

A SCANDAL

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For every federalist the recent elections to the European Parliament were not only a missed opportunity but a real scandal. Far from mobilizing public opinion in favour of the objective, Europe, or at the very least, stimulating a measure of political awareness, indispensable for/electoral process, the established parties provided an unbelievable show of sectarian in-fighting, local squabbling and jostling for personal pride of place. Small wonder that one out of every two Europeans preferred to stay at home!

But this lack of interest has little to do with the Europe we want and are building; it is, however, a sure sign of the rejection of the dinosaur-States, their bureaucracies, their politicians and their parties, ever more imprisoned in narrow-minded nationalism and resistance to change; incongruous residues, ill-adapted to the needs and hopes of Europe we wish to see on the dawn of the 21st century. ^{the}

What can be done now? How can we contribute meaningfully to the self-transformation of the "Europe of the Nation-States" into a Europe capable of federating the countries, the peoples, the communities and the individuals which are its very components.

First, by speeding up the building of the necessary institutions, and in particular by extending and strengthening the scope and power of the European Parliament - the head and the heart of a political Europe. Then, by stimulating and encouraging European public opinion so that the political parties and trade unions become day by day less nationalistic and more Europe-minded. And, last but not least, by bring about a wider awareness among our fellow-citizens of our permanent aim. So long as we are not all convinced that the quality of the air we breathe, the price we pay our cars or our flats, the jobs we have or can't get, all depend not on our national policies but on Europe as a whole, we shall not yet have got really moving.

Why not convert this recent scandal into a catapult for our own action?