

Danuta Maria Hübner

Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

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Model European Union support letter

Model European Union is both a *timely* and a *timeless* idea for today's Europe.

It is *timeless* because it is linked, at its roots, with the ancient pursuit of citizens' engagement in public affairs and open deliberation.

It is *timely*, because we need to promote the increased citizens' participation, especially at the moment when acrimonious and often toxic debates between member states breed the discord within the EU.

Only citizens who know and value the Union can bring us out of the vicious circle of populism and nationalism that threatens the European project.

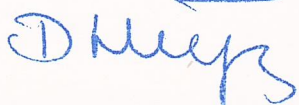
We need more citizens to engage themselves in the day-to-day pro-active way in the life of the Union, so that the voice of the people would be heard.

As it is said "practice makes the master". And MEU is such a practical and invaluable exercise in making sense of the idea of European citizenship for the young people. They experience first hand cooperation that is needed for responsible decision-making at the highest levels, gain knowledge of intricate issues, and, last but not least, feel emotional about the European project. They can touch and taste Europe, not only look at the glass buildings in Brussels and Strasbourg from outside.

This intensive and fantastic experience of European Union in action will certainly have an effect on the later professional development of the participants, as well as on their heightened awareness of how to communicate Europe to others.

Certainly, some of them will return to European institutions, including the European Parliament, in the roles that they got to know during this time. They will get their chance to work for the Union that is true to its founding values, close to citizens and active in the pursuit of the global good.

MEU is an irreplaceable instrument in capturing the hearts of Europeans for the project of the Union of citizens. And this is why I support it wholeheartedly.



Professor Danuta Hübner, Ph.D.

**Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs
European Parliament**