

## THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE

### ***Where we come from.***

- Based on the “Charter” of the Christian Democracy Initiative from 1999, we are developing Christian democratic *thinking* further, in order to recognize and explore the human *feeling* and the political *acting* in all depths and potentials.

### ***Why we expose ourselves.***

- Our attitude is the one of *confidence*.
- We defend freedom and pair it with *responsibility*.
- What drives us is *meaning*.

### ***What we want.***

- We want *clarity about terms* and their meaning. We oppose both the pigeonhole thinking, that does not question and shut itself off, as well as the arbitrariness that devalues and degrades, with the constant exploration of possibilities for *comprehending reality through language*. Communication and understanding require clarity about the terms. The *constant process of clarification*: That is political discourse.
- We are convinced that it is right *that people live in peace with each other* – across all borders: across those of nations and ethnic groups, of religions and ideologies, of whatever identities and whatever stereotypes. This cannot develop if we work against each other or if we simply coexist, but only if we cooperate. This mutual compatibility requires *new social contracts*: between old and young, between rich and poor, between east and west, between man and machine, as well as between people and the environment. These new social contracts should flourish in the spirit of mutual respect.
- As European Christian Democrats, we want to understand and make understandable the “European Way Of Life “ in its *beauty* and depth, its strength and tension, its, *reason* consolidated by the lessons of history, its human and material justice. We want to fill it with life and through *openness and orientation towards the common good* let it act as a formative role model.

### ***How we become effective.***

- We understand political engagement as a *service* to society and to the neighbour, with society and with the neighbour.
- We are aware of the risks of political engagement for everyone involved, but we are also aware of the fact that people are empowered and obligated to *help and heal*

each other, and that among the many possible paths to this end, the one of political engagement is an essential one.

- We meet each other regularly and personally, talk to each other face to face and listen to each other. We reflect daily politics in the light of our political attitude. We are *networked and open*.

### ***Who we are and who we are looking for.***

- We consider ourselves as people of *good will*, who are aware of their susceptibility to errors, who want to constantly develop, who *trust* and have *confidence* in each other. We *translate* between politics and society, between science and politics, between civil society and business and between many other areas of society. We want a *balance*, not a cold decreed one, but one that is constantly being renegotiated and that measures people and their talents.
- We are looking for personalities, who are suitable as *moral authorities* and motivators through natural authority (not through formally held functions). We are looking for people with good will, who *critically challenge our thinking* and, in this or another way, contribute to the further contribution of Christian Democracy to state and society. Science establishes and inspires. We are looking for an exchange with people from *Academia* as well as with people, who cross borders, who challenge themselves – and us – with *border areas* of whatever kind. We are looking for the *creative power* of younger people as well as the knowledge and *insight* of the elderly.

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