



Generation Europe Debate

“European intergration”

Date: 25th February 2009

Place: Piraeus University

Participants: 10 students, department “International and European relations”

Organised by Irene Schinaraki and Mary Papageorgiou

On Monday 23rd of February, we held our 4th debate. The topic of this discussion was ‘European Integration’. At first, we thought it was important to hold a small introduction towards the European Union. As part of the discussion we managed to gather many different opinions which led to a debate.

First of all, we referred to Greece and its relation to the European Union. The attendants mentioned that EU has helped in solving many problems such as Agricultural Policy and funds for development works. Through our discussion, we talked about the latest enlargement where we had many different opinions. Some of the students argued that enlargement in the Balkans will help to monitor stability and growth in the region and also to control organised crime and illegal transactions. On the other hand some students argued that the opening of the borders helps in immigration and loss of jobs. However all of them agreed that with specific controls and measures, illegal immigration or other problems can be solved.

Moving on in our discussion, some students highlighted the meaning of European identity and how important was it to them. For example, a few students believed that European Integration is a very important aspect and that European citizens play a grand role in this process. They also mentioned that European identity will help in the political integration for as long as people push their governments for better and more cooperated action. Some people though, opposed to this and said that citizens do not always promote their European identity. As an example of this they said that UK has played a less supportive role in economic integration.

Last but not least, our discussion ended about economic integration where we discussed the problems that our country is facing lately. The attendants supported that a common policy to beat economic crisis is very important and that the European members should act cooperatively. Some argued that the decision of Germany to not support other less rich countries was controversial. On one hand, some of the students believed that this act helped in managing to control the basic integrated countries together and other said that this created a Europe a la carte and a Europe of two speeds. At this point we help a short break in order to move on to the second part of our discussion.