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*[www.europa-neu-begrueenden.de](http://www.europa-neu-begrueenden.de)*

**Ehemaliger Bereichsleiter beim Vorstand der IG Metall, jetzt: freier Publizist**

**Former Director Dep. Work Structuring and Vocational Training Politics**

# Initiators of the first Call „Europa neu begründen/ Founding Europe anew“ (2012)



| Vorstand

- ➔ Frank Bsirske (Ver.di)
- ➔ Annelie Buntenbach (DGB)
- ➔ Prof. Dr. Rudolf Hickel (Economist)
- ➔ Dr. Steffen Lehndorff (Labour market researcher)
- ➔ Dr. Hans-Jürgen Urban (IG Metall)

**Support by nearly all Presidents of the German trade unions and also by the President of the German Trade Union Congress (DGB) and many scientists**

**after publication: nearly 4.000 further signatures**

## Versions in various languages



| Vorstand

- Call: Founding Europe anew! Stop the March into Ruin!  
Overcome the Crisis with Solidarity!**  
[http://www.europa-neu-begrueenden.de/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/founding\\_europe\\_anew.pdf](http://www.europa-neu-begrueenden.de/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/founding_europe_anew.pdf)
- Refonder l'Europe! Stopper la marche vers la catastrophe!  
Maîtriser la crise par la solidarité et la démocratie**  
[http://www.europa-neu-begrueenden.de/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/refonder\\_l\\_europe.pdf](http://www.europa-neu-begrueenden.de/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/refonder_l_europe.pdf)
- ¡Refundar Europa! ¡Hay que detener esta marcha hacia la ruina!  
¡Superar la crisis con solidaridad y democracia! Un  
llamamiento**  
[http://www.europa-neu-begrueenden.de/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/refundar\\_europa.pdf](http://www.europa-neu-begrueenden.de/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/refundar_europa.pdf)
- Costituire nuovamente l'Europa! Fermare la marcia nella  
rovina! Superare la crisi con solidarietà e democrazia! Un  
appello!**  
[http://www.europa-neu-begrueenden.de/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/costituire\\_nuovamente\\_l\\_europa.pdf](http://www.europa-neu-begrueenden.de/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/costituire_nuovamente_l_europa.pdf)

# Content of the Call „Founding Europe anew!“



| Vorstand

- ➔ **Stop the March into Ruin! Overcome the Crisis with Solidarity!**
- ➔ **The project of Europe is in impasse. Europe finds itself in an existential crisis.**
- ➔ **The crisis was pushed forward through neo-liberal deregulation policy and unscrupulous greed of the financial elite speculating against countries in crisis and pushing for financial market conformity of government action. With the neo-liberal model of subordination under the dominance of the (financial)markets, the EU adds to an aggravation of the crisis rather than a way out.**
- ➔ **Germany as the economically and politically strongest member state carries a special responsibility. We are demanding from German politics that it may no longer not act as the thriving force of a destructive crisis politics but an engine of a change of direction long overdue.**

## Content of the Call (II)






| Vorstand

- ➔ **A change of path has as prerequisite a set of fundamental changes:**
  - In order to facilitate cooperation of economies of different productivity levels under the common roof of the Euro, it is necessary that the EU develops further into a transfer-union. Equalization payments help to decrease existing economic imbalances within the Euro-zone.
  - Europe needs a democracy offensive. The EU will have no positive future as a detached elite project. ...
  
- ➔ **We plead for a European social movement of citizens which embarks on a radical change of path, and acts against the current disastrous crisis policy. A first step on this road must be the rejection of the fiscal pact in its current form, and new negotiations on fiscal and political frameworks.**

# Our calls



| Vorstand

Initiative ¶ <b>EUROPA·NEU·BEGRÜNDEN</b> ¶	¶ ¶ <a href="http://www.europa-neu-begrunden.de/">http://www.europa-neu-begrunden.de/</a>
¶  <b>Aufruf 2012: Europa neu begründen!</b> ¶ <i>Leitthemen:</i> Den Marsch in den Ruin stoppen! Die Krise durch Solidarität und Demokratie bewältigen! ¶	
¶  <b>Aufruf 2015: Griechenland nach der Wahl – Keine Gefahr, sondern eine Chance für Europa</b> ¶	
¶  <b>Apell 2016: Das Flüchtlingsdrama: ein Appell zum Umsteuern. In Europa und in Deutschland</b> ¶ <i>Leitthemen:</i> Brücken statt Mauern; Ausbruch aus der Sackgasse der <u>Austerität</u> ; Umsteuern mit Zukunftsinvestitionen für Deutschland ¶	

Call 2015: **Greece after the election – not a threat but an opportunity for Europe**

Call 2016: **The refugee crisis: a call for a change of course in Europe and in Germany**

Key issues: Bridges not walls; Break out of the dead end of austerity; Changing direction by investing in Germany's future

# Athen: Alter Summit 2013



| Vorstand

- „With its economic and political power Germany plays a key role in the fatal austerity policy of the European Union. Thus, resistance against the politics of Angela Merkel’s government is inevitable. It is true that many more people wish for more resistance and protests. Also in Germany the alliances for a different, better Europe form up.”
- „There is not only Merkel & Co. There is also a different Germany. This is a country where people fight against German power politics and for a better Europe. From these people I send you a message of solidarity and a promise: we stand on your side!”

## Hans-Jürgen Urban (IG Metall)



# Trade union congresses decided support



| Vorstand

- **Initiativantrag beim 23. ord. Gewerkschaftstag der IG Metall (Oktober 2015)**
  - **„Europa neu begründen“ – aktueller denn je**
  - **... „Die IG Metall setzt sich in einem breiten Bündnis für ein sozialeres und gerechteres Europa ein. Alle interessierten gesellschaftlichen Gruppen und Einzelpersonen in Deutschland und Europa sind eingeladen, sich in diesem Bündnis mit Ideen zu beteiligen. Eine Diskussion über die bestmögliche politische Zuspitzung für die Erreichung unserer Ziele im Sinne der europäischen Arbeitnehmer und Arbeitnehmerinnen und ihrer Gewerkschaften muss jetzt beginnen.“**
- **Initiative motion at the 23rd Annual National Convention of IG Metall (October 2015)**
  - **"Redefining Europe" - more relevant than ever**
  - **... "IG Metall is working in a broad alliance for a more social and more just Europe. All interested societal groups and individuals in Germany and Europe are invited to take part in and contribute their ideas to this alliance. A discussion of the best political thrust to attain our goals for the benefit of European employees and their trade unions has to start up now."**



## Lessons learned (I)



| Vorstand

- **The initiative “Founded Europe anew” emerged from the trade-related or trade-union left-pluralist spectrum and tried to formulate a “pro-European critique of the European Union” in a counter-hegemonic sense. It was about concentrating attention and focusing on strategic considerations.**
- **The impact of our calls was paradoxical: the outward initiatives have developed their main influence internally. They acted rather as a contribution to the internal communication of the EU-critical left as external as a medium of the social discourse shift.**

## Lessons learned (II)



| Vorstand

- ➔ **The smallest political denominator of a leftist EU criticism is the rejection of austerity policy and the demand for "investment in social needs". At the same time common essentials of the left EU critics distill out:**
  - **The national states are not only the key players of the EU, but also indispensable addressees of counter-hegemonic initiatives;**
  - **The German government plays a key role because of its role as a "reluctant hegemon";**
  - **Goal of left-wing criticism can not be the vision of a nation-state Europe. .**
  - **The flagging democratic deficit of the EU is an indispensable starting point for left criticism.**
  
- ➔ **A pan-European movement needs to reach agreement on common core demands that can be mobilized, such as the resistance to the water initiative and the TTIP as well as CETA.**