

## Democratic Governance

QCEA celebrates the work being done by both the Council of Europe and the EU to bring about democracy within their borders and to support and encourage it beyond them.



QCEA calls upon the Institutions and Member States to become more transparent, accountable and responsive to their own citizens by ensuring that information is readily accessible. This would enable citizens to find out about the actions and policies of the Institutions and to participate in the decision-making process.

QCEA calls upon the Institutions to ensure that their relationships with other countries can be shown to be based on respect for democracy and human rights.

QCEA calls upon the Member States to accept the cost of the European project, to communicate the reasons for this to their citizens, and to provide appropriate resources at the European level.

QCEA calls upon the Member States to ensure that resources available for external actions and foreign policy match the expectations of the EU as a global actor. Those resources must be focused on peace, democracy and human rights for the peoples of the world rather than on narrow and short-term economic objectives of European and other governments.



This statement was agreed by the Quaker Council for European Affairs in September 2009. QCEA represents Quakers in the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom and through the Europe and Middle East Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation in: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Dubai, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, and Spain

Photographs: Lego Europe by Cemre, European Flag by TPCOM, Peace by beachblogger, JCN releases himself from handcuffs by Amit Gupta, energy saving light bulbs by bloodycape, VOTE by Clark Clark.

### Quaker Council for European Affairs

Square Ambiorix 50, B-1000 Brussels  
Tel: +32 2 230 49 35 • Fax: +32 2 230 63 70  
E-mail: [info@qcea.org](mailto:info@qcea.org) • Website: [www.quaker.org/qcea](http://www.quaker.org/qcea)

QCEA asbl moniteur belge no. 11 732/80  
Numéro d'entreprise 420.346.728

CCP Giro:  
Fortis Bank

IBAN 68 0001 4998 4834  
IBAN BE 58 21 00 55 98 14 -79

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SWIFT Code: GEBA BE BB 36 A

Quaker Council for European Affairs

## A QUAKER VISION OF EUROPE



As members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), one of the peace churches, we believe in that of God in everyone. We believe in non-violent approaches to conflict resolution, in the intrinsic equality of all people everywhere, and in a sustainable way of life for everyone that the one earth we share can support.

On the basis of these fundamental beliefs, QCEA makes representations on behalf of European Quakers to those in decision-making roles on issues relating to:

- Peace
- Economic Justice
- Sustainable Energy Security
- Human Rights
- Democratic Governance

QCEA calls on the European Union (EU) and the Council of Europe to contribute to a Europe which is peaceful, compassionate, open and just in its dealings among the Member States as well as with the countries and peoples beyond their boundaries.

## Peace

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QCEA celebrates the successful peace project that the EU and the Council of Europe have become.

QCEA calls on the EU to maintain its emphasis on peace and to build its external actions and foreign policy on the basis of non-military and non-violent approaches.

To that end we call for sustainable, appropriately funded, conflict-sensitive approaches to policies relating to all countries within or beyond the boundaries of Europe.

QCEA calls upon the EU to act on the understanding that sustainable peace within countries and between neighbouring countries is fundamental to any further accession.

## Human Rights

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QCEA celebrates the progress made by the Council of Europe and the EU in the area of human rights. The European Convention on Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights are all milestones for Europe.

QCEA calls on all the European Institutions to follow these achievements with compassionate and just policies on asylum and migration, recognising that the political, economic and social circumstances that lead people to leave their homes have some of their causes in the wealth of rich countries in Europe and elsewhere.

QCEA calls on the EU to frame its future policies on criminal justice and its responses to threats of terrorism in a human rights context, thus focusing on the elimination of the causes of criminality and terrorism. QCEA believes that if we speak directly to the best in people, their best nature has a chance to respond.

## Economic Justice

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QCEA celebrates the achievements of the EU in bringing about prosperity for its people, in showing solidarity with those Member States that started from a lower economic base and in providing resources to non-member countries for their development.

QCEA calls upon the EU to maintain its approach of solidarity among the people and peoples of the Member States even when the global economy and the widening inequalities in a growing EU stretch solidarity to its limits.

QCEA calls upon the EU and its Member States to show solidarity beyond the boundaries of Europe, not to become protectionist and inward-looking, and to ensure that the resources it provides contribute to peace and sustainability.

## Sustainable Energy Security

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QCEA celebrates the leadership that the EU has shown in the context of the Kyoto Protocol and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. But much more has to be done.

QCEA calls upon the EU to accept its responsibility for and to acknowledge its dependence on the environment and to recognize that an essential factor in promoting energy security for all peoples is for those of us who use more than our fair share to reduce our demand.

QCEA calls upon the EU to ensure that it does not neglect its responsibility for human rights worldwide in sourcing its energy.