

WORK PROGRAMME 2015

BRINGING A FRESH BOOST TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

Throughout 2015, we will focus on the challenges lying at the heart of the agenda of the new decision-makers appointed in 2014 or at the core of the heated public debate sparked by the European Union (EU). Our work strives to clarify the fundamentals of the main controversies related to the EU, to put forward analyses and operational recommendations and to assist in taking up positions with a view to consolidating and furthering European integration.

The Institute's work is conducted in our Paris and Berlin offices, based on the main points of the programme presented hereafter, which aim to "reconcile the EU and its citizens", "lift the EU out of the economic and social crisis" and "assert the EU's role in globalisation".

1. Reconciling the EU and its citizens

The European elections in May 2014 confirmed the mistrust aroused by the EU, not only through the policies its conducts but also due to its founding principles and organisation. We must respond to this mistrust by focusing our work on three key challenges affecting policies, institutions and citizens.

1.1. Consolidating the "European Federation of Nation States"

We take a stand in the debate on the **division of competences** between the national and European levels and on the impact of the **production of community standards**. We put forward recommendations on the organisation of **political and institutional differentiation** within the EU and the **euro area**, in particular with regard to the role of national parliaments and the status of the United Kingdom.

We have conducted more in-depth work on the governance of the **European Federation of Nation States**, twenty years on from the end of the "**Delors Commission**", which involved making full use of the archives of our founding president, while taking a position on the **EU's main guidelines** (the Commission's strategies, meetings of the European Council, etc.).

We are also working on "unity in diversity" within the EU, both through "**country analyses**" which demonstrate how the EU is perceived by its various member states and citizens (the United Kingdom for example), and by highlighting the elements of a "**European model**" with regard to other regions of the world, while considering how the EU ensures compliance with **democratic principles within member states**.

1.2. Learning democratic lessons from the European elections

We intend to **learn extensively from the European elections of May 2014**, in particular in terms of strengthening a **European public arena** and with regard to the role of **political parties** and the "Spitzenkandidat" procedure.

We are continuing our work on the conditions for the emergence of **active European citizenship**, the development of **public opinion** with regard to the EU and the **role of the European and national parliaments**.

In order to foster democratic debate on the EU outside of the electoral period, we organise many **citizen dialogue events**, involving a broad spectrum of the public (civil society, social partners, teachers, young people, etc.), in particular as part of our partnerships with MACIF and the French European Movement (MEF).

1.3. Promoting the right to freedom of movement, a component of European citizenship

We take a stand with regard to the questions raised by the exercise of Europeans' **right to freedom of movement** established by the Treaty of Rome, and the management of the Schengen area.

In particular, we reiterate the **foundations** on which this right is exercised as well as its **economic, social and political consequences**. We especially emphasise that the "free movement of persons" is **not an unconditional right**, and we analyse the member states' **room for manoeuvre** in this matter.

We explain the **differences between freedom of movement and immigration**, as well as the different legal frameworks to which economically active and inactive citizens are subject, notably as regards social assistance.

2. Lifting the EU out of the economic and social crisis

In 2015, we will focus on four fundamental economic and social challenges to lift the EU out of the crisis it is experiencing.

2.1. Completing the Economic and Monetary Union

We continue our work on **completing the EMU** which, despite recent reforms, remains vulnerable, particularly in view of self-fulfilling solvency crises or

the lack of macroeconomic stabilisation mechanisms on a European level.

We are exploring in greater depth the conclusions of the “Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa Group” report, especially with regard to the **budgetary union**, based on the proposal to create a European Monetary Fund. We are also continuing to work on an **adjustment mechanism in the case of asymmetric shocks**, and on recommendations aimed at promoting **structural reforms** and to reduce differences between euro area countries.

We are analysing the implementation of the banking union, following on from our work on the budgetary capacity of the euro area, by taking part in discussions on the creation of a safety net for the single resolution fund, planned for 2016.

2.2. Strengthening “Social Europe” post-crisis

We are particularly attentive to the EU’s potential contribution to the management of the **social repercussions of the crisis**, and in particular the sharp rise in unemployment in many European countries. In this instance, we are working to assess the initiatives adopted in recent years in favour of **youth employment** and are actively promoting a strengthened EU contribution in this field to prevent the emergence of a “lost generation”.

We are working in greater depth on the **social dimension of the EMU and the EU**, focusing on measures that may be used to establish a genuine single labour market.

Thirty years after the relaunch of the Val Duchesse process, we are taking part in efforts to create a more dynamic **European social dialogue**, while continuing our work on the European activities of players in the **social and solidarity-based economy**.

2.3. Promoting a genuine “Energy Union”

We are continuing our action in favour of a “**European Energy Community**” and have created a set of recommendations for the operational implementation of the “Energy Union” proposed by the Juncker Commission, tackling both internal and external challenges.

In view of the upcoming Conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), we are analysing **energy and climate issues**, as well as the institutional and

negotiation challenges related to the EU’s role and strategy. Moreover, we will focus on European governance issues related to sustainable development, competitiveness and the security of energy systems in Europe and surrounding countries.

We will put into perspective the challenges inherent to the governance of European and international energy and climate policies and will foster interaction between decision-makers and stakeholders on international, European and national levels. We promote our “European Energy Community” concept **in Germany** and will shed light on the “**Energiewende**” and the economic, political, financial and social effects of the energy transition in Germany within a European context, while taking a stance on regional cooperation between France and Germany.

2.4. Contributing more broadly to debates on ways out of the crisis

We also contribute more broadly to debates on the EU’s strategy for exiting the crisis and take a stance on the various actions taken on a European level to **stimulate growth and investment** in Europe. Against this backdrop, we are particularly attentive to **financing issues**, insisting in particular on the role of innovative instruments (EIB, project bonds, etc.) and the **European budget**.

Our work also focuses on **taxation on the single market**, at a time when the impact of the crisis on national budgets and tax avoidance scandals have usefully renewed **debate on tax cooperation/coordination** in Europe.

We assess the contribution of the **cohesion policy** to the development of **public opinion on the European project**, including developments since the crisis of 2008.

3. Asserting the EU’s role in globalisation

We are working towards an increased commitment of the EU to external affairs, in order to secure its rightful role in the globalised world and to encourage it to act in more practical terms on a few key issues.

3.1. Europe’s involvement in the world and in surrounding regions

Following on from the 2014 Manifesto of our Relex Task Force, we are continuing to work on the geopolitical issues that dominate the agenda of the new

Commission, focusing on the implementation of the **EU's clustering of external actions**, bolstered by Jean-Claude Juncker.

We are focusing as a priority on **relations between the EU and its neighbours**, namely countries south of the Mediterranean and **Russia**, by exploring avenues for cooperation that could prevent conflicts from escalating and to **manage our interdependence more effectively**. The far-reaching changes in **Africa** require increased attention from the West in terms of emerging powers, leading us to reassess the scope of **integration dynamics** deployed on this continent.

While a policy of sanctions seems to be automatically replacing member states' drive to commit to external crisis management operations, we are proactively arguing for the **European pooling of defence capacities**, which is slow to be established.

3.2. Clarifying the EU trade policy

We are arguing our position on the **key challenges in the negotiations of the draft TTIP agreement** (ISDS, regulatory convergence, geopolitical impact, etc.), which had an unprecedented effect on public opinion. We are extending this position to the **major priorities of the common trade policy**, against the backdrop of increasing opposition to free trade in various member states.

3.3. Developing a European migration policy

We are continuing our work on border control and the right to asylum by exploring the development of a **common legal immigration policy** based on **mobility** in close cooperation with third countries, and by considering the **contribution of the EU's various external action policies** (trade policy, neighbourhood, agriculture, development, etc.) to the management of migratory flows towards the EU. ●

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