

New Political Campaign to Reunite Europe

In close collaboration with progressive forces from across Europe, The Alternative has developed a campaign that aims to raise ambitions and instill hope in the European project.

Progressives from across Europe are now launching a new political campaign aimed at addressing the empathy crisis that Europe currently finds itself in and presenting solutions to the challenges that Europe faces.

The campaign has been developed by around 70 progressive politicians, intellectuals and media people from all over Europe who attended The Copenhagen Meeting held in the Danish parliament earlier this month, where both the climate crisis and the refugee situation was among the more prominent issues.

Organized as a hands-on working meeting (lovingly self-titled as a hope room), the attendees at The Copenhagen Meeting developed concrete projects that can strengthen European cooperation. The first project to be launched is a campaign called "We Are Bigger Than This". The next initiative is set to be a leadership program that will be developed in the months to come.

The common denominator is to develop cooperation across European borders, so the best experiences and ideas are used more widely by progressive thinkers and doers.

- With 'We Are Bigger Than This', we say clearly that we do not recognize ourselves in the way that Europe is currently responding to the refugee crisis. We want a freer, more creative and more tolerant Europe, a Europe seeking cooperation rather than confrontation, says Uffe Elbæk, political leader of The Alternative, and adds:

- The campaign is our proposal on how we rebuild and strengthen the European Community, which is currently threatened by crises that constantly reinforce each other. To solve the problem we must stand together, think bigger while strengthening personal leadership, so that the individual takes responsibility for communities and democracy as a whole, both locally and across Europe.

- We have been sharing ideas on how to best work together to tackle the refugee crisis. We know that there are many ideas already on how countries can work together to share responsibilities, and yet politicians lack the courage to step up. Therefore, we have talked about how we build up the courage for politicians to take bold moves, and this campaign is one way to hopefully do just that, says Caroline Lucas, Member of the British Parliament for the Greens.

- To solve the crises we face, it is very important to make connections and collaborations across Europe to exchange ideas. If we do not work together, we run the risk of being drowned out by the voices of fear that are undermining European cooperation. As we have seen in Italy, there is fertile ground for stronger progressive political movements, and this campaign should add to that, says Mirko Busto, a member of the Italian Parliament for The Five Star Movement.

The Alternative and the British think tank Compass initiated the Copenhagen Meeting.

The next version of the Copenhagen Meeting takes place in London next spring, where Compass will organize the meeting in cooperation with the British Green Party.

For more information visit www.wearebiggerthanthis.org

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