institutional backgrounds will actively participate in, and establish an interactive dialogue with the members of the expert panels.

This new edition of the Plus Europe Conference will be made possible thanks to the coordinated efforts of the ten National Committees.

In Brussels, the conference will be held in English.





Second Plus Europe Conference Topics



Elena Flores

SESSION 1: EU GOVERNANCE

'Challenges for Civic Participation in the European Democratic Governance'

Current situation in the EU demands acknowledging and promoting the role of civic participation within the European multi-level framework. Different perspectives will be presented, with a special focus on economic European governance.



Jan Wouters

SESSION 2. EU FINANCIAL

'Possible Models of Retail Banking in Europe'

The advancement towards the Banking Union is considered a major achievement of the EU. For the future, however, the citizen's perspective, as its service user, is also to be analysed.



Matthew Flinders

Second Plus Europe Conference Topics



SESSION 3. EU SOCIAL POLICIES

‘The Standards of a Social Model in Europe’

According to the White Paper on social policy (COM (94) 333), this model is based on ‘the conviction that economic progress and social progress are inseparable: ‘Competitiveness and solidarity have both been taken into account in building a successful Europe for the future.’ Guest speakers will discuss where we are now and what the next steps are.



X. Prats-Monné

SESSION 4. PENSIONS. PART I: CASE STUDIES

‘Common ground for the different pension funds in Europe’

What are the challenges that pension funds in the different national systems within the EU are facing? High quality insights will be shared with the participants on an issue that affects millions of citizens.



Luis Badrinas

SESSION 4. PENSIONS. PART II: EXPERT PANEL

‘What is the state of pensions reform in Europe?’

Experts on the issue will discuss it, with a special focus on converging and diverging trends.



Carmen D. Manea Tanasie



Plus Europe in motion Outcomes



Joan Franscesc Pont

Each year, the Plus Europe Conference will have the following outcomes:

Call for Actions

A call for proposals will be launched yearly by the Plus Europe Advisory Board to welcome initiatives, studies, proposals from European citizens, civic entities, academics, etc.



Pau Herrera

Recommendations to European Institutions

The debates, conclusions and recommendations of the conference will be analysed and forwarded to European policy-makers, as a civic contribution to EU policy-making.

Collaboration Agreements towards the European Civic Alliance

Plus Europe will gather the members of the European Civic Alliance, who, with a joint agenda, will work together to achieve greater role of the citizen within European governance

Plus Europe in motion

Outcomes



Plus Europe Citizen Awards

The Plus Europe Citizen Awards have three categories:

EU Professional Commitment: awarded by the European Chambers of Commerce and European Professional Associations.

EU Civic Initiative: awarded by the European Rotary Governors.

EU Civic Participation: awarded by the Plus Europe Association

Plus Europe Traineeships

The main concern of Plus Europe is to involve citizens in European governance, with special emphasis to the young ones. That is why Plus Europe will promote traineeships for young people to know first hand how the European Union works.

Plus Europe [Business] Forum

The Plus Europe [Business] Forum is a network of local, national and international companies that want to participate and contribute in the policy-making and development of the European Union.



Miquel Valls

Summary of the First Plus Europe Conference Barcelona, February 2013

The First Plus Europe Conference was held at 'Casa Llotja' of the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce on February 2nd, 2013. The topics discussed at the conference were: European Governance, Financial Convergence, Fiscal Harmonization.



Ferran Tarradellas



Julio Sorjus

The President of the Chamber of Commerce of Barcelona, **Mr. Miquel Valls**; the former Spanish Foreign Minister and current President of 'Cercle d'Economia', **Mr. Josep Piqué**; University Professors; The Rotary Foundation Trustee, **Mr. Julio Sorjus**, as well as various European RI District Governors together with 150 Rotarians were present to discuss these topics.

Three former Politicians, **Mr. Joan Rigol**, **Mr. Carles Gasòliba**, and **Mr. Manuel Milian Mestre** gave their insight on governance.

Keynote Speakers representing the European Commission were: **Ms. Elena Flores**, Director of Policy Strategy and Coordination at the DG for Economical and Financial Affairs, **Mr. Xavier Prats-Monné**, Deputy DG for Education and Culture, and **Mr. Ferran Tarradellas**, Director of the EU Office in Barcelona.

Representatives of ten Foreign Consulates accredited in Barcelona were also present as Observers.

At the closing session, the **Barcelona Plus Europe Declaration** was presented to the audience.

The first Plus Europe Conference was made possible thanks to Selected European Rotary

The Barcelona Plus Europe Declaration



In a moment of uncertainty about the future of the Europe, the persons gathered at the Closing Session of the First Plus Europe Conference hereby make the following

DECLARATION

1. That a better European Union, not only is possible, but it is to be achieved urgently right now.
2. That European citizens have to construct their future; Indirectly, through political parties, but also directly through their own initiatives.
3. That a new civil entity to be named Plus Europe shall coordinate the working documents that will contribute, year after year, to the advancement of the European Union.
4. That the Plus Europe Conference shall take place every year, as a meeting point for all citizens and civil entities who share similar ideas and the same objective: the advancement of European Union.
5. That Plus Europe shall work in close collaboration with European Union Institutions: The Commission and The Parliament. It will present recommendations proposing an integrated approach to European Governance, in such key issues as Education, Research, Health, and Free Enterprise, among others.
6. That Europe's Consensus Governance Model will likely contribute to world peace processes that are only to be achieved with the active participation of solid and transparent civic entities that do not yield to vested interests.
7. That Europe, the world's largest Freedom area, must exert its leadership not only through its political representatives, but through its civic entities as well. Plus Europe shall be one of them, with European Rotarian Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, and other entrepreneurial and professional associations as its main stakeholders.
8. That Plus Europe shall propose recommendations designed for quick implementation. This very first Plus Europe Conference has been one example. The Plus Europe Conference will continue for years to come and will have this Declaration as a guideline for future activities.

Barcelona, February 2nd, 2013.



RI D 1620, 1630, 2170 (BE) · 2201, 2202, 2203 (ES)
1550, 1560, 1570, 1580, 1590, 1600, 1610 (NL)
1920 (AT), 2120 (IT), 1960 (PT), 1890 (GE)



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