**Why is the European Union’s foreign and security policy important for your daily life?**

**Authors:**

Mr. Pablo García García

Mr. Jorge Miguel González Sánchez

University of León

From my primarily point of view, foreign relations and security are public goods, they provide mainly benefits that are hard to divide in individual parts. Moreover, if we consider that a positive way of managing the relations between the EU and the rest of the world is a global public good, then: How am I supposed to value the benefits? What kind of fortune-telling technique am I going to use to determine how my descendants will value it?

These analytical tools are useful sometimes, but feelings are much more powerful when it comes to people and human lives.

That is why I dare to say that I am worried. Each time that I switch on the TV or that I read a newspaper I cannot avoid shivering because of the brutality that has recently overtaken our dear Europe. Terror seems to be walking inexorably among us while we just can stay immobile staring at how everything that has taken so long to build is being destroyed without mercy. Every day I fearful see the Europe that our antecessors forged getting away briskly.

I am scared. Some decades ago, a few idealists with a romantic essence thought that it would be possible to cohabite in peace; united; and sharing such strong values that even terror could not vilify. Therefore, I have been able to live and think freely, to go as far as I could... Notwithstanding, our equals in other places around the world are obliged to stay at home because of war, to learn things imposed by an autocratic regime, to fight until death while defending indefensible things or to die in a broken boat running away.

I do not know what merits I have made, if so, to be so fortunate…

Nevertheless, is the strength of those values enough to survive to the continuous attacks that we are suffering? Or, in contrast, everything seems to be falling down as a card castle blown up by the wind of cruelty? Every day I wonder the same questions and I am afraid that my answer lands in a profound pessimism.

Our European Union has been conceived over a foundation that makes believe in the existence of human goodwill. Liberty, respect, trust, love, democracy, solidarity, all of them are compulsory to live in peace and to be able to combat those enemies compromising our security and our life. We are living in a context of scarcity and nothing is scarcer than a human being, which is unique. What if a drowned little baby was destined to discover a new technology, to cure a disease, to love and be loved…?

But I am frightened, how are we going to defeat that threat that makes us prisoners of terror? Where is the limit between fighting for our values and losing them in the clamour of the battle? From the Dunkerque Treaty in 1947 until the Lisbon Treaty in 2007, where many measures, still being deployed nowadays, are nuanced; I have noticed a feeling of common purpose along the years, which has been the center of the efforts made to overcome the obstacles that the European Union has faced, “union”. The Schuman Declaration, one of the sparks that lightened the flame of our community already prayed: “Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity”. Nonetheless, many results of such efforts can turned into moral conflict with the previously mentioned values. Have we accomplished the precious Union desired by the Founding Fathers, are we really compromising our values while we are fighting to defend them, are there other alternatives to safeguard our liberty and our rights?

But “I am an optimist, it does not seem too much use being anything else” (Winston Churchill) I believe in the European community, its citizens, its institutions, its values; I believe that they will protect its years of history with a success reserved for the braves.

You and I have been considered as ends, and not merely as means, by our society. This thought can be exported through the foreign policy, we have the possibility to ‘erase’ the borders and treat others as equals. Look at our history!

Please, do not let anybody remove our hope, do not allow anybody to take away our liberty. Let us be solidary with those in need, do not condemn anybody owing to their ideology. Let us be faithful to our essence. Let us thought honestly about humans and not only about strategy We can all achieve a better Europe where the echo of hatred cannot be heard because we are all together singing in harmony the motto of the European Union: “United in diversity"