



## Appeal of June 18, 2020

It is from Dinant (Belgium) that I am speaking to you on this 18 June 2020, in front of this bridge where Lieutenant Charles de Gaulle gave a first proof of his great courage, on 15 August 1914. He commanded 11th Company of the 33rd Infantry Regiment and was trying to cross the Meuse when a bullet hit him in the right knee. He was 24 years old.

This statue not only recalls this episode of the Great War. It was inaugurated on the occasion of the Centenary by Bernard de Gaulle, the General's nephew, and by Konrad Adenauer, the grandson of the founding Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. This place therefore also evokes those two Statesmen who, from the General's return to power in 1958, were the builders of Franco-German friendship and of the Europe of the Six.

We know that to come back to power it is necessary to have been there.

It was 80 years ago, on 18 June 1940, from London, on the BBC, that Charles de Gaulle became the leader of Free France.

After deploring that "The leaders who, for many years, have been at the head of the French armies, have formed a government (which), alleging the defeat of our armies, has contacted the enemy to stop the fighting", General de Gaulle invited "the French officers and soldiers who are on British territory, or who may come be there, with or without their weapons, (as well as) the engineers and specialized workers in the arms industry who are on British territory, or who may come to be there, to contact (him)".

He reassured the French, telling them that nothing is lost, then he promised them that "Whatever happens, the Flame of French Resistance may not and will not be extinguished."

On this 18 June 2020, I note that the Heads of State and Government, that the European institutions, have been unable, since 2005 at least, to pursue the objective of "an ever-closer union between the peoples of Europe". This objective was, however, set as early as 1949 in the Statute of the Council of Europe and taken up by the Treaty of Rome in 1957, then by the Treaty of Maastricht in 1992. It since appears in Article 1 of the Treaty on European Union. Nevertheless, the EU is falling apart, Brexit is a fact, borders are closing in the face of uncontrolled flows of migrants and the coronavirus.

The functioning of the European Union is inefficient and opaque. It has become increasingly fractured, weakened and reduced to "incapacity, which is a betrayal of government",<sup>1</sup> a betrayal comparable to that of June 1940.

The Commission subordinated itself to the Council. She perfectly masters doublespeak and prevarication, she is the champion of running on the spot. By announcing that something is going to happen, she makes us believe that it is done.

We came under a government of assembly, by definition ineffective: as a result of an abuse of power, that is what the European Council has become, while, for lack of a vision of the future, it is failing in its duty, set by the treaties, which is to give the EU broad, medium- and long-term guidelines.

---

<sup>1</sup> See François-René de Chateaubriand, « Polémique » in *Œuvres complètes du vicomte de Chateaubriand*, volume IV, Paris, Furne, 1834, p. 685.

The European Parliament is deprived of the essential rights of a legislative power: to vote for taxes and the budget, to invest the government, to take the legislative initiative. Although apparently elected by universal suffrage, it is illegitimate, because in contradiction with the equality of citizens of the Union enshrined in Article 9 of the Treaty on the European Union.<sup>2</sup>

This disunity, this inefficiency will worsen the worst economic recession since 1929 that our governments have caused with lockdowns and every man for himself.

Since 17 September 2015, I have published three books and many articles in the press, given 180 lectures in Belgium, France, Germany, Austria, Croatia, Italy and Spain, but also in the United States of America and Russia, which allowed me to explain to more than 9,000 people why Europe needs federal governance, and how to make it happen.

The day after tomorrow, this Saturday 20 June, I was invited to speak in Estonia, but the closure of the borders led to the postponement of this conference. Thanks to the gradual restoration of freedom of movement allows me to resume here, in Dinant, the tour of Europe that I began in Brussels five years ago.

As President Steinmeier said on 8 May in Berlin: "We must keep Europe united. We must think, feel and act as Europeans."

Inspired by Charles de Gaulle, I say to you: the Flame of European Resistance may not and will not be extinguished. The federal constitution for the United States of Europe is coming!

Jean Marsia  
President S€D

---

<sup>2</sup> Selon la Cour de Karlsruhe, dans son arrêt du 30 juin 2009.