

WORK PROGRAMME 2014

NEW DECISION-MAKERS, NEW CHALLENGES

The *Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute* (NE-JDI) plans to prolong its existing work programme throughout 2014, focusing on themes lying at the heart of the European election campaign and on the activities of all of the new decision-makers appointed in the course of the year.

Its work seeks to clarify the fundamentals of the principal debates relating to the EU, to allow people to get a better grasp of the rationale driving the national and European players involved, and to offer analyses and proposals designed to consolidate and to deepen the European construction.

The institute's work is broken down along three major axes: "European Union and citizens", "Competition, cooperation and solidarity," and "European external actions", as illustrated in greater detail below.

1. "Political Union": Time to Decide

"European affairs" are of greater relevance than ever before to all of Europe's citizens and political players in this year of European elections, and this has prompted us to focus our work primarily on two issues of crucial importance from the point of view of politics, of the institutions and of the man in the street.

1.1. Electoral choices, European democracy

The *Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute* **adopts a position on the major internal and external issues** at stake in the European elections in May 2014 by formulating specific recommendations while, at the same time, analysing the various **different alternatives offered** to the European man in the street, on the basis of the votes and decisions reached during the 2009-2014 legislative term and of the platforms put together by the various political forces.

NE-JDI continues its work on the democratic dimension of the EU, focusing on the contribution the European elections can make to bolster **a European public space**, including with regard to the role of the political parties and national parliaments, the conditions for the emergence of a **pro-active European citizenry** and the evolution of **public opinion** vis-a-vis the EU.

The electoral and political deadlines scheduled for 2014 have prompted NE-JDI to step up the pace of its "citizen dialogues", involving in them a broad audience comprising members of civil society, social players, young people and so on, particularly in the context of its partnerships with MACIF and the French European Movement.

1.2. European "political union": reality and prospects

NE-JDI prepares analyses and recommendations on the deepening of the **European Federation of Nation States**, extending its work on the organisation of **political and institutional differentiation** within the EU. It adopts a position on **the way the euro area and the 28-strong EU should interact and interlock** both in institutional terms and in terms of the policies adopted and implemented.

It analyses the exact scope of the **division of competences** between the national and European levels, including on the basis of existing and future reforms in the sphere of Europe's economic governance.

It formulates analyses and recommendations relating to the functioning and reform of the European institutions while, at the same time, pursuing its series of **"country analyses"** exploring the way in which the EU is perceived by its various member states and citizens, for instance in Italy or in Germany, **25 years on from the fall of the Berlin Wall**.

1.3. Other projects in the political, institutional and citizen-related fields

The *Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute's* work programme relating to politics, the institutions and the citizen also addresses the Europeans' **right to freedom of movement** which is threatened by rising populism, the handling of the Schengen Area and the monitoring of the EU's **external borders**.

NE-JDI also seeks to penetrate the **cultural dimension and perceptions** harboured by the peoples of Europe, along with the **identity dynamics** at work among the member states and citizens "united in their diversity".

2. For a Social and Economic Community

The tremendous recession that has struck the countries of Europe has prompted the *Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute* to focus on three economic and social issues which are of vital importance in the European construction.

2.1. Towards banking union, fiscal union and economic union

NE-JDI continues to adopt a stance on the current economic, social and political crisis and on the **reform of the EMU** 25 years on from the publication of the "Delors Report".

A part of this work is devoted to exploring in greater depth the conclusions of the “Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa Group” report published in 2012, especially with regard to the **public debt mutualisation**, starting with the proposal to set up a European debt agency. NE-JDI’s work also addresses the establishment of a **banking union** and the creation of a **fiscal capacity for the euro area**, including through the development of financial mechanisms designed to encourage the adoption of structural reforms.

NE-JDI focuses also on **Europe’s new economic governance**, on the strengthening of budgetary oversight and coordination within the EMU’s economic pillar and on the best conditions for reconciling effectiveness and legitimacy in this field with regard to the spheres of competence exercised at the national level. It also addresses the EU’s challenges in the field of **R&D, innovation and competitiveness**.

And lastly, NE-JDI completes its work on the relationship between solidarity and responsibility as experienced in those **“countries under programme”**, on the basis of an analysis of the cost of adjustment in the countries concerned and of the effectiveness of the adjustment programmes that they have implemented or still are implementing.

2.2. What prospects for “social Europe”?

NE-JDI continues the work it began in 2013 on the **social dimension of the EMU and of the EU**, devoting special attention to the issues involved in **worker mobility** and analysing the measures adopted to bolster it since the start of the crisis, while simultaneously formulating proposals for its improvement, including with regard to **posted workers**.

NE-JDI analyses the **development of social expenditure** and its impact on member states’ growth potential, while also pursuing its work on the roles of the partners in **European social dialogue** and on the players in the **social and solidarity-based economy**.

2.3. Spending better together after 2013

NE-JDI analyses the **implementation of the financial framework for 2014-2020** and of the Community budget, focusing in particular on the functioning of the new mechanisms designed to foster growth, employment and mobility.

It extends its work on other **financial Europeanisation methods** (joint spending, enhanced cooperations, loans, guarantees and so forth) by focusing

in particular on the intervention of the European Investment Bank and of the various national investment banks in the sphere of longer-term funding.

It mobilises in favour of the **creation of new own resources** and tracks the work of the High Level group that will be meeting as of 2014 for the purpose of submitting specific proposals for a mid-term reassessment of the financial framework.

2.4. Other projects in the economic and social fields

The *Notre Europe - Institut Jacques Delors’* work for 2014 also takes a look at two other important issues from an economic and social standpoint.

2.4.1. What acts for the single market?

While the adoption of the single currency was seen as a way of helping to strengthen the single market, the completion of the single market seems today to be the crucial element for **optimising the monetary area**. It is in this context that NE-JDI tracks the implementation of Single Market Acts 1 and 2, and devotes special attention to the issues involved in worker mobility but also to the economic (growth, jobs), social (purchasing power, social rights) and fiscal impact of European economic integration, while at the same time formulating recommendations in connection with those three aspects.

2.4.2. Towards a “European energy community”

NE-JDI deepens its recommendations in favour of a “European energy community” to mark the renewal of the European institutions. On the basis of the analyses and proposals submitted by a task force of experts, it formulates a series of **proposals for the practical implementation of the project** and for strengthening European governance in the sphere of the sustainable development, competitiveness and security of supply of the energy system.

Its work also puts into perspective the **issues involved in European energy policy in Europe’s neighbourhood** both to the east and to the south, in the Mediterranean area, seeking to contribute to the implementation of the European **energy transition** process in the context of the “Competition, cooperation, solidarity” triptych and also of the EU’s external action.

3. Towards New Common External Actions

The *Notre Europe - Institut Jacques Delors'* work in the sphere of external action is tailored to reflect a year, 2014, marked by the renewal of Europe's players, but also by the implementation of the conclusions of the European Council meeting on European defence, by progress in the "TTIP" negotiations and by the preparation of the post-Stockholm strategy on migration.

3.1. An ambitious external action agenda

NE-JDI seizes the opportunity offered by the European elections next spring to publicly adopt a position on the 28- strong Europe's **most important external action priorities** (neighbourhood, commercial policy, migrations, energy, defence), prepared by a high-level task force comprising NE-JDI board of directors and European steering committee members.

Basing its work on the guidelines issued by that Task Force, it will help to define specific **operational guidelines and institutional recommendations** at the start of the second semester in 2014, for the new mandate of the next EU High Representative for External Affairs.

3.2. The EU's trade policy faces new challenges

To guarantee the position and the role of a European Union weakened by the economic recession in a context of ever stronger global interdependence, the Europeans need to strengthen their commercial

strategy. NE-JDI then produces analyses and recommendations on the plan for a **transatlantic trade agreement** - TTIP (normative convergence, geopolitical impact, ...) and on progress in **other regional integration processes**.

3.3. Other projects on an international scale

Ten years on from the enlargement of 2004, NE-JDI formulates analyses and proposals designed to promote a strategic vision of the **EU's relations with its neighbours as a whole**, and with Russia in particular.

NE-JDI pursues its work on the management of **migration flows**, starting in particular with a reflection on mobility as an economic tool and on European solidarity in connection with the right of asylum.

In the light of the European Council's conclusions on European defence drafted in December 2013, NE-JDI takes part in the debate on **the use of force** and on the development of European defence against the backdrop of rapid militarisation on the part of the new economic powers. ●

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