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Title: EU and You - What do EU values mean to me as a YEA?

Every person on the planet is looking for their place in the community. People are social beings and their integration into their communities, in fact, means the realization of their basic need to be part of a whole and to belong to a certain group. It certainly means accepting the values that protect society and the individual in it.

Europe is part of that great map of the world and a community of diversity, cultures, traditions, values, and orientations. It is a mix of people and cultural, ethnic, and religious symbols. Its uniqueness and diversity are both a privilege and a challenge. To be part of that big family also means accepting those who are different from yourself. To live according to the values that bring well-being to all its citizens.

Until the advent of the Internet, the process of discovering other cultures and peoples was simple. The experiences were immediate, the journeys were a journey to the unknown and the knowledge of the existence of others was an authentic treasure. With the development of technology, and especially with the expansion of social media, diversity unified one whole global community. Communication reached its peak, and in a simple and easy way, the diversity in a unique community began.

*But has this global community really become a better place to exchange cultures and values?
Are the values of the European family also the values of this community?*

Fake news, misinformation, and the management of the culture of individuals and groups through algorithms and artificial intelligence are increasingly distorting the image of one society and one Europe. EU values are threatened by these new information forces that undermine trust in institutions and individuals. The question is, how to preserve values and restore faith in the future, especially the perspectives of young people?

As a young European ambassador, for these reasons, I feel even greater responsibility and even greater motivation to be part of this struggle to preserve values. The Covid-19 pandemic created a serious crisis for humanity. This disaster revealed all the weaknesses of our systems and our disunity in dealing with the consequences. Like any young person, I personally and collectively witness a crisis in democracy in small countries, inequality of access, dilemmas over human rights and personal responsibility, and, in particular, respect for human dignity.

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If these are the values that maintain a healthy community, then we should all contribute to the return of these values. Freedom of speech and personal freedom should be imperative but must not be misused.

That is the basis of my personal mission as a young European ambassador. To awaken the dormant consciousness for the acceptance of human values that create sustainable systems, but at the same time to show unity, collectivity, and responsibility for personal choices and actions. Our personal example is contributing to the creation of community value systems.

Europe is still the dream of every young person. But the dream is a Europe that will be a universal model of equality, respect for the rights of others, helping and supporting less developed countries, and open opportunities for all young people (regardless of their origin, social status, or orientation).

Europe is not created by itself. The European Union is created by all of us. Therefore, let our decision be a decision to be honest and responsible, and let us show by our behaviour that we are what we actually want and seek. Or as Mahatma Gandhi puts it: "We but mirror the world. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change."

Therefore, only one principle guarantees a future for all: YOU(ng) must be part of the change you want to see in the world!