



PREMIER MINISTRE

EUROPEAN IDENTITY

Series of Debates

organised by the Council of Europe and Ecole nationale d'administration

Europe today is characterised by a mixture of cultures, religions, traditions and languages. An ever deeper regional cooperation, in which the Council of Europe plays an important role, strives to contribute to the emergence of a community of values.

What does it mean to be European today? Should we speak of a *European identity* or rather Europe's identity? The notion of European identity is protean. Its meaning can vary greatly depending on the political, social, geographical and national realities. It seems therefore legitimate to wonder about the characteristics and frames of this identity.

This series of debates on European identity will address different issues:

- Do we need a common European narrative? Is there already a European identity?
- How can European identity be defined and described? What are the elements of the concept of "identity" (political, cultural, historical, etc.)? What role should diversity play in building a European identity?
- Why do we need a European identity? Should it form a basis for acceptance of deeper integration?

ORGANISATION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE DEBATES

This series of debates on European identity is jointly organised by the Council of Europe and the French Ecole nationale d'administration (ENA). These two institutions contribute through their activities to the European vocation of Strasbourg.

Each debate will be introduced by a recognised personality from Europe or beyond who will present his or her vision of European identity.

By launching this series of debates on European identity, the Council of Europe and ENA wish to contribute to the discussion on issues and challenges facing European societies. The debates will provide a stimulating intellectual space of interdisciplinary dialogue. The target audience includes diplomats present in Strasbourg, officials of the Council of Europe, participants from ENA and a larger public.

After each debate, a transcript of the speech will be available online, on the site of the Council of Europe: www.coe.int/t/policy-planning and in the online journal of ENA: www.etudes-europeennes.eu. At the end of the cycle of debates, some or all contributions will be published in a print edition.