



A Europe in solidarity must be “a community of communities”

RIGHT NOW: we shall all together believe in our common European project that has to demonstrate its capacity to overcome the sanitary and economic crisis.

In these difficult days, all our thoughts go to all the people suffering and to the families of the victims, too many. Our mourning is infinite, and we keep it in our heart. We shall thank all those who work with dedication every day to heal the ill people, and those who keep the flow of goods circulating for the sake of the European families.

In this period there were actions of solidarity and mutual support among member states, as well as from European institutions. This must also be recalled loud and clear. This solidarity has also been expressed worldwide, with support coming from all over the world especially to Italy, very heavily affected by the crisis. This is a very encouraging sign that shall guide us also in the future.

Although many criticisms have been addressed in these days to the European Union on the ways and timing of its reaction to the social and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is crucial to keep in mind that the European Union as it is today – as well as its potential in providing answers and actions – is the result of specific political rules and competences decided in the past.

This dramatic situation, as well as all the other crises of the last decade, have proved that the European project must continue to develop in order to create instruments and new dynamics aiming at the protection of the citizens, and to ensure cohesion and equal opportunities for the social and economic development in Europe. Today more than ever, the European Union must confirm its capacity to adapt to the current situation, producing new ways of mutual support that will enable to overcome the sanitary and economic emergency we are living in. If not dealt with, the consequences could jeopardize our common European future.

The uncertainty of this moment and the unexpected crisis put us all in front of difficult choices and unexplored dynamics. We must do everything we can in order to make **Europe a project of solidarity, a “community of communities”**, to spread a sense of sharing and increase the desire of living together, to overcome the crisis and be better than before. It is an opportunity not to be missed.

ALDA and its partners are convinced of the construction of a European Union based on cohesion, democracy, solidarity and sustainability. We have always supported and promoted the value of cooperation and dialogue, and we support it now more than ever. We work on the power of municipalities, restlessly engaged with their citizens in being resilient facing the

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difficulties and in finding the appropriate solutions to every-day issues. Local democracy is a means to properly respond to the needs of the citizens. ALDA has been working for years with local communities who experience every day the challenge of the global responsibility for each one of us, on the environmental as well as on the economic matters, and recently also on the issue of migrant's integration. Thanks to the efforts of our team and partners all around the world, we all know, here in ALDA, what does the economic and social emergency caused by wars and environmental disasters means.

Local communities are the heart and the strength of our work. They are the most impacted by the sanitary pressure, and those who will suffer the most from the economic crisis that will follow. Even though member states will continue being important actors in tackling the emergency, when the crisis will be over the social and economic "reconstruction" will mostly begin thanks to the strength and commitment of municipalities and citizens. Their force will be in deepening the trust and in starting all over again, together with companies, schools and local initiatives.

We want a social and inclusive European Union in order to accomplish the journey we started years ago.

We have only one choice: to build a political, social and economic cohesion in Europe, to stay united and to help each other. We shall continue working every taking, supporting and helping every human being, every business and dream, community after community.

Alone, everything will be a lot more difficult.

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