



## **ALDA Director, Antonella Valmorbida Statement**

### **Nobel Prize for Peace in the European Union: I would have preferred the prize to European Citizens**

The Nobel Prize Committee has decided to give this great endorsement to the European Union this year!

Honestly, being a convinced European and thinking that the EU is an real instrument for peace and democracy, I feel uncomfortable about this choice. I understand the reasons and the strong symbolic value, especially now. However, perhaps because I know too well Europe and its system, I would have preferred something else, something stronger !

The first argument is that, from my point of view, Europe is a response - despite the current difficulties - to the perpetual state of conflict between States. But it has always been so, not only this year. Therefore, it is a conviction that they should be with us, in every moment and in our every daily effort of dialogue. The recognition seems to me come too late. But perhaps, better later than never.

It also seems to me that the award to the European Union is a far too easy choice. Who is the European Union? We are – us citizens – Europe ! I would have preferred to have a name and a face. Who is pushing in the right direction? Who is pushing against? Every day, we see people who block the process, who vote against by weakening the tremendous efforts not only in politics but in all possible fields. And European citizens must stay calm, work and move on, no matter what happens. Obviously, it is a choice that is *politically correct* and discontent none.

The decision to award the European Union will give visibility to the President of the Commission, Manuel Barroso, or M, Von Rompuy? Perhaps if in Oslo, we could see a group of European citizens, the most diverse - from Athens to Krakow - I would be happier. Perhaps, at least, I could accept a prize withdrawn by the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, who is – even if in a complicated way - the most direct expression of democracy of European citizens. But let's not give a prize to civil servants in Brussels - whom I work with and appreciate every day, by the way. In the absence of a strong figure in Europe, who gives inspiration, the award goes to a more vague idea, the European Union.

My other objection is that the choice to reward an institution, does not reward anyone. Around me, there are so many men and women who work for peace and would need a strong recognition that will never come.

I believe strongly in Europe and participate actively and relentlessly to its strengthening, its ideas, for citizens and with. I value also the power of attraction of our values of peace and democracy that the EU also expresses, towards the countries near us. If the Nobel Prize is intended to European Citizens, I agree, otherwise, I struggle to understand it.

Strasbourg, 13.10.2012

[alda@aldaintranet.org](mailto:alda@aldaintranet.org) • [www.alda-europe.eu](http://www.alda-europe.eu)

---

<i>Headquarters in Strasbourg</i>	<i>Office in Brussels</i>	<i>Office in Vicenza</i>	<i>Support Office in Brindisi</i>	<i>Office in Skopje</i>	<i>Office in Subotica</i>
c/o Council of Europe 67075 Strasbourg (FR) Tel. +33 3 90 21 45 93 Fax +33 3 90 21 55 17	Rue des Confédérés 47 1000 Brussels (BE) Tel. +32 274 201 61	Viale Mazzini 225 36100 Vicenza (IT) Tel. +39 04 44 54 01 46 Fax +39 04 44 23 10 43	c/o Municipality - Via Guerrieri 7 72100 Brindisi (IT) Tel. +39 0831 229 423/575 Fax +39 0831 229 222	Zenevska bb 1000 Skopje (MK) Tel. +389 (0) 23 06 59 32	Trg Cara Jovana Nenada 15 24000 Subotica (SRB) Tel. +381 24 554 587
<a href="mailto:aldastrasbourg@aldaintranet.org">aldastrasbourg@aldaintranet.org</a>	<a href="mailto:aldabrussels@aldaintranet.org">aldabrussels@aldaintranet.org</a>	<a href="mailto:aldavicenza@aldaintranet.org">aldavicenza@aldaintranet.org</a>	<a href="mailto:brindisi@aldaintranet.org">brindisi@aldaintranet.org</a>		