

EU reform application

Applying for: Individual fellowship

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EU application

This application is unusual due to the motor of the idea, and the background of the applicant.

The main purpose of the application is to initiate a political and economic reform of the EU.

As it stands, the structure of the EU is weak, and as a consequence the system is in danger of falling apart.

In a situation like this, a reform must be done. But, the reform is extremely difficult due to the nature of the European continent with all its ancient nations with each their systems and history.

It is possible to make a reform though difficult. This application seeks to discuss some of the premises for a reform, and lays out a plan for a reform.

The ambition is to remake the EU, and make a system that is able to both strengthen each member state, and make the EU a full member of international political elite.

This claim is off cause very ambitious, and some would claim that the ambition is above any single person be it an academic or otherwise.

This is right, the ambition is extreme, but this is where the other anomaly to a normal application is important.

The applicant, mr. Asger Trier Engberg, me, is not a normal academic. He has been independent for ten years, he does´nt even have a Ph.d. His relation to the normal educational facilities are shallow at the best, and he has virtually no academic references.

But, he has delivered groundbreaking, new, original academic work within various fields. Politics, economy, metaphysics, ethics, strategy and much more.

His solutions have proven to be of the highest academic quality, and he has several political successes in the EU as a prove of the quality of his work.

Among them the peace deal with Iran, that is now guarded by the EU. Also the innovative ideas behind the handling of the migrant crisis is based on his work. Ideas that are right now discussed and implemented as a EU policy.

In essence, what this paper proposes, is a reform based not on academic theories, but on real, live proof of quality work.

Being an independent gives room for innovation, but leaves room for the titles.

But it is not the titles that makes the man, it is the work. We need to work on a reform, and that is backbreaking, extremely challenging work that needs a practical, knowledgeable philosopher who has proven his merit in the real life.

The above claims are backed by the think tank IPOS. An Danish based, international think tank. That, among other things has a close relation to NATO. The reformwork would be based in the think tank.

Dissemination

A reformwork of this magnitude would have the unrivaled attention of a vast number of interesting parties. First of cause the political class, that would be closely involved in the process. To make a process like this work, it would require the backing of most political leaders not only on a federal level, but also on a national level.

Direct communication with these leaders would be conducted through the international political blog www.rubicon.dk. This blog of the applicant, is a well read political blog, that ensures a vast reach not only to European leaders, but leaders of the world.

Secondly the work would have to be disseminated to the bureaucracy of Bruxelles. Again the blog will be read. But more detailed plans is a part of the process. These plans will have to be communicated through a newsletter that targets the EU bureaucracy. There probably already is a local newsletter that targets the bureaucracy of Bruxelles, hopefully it would be an option to write in the newsletter.

Thirdly, there would be a direct communication with the persons who are to make the reform in practice. A reform office would have to be made, and there is off cause a lot of communication directly to this office.

The work will be formulated on two levels. The first level is the most easily understandable. Well produced explanations on what is going on. At the same time a deep and thorough discussion of the process will be formulated and presented in a philosophical work.

In that way, the process can be followed by those who just want to understand what is going on. But at the same time, serious academics can follow and understand the ideas on a deep philosophical level.

Essays

Below is a set of essays, that seek to discuss some of the principles of a reform. A vast part of the reform and consequently the work in relation to the reform, would be a deeper understanding of some of the themes that are presented below.

Inspiration

If we look at Europe, we need to accept, that the loyalty to the Nations within Europe will not change. So we need to work with that. Instead of trying to centralize power, we need to find a balance between power on a national level, and power on a federal level.

Who and what is truly important for the Europeans at a national level?

First of all, football. You cannot make a EU football team, it would be awful. We like our Italian azure, Danish red and white, French tricolor and so on.

Secondly military. It will never happen on a federal level.

Thirdly, and this is very important, business.

The reason why European economy is not working, is because the inherent balance between free market and national production is not working.

There is an intimate relation between the Nation and the business life. In Denmark we are good at sailing, so we have Mærsk. In France they are good at making really good cheese and many other wonderful agricultural products, so they make that.

Making products, and developing new products is like good wine, it has to mature and needs tradition to work.

We cannot compete with cheap labour, but we can compete with quality products.

This needs a loyalty between nation and business life, according to Adam Smith.

Having a free market within Europe with a lot of consumers, is however very good.

Fourthly we need to have a clear relationship between citizen and nation. We cannot just move people around, this has created a lot of problems, so we should stop that.

The federal level however will work as a framework of cooperation. So that when we go to war, we can do that together. The armies remain national, but the operations can work on a federal level.

Then we need the central institutions of Bruxelles and Strassbourg to work on the quality of the institutions of human rights, democracy.

Create a powerhouse of *inspiration*. So that the bureaucracy goes from being tyrants to being servants.

Development

Usually the great leaps of development in Europe has been done by different kinds of magus, strange esoteric persons and alchemists.

People like Jung and Freud who invented psychology, Newton who reintroduced mathematics and physics in mainstream, Paracelsus who is modern father of medicine and so on.

We have a long tradition for a kind of fusion between science and the esoteric traditions of Europe.

Things have spun around differently. In England, the fusion is the most profound. Oxford is literally a temple of magic.

In Germany the freethinkers were usually drunkards and geniuses.

In Denmark, the tradition I hail from, we are lonely philosophers and mystics. Like Kierkegaard.

Isolated in the tower of polished ivory.

I will try and be more polished if I am to make a renewal of EU politics. But seriously, a mystic in the heart of Bruxelles, how would that ever go?

You know, I do not walk around with a suit on, but travel around visiting strange societies of freethinkers.

But then again, maybe Bruxelles could use a little magic. Who knows, the city seems pretty broken, so a little healing would probably be well received.

We will see, we need to do the attempt, and if it doesn't work, well at least we tried.

The balance between the nationstates and EU

One very important balance, that we have not done well in the European Union, is the balance between the different nation-states and the former colonies.

Take the UK. The UK has a lot of history with many countries around the world. Chile for one, New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia and so on. The same goes for France, that has a lot of ties to Canada, many small islands in the pacific, many former colonies in Africa and so and so forth.

Europe used to be small countries with a lot of extra power and territory in the colonies.

Now, things have changed, and honestly some of the deeds European countries did around the world were extremely wrong. But we did many things good as well, among them spreading civilisation where there was none before.

The peaceful cooperation and shared commerce should be important not only to the European countries but also many former colonies.

We share history, systems, ideology and way of doing production, and with the renaissance that Europe is currently having, a lot of the former colonies have an option to cling on to that whirlwind of new ideas, new strategies and new options in a peaceful world.

So the European Union needs to find a way to give a lot of freedom to the European countries in their work with the former colonies.

Take Canada, they are leaning towards Europe because mr. Macron has a lot of goodwill in Ottawa. That is good for Europe as such.

How to formalize this is up to discussion, but it is a very important principle we need to find exactly the right balance to make work.

Ethics

One of the problems of the current EU administration, is the fact, that it does not really know why it is there.

I mean, what is the purpose of the EU?

As the structure decomposes, the motivation for the project becomes less and less apparent.

What we need, among other things, is to discuss why?

Why do we have an EU project.

This is essentially an ethical discussion.

At the core of it, is a question of humanity. Why do we do things for humanity.

According to Aristotle, you can see ethics as a kind of a tree. Each virtue is based on another virtue. It is like logic, each argument is based on another argument.

So if you put virtues into a chain of arguments, there must be an original argument.

The argument that started it all.

According to Aristotle, the virtue that all other virtues rest upon is happiness or joy.

The reason why we have all the other arguments, is because we want to make a happier place for people.

That is the core of the European Union, the litmus test. How does what we do make people more happy.

It is like the continuing discussion on minorities that seems to be the sole focus of the science of humanities that the EU support. How does that make the citizens of Europe happy?

If it doesn't make them happy, then why do we do it?

See?

The test of all projects of the European Union, should be to test, if they make the European Union a better place with more happiness for the people.

Constitution

To make a constitution, in the classical time, great philosophers roamed the known world, gathering knowledge and then designing a system that would ensure the stability of the Polis.

As Lycurgus, who made the constitution that Sparta was built on. He roamed the then down world, and created a closed system that worked for 700 years.

Or Solon who made the Athenian constitution.

In that sense, a political system is the result of the deliberate understanding of political theory of a genius.

So, in order to do things right, we need to learn from the ancients, and make a constitution that reflect the methods they developed.

The true reason why the European Union doesn't work, is because the constitution is not good enough. The balances of power is too tilted towards a cadre of secret bureaucrats, the ethical basis is too wrought with vice instead of virtue, and the balance between the national level and the federal level is unclear, making a turfwar the effect. Practically holding all the European Nations in a stranglehold of inefficiency.

I am not saying this to criticize, but to point at the problems we need to solve, to make things work.

So how do we do it? Essentially a constitution reflects the citizens. If the citizens are all into freedom, as in the US, the constitution will reflect this. If they are into social cohesion as in Sparta, the constitution reflects this.

So a European Union constitution should reflect the view of the citizens of Europe.

There are several roots to European culture. The Roman, the Viking, the Egyptian, the Classical Greek and the Mesopotamian.

Each culture has influenced European culture to some degree. The Greek has influenced the European culture through philosophy, leading to political systems as the French. The Egyptian has through the hermetic influence of the Medicis in the Italian renaissance given us humanism. The vikings gave us the urge for freedom and the Roman gave us the urge for discipline and so on.

To make a constitution that will reflect all these cultural traits is not easy, but nevertheless the only way something of a solid structure can be made.

Add to this all the political turmoil we have in Europe already, we have a problem.

To restructure and reform the European Union, I need the support from all people in power.

Only then is the reform possible.

The constitution should have been made in the beginning, not now when everything is falling apart.

Call it a political turnaround of the highest difficulty.

To be honest, there are around 20 - 30 % chance that it will work.

But these are the stakes, so I hope people will support me.

Method

The development of the reform of the European Union, will follow the above mentioned cardinal points. See below for further details.

The process itself will copy the way the American constitution was made. First it is created by the de facto leaders of Europe, and secondly this first draft is represented to the people and other stakeholders for them to comment.

Giving us a constitution and a set of amendments.

Projectplan preparation graphics

WBS	Task Name	Start	Duration	Resources
1	Preparation	01/08/18	11	01/01/19
2	Balance between federal and national	01/08/18	11	01/01/19
3	Balance between EU and national level	01/08/18	11	01/01/19
4	Discussion on ethical basis of the union	01/08/18	11	01/01/19
5	Discussion the political construction of	01/08/18	11	01/01/19
6	Discussion of economical growth of the	01/08/18	11	01/01/19
7	Discussion on turning around the low	01/08/18	11	01/01/19

W21	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	W27	W28	W29	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45
August 2018														
September 2018														
October 2018														



Projectplan preparation

The first phase of the attempt at reforming the EU, will be conducted in different areas and themes.

They are, as follows the compilation of essays:

1. Balance between federate and national level
2. Balance between international coordination between federate and national level
3. Discussion on ethical basis of the union
4. Discussion on the political construct of the union
5. Discussion on economic growth of the union
6. Discussion on low birthrates and possible remedy of problem

The first phase will be a discussion between leader of Europe and the US, the following will be invited. The chronology of the invitation is not a token of importance, alle are equally important:

1. Donald Tusk
2. Asger Trier
3. Emmanuel Macron
4. Theresa May
5. Justin Welby
6. Queen Elisabeth of the United Kingdom
7. Pope Francis
8. Jean Claude Juncker
9. Donald Trump
10. Angela Merkel

These are the de facto leaders of Europe, the hopes are, that if they all agree on a platform, the chance that the process will work is at maximum.

The first phase are the preparation, that is, the fundamentals, that is possible to change at the next phase, where the development will invite a number of new stake holders.

In practise, the relevant documents will be drawn by Asger Trier, and the attendees will be presented with a simple and yet profound set of documents, that they all may discuss.

In the end of the first phase, a secretariat will be founded to steer the next phase.

There will be a symposium three months into the process.

The whole phase will be finished in 6 months.

Projectplan Development graphics

MSS	Task Name	Start	Duration	Resources
1	Development	01/01/19	13	01/07/19
2	Development of new constitution	01/01/19	13	01/07/19

	Januar 2019	Februar 2019	Marts 2019	April 2019
MSS	W1	W2	W3	W4
	W5	W6	W7	W8
	W9	W10	W11	W12
	W13	W14	W15	W16
	W17	W18	W19	W20



Projectplan development

This phase is essentially a consolidation of the process, and a chance for the rest of the interests of Europe to contribute and put their mark on the new constitution.

As in the US, where certain amendments to the constitution was made by the people.

In practise the following participants will be invited:

1. The European Parliament
2. The National parliaments
3. Folk movements
4. Economic interests
5. Military interests
6. NGO's

Each part of the process will be presented with a finished set of rules, that they are invited to change to their liking. The overall responsibility for the finished document will ultimately be Asger Triers, but all who are in power should be heard.

There will be given priority to the folk movements across Europe. If the peoples are not heard and feel represented, it will not work.

This phase will be controlled by a secretariat, that will keep the lines open for those who are participants.

The end result will be a document like the amendments of the US constitution.

Projectplan implementation graphics

MBS	Task Name	Start	Duration	Resources
1	Implementation	01/07/19	28	01/07/20
2	Implementation	01/07/19	28	01/07/20

2019											
jun	juli	august	september	oktober	november	december	januar	februar	mars	april	mai



Projectplan implementation

The last phase of the work cannot be planned beforehand. The details of the implementation will be very dependent on the two first phases.

In such a ambitious project, there is no telling what will work and what will not work.

SWOT

Strengths

The strength of the reform attempt is the level of academic brilliance. It is done by the best.

Add to this, the personage has a lot of political credibility with all the parts of process. This should ensure, that people at least listens to the process.

Weaknesses

The greatest weakness of the process is also what it tries to remedy, that is the complication of the issue at hand. There is a plethora of power players and stakeholders that all needs to be heard.

Another weakness, that is a consequence of the first weakness, is the danger of falling into a bureaucratic entanglement, where the boat may be moored.

Another weakness, that is a consequence of the first weakness is the danger of powerplaying. Different stakeholders hold different positions. These are not always the same, so they may start to fight with each other and stall the process.

Another weakness is the fact, that the whole union is essentially falling apart, so the environment one needs to steer is chaotic at best, and destructive at worst.

Another weakness is the fact, that there is not single lingua Franca, a common language.

Another weakness is the fact that the UK is in a process of redefining its relation to the EU. This may be a strength though, if the process will work as it should.

Another weakness is the many attempts of separation within the different Nations.

Another weakness is the time limit.

Another weakness the migration crisis.

Another weakness is the bad relationship with the US. Donald Trump should however be invited.

Another weakness is the lack of funding.

Another weakness is the difficulty of communicating to the public about the process.

Another weakness is the unresolved balance and relation between the aristocratic and democratic parts of Europe.

Another weakness is the pressure that Europe is under from the world, that is the US, Russia, the Middle East.

Another weakness are the wars in the Middle East.

Another weakness is the terror done in Europe by the likes of IS.

Another weakness is the lack of transparency in the current political construct of the EU.

Another weakness is the difficulty of hiring the right resources for the secretariat.

Another weakness is the danger of media criticism.

Another weakness is the war between China and the US.

Another weakness is the complexity of the operation.

Another weakness is the rise of antisemitism of Europe, this issue may overpower the process due to priority by the stakeholders.

Another weakness is the rapidly decreasing security level of the citizens of Europe.

As a consequence of the massive weaknesses of the project, it is clear, that the attempt is at best, only probable. So many things can go wrong.

The only way to control the process is by tight control, and world class communication.

It will be an epic process, that may either save the European Union, or fail it.

Opportunities

The best opportunity of the reform process, is if the process gets a good start. If it is funded with enough money and resources, the attempt will have a higher chance of success.

Threats

There are specific threats that need to be countered from the beginning. Mainly this will be controlling of foreign influences.

A reform of this magnitude will attract attention of the enemies of Europe. So the level of security should be high from the beginning.

Theory

Ethical theory

All political development must be founded in a deep understanding of ethics. If not, the development it pertains is often wrought with more unhappiness than happiness. The basis of the ethical development of the political process that I envision, is essentially based on Plato. Plato is the crux of academic thought that most political development is based on. This mostly in the French Revolution that gave us Democracy, but also in Marxes thought, that gave us socialism.

Spreading out from the Platonic core there are off course many theorists and thinkers that has contributed to human knowledge and organization. Aristotle is the second most important thinker, but then comes Kierkegaard, Kant, Nietzsche and French thinkers like La Rochefoucauld. Going back in time there are towering thinkers as Parmenides.

To be more specific, the idea that a virtue is something that must drive the world is essentially platonic. This is the core.

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Political theory

There are two trends, that the applicant has contributed to in terms of political development. First he created the political development that gave us what we today term “right wing populism” and the rebellion against the European Union by parties such as Lega Nord, AfD, Dansk Folkeparti, Donald Trump and the like. Essentially the development that right now really has a lot of power and is threatening to overthrow the old liberal order was a result of the Mohammad cartoons crisis ten years ago. Here Denmark was challenged by the Muslim world due to the publication of some cartoons in a newspaper.

The philosophical countermove by the West, was to put up a liberal answer to this dire challenge. That is put Democracy in opposition to Islam. Hence my own career, or whatever you call it, as an islamcritic.

That development was in essence a renaissance attempt, trying to pit our ancient democratic traditions against an obvious enemy.

The attempt was to define Democracy, especially free speech and instead of fighting islam, we were supposed to fight for Democracy.

The book that was written included specific strategies to fight the onslaught of radical islam, strategies that later the European Union was inspired by.

Secondly the applicant inspired some of the principles of late American political development. Especially the focus on Islamic State as the main target of Western fight against islamic extremism was the result of the theories.

The fight FOR Democracy was also an inspiration behind the Arab spring, that brought Democracy to some north african countries, the best example being Tunisia. That is today a living and healthy Democracy.

Historically Change, the term that eventually was put on the development, is a new way of Social democratism. Taking a point of departure in the classical Social Democratism of Saul Alinsky and the Frankfurterschool, and revising it to the current challenges of this world.

Some of the changes that was made, was to get focus on the workers again, a social group that has suffered a lot due to globalism, but also the challenge to Democracy and family values had a lot of focus.

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Economic theory

The economic theory of my work has been both the most succesful (it has created a huge boom in the US) and at the same time what I, in philosophical terms, see as the weakest part of the theoretic corpus that I have created.

In essence the idea is, that there is a lack of balance between free market thinking, and loyalty of the producers to the Nation.

Adam Smith, that coined the ideas of Free market was very keen on the balance between free market and the ethical challenges to producers of nations.

This was apparent to me due to my reading of Ayn Rand, where the critique of the producers were in fact that they were wronged by the lack of appreciation by society of their role as motors of society.

In essence the theory is, that each nation needs to find a balance between free market thinking and a sound production basis.

This theory has proven right in the US where it is used, it has brought a lot of jobs and wealth back to the US. Giving the US one of the most buoyant times in terms of economy. This again means jobs to workers, increased happiness due to wealth, better living conditions to the middle class and a stronger international position due to a increase in economic strength.

This will, if applied in the EU hopefully bring the same results.

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Budget

Initial budget

Researcher	Living allowance	6600 Euro
	Mobility allowance	600 Euro
Institutional	Family allowance	500 Euro
	Research, training and networking costs	800 Euro
	Management and indirect costs	650 Euro

Secondary budget

If the first phase is successful, another budget will have to be drawn, and a secretariat will have to be made.

The budget is not a part of this application but will be a part of secondary fundraising document.