

Extraordinary plenary session on the outcome of the Spring Council

Statement by Prof. Danuta Hübner MEP

7 April 2010, 14:30h

Presidents, Commissioner, Colleagues,

We have not anticipated the crisis. Nor will we be able to prevent another one from happening in the future. If it's any consolation, on this we are in pretty good company. Our punishment should be to learn all lessons the crisis has offered and use all opportunities it has generated. For this, we - the EP, the Council, the Commission - have no other choice but to work hand in hand and convert these lessons into wise and smart and truly European policies citizens need.

And I am convinced we do not have the luxury to be patient. The sense of urgency should be with us.

There is a high risk that the financial and real economy crisis turns into a public debt crisis. That is why there is nothing more urgent than to find a new source of economic, social and political energy to start growing in a sustainable way. Where can the energy come from? The new Treaty is clear: Europe is much more than European institutions and national governments. Its tasks are shared between European, national, regional and local levels of governance. I believe we can re-energise Europe by taking seriously its multilevel governance system as EU2020 delivery mechanism.

Regional and local levels of European governance are important co-owners of Europe's future, capable to harness not only a growing number of policy tools they have at their disposal, but also the enthusiasm of all partners Europe needs: business, academia and civil society. And they are capable to translate common European goals into their own territorial growth and jobs strategies.

Europe can do its job only if we really understand that European tasks and responsibilities must be shared in a well-orchestrated way between European, national, regional and local levels of governance based on cooperation and sharing of responsibilities; engaging local and regional Europe into the pursuit of common European objectives within the EU2020 framework enlarges Europe's potential and our chances for growth.