

A European: does this elicit pride?

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The most horrible mistake the European Union could make after the massacre in Paris would be any form of "revenge" to those people, who come to us in search of asylum and opportunity for safer life. It would be a victory given as a gift to the terrorists, the implementation of their plan.

Hysteria is a quite natural protective reaction of people during the moments of crisis; therefore, radical right-wing politicians are unfortunately tempted to trade on the fears of society and to incite xenophobia. In a number of the EU member states - moreover in those, that are situated more than a safe distance away from the concert hall "Bataklan" and the "Stade de France", including Latvia as well - even from the representatives of the government appeals to execute "closed-door policy" against Syrian refugees, to withdraw from the Schengen agreement and to build fences at national borders can be heard.

Without "jihad" in a backpack

Those people that the EU is currently "selectioning" as entitled to asylum, are probably the most important goal of the terrorists. In desire for peace, security and, of course, well-being, they have "committed crime" against the jihadists at home, they did not become an obedient, tax-paying human mass. Contrary to what the right-wing radicals preach, refugees do not have a slightest desire to "export jihad" and destroy the asylum granted to them. Why should they blindly serve the dogmas of violence due to which they have lost their homes, families and homeland? The refugees are already fed up with Islamic radicalism. Now jihadists hope that, frightened and infuriated by the Paris killers, Europeans would deprive those, who dared to escape, of the last hope. Successful asylum policy will become an effective component in the fight of Europe against terrorism.

Of course, the flow of asylum seekers, currently surging over the Mediterranean, has significantly undermined the surface harmony of the European Union. However, the main problem is not the hundreds of thousands of migrating people or the hypothetical millions of them. It is routed in the Europeans themselves, their lack of confidence. First of all, we should be willing to restore our pride in the indisputable greatness of Europe. Then we will be able to "infect" with this sentiment the vast majority of people, who come here in search of safety and include them amongst us. We will provide them, while remaining Muslims – Alawites, Sunnies, Shiites and others - the opportunity and the desire to be us - the Europeans!

Recently in the magazine «Rīgas laiks» and «Delfi» portal the retired Czech eurobureaucrat Edward Utrata - who for some reason has chosen Canada as a place for his sunny retirement - vigorously and convincingly attempted to inspire us with the credo of the dwellers of the labyrinths of Brussels: that the much criticized European Union has the perfect solution for reorganization, which will enable us to overcome all the problems and inertia - if the egoistic sovereignty of the EU Member States is limited and federalization is strengthened. But what sense would there be in having a more efficient form of structure, if it will be missing content and soul?

In addition, the sweet dreams of the eurobureaucrats were dispelled by the ultimative letter of the British Prime Minister David Cameron to the president of the European Council Donald Tusk: it is necessary to create a "flexible alliance of free nations", in which the United

Kingdom will have no obligation to strive “for ever closer unity” (introduction of the euro, Schengen, etc.). Regardless of whether the United Kingdom will remain in the EU or not, the British “extortion” will create a new model of European unity. Its effectiveness will depend not on bureaucratic reorganization, but on the wish concerted in supranational pride by the Europeans, at least, to preserve what has been jointly achieved and not to become the laughing stock of the world.

Let us invest in the dignity of Europe

Let us not cherish any illusions that in a few years the refugees from Syria and Eritrea will en masse return to their homelands, where peace will have settled in. Latvia has already received a serious history lesson - the majority of Latvians displaced during the Second World War to Germany have become deeply rooted in the new countries of residence, and now the same thing is happening to the compatriots, who have left in order to work in more prosperous European countries. “People in boats” arrive to stay, and Europe cannot pretend not to understand this.

The acclimatization of the “new Europeans” cannot be achieved only with the funds that will be spent on benefits, asylum and integration programs. The EU and the host countries have to provide the refugees with what money cannot buy - the pride of belonging to Europe. The pride that first of all has to be experienced by ourselves. Therefore, even with the help of PR campaigns dedicated to European patriotism, it is necessary to revive in “old Europeans” the self-esteem and pride in their ancestry, county, country, the Union of States, the cultural heritage of their own nation and the common European cultural heritage. The courage to admit that integral parts of this heritage are both the great medieval cathedrals and the modest crucifixes at the rural crossroads, reminder of the ideals of Christianity. The population of the EU Member States must regain the ability to enjoy the success and achievements of the near and distant EU neighbours, to be proud of them as their own - to be able to see in them not only a pretext for natural jealousy, but also contribution to the overall development of our Union and Europe. (In this respect, many politicians could learn from the truly natural European solidarity of the Head of the European Parliament Martin Schulz).

Of course, for a European it is difficult to admit this, but for us the powerful example of “the American dream”, which transforms recurring generations of immigrants into loyal American citizens, has become an example.

The world notices the fear of Europe

The actions of Brussels and the EU Member State politicians, while resolving the problem of the refugees, at least up to now, have created an impression of submissive hope to somehow pay off the sudden humanitarian problem. The spontaneous flow of people - not at all in a catastrophic volume on the general scale of the EU – has been an indicator of fear and obsession with the historical complexes of the Europeans. The fact that the EU is not able to protect its borders and to control the invasion of migrants is not the worst. Nobody and never will be completely ready for force majeure. Unfortunately, at the time of real crisis the EU demonstrated the impossibility of a joint position. Any jointly undertaken and consistently implemented action of the EU Member States - even a completely erroneous one - would be much more helpful to the reputation of Europe than the current controversy over what should be done, “Let us promise that we will accept everyone for the world to see how good we are” (German Chancellor) “Let us not let in anyone” (the new government of Poland), “If Brussels allocate the money, then we can take in a little portion of specially selected refugees” (the Baltic States) and so on. This cacophony of political opinions is a testament to the weakness of the EU, more than that – of deeply neglected faintheartedness of our civilization.

The fear of Europe was perceived by those refugees, who have already arrived and those who are about to come, politicians and the public in the regions that the EU until recently, after the “Arab Spring”, hoped to “Europeanize” through economic ties and aid programs. This creates a sort of caricatured, but, unfortunately, also very real forms of “black racism” or religious chauvinism. It strengthened the impression that Europe, for fear of “provoking” the

Islamic radicals, is no longer able to protect its values at home. It does not even matter whether European values are understood as freedom of opinion, women's equality, moral and cultural traditions of yudeo-christianity - or same-sex marriage, which remains very controversial even among the Europeans themselves, the right of a dying person to euthanasia or freely accessible online gambling.

All this is being watched by the guarantor of European security, the US, the potential investor China, the opponent of the "war of sanctions" Russia and the newly "normalized" by way of diplomatic negotiations Iran, which has swept its plans for nuclear armament under the carpet, and the oil monarchies, sponsoring tensions in the Middle East - and unflattering conclusions for the EU and Europe are being made.

Shame for welfare

Europe corners itself, giving way to imaginary guilt. Today, EU is afraid of being proud of itself, because, God forbid, someone will surely spot arrogance, racism and the preaching of historical superiority in this pride. Political correctness makes Europeans ashamed of what really should be the foundation of self-esteem: their well-being, orderly and safe living space. As if peace, the rule of law, prosperity and clean environment in Finland or Switzerland were actually provided on the expense of the quotas Sudan or Syria were deprived of at some historical period by colonizers.

Therefore, the rhetoric of the institutions of Brussels and the information space in Europe are dominated by hysterical political correctness. The EU leadership is trying to suppress any public debate on the problems caused by the mass migration of people in the heart of Europe - as a result strengthening its most unwanted enemy, who at present also reproduces the joint fear of Europe, only in a more aggressive form: the preachers of racial purity, arsonists of shelters, stone and knife throwers. (It has been long forgotten that the political isolation implemented in 2000 towards the Austrian government, which was jointly established with the radical Freedom Party, confirmed the ability of the EU not to allow extremism to surpass the "red lines", dictated by the historical experience of Europe).

Today the "imperialist" poetry of Joseph Rudyard Kipling - and moreover the brutal experience of British colonialism, that lasted for centuries, which formed his talent - seem to be completely undesirable reference sources in the Western "decent society". Unfortunately, the tragedies experienced by Iraq, Syria, Libya and Ukraine make us rediscover the depth of the phrase that was written by the Nobel Prize winner "West is West, East is East, and never the twain shall meet ..."

Open in words - but in deeds?

Let us discard the illusion that it is possible to transform "the East", let us focus on the people who are fleeing from it. Refugees at present are highly motivated to adapt, settle down in the new environment, to "absorb" the perceptions existing there.

However refugees will quickly realize the discrepancy of the equal opportunities promises to the realities of the host countries, when they see the "glass walls" and the hidden discrimination existing there. The recent policy errors of European integration and multiculturalism should serve as a lesson in order to prevent such errors in the future. France, having undertaken before November 13 on the basis of collegiality to divert part of the flow of refugees to itself, attempted to present itself as a favourable country for migrants – desperately trying to overcome the memory of the Arab youth riots in Paris suburb ghettos. Therefore the Baltic States will hardly be able to successfully integrate the asylum seekers, when they will encounter hundreds of thousands of Latvian and Estonian non-citizens – "second-class Europeans", despite of their white skin and Christian roots.

Thus, how successful the integration of the new Europeans in the society of the EU Member States will be, entirely depends on our willingness to "open all doors" to them, to provide them

true affiliation to their new host country and Europe. Of course, also on our honesty, when promising this affiliation. In order to demand from the future Europeans respect for our laws and practices, values and traditions, we first have to unconditionally comply with them ourselves.