**On the new thinking in the New World**

Addressed to the XIV General Assembly of the Informal Economic Forum – Economic Club Association

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In my humble opinion, which I presented several times in the last year or two, and I stated it with displeasure already at the end of July, nothing important could be expected from the Bratislava EU summit in September.

And that is what happened. The urgent need of higher quality of mutual understanding between the small, medium and large, in terms of their population and performance of their economies, EU member states has remained wishful thinking. It is an incredible gamble and I must emphasize that it is also personal failure of a large group of leaders of individual countries and European Union authorities. Of failures that will be as clear as day after another attempt “to forget” what is the real European home in which we have already spent some time. To forget what are good and reliable neighbours, what is security both inside and outside, what is mutual respect for history, traditions and the achievements of life of every nation so far, how learning other nations enriches as well as the highly appreciated position of the EU as a whole in the world?! That would be the end. The end of everything and everyone who loves life, regardless whether it is more or less happy, and who enjoys what is called our earth both with small and capital E.

I cannot absolutely go along with most of the views that can be heard from most European and domestic politicians and most of media. It is as if there were no breath of fresh wind in the external and international relations and our Old Europe which would make new personalities free of any fixed ideas of their own predestination or even brilliance and unprecedented vanity firmly enrooted in all structures. Which means there is no life-giving water for new life and Europeanism brought by it. In Europe, there is lack of oxygen, breathing is difficult and civilised people get nervous when looking at the near future.

The view of the EU of today and its representation as well as of the leaders of most Member States is, to say the least, bleak. However, it did not happen from one day to the next, it has happened over the past decade. That was the reason why we founded, with the intention to unscrupulously expose the absurdities in the development of the European Union and the resulting dangers in the context of war and peace, the International Peace Committee last year.

In the first decade of the new 21st century, Europe still seemed to be an attractive home of European nations. Although the events of the last three to five years make us forget, we still remember that we were in a good Europe. Today, it is a different Europe and its EU with worried people most of who are concerned about the acts of violence of any kind, both political and religious, and above all about fanaticism. They perceive with increasing sensitivity that the EU does not have a strong leadership but more than enough of political leaders – authorities. Most of them are currently pursuing their seats and, ultimately, the hegemony of those groupings, which have launched them both into the domestic and international political scene. I am really not fond of this concept of – hegemony, however, I hope that when I finally do utter it you all have pins and needles in your body or even get goose skin.

Here, we should talk about current moral, political and security dilemmas in Europe, and hence, about our defence as well as disarmament, which, however, sane people again consider nonsense. Europe divested itself of its former military power and the security guarantee by the United States is also not cast in stone. It is enough to look at the candidates for the office of President of the United States, to sense the criticism by the most prominent American leaders that most NATO member states, ergo, the European Union do not sufficiently understand the need of defensive capacity and, so to say, milk the USA. Thus, there is a need to talk about the differences or even contradictions in our views, and why we are concerned about the development of Europe – which was so to say the fortress of Christianity and of our civilization until recently.

I would like to come back to what I call the tumour of our era; it is the striving for a hegemonic position of specific countries and their “leaders” in the world and in the EU. The tumour, which weakens, in all silence, everything that was set up by Robert Schuman, Adenauer and de Gaulle, as well as the in a way unforgettable advocates of common sense – Francois Mitterrand and Helmut Kohl. If the current leaders mention any of them at all then it is Robert Schuman and the others are mentioned with disrespect or not at all. And, if there is a mention of them, then only as of personalities, however, only during their life. As if they did not lay down the foundations – provide for the best in the life in Europe. No hostility in Europe but friendship combined with alliance, of which, in fact, Czech King George of Poděbrady had contemplated long ago.

Several leaders of the economically stronger countries in the EU are considered to be the leaders of the European Union. They have been supported by the powers which have made them rise and they, in turn, emphasise the role of the leaders of Germany, Great Britain and France. However, each and every representative of these three countries is convinced that he or she is the most important. Their co-workers and more than enough of their subordinates behave in a similar way. And this is, in my humble opinion, the beginning of the end, which we can verify in our history up to now – in any moment of the time. And this is also what we have agreed on in our International Peace Committee brought forth by our 24-year old Informal Economic Forum Economic Club Association.

Yet, there are the Council of the EU, European Commission and European Parliament in place. What is their authority? Is it a natural authority or just a result of the function or is it very poor? What is happening that we lack personalities like Schuman, Adenauer, de Gaulle, Mitterrand or Kohl? What is wrong with our world in which media bombard people so that we are actually confused, in which we increasingly less trust some politicians, e.g. Ms. Merkel?! We, the more senior generation, can still recall the days when JFK together with Khrushchev resolved several situations of nuclear conflict threat. For us it is a “dirty trick” that even after half a century it has not been uncovered who and why gave the instruction to assassinate President Kennedy who was more than a favourite and the hope of the then living and today vanishing generations; however, its “classification” on grounds of “national security” continues by virtue of the current US president.

Disagreements between the large and medium size states and between them and the small countries, between several of the founding states and the relatively new ones, between the western and central European countries of V 4 +1 are developing at all European levels in all silence. This confirms that the authority of the representatives of the European Commission and the European Parliament is an illusion in terms of this process. And none of them has the ability to realistically assess their contribution to the crisis development of the initial and only acceptable project of the common house for European nations and their states.

It is tragic when leaders of Germany, France, and Italy and from other countries criticise the V4 countries for not being ready to submit to their will and their favoured arrangements for migrants out of who even less than one-fifth is eligible for refugee status (!). And on the other hand, the V4 leaders, with the exception of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, are tactfully silent.

As if the fundamental principles of the Treaty on European Union, the Lisbon and Nice treaties did not exist. And then, where is the humility of leaders before voters and the public in general?! We only hear their reasoning why the situation is as it is. This is not a dilemma; this is a too real threat to Christian Europe and its European Union. The consequences of such an approach can be fatal and the contours of fatality are already visible. These views have recently been formulated by our association and fully endorsed by major general Svetozár Naďovič, member of our International Peace Committee and the person who was in command of the departure of Warsaw Pact troops from the territory of former Czecho-Slovakia.

As if we were internally getting used to the crushing defeats of the current EU leadership which have also resulted in the outcome of the British referendum. It is the same as when an athlete finishes last in a contest instead of winning a decent position and media present excuses or even consider him a hero.

When the British people have opted for exit and they want to play a decisive role in Europe and for Europe in world politics, as declared by their designated foreign secretary then they must understand their economic potential (including military industry) and the legitimate interest of the rest of Europe in its own growth and development without them, without Great Britain. This is a question of morality for both parties.

It is indisputable that British politicians have failed, have betrayed the idea of a strong and competitive Europe, and they believe that everything in their relation to and with the EU will continue as usual. Except as the things stand it is also and above all an “issue” of those who de facto decide what and how. The question is how does “big politics” work today? I do not claim to be 100 per cent right but I do believe that even in the coldest period of the Cold War it was not a handful of individuals who decided what would happen.

We have expressed concern over acting and talking from the position of “power” in the documents of our International Peace Committee. However, I would like to come back to the efforts by some countries and their politicians to gain leadership. Mainly because they do not act as members of the European Union and they act their own way without the consent of the other members and without mutual discussion ending in a consensus.

In the context of the major and undoubtedly eternal theme of “Defence and Disarmament”, I will touch upon the issue referred to as the “migration crisis” also by a part of the audience here. Everyone with common sense may invite migrants to their place, however, only then and only when human decent conditions are created, and there is a general agreement on the necessity of such an invitation. However, such conditions have not existed and shall not exist... and this means that you can receive genuine refugees on temporary basis and the others should be adamantly returned to the place where they come from.

If we accept the term “crisis”, then it should be for a situation when we assess the influx of migrants as unprepared. It is below human dignity and in every respect questionable. Both for migrants and a significant part of the population in the countries of their destination. And then, media support to this process and its justification both by economic and demographic needs, are absurd. In spring, for example, German entrepreneurs claimed on their website that Germany needs a million new workers... If not, then German economy will have problems in twenty years (!). There are also politicians and authorities in commercial and industrial circles in Central Europe who believe that Europe should be open to migrants as labour.

As if there were no technical and technological progress. As if it were not known that in the future, the problem will not be shortage of people to work in production and provide services but rather their surplus, as if it were not known that the paramount challenge would be a new nature of work and leisure activities of people.

Do you think that any economy is preparing to be ready to resolve this true dilemma?! I believe that at zero hour, it will pull out and “throw” everything on the governments. And the collapse will be completed.

On the other hand, is it not the case that we have a duty to protect Christian Europe?! But what is, in fact, going on when there are phenomena ignored by media – realities that confirm that unpreparedness for managing the influx of migrants is actually the grave of present Europe?! Those who do not see this clearly do not understand historical developments and dialectics is “the unknown land” for them.

Well, in a number of countries, in particular regions and cities, the “European”, the “national” is not only jeopardised but it is even driven out from real life. And it is being justified by... Although there are dilemmas why migrants head for us in Europe and not elsewhere, the fact is that they are heading for us. So, the almost Hamlet’s question is: “Who is the weak one here?” The answer: “We, Europe, which the migrants are very well informed of.” Such “great act” was designed in the early 1980s but European leaders ignored it and intelligence services did not take it seriously.

When years ago, the new states of Central Europe later followed by others joined the fifteen stars the need to make maximum for the cohesion of the EU, mutual convergence of the countries and their peoples and to get to know each other was emphasised. After the far-sighted leaders of those times, new faces who fail to understand the importance of such line – such a struggle for the viability of the European Union and Europeanism have come.

Blindness and deafness of number of politicians with respect to differences in living conditions and in the quality of life in different countries in general is understandable. In place of differences mitigation, we witness their deepening; and this is yet another problem, which may and already does destabilise the environment inside the EU. The principle of merit cannot simply be ignored, negated...

Migrants receive money and a whole range of benefits that are far above the income of workers in several countries, not to mention the income of pensioners who have built-up some resources for their life in the post-productive age throughout their entire life in good and bad times(!). Were the problem people who are refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries, then it would largely be the proof of our lameness. However, the problem of migrants who are in fact economic emigration looms over it. In contrast to her unique and now neglected predecessor Helmut Kohl, German Chancellor Merkel has never understood it and never will.

Thus, there is the issue of Europe’s defence capacity and its EU against the Islamists – jihadists and their objectives. Migration to Europe has occurred much earlier and it has become unbearable and dangerous, to say the least, last year. Have you heard any of the European leaders or representatives of states supporting migration saying that they would guarantee the ability of migrants to integrate en masse and to respect European history, traditions, culture, and way of life? I personally cannot recall any leader who would do so. None of the Slovak members of the IPC has noticed anything of this kind, either. That fact is that this is not about humaneness, solidarity, but it is about the fact that until today there is no clear – convincing example of group integration. Not because it would be impossible but because there is something abnormal and even absurd going on. This is what major general Svetozár Naďovič also elaborated on recently at the Standing Conference on the Christian Approaches to Defence and Disarmament held at the end of August.

Developments in the Near and Middle East produce a whole range of examples which confirm that the jihadists have no scruples and that they act in the name of their victory almost globally. How is it possible that they still have enough weapons and facilities as well as no decreasing number of fighters!

The answer to the migration issue is in the countries where Islamists operate and where civil wars emerge. They also feed the military industry and this is undisputed. As long as there are weapons so long the fights will continue. Peace talks are without an end regardless of the fact that they mean poverty, hunger and thirst, casualties and also threat to the whole region. Here, the issue is not anymore who was conducive to what two centuries ago, in the 1960s and 1970s or recently, but how to stop it – and take care of the recovery of life.

According to some sources, superpowers, the United States and Russia, are close enough to a joint action. In the countries at war, in particular in Syria, there are such patriotic forces that would take care of the recovery and gradual improvement of living conditions. They also enjoy the highest credit confirmed by the fact that a Syrian personality – entrepreneur, a representative of Syrian Chambers of Commerce and President of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent has been nominated for the “2015 Peace Prize from Slovakia” for the year 2016.

The time has come to strengthen defence forces of individual states and the whole European Union. All available members of the International Peace Committee have signed such a call addressed to constitutional officials of the Slovak Republic, however, again in vain. Their persistent silence which would even not be possible at the times of the Cold War is indicative and warning. Our members have also signed the call to convene a world peace conference addressed to world authorities and domestic constitutional officials. Of the four leaders addressed, only one has understood the content of our initiative. I want to believe that he will present his views on it in public, including through our association.

I recall that a number of our past initiatives was times ahead of the thinking of the then and many current politicians. For example, in the Millennium year, we literally pressed for the creation of a new foundation for the security of our world. Several of the leaders, except for two or three out of who one announced this spring that he is preparing a proposal for a new security system, shook their heads... An example from home, too. We have communicated to Prime Minister and all ministers responsible for social affairs that it is unaffordable to grant social benefits, including the unemployment benefit, without work. They referred us to international agreements and the like. Only after a quarter of a century, minister Richter has awakened and, perhaps, he will also come as far as to get interested in how retired people live in our close neighbourhood. Or, the ministers of education, social affairs and finance will arrive to the decision that experts who emigrated must immediately pay our taxpayers back everything they have invested in them – in their training and education. Although there is only one Europe it does not have one social benchmark but 27 different systems.

There is also a thing called the responsibility of leaders and when they do not know how to master it or are unable to do so they should leave before they lose their “face”. To prevent that we perish by mere accident in an apocalypse which many powerful people consider a way of solving global problems...

It is a global obligation to immediately and uncompromisingly ensure peaceful living conditions in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya. Verbal appeals by the United Nations are not sufficient, and it should also be said that there is no such authority in a global organization that would be able to reverse the apocalyptic developments in the countries concerned. It is a good thing there is hope rising from the development of communication between the United States and Russia. And what about our politicians?! This and that and also nothing. Deeds not words matter.

The issue of disarmament? It is, indeed, an eternal issue. Do you think that in the last forty years the number of nuclear warheads and weapons of mass destruction has actually decreased? Do you think that the number of states possessing weapons of mass destruction dropped? The opposite is true and this is an answer to all those who believe that after the Cold War, the World has become safer. It is not safer and the peace is fragile. Although, it may be said with some sarcasm that it does not matter whether we die one or two thousand times... More than a year ago, when the International Peace Committee was established we published the development of nuclear arsenals over a period of four decades and, therefore, it is not about scaring, scaremongering, it is simply the cruel reality.

Our main and acute problem is the situation in the Arab world. Finding a solution to it will require the same will as emerged more than seventy years ago and formed an alliance against fascist Germany, Italy and Japan as well as their satellites. Such thinking and conclusions are a brave civil stance and we can only be happy to see that it is on increase.

Problems of world powers, problems of ambitious holders of nuclear potential, regional conflicts as well as social and economic challenges can be solved through a dialogue, for which there should and must always be a will. It is really cruelty when many of the powerful ones have the idea that they can survive a global nuclear conflict in the Rocky Mountains or in the Ural Mountains or beneath the Scandinavian mountains. They have no concern that our World and our civilisation would vanish forever through it.

Maybe, you have expected from me words of how well we live in peace that we will manage to defend. Unfortunately, it is not possible and the new century in a new millennium and, in particular, the “turns” to unacceptable life in society are of such nature that they may result in anarchy which is only a step or two away from today’s reality. And then to destabilization and the use of power tools and, finally, the use of power... As a matter of fact, someone minds peace, order and discipline, economic cooperation and concepts hanging in the air which are necessary for life: freedom, brotherhood and equality in the multitude of their forms. Just give some thought to the way in which current leaders whose time is running out live them.

I want to thank the large number of the members of our association who have read this my statement and have sent me not only their consent but also much more sceptical views on this year’s hot, though in a way also cold summer that has been as if announcing the arrival of an “ice age”. When we convened our association back in 2006, to discuss the theme of “New Thinking in the New World and New Europe” with the blessing of such personalities of that time in history like Pope Benedict XVI, French President Jacques Chirac and Ján Chryzostom Cardinal Korec we were looking forward, though quietly, with joy inside us that we will also live long enough to see the New World.

It is our human obligation and responsibility to contribute to this “new thinking” and prevent that it is pushed into mud, as it has been the case in recent years. Though it is nothing new in the history of our civilization, it does not mean that we must yield to it.