

What holds Europe together in the core?

“Shared heritage of Reformation, Renaissance and Great (French) revolution; shared present commitment to human rights and human dignity; shared hope of life in peace, freedom and justice.”

(Erazim Kohák, Prague)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“Being independent, diverse and united at the same time.”

(Stephan Pernau, Berlin)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“A common sense of values - social, political, economic - enshrined and promoted through culture.”

(Benedict Schofield, London)



What holds Europe together in the core?

“Europe was created based on economical and peaceful reasons, right now I think these are still the main reasons that hold Europe together, but I would like to see a more united Europe based on solidarity and mutual respect.”

(Giusy Chierchia, Amsterdam)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“The ever growing notion that the territory of the 27 member states is more than an open market in the economic sense, it is a territory where all citizens of all member states do have next to their national citizenship a citizenship of the Union. The implementation of this dual citizenship holds the Union together.”

(Steve Austen, Amsterdam)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“Cultural helix composed by intercommunal history and compassionate recognition of the need to share peacefully such a beautiful and small continent.”

(Šárka Havlícková, Pilsen)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“A belief in successful cooperation and solidarity.

Less philosophically: EU treaties, trade and politics.”

(Maja Troedsson, Stockholm)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“Solidarity, idealism, responsibility, and shaping the future together.”

(Nadin Deventer, Bochum)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“The thought that Europe is the greatest project ever. How can so many countries with so many ideologies and cultures work together? How can countries with so different pasts, share an uncertain common future? I think the answer is HOPE! People really believe in this project because they know that their lives were improved since the beginning of this envied project.”

(Paulo Carvalho da Silva, Porto)



What holds Europe together in the core?

“European values hold Europe together like star groups in the space stand together with peace and harmony. Europe not only protects peace and liberty but also can be an unique inspiration for the whole world.”

(Ilkay Sevgi Temizalp, Istanbul)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“The value of peace and prosperity for all, based on empathy and respect.”

(Gabriele Landwehr, Berlin)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“The fear of the other and a fear of the past. We need to design an European sensibility that binds not out of fear but out of a shared experience of the good of Europe - its traditions, culture and democratic tendencies.”

(Hrishabh Sandilya, Prague)



What holds Europe together in the core?

“Our history and our commitment to live together in peace and democracy, in societies that encourage individuals to explore and make the most of their potential in a shared space of mutual respect.”

(Katerina Oikonomakou, Berlin)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“A shared responsibility for a future development of the EU and overcoming the recent crisis by joint actions of the Member States.”

(Marta Rusek, Berlin)



What holds Europe together in the core?

“The question is whether Europe is in fact convincingly held together at the core! Europe’s advantage at present is its vast and deep-rooted history showing us just how humanity plays out during the course of time. What can help continue to hold Europe together at the core is an awareness that there are no short cuts and that we need to deeply love and nurture the quality of human life, expression and existence as did those who helped create its history and its traditions.”

(Frank Dodge, Berlin)



What holds Europe together in the core?

“At the moment it seems to me, that the Euro and its current crisis are the only thing that keep the EU from breaking up.”

(Volker Schmidt, Berlin)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“With its diversity of languages and cultures, Europe is the role model for strong identities, mutual respect and exchange between the specific cultural experiences.”

(Andreas Ammann, Berlin)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“I think Europe is held together by the belief and promotion of democracy, the desire for a high standard of living, the creation of space for active citizenry, strong social policies and economic/employment rights. I think there is a certain idea about how life should be that most Europeans believe in and strive to. This is the European culture that binds people here.”

(Rachel Danna, Prague)



What holds Europe together in the core?

“A shared sense of crisis.”

(Esther Romeyn, Gainesville, FL)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“Our core is our history and the view and perception we take on the world. Our history of cruelty, humanism and culture and the long way to democracy, the developing of peace and freedom. And the big question of what is "the other"? And what are we? The future or the past?”

(Anja Pollnow, Berlin)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“It is us who hold Europe together. We must fight the remnants of nationalism, we must overcome prejudices and preconceived notions. We must, and indeed will, develop a new concept of a European society, where citizens will participate in public affairs in a new way, governments, the private sector and civil society will have newly defined roles, and local, regional, and voluntary communities will gain in importance.”

(Graf Rupert Strachwitz, Berlin)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“Europe is held together in the core by its diversity”. It sounds paradox. Our diversity in language, cultural traditions, habits, etc. stabilize Europe. And the connection is the common history.“

(Isa Kathrin Edelhoff, Halle (Saale))

What holds Europe together in the core?

“The ever present experience of differences (language, culture, historical) in a very dense and small territory, the wealth they represent and the difficulties they create - all that bound in mutual dependence and progressively comparable social, economic and political structures - there is no escape, no door to close, and common future to be won!”

(Sabine Froschmaier, Berlin)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“For the moment, Europe appears to be held together mainly, some would argue exclusively, by the ability of M/S, regions, individuals to tap on the EU resources (subsidies, cheap loans for banks). The democratic deficit is huge and augmenting...”

(Paul Dubois, Berlin)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“A core set of values but most of all the belief we are realizing something that some years ago was considered unbelievable, whose positive effects are much more higher and deeper in the long term than all the difficulties of today.”

(Giulia Bellinetti, Udine)



What holds Europe together in the core?

“Europe is like a patchwork towel stretched over a large land mass. The line that connects its parts is culture. Who is embroidering? You. And me. The Portuguese. The German. And the Bulgarian. It's us: The Europeans.”

(Jonathan Costa, Porto)



What holds Europe together in the core?

“If we see Europe as a continuous construction, the European cities are its cornerstones. Culture is the cement that binds all the distinct 'stones' together. And we, the Citizens: we are its builders. Let's build!”

(Vânia Rodrigues, Porto)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“Their feeling for nuances, their refined and complex way of thinking; their need for individual self-determination and their resistance to dominant authority; their desire for social security and justice for everybody. Of course, these characteristics in themselves imply a difficulty to achieve or maintain a unity. However, stressing the importance of reason and time and always keeping in mind our common desire, nr. 3, I think these three aspects will hold Europe together.”

(Frederike Beltjes, Amsterdam)

What holds Europe together in the core?

"Often our common past, values, culture and beliefs are pointed as the 'alloy' that holds us together. Yet, in my life Europe was always connected with the future more than anything else.

Put it simple: Dreams for better life are focused on the future, aren't they?"

(Yasen Iliev, Sofia)



What holds Europe together in the core?

“In spite of linguistic and cultural diversity - substantially increased in recent years as a result of migration into Europe - Europe is held together by a set of common values shared by its citizens. Above all, citizens share the conviction that war has to remain a thing of the past.”

(Wolfgang Mackiewicz, Berlin)

What holds Europe together in the core?

“Creative projects, intellectual dialogue, cooperative networking between the culture industries of EU countries, civil society, NGO's artists and art experts.”

(Beral Seher Madra, Istanbul)

What holds Europe together in the core?

"The knowledge of the consequences of two devastating wars and common values concerning the organization of our societies."

(Hanna Wolff, Berlin)