

Speech writers contest *European Challenges*

Do you like to write? Ever thought of writing an inspirational speech? Now is your time, as the European Union is facing many challenges: political turmoil, economic hardship and societal tensions dominate the agenda of Brussels and the member states.

European leaders are unable agree on a common strategy or vision on European integration. While Commission president Barroso is pleading for a full fledged political union, the British are searching for more national control or even an exit strategy. Some states are looking at Germany and France for leadership, but the former partners are operating on wholly different frequencies these days. Has the EU lost its way?

How do you see the future of European integration? Is the EU in need of major Treaty reform to fix its structural weaknesses? Should the member states give up more sovereignty and allow the EU to move towards a federation? Or will the current problems in the EU worsen and lead towards disintegration or a break-up of the Union?

With so many challenges and countless possible scenarios, we are keen for your ideas on the future of the EU!

The contest

We want you to write a short speech on one of the major EU challenges. Following the example of the 'State of the Union', which is the annual speech of the president of the European Commission to discuss the political and economic situation of the EU, you are to present your ideas for the future of European integration.

Your assignment is to write a short speech in which you address one major EU challenge and present an idea or strategy to fix the problem. The speech may be written from a European or national viewpoint. Be as idealistic/ eurosceptic/ democratic/ open-minded/ pessimistic/ hopeful as you want! In your speech, please address the following question: *Considering the current state of affairs in the EU, what is one of the most important challenges in the next five years and how would you address this problem?*

The prize

The writer of the best speech will win €250,- and a publication of his or her speech in the Dutch monthly magazine *Internationale Spectator* and the Clingendael website.

Rules

Students and young professionals are invited to participate. The speech may be written in English or Dutch and shall be no longer than 900 words. The winning speech will be chosen by an expert jury on the basis of creativity, clarity of the message and use of language.

The winner will be announced at the SIB-Amsterdam conference *European Challenges* at 22 or 23 November 2013. We invite all contesters to participate in the debate on the future of the EU.

If you wish to participate, please send an email with your contact details and occupation to euforum@clingendael.nl. The deadline for the speech is Tuesday 12 November at 24h00.

Contact

Questions or doubts? Please don't hesitate to send an email to euforum@clingendael.nl or contact Judith Hoevenaars at 070 374 6694.