

Give everyone their own state!

It is remarkable how easily 48% of British people are 'forgotten' after the outcome of the British referendum. To Europe they do not matter anymore. It is just a matter for the British themselves to solve the great differences between young and old, highly educated and poorly educated, urban and rural. We seem to think it no problem at all that the smallest possible majority, can impose an civil identity on to the largest possible minority. This is the taboo of our present worldorder: the citizen is always a derivative of the state; the state is not a derivative of the citizen (anymore). Would not it be logical and consistent with the factual reality if we would offer 48% of British people who voted 'stay', a membership of a European State, because they implicitly embrace that kind of identity? Why do not we give every European citizen the state that he or she wishes?

An absurd idea? Well, keep in mind that the problems of our present time are caused by the worldorder of states. 30 years of globalization without a world state has lead to enormous differences between rich and poor. A single European currency without an European state has made Europe ungovernable. The governing power of weak democracies all over the world has become completely corrupted. Major conflicts (Crimea, Oekranie, Palestine, Kosovo) are insolvable because the worldorder of states is not flexible. In short, a rigid and outdated conception of the state is the cause of all the great problems of our time. There is an urgent need for a new kind of state: a state that is derived from the identity choice of citizens.

Therefore give people space to set up their own state (a neo-state). The main difference between the neo-state and the old geo-state is that there can be no exclusive right anymore to a territory. The new European neo-state, which I proposed here, has a real European governance has real citizens with an exclusive European passport, a tax and social security, etc. etc. but no territory or a shared territory. Therefore, for example, the British European and European Briton can simply live side by side in the same territory but derive their identity from one's own state. The applications of the idea of a neo-state are numerous: Inhabitants of regions with a strong regional identity, eg Scotland or the Basque Country could start their own state. This is not imposed to everyone from 'above': all citizens will have to make for themselves a choice and decide whether they want to join the neo-state. Depending on the number of citizens a Neo-state will have more or less power the neo-state has in negotiating on unbundling of institutions, rules and financial resources.

Impracticable? Not at all. A concrete starting point can be the introduction of a scalable passport of the citizen (Not of the state) in which the citizen makes his choice on what scale his identity should be defined. European-minded Dutch people could scale up their passport at the European level. Catalans may downscale their Spanish passport to the level of the Catalan region. You cannot choose two scales. As long as a scale of power has 'insufficient citizens', and there is no recognized independent government, there is a duty of care of the 'source' state and neo-citizen live under the rules and laws of the old state. Only when a neo-state and the old geo-state drew up a contract for transferring rights the new citizenship may be effectuated.

Futuristic? Certainly. But we live in uncertain times that call for vision and new ideas. The state is dead. Long live the state!

Do you want to know more? See the starting document of the Participation Party Europe (www.ppeu.nl) (only in Dutch)).