

EU Debate 2014 – Maastricht

Student Question Form

Please email this form to eudebate2014@gmail.com by mentioning “questions EU debate 2014” in the subject heading before April 6, 2014.

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Please indicate which category fits your question best by ticking one of the boxes below with an “x”

Democracy		Trade		Employment	
Future of Europe	x	Environment		Education	
Foreign Policy		Energy		Other	
Economy and Finance		Social Affairs		

Question (max. 200 words)

Question posed by students from EU Law Master’s Degree (School of Law, University of Minho, Portugal)

The current crisis shows some crucial disjunction between the expectations of Europe’s citizens and the institutional forms of political integration available to them. In EU it lacks an effective political-economic governance that increases democratic legitimacy. Instead, the EU is governed by democratic principles but its citizens do not have a European constituency through which they can express their preferences. Elections to the European Parliament are still overly dominated by national political parties and European problems are not discussed. Citizens are increasingly feeling that the elections to the European Parliament do not decide the future of Europe. Nevertheless, surveys show that Europeans rely more on EU authorities than the national authorities... In this sense, the current crisis definitely questions the relation between national politics and European politics.

So, what should be the future Commission's agenda for optimize the trust that citizens have placed in EU authorities and correspond to their expectations?