

GENERATION YOUNG EUROPE

FROM

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So what, they are closing the borders now. What comes next?

They are twenty years old, they are young Europeans, they feel lost.

A couple of days earlier they were pointing their fingers on a map of Europe yearning for city trips to Amsterdam, Rome, Warsaw or Munich. They like to visit their Erasmus friends in Barcelona, Maastricht, Lisbon, Prague. They may be considering settling in

Berlin, Paris or London or Athens perhaps for a couple of months or years or for a lifetime.

They are twenty and they must admit they have never experienced such a thing as a frontier. What may it look like? a line on the ground, a trench, a fence? Is it being monitored by soldiers, guards, cameras, do you have to pay for crossing it, need you show your passport? Can it be crossed anyway, under which specific conditions ? They are young Europeans born around 1995 after the Schengen Space agreement. They have no idea what Schengen may be referring to.

But they are fully aware of the dream they were given to dream : Europe as a wide horizon, Europe as a concept, a space where to live, where to work and hope. They really felt they were members of a common European space. (after Béatrice Delvaux in Le Soir of 15 September)

It now just happens that those borders are being closed, like barriers when a train runs by, a train full of refugees all on their way to Northern Europe, hopefully Germany. And it suddenly appears to be too much for the Germans who used to say *yes we can*, you are welcome and are saying now: *no you can't for the boat is full*.

It all means the end of a dynamic of personal and commercial exchange, of travelling freely, of getting in touch with other European youths, of common rules and policies, all things that were being given shape slowly but deeply to a common fantasy and identity of the young Europeans.

The tide is turning the floodgates that were opened wide to encourage immigration on a massive scale have been closed again.



But never ever are the members of the generation young Europe being consulted as to whether they have an opinion on this issue. That is unhealthy, even un sane and it gives a free hand to all kinds of left and right-wing carnival barkers, populists, nationalists, Salafists, Djihadists and other diehard extremists who seize the floor and confiscate it one for all.

Angela Merkel says she opens the gates *wir schaffen das, oh yes we can* and three weeks later the same female Chancellor is saying, no, sorry we cannot *wir schaffen es nicht, sorry we cannot*.

But why are the Europe's teenagers and twens never ever being consulted.

It has been nearly 18 long years since Eyes of Europe has been insisting on giving them a voice, on asking for their opinions in real time on all sorts of burning issues and especially this one. After all, isn't it for their generation to welcome, to integrate these refugees who are joining Europe by the millions. And what does young Generation Europe actually think of frontiers, asylum and refugee policy, integration of the new entrants, and more specifically what do they think of Europe, the Europe they are dreaming about and the Europe that is being imposed upon them by Brussels without never ever asking for their opinions.

Don't they feel concerned by the moves towards independence of the Catalans, the Scots, the Flemings, the Basks...do they care or do they feel more concerned by the process and pace of European integration. Dear Generation young Europe, Eyes of Europe is looking forward to offering you the floor on all such issues in the hope that you get your say in a process that will affect your generation and those who come after you most dramatically.

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