

Since its foundation in the 50', the European Union (the former Community) has prevented Europeans from falling apart and from keep fighting against each other, hence ensuring more than 60 years of peace after centuries of devastating wars.

But - the future of the most peaceful, prosperous, stable and democratic region in the world is currently threatened. This is why, under the pressure of populisms and anti-EU movements, it is now our turn to prevent the European Union from falling apart.

The example of the United Kingdom makes it very clear that the European Union is, in reality, fragile and that we cannot take it for granted. But how can we protect it?

To answer this question, I would like to quote Vaclav Havel, President of Czech Republic from 1993 to 2003, whose dream and activism for freedom under the Czechoslovakian communist regime costed him five years in prison. President Havel said something very true; he said that: "Without dreaming of a better Europe, we shall never build a better Europe".

With this words, he wanted to say that "we must not be afraid to dream of the seemingly impossible if we want the seemingly impossible to become a reality".

Therefore, we should learn from the mistakes of the past and not afraid to dream of building a better Europe together if we want to find concrete solution to climate change, migration crisis and negative economic effects, challenges that in times of uncertainties seem impossible to be overcome.

But without the commitment and motivation of people like Vaclav Havel or Jo Cox, we won't be able to live for longer in the area of peace and stability that today we take for granted.

Therefore, this is our wish: that each of us will leave the Institute and will work hard to keep the dream of a better Europe alive, the same dream in Jo Cox believed so hard and for the realization of which she will always be remembered.

Thank you for your attention.

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