



europedesconsciences

The Charter

Considering that Europe, with its present political structure, pays real attention only to economic and financial matters,

Considering that an omnipresent and organized materialism has taken possession of the continent, leading to violence, mercenary attitudes, amorality and lost of our culture, and that a new age of obscurantism is taking over people's minds,

Considering that widespread standardisation is being thrust upon people, destroying cultural diversity and crushing individuals,

Considering that only solutions of a spiritual nature, which are themselves the true foundations for a society in which people can live at peace with one another and with nature, are capable of providing in-depth and long-term responses which match the scale of this "crisis".

Considering the above, the founding members of the EUROPE DES CONSCIENCES Association hereby adopt this Charter, through which they recognise the importance and the urgency of :

Getting back in touch with the spiritual dimension of humanity and with eternal values

Our whole lives revolve around possessions and power. Too often, we are separated from the deepest dimension, through which we can attain to the full meaning of life.

It is when we are connected to the source of all life that we can develop, that we can see the right thing to do and do it. Then we shall play our part in forming the patterns which bring harmony to the universe. If we respect its laws, we can live according to our consciences, in joy and freedom.

Re-integrating humanity into Nature, as a species and as individuals

The human race forms an integral part of Nature. That is where our roots lie. We draw our nourishment from Nature. Nature has given us our lives. It nourishes and heals. It sustains and regenerates us.

When human beings pollute Nature, they are polluting themselves. When we destroy it, we are destroying ourselves. When we fail to show any respect for Nature, we wrong ourselves.

Subordinating economics to politics and politics to wisdom

At the heart of any society, there is a just hierarchy of powers : wisdom indicates objectives and provides inspiration, political power brings about those things which are recognised as being just, and economic power satisfies material needs, within the framework traced out by political power.

The abdication of political power in the face of economic power has led to corruption of our values, in which consumption becomes an end in itself and is perceived as the source of all happiness.

Promoting projects on a human scale and neighbourhood democracy

We need the right amount of space to live our lives to the full. We can not live together successfully without keeping our distance. If people aren't given enough space, they can't flourish. If they have too much, they feel lost. In a confined space, relationships quickly degenerate into conflicts, and in a crowd there are no relationships.

The neighbourhood is the setting which nourishes true and open-hearted relationships.

Introducing greater social justice, the natural expression of our common humanity and a pre-condition for lasting peace

The sense of the unity of all things which spiritual experience brings leads naturally to brotherhood and sharing. Social justice is no longer a theoretical principle but something which goes without saying, which has the force of the obvious. Lasting peace - for the individual and the community alike - flows naturally from this.

Emerging from nationalistic egotism to unite in a brotherhood without frontiers

True brotherhood knows no frontiers. We can no longer confine ourselves to defending our own personal interests and well-being while ignoring what's happening beyond our frontiers, events for which we are frequently largely responsible.

Giving responsibility to individuals and encouraging neighbourhood solidarity

We can't choose freedom without simultaneously choosing responsibility. Taking on responsibility gives an individual dignity and stature.

This responsibility does not eliminate the need for solidarity. Solidarity begins with those nearest to us.

Considering the need for a “Declaration of the Duties of Man, towards ourselves, the rest of humanity, Nature and the Earth”

The Declaration of Human Rights was designed to protect the weak from the strong. But, little by little, it has made us all more selfish and envious, to the detriment of the spirit of self-denial and service. Mankind has become too conscious of its rights and has forgotten its duties. We must recall our role, our function and our responsibility for maintaining harmony in society and on Earth.

Investing more in preventing problems than in curing them - thinking long-term before we act

Keeping things together and maintaining harmony by anticipating problems is much fairer than resolving problems brought about by our negligence.

Here again, our actions should be guided by long-term considerations. It's not responsible - for an individual or for a society - to grab what you want all the time, without thinking about tomorrow.

Political electioneering pushes us in the opposite direction : towards a preference for the healing gesture to solve the most visible problems and towards actions dictated by our interests in the short term, between one election and the next.

Rediscovering and respecting the sacred meaning of birth and protecting little children

We now know that the quality of our first years, from birth through our early childhood, has an enormous influence on the psychological and emotional equilibrium of our adult selves, our social behaviour, how easily we will form relationships, our happiness - and the happiness of the society in which we are to live. It is this which makes the approach to birth so important, makes it so important to consider children as people and not to harm them at any level by conduct which fails to take in the whole picture.

Educating for life and simultaneously preparing people for a trade or profession

Quite apart from transferring the knowledge and skills which prepare people for their work, education should teach us the art of living.

Developing character, sensitivity, the intelligence of the earth - teaching people how to listen to and respect others, how to be disciplined and how to apply themselves, how to be compassionate and show solidarity - opening up the inner life, teaching responsibility and self-denial, the spirit of service - these are the things that should go hand in hand with the accumulation of knowledge and the exercise of reason.

Rediscovering a holistic view of health and accepting alternative medicine

People are not machines with components which can fail and be repaired. In spite of its very great accomplishments within the framework in which it operates, our medicine fails to take a holistic view of people - which is why its results can be called into question in relation to people's overall health, as well as its disproportionate cost, which weighs on other aspects of our lives. It should be possible to take various dimensions into account with regard.

to health - physical factors, energy, mental condition, sensitivity and spiritual aspects - and to handle them appropriately using diversified therapeutic methods

Giving work back its meaning and its service aspect

Work is a service for other people and at the same time a pathway to personal fulfilment. If experienced in this way, it becomes simultaneously useful to society and totally fulfilling in itself, instead of being boring and meaningless. We must re-discover the spirit of the great builders and the craft guilds, reassert the value of manual labour and the apprenticeship system. The world of work is our living space - and within that space we should rediscover all the values which can combine the art of living with wisdom - in particular, we must rediscover brotherhood and ethics.

Opening society up fully to women and to feminine values

Our society is too rational and patriarchal. Its architecture is cold and arrogant. It functions in an essentially competitive way. It must become more open to intuition and feeling, to curving lines and gentleness, to a warmth that puts people before profit, to co-operation and generosity.

Re-integrating old age and death as a part of our existence

Old age and death are a part of life and help us to understand its meaning. This gives them their importance and the place they should hold within society.

Rediscovering the meaning of life

Absorbed in trying to understand the external world, humanity has neglected itself. We have let ourselves live fallow. We still have to learn - or re-learn - to open our hearts, light up our souls, make our bodies more alive and discover the wealth that lies within us. This is the great adventure which lies ahead of us today.

This charter can be signed by any individual or organisation interested in joining the association L'EUROPE DES CONSCIENCES on the basis of the foundations outlined above.