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EUROPOS PARLAMENTAS EURÓPAI PARLAMENT IL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW EUROPEES PARLEMENT
PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI PARLAMENTO EUROPEU PARLAMENTUL EUROPEAN
EURÓPSKY PARLAMENT EVROPSKI PARLAMENT EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI EUROPAPARLAMENTET



PRESS KIT

The «COMPAGNIE A BULLES» presents :
«THE ASSEMBLY OF CITIZENS»
from the Agora to the European Parliament
UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF MR. MARTIN SCHULZ



www.cie-a-bulles.eu/assemblee



AssembleedesCitoyens



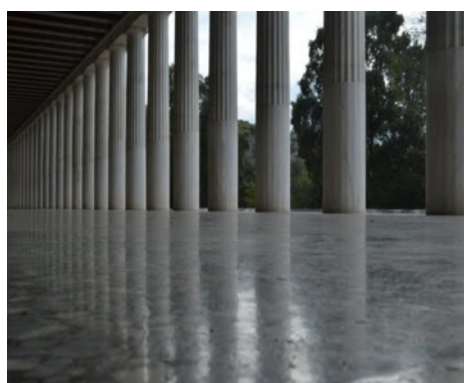
LaCieaBulles



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16, rue Vandrezanne–Paris 13° – Tel/Fax: 00331 53801716 – www.cie-a-bulles.eu

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Museum of the Ancient Agora in Athenes



The seat of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, inaugurated in 1999



PRESS RELEASE

26 August 2013

Press Conference:

“The Assembly of Citizens – from the Agora to the European Parliament”
Under the high patronage of Martin Schulz, president of the European Parliament

Friday 13 September 2013, 12:13

With the presence of the actors, team and partners:
presentation, Q&A, demonstrations, cocktail
at 13:13 bubble drop from the balcony

European Parliament Information Office in France
288 boulevard Saint-Germain – 75007 Paris

FROM LAUGHTER TO VOTE...

Come see “The Initiative”, modern European comedy

Crisis, austerity, euroscepticism. These words pile up in our European citizens’ heads. Well, an unusual caravan inhabited by seven actors of different nationalities will travel from **Paris** to **Strasbourg**, from **Athens** to **Brussels**, from **Vilnius** to **Berlin** and even to **London**: this many stops for this many active-actors who will invite citizens to revisit Europe.

The play, **“The Initiative”, staged by Laurence Cohen and co-written with Catherine Véglio-Boileau**, is liberally based on the tale of the “Town Musicians of Bremen” by the Brothers Grimm and it will be played in eight languages. Each character (a Greek snack-bar manager, a Turkish-Belgian runaway, a pro-European Englishwoman, a musician of the world...) embodies European aspects of today. Will this comity of citizens get along and carry it’s desire of initiative to the end?

Youth unemployment, identity crisis, euro-zone, retirement, finance, freedom of movement, multilingualism, all of this will be discussed during the democratic Forum after the performance.

Hosted by committed citizens: from the student to the politician, passing by the shopkeeper, the father or the artist, all orchestrated by the dynamic Dutch-Parisian journalist, **Stefan de Vries**. A multicultural melting pot of ideas to refresh your mind!

The Assembly of Citizens welcomes you to seven capitals
from 26 September to 19 October 2013.

More information on our website: www.cie-a-bulles.eu/assemblee

Press contacts:

Laurence Cohen, Artistic Director of the Cie à Bulles.
cie.a.bulles@gmail.com • +33 1 53 80 17 16 / +33 6 12 82 21 60

Stefan de Vries, Freelance Journalist, VRT “Belgium”, France24, RTLNieuwsnl.
stefan@devries.fr • +33 6 63 09 33 31

Yohan Baril, Public Relations and Brussels-Paris Coordination.
assembleedescitoyens@gmail.com • +32 4 88 08 80 85 / +33 7 60 20 79 14

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The 2013 Tour

Seven capitals from 26 Sept. to 19 Oct. 2013, and Nantes on 9 Dec.

Paris

Opening night in close cooperation with the Goethe-Institut Paris

Thu. 26 Sep. – 20:00

European Day of Languages
Week of Foreign Cultures

Goethe-Institut Paris

www.goethe.de/ins/fr/par



Athens

Sat. 28 Sep. – 20:00

Sea and Tourism Week

Theatre Hall of M. Cacoyannis Foundation

www.mcf.gr

Brussels

Wed. 2 Oct. – 10:00

International Day of Non-Violence

Espace Magh

www.espacemagh.be

Vilnius

Sat. 5 Oct. – 16:00

Lithuanian presidency of the EU

Vilnius University Theatre Hall

www.vu.lt

Berlin

Wed. 9 Oct. – 18:00

World Post Day

Europäisches Haus

European Union House

www.europarl.de

Strasbourg

Sat. 12 Oct. – 19:30

1st anniversary of the EU's
Nobel Peace Prize

Salle de la Bourse

www.strasbourg.eu

London

Fri. 18 – Sat. 19 Oct.

European Local Democracy Week

Language Show

Olympia Exhibition Centre

www.languageshowlive.co.uk

Nantes

Tue. 3 Dec. – 17:00

Launch of the Erasmus +
programme

Regional Council of Pays de la Loire

Agence 2e2f National Conference

www.2e2f.fr

For May 2014

A multi-dimensional engaged European event

2013, The European Year of Citizens

In preparation of the 22–25 May 2014 European elections, the Theatre Association Cie à Bulles, framework-partner of the European Parliament, has received in 2013 the financial support of the Directorate-General for Communication, to **launch an innovative and apolitical citizen action.**

Stimulate an active reflection through theatre fiction

Through **proximity**, in the streets, and **artistically**, in theatres, and trying to reach as many people as possible, “The Assembly of Citizens” is looking to raise awareness about the rights and responsibilities of EU citizens, more so about the right to vote. Far away from institutional communication and lecture courses about Europe, **this project is all about entertaining and informing the public through art, while trying to stimulate an active reflection.**

The multilingual play, “The Initiative”, is at the heart of the action

On the agenda

Festive wanderings in public places, rehearsals open to students, free performances open to all from “The Initiative”, democratic forums hosted by the journalist Stefan de Vries and citizens’ filmed portraits.

Many stops that invite citizens to see Europe differently, from Paris to Vilnius, from Strasbourg to Athens, from Brussels to Berlin and even to London!

Open and participative rehearsals

Special care will be given to 12 to 25 years olds, thanks to the **participation of the local authorities as well as of several school establishments.** Groups of young people will be preparing the venue with deep thought about the themes found in the play, will be preparing presentations, meet the actors and participate in the general rehearsals.

“To vote Citizens!”

The wanderings will open each step of the tour. They will be launched with the sound of the “**tambourns**” and, as a symbolic gesture, will allow passersby to slide a question or a proposal, in the **tambourn**. These original “ballot papers” will then lead the discussion during the democratic forum following each performance.

A melting pot of ideas to refresh your mind!

The forums, animated by engaged citizens (from the student to the politician, passing by the shopkeeper, the father or the artist) will be **orchestrated by the dynamic Dutch-Parisian journalist, Stefan de Vries.** With his usual humour, he will offer us a final summary.

A series of portraits for a Europe in crisis

The Assembly of Citizens, a **true theatre road trip through Europe**, offers us the opportunity to simply and visually approach the complex relationship between Europe and its citizens. At each stop, the production team of the company **entre2prises**, will shoot citizens’ filmed portraits as well as city and performance images. This way, Internet users will be able to make their own, personalized trip.

Under the High Patronage of Mr Martin Schulz, president of the European Parliament



«The European Parliament highlights the importance of projects such as yours that, while strengthening the solidarity among our citizens, promote the dissemination of European culture and values.

Your initiative shows a great educational quality as well as an undeniable European dimension (...)

Please, allow me to take this opportunity to wish you every success in your work”.

Excerpt from the letter of support of July 11, 2013.

For the Europe of the Citizens, ‘I have a dream...’ Statement of intent by Laurence Cohen, Artistic Director

And if the town musicians of Bremen had already showed us the path

For over 25 years I have been staging our society. 2013 The European Year of Citizens!

“500 million Europeans. And me, and me, and me” What can I do, in my own small way, by May 2014?

The bets are important: *“An Infinite challenge”...**

I decided to try and set up this ‘Assembly of Citizens’:

Wanderings with the sound of the tambour^{urn}, theatre and citizens’ forums, portraits filmed in collaboration in each city.

I took the “Initiative” of travelling to 7 capitals in order to meet and mobilise our current partners.

“The Initiative” is a modern fiction, a play, a multilingual comedy which allows us to speak of Europe and the World in a “different way”, to reach as many people as possible.

I wanted for each of these characters to represent a European theme, an age group, our daily life...

And this is what connects them: what connects us all !

Theatre is *“the Art of looking at ourselves while being aware that we use this language. Going from ‘spectator to spec-actor’.”* Augusto Boal

“The Initiative” is also a great international team that we created bit by bit. And it is generously committed to the Schengen Area. Don’t miss it!

« I have a dream... »

Let this comedy, signed *“The Initiative”*,

Played here and there, today and tomorrow,

Allow us all to take part, and fully act as citizens.

From Laughter to Vote, Europe is knocking at your door, Open it!

* Liberal translation of the title of Philippe Herzog’s book « Une tâche infinie » (Editions du Rocher)

Václav Havel

“For the past 15 years, I had infinite opportunities to convince myself how, in a democratic system, it is important to see politics as a true service to the people (...) Politics should never give up in front of great ideas or forget about the “heart” and become a sort of perpetual technocratic movement”

Excerpt from *A vrai Dire... Livre de l’après-pouvoir* (Editions de l’Aube – 2007)

THE INITIATIVE

*Modern fiction liberally based on the tale of the
“Town Musicians of Bremen” by the Brothers Grimm*

Script and Stage director, Laurence Cohen

Co-written with Catherine Véglio-Boileau

In the Schengen area, seven European citizens move freely, meet and share their stories. They do not speak the same language. Nevertheless, they decide to work together and create a “comity” in order to put forward a new European initiative.

Goal: to collect the one million necessary signatures to submit to the European Commission.

Will they manage to get along and carry the project to the end?

The polyphony of their voices will echo our dreams, our questions and our hope for Europe.

with

Gala Besson

the eurotop English student

Virginija Kelmelyte

the Lithuanian financier

Soufian Khalil

the narrator, citizen of the world

Bastiaan Maertens

the Turkish-Belgian runaway

Yves Penay Artistic Advisor

the visionary French utopian

Anastassia Politi

the Greek matriach

Florian Westerhoff

the German doctor

Julie Dumont Graphics

Thérèse Erray Costumes

Charles Vergnolle Set

(in sector) Stage management

Translation Division

Eliza Girod (to German)

Cynthia Flores, Juan Ticona (to Spanish)

Emily Duggan, Maria Fanucchi (to English)

N. Matyasovat, M. Eguiguren (to Spanish)

Valdas Papiervis (to Lithuanian)

Carolina Carvallo (to Spanish)

Fleur Bogerd (to Dutch)

Communications Division

Yohan Baril Head of Communications

Maxime Biermé Brussels

Lucie Gilson Paris

Stefan de Vries forum moderator

entre2prises production team

Florent Verdet, David Jungman

Creator and Stage Director **Laurence Cohen**

Production **Ass. Théâtre de la Cie à Bulles**

An international team

• Laurence Cohen



(aka Chimel), **Creator and Stage Director** of the project “The Assembly of Citizens”, she is **Artistic Director of the Cie à Bulles**, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in March 2012 at the City Hall of Paris. After specialising in German Studies, she joined the theatre company of Augusto Boal, creator of the “theatre of the oppressed”, a committed, social type theatre. She produces great society-themed plays, particularly from 1992 and 2002, with regards to youth: violence, adolescence, motivation, education, children’s rights etc.

Since 2003, her civic and artistic commitment has taken a European turn as she stages mostly languages, which allowed her to obtain, among others, the European Language Label award in 2007 and the Paris Europe Label award in 2003 and 2013 for The Assembly of Citizens. She has worked with the Paris House of Europe as well as the Goethe Institute in Paris and many other French and European partners.

Laurence Cohen also leads training courses on personal development and professional behaviour in Paris, where she lives, but also courses for the international clientele (Germany, Argentina, Brazil, United States, United Kingdom...), as well as for foreign languages teachers at the IUFM of Paris Creteil and Versailles.

www.cie-a-bulles.eu

• Catherine Véglio-Boileau

co-author of *The Initiative* the Editorial Director for Confrontations Europe, the think tank founded by Philippe Herzog, special adviser to the European Commissioner Michel Barnier. She coordinates the reflection on Europe’s relations with the world and works on society and civilisation topics as well as energy and environment.

As a journalist, she started her career in the regional printed press. She then worked for various economic and general newspapers (*Les Marchés, L’Expansion, L’Autre Journal...*).



She has been interested in European issues since the 1990’s, while following the GATT negotiations for the agricultural press and the introduction of the Euro for the daily newspaper *La Tribune*. Her European commitment has lead her to work with Catherine Lalumière, former Secretary General for the Council of Europe and current President of the Paris House of Europe (topics: education and European citizenship).

She wrote two farces: ***Catherine Ashton et Herman Van Rompuy sont en voyage***, played at the Paris Maison de l’Europe and at the Etats Généraux in Grenoble in 2010, and ***Angela Merkel et Nicolas Sarkozy sont en cuisine*** played at the Paris Maison de l’Europe and the Atelier Saint-Sabin in 2012.

• Stefan de Vries



He was born in the Netherlands and has been based in Paris since the most recent *fin de siècle*. He is currently working as a freelance journalist for RTL News and VRT (Belgium), among others. He regularly comments and analyses French and European current affairs in the French media.

His coverage of European affairs has awarded him with the *Prix de l'Initiative Européenne* in 2012 and the "EuroNederlander Award 2013". He regularly holds highly appreciated Europe-themed conferences. As a matter of fact, among the five languages that he

currently speaks, there is no doublespeaking!

Moreover, Stefan de Vries is personally engaged in the European Citizens' Initiative '[Let me vote](#)' which wants to grant the right to vote to all European resident citizens, for all types of elections within the countries of the European Union.

Stefan de Vries will be the **forum moderator** :

"Europe must change", we hear this everyday. Yes, but how? What kind of Europe do we want? No one has truly found the answer. So, our Assembly – from the Agora to the European Parliament – gives the floor to the citizens. A lively debate with the participation of local actors, engaged in these issues. Organised by European citizens for ALL European citizens. Join us!

Artistic Contributors

• Julie Dumont – Graphic Designer / julied2.blogspot.fr



Following studies at the Ateliers du Carrousel in Sèvres and architecture classes with the Ateliers of the city of Paris, Julie joins the École de Beaux-Arts of Montpellier. After obtaining her DNSEP diploma, she pursues her career in arts by participating in various exhibitions (such as the NUIT BLANCHE). She also develops non-profit projects, holds several workshops for young people and executes graphic design orders and illustrations.

• Charles Vergnolle – Set Designer

A visual artist with multiple origins (Martinique, Pondicherry, Bay of Arcachon), Charles Vergnolle, a fine arts specialist, is a travelling artist. He creates great pictorial works in the places he resides (New York, London, Martinique), with the purpose of showing the complex beauty of the world to the visitors of his exhibitions. He has been creating the set and accessories for the Cie à Bulles for the past five years.

• Thérèse Erray – Costume designer and make-up artist

For over 25 years, Thérèse has been designing the costumes and creating the make-up for all the actors of all the shows of the Cie à Bulles (more than 500). Loyal to the association since its establishment, she has had many roles, including actor, before becoming the company's secretary and office member. She has designed costumes for the Carrousel du Louvre and has participated in the Cannes Festival.

Communication Division

• Yohan Baril – PR Officer (Brussels–Paris)



After graduating in European Law at the end of 2012, Yohan has had a thorough training in Public Relations during his internships carried out within the Embassy of France in Belgium, the European Commission in Marseille and the EU Public Affairs Office of the HAVAS Group. He has been president of the Bordeaux section of the Young European Federalists for two years, and its active member since 2008.

• Maxime Biermé – Press Officer (Brussels)

After studying international relations in Brussels, Maxime specialised in Communication in European Affairs at IHECS. He then carried out an internship within the European Parliament and the RTBF and he is currently a freelance journalist for Le Soir.

• Lucie Gilson – Communication Officer (Paris)

Having done a double degree in history and European studies, Lucie is currently following a Master's degree in European Affairs at Paris III – Sorbonne Nouvelle. She just finished a one-year Erasmus exchange program in Budapest and she is the Vice-President of the *Franchement Europe* association.

Production entre2prises

• Florent Verdet – Director and Producer

He is in turns director of photography, assistant director since 2005 (for the documentary *Tous au Larzac* by Christian Rouaud in 2009/2010 for instance) and producer for the company entre2prises, created in 2000 (short-films, documentaries and corporate videos).

"Meeting both the author and its project is our main drive when we choose a production. When we heard about the Assembly of Citizens, we were immediately hooked and we wanted to be part of such a beautiful and ambitious tour right away..."

• David Jungman – Director and Producer

Producer for the company entre2prises, he is also an editor and a director.

Translation Division

• Fleur Bogerd – Translator from French to Dutch

Fleur is a Dutch translator and journalist who studied linguistics in Utrecht and Montpellier. Specialised in European and Cultural affairs, she has been working independently since 2005 for a regular client portfolio (Courrier international, Sundance Channel, TV5 Monde, Audiovisit, VDM).

• Emily Duggan – Translator from French to English

A keen interest in languages and intercultural dialogue led Emily to undertake a Bachelor's degree in French at Oxford University, before crossing the Channel to complete a Master's degree in translation at the École Supérieure d'Interprètes et de Traducteurs (ESIT) in Paris.

• Maria Fanucchi – Translator from French to English

Born in Argentina of Argentinian parents, she moved back and forth between Buenos Aires and New York, and grew up bilingual in English and Spanish. She has lived in France for the past few years.

• Carolina Carvalho – French-Spanish Coordinator, for the team :

«We are happy to be part of this noble project and to be able to contribute to the strengthening of the union of the European citizens, while experiencing a precious challenge as translators ».

With **Cynthia Flores**, **Natalia Matyasovat** and **Juan Ticona**.

• Maria del Rocio Eguiguren – Translator from French to Spanish

Maria del Rocio is an Italian-Columbian student finalizing her studies at the École Supérieure d'Interprètes et de Traducteurs (ESIT). After an internship with UNESCO, she is determined to continue her career within an international or European organisation. Next goal: learn Russian!

• Eliza Girod – Berlin Coordinator and Translator from French to German

Born in Berlin, she graduated in 2012 with a Franco-German degree at the Sorbonne Nouvelle in Paris. She is currently preparing a double Franco-German degree.

• Valdas Papijevis – Translator from French to Lithuanian

A Lithuanian journalist living in Paris since 1998, he was a correspondent for the Lithuanian national radio. He has translated various works to Lithuanian, such as *I Wish Someone Were Waiting for Me Somewhere* by Anna Gavalda and *The Chalk Circle Man* by Fred Vargas. He is himself a writer and he was awarded the prize for the best Lithuanian novel in 2010 for *Walk*.

A special thank you goes to **Sigita Skirkaite**, our Vilnius coordinator, to the Institut Français in Vilnius, to **Ghislaine Tamisier** et **Margarita Guibert-Roig** teachers at ESIT, to **Pierre Kretz**, French-Alsatian translator, to **Lavinia Pletosu** for the translation of the press kit into English, and to **Olivier Geoffroy** for the sound.

Stéphane Hessel

“To the young people, I say: Look around you, you will find topics that justify your indignation (...). You will find concrete situations that lead you to strong citizen action. Search and you shall find!”

Excerpt from *Time for Outrage!* – (Editions Indigène - 2010)

Cast

Seven professional actors of different nationalities and ages

Yves Penay (FR) Artistic advisor



Yves is an established artist, having appeared in many productions. He started his career in the international company Leautier-Dupoyet. He then followed the workshops of John Strasberg and was a member of the Compagnie Paris-New-York. He now teaches theatre and is a director and founder of Théâtre d'Ulysse.

As a director Yves' work includes *Néfertiti* by André Chédid, *Le fusil de chasse* by Yasushi Inoué, *Je t'aime*, *Les troyennes*, *Juste la fin du monde*, *Identité*. Television includes: *Les Misérables* and *Le Comte de Monte-Cristo* with Gérard Depardieu, French sitcoms *Julie Lescaut* and *Boulevard du Palais*. Film includes: *Bleu* (Krzysztof Kieślowski), *Anthony Zimmer* with Sophie Marceau, *Les adieux à la reine* (Benoît Jacquot).

"For me, the world of theatre has always been a world of curiosity towards the other, of openness, of knowing how to live together. Changing the play, the film, the style, 10 times, a hundred times, a thousand times, this is the preparation towards a European citizenship, to which the actors were prepared through their performance."

Gala Besson (UK)



Since childhood, Gala Besson has been preparing for the performing arts, especially for theatre and dance. It's at the young age of thirteen that Gala discovers her talent as a camera and stage comedian. Over the years, she has had numerous roles in theatre, television, cinema, advertisement as well as short films. Her double nationality (French and English) has allowed her to work in both languages.

"Europe is a union where notions of borders fade away. The idea of unity has seen the light, will this concept grow?"

Soufian Khalil (ES)

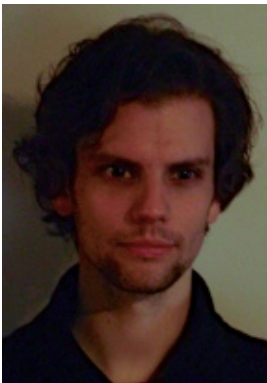


After studying theatre with the Théâtre-école de Montreuil, the Nogent-sur-Marne Conservatory and Paris 8 University, Soufian joins the first promotion of the Académie Internationale des Arts du Spectacle (AIDAS), run by Carlo Boso, with a commedia dell'arte and physical theatre preparation. Here, he trains in text, improvisation, mime, singing, mask, fencing and acrobatics. He then joins the Vincennes Conservatory with Laurent Rey. Soufian has played, in various registers, in more than ten plays. He has held improvisation classes in Roma camps with the association Parada.



Virginia Kelmelyte (LT)

Born in Lithuania before the European reunification, Virginia Kelmelyte has studied at the National Academy of Dramatic Arts in Vilnius and has been a part of the National Drama Theatre in Vilnius for the past 15 years. She has had numerous lead roles in plays such as *Richard III*, *Antigone*, *Electra*... A polyglot (Russian, Bulgarian, French and English), Virginia Kelmelyte has also developed a comedian career in the cinema, where she played in Lithuanian, Russian and Bulgarian feature films.



Bastiaan Maertens (BE)

After studying mathematics at the University of Gand, Bastiaan Maertens has decided to join, at age of 26, the Kleine Academie in Brussels. In this international school for creative theatre, he is in constant contact with students and professors of various nationalities and backgrounds.

“My European conscience has strengthened as I felt I was a Belgian and a European at the same time”.



Anastassia Politi (EL)

Born in Athens, Anastassia Politi first steps on the French stage as a Greek comedian for a European creation at the Avignon Festival in 1990. She studies theatre and economics at the Sorbonne, then plays Euripide, Corneille, Tchekhov, Alexandrian, Novarina... in public theatres and international festival with Stéphane Braunschweig, Jacques Lassalle and Costa Gavras. For the big screen, she plays in the film *Der Diplomat*, dedicated to the life of Stéphane Hessel. As a stage director, she obtained a residency at the Royal Court Theatre in London and she created her own company for performing arts.



Florian Westerhoff (DE)

Born from a German father and a French and British mother, Florian Westerhoff grows up in France, Germany, Senegal and Mauritania. It is in Mauritania, in the French cultural centre of Nouakchott, at the young age of 14, that he takes his first steps on the stage. Here, he plays Sganarelle in *Médécine malgré lui* by Molière, directed by Leila Arabi. After a French and German bachelor's degree in Berlin, he trains in dramatic arts in the école Claude Matthieu in Paris. Since then, she has been collaborating with various theatre companies and has played in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, Morocco, Turkey and Qatar.

Characters

Seven European citizens on the road to Schengen

- **The French utopian visionary**

Geoffrey Servat, 60, European utopian, son of an unknown English-speaking father parachuted into an artichoke field belonging to his mother, an intellectual Breton farmer. Ever since his birth nine months later, in 1945, in an emergency night-time labour on a roof in Brussels, he has lived and breathed Europe. A humanist above all, a visionary, the Europe of perpetual peace has been with him all his life.

“On 9 May 1950, I was five years old. I saw my mother dance barefoot in the kitchen, crying tears of joy. I clapped my hands and listened to the Schuman Declaration, not really understanding. It set a ‘concrete foundation of a European federation indispensable to the preservation of peace’.”



- **The English student devoted to Europe**



Juliet Smith, 26, 100% pure “Made in England”, Europe-lover, is in her last year of translation studies at ESIT. She was raised by foreign nannies, as her parents were always on the move. *“Erasmus, the Eurostar and Schengen didn’t exist yet, but my parents were already travelling throughout Europe and beyond: always mobile, leaving me behind with my Playmobil.”*

She takes advantage of all that Europe offers: Erasmus, Leonardo, Comenius. She talks of her multilingual flings with Gigi, Anton, Pim, and others, but especially her love story with Tomislav, a Croatian from Dalmatia.

- **The narrator**

Tahar Vargas, timeless, citizen of the world. As a musician, poet and narrator, he channels the voices of resistance fighters from elsewhere, to the beat of his surdo, questioning the world, bearing witness and inspiring emotion. He brings alive the struggles of those who courageously defended human rights and fought against the violation of freedom: Indira Gandhi, Václav Havel, Nelson Mandela, Aung San Suu Kyi, all of these and many others have received the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, awarded by the European Parliament. Tahar follows intrigued travellers on their journey through the Schengen Area. He gradually finds his place in the group, imposing himself subtly. He will be the one at the heart of the European Initiative...





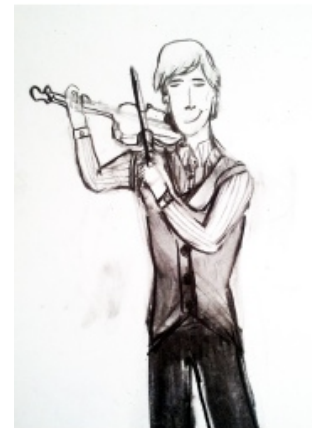
• The Lithuanian financier

Daiva Kazlauskas, 52 (Daiva K.). She is president of the Women of the Bankers' Forum for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Finance (WBFSSIF). She will present a project to the new European Ombudswoman. Daiva K. has questioned the Eurozone ever since its creation in 1999. She speaks frankly of her fears about the common currency, and of her country, Lithuania, which would become part of the Eurozone in 2015. She has no doubt it needs better economic governance. *"Cleaning up public finances, restoring competitiveness, initiating countless reforms... everywhere the Troika goes, markets die down while the streets rise up. Let's dance to the Euro blues!"*

• The Turko-Belgian runaway

Bedri Van der Vleuten, 20, Turko-Belgian, caught in the middle between his divorced parents, his father Hakim, an artist, and his mother Beatrix, who works at the European Commission, trying to unite his two nationalities in a single identity. As he travels the roads of the Schengen Area, our runaway plays his fiddle and does charcoal sketches of people in towns along the way... At times, he is outraged: *"The EU doesn't want Turkey to become a member and neither does the current Turkish government. Both of them are lying, and who am I in all of this?"* At times, he is knowledgeable, quoting the European treaties...

Bedri appears and disappears, growing gradually closer to his European travelling companions, his new family...



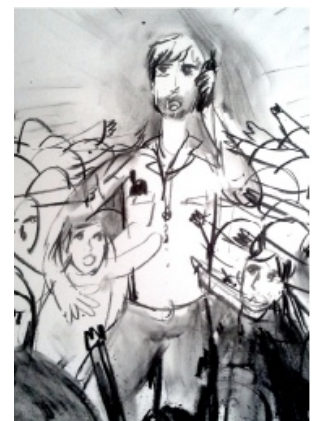
• The Greek matriarch

Hypatia Grazziani, 44, dynamic widow of a true Sicilian. A single mother of eight, she worries about her children's future. At her international snack bar in Strasbourg, *Les pieds dans l'plat*, which she runs with a firm hand, people are hungry to discover other cultures: *"You can taste the whole world here: Italian, Polish, Turkish, Spanish, pasta, pierogi, tarama, kebab, tapas, couscous..."* She admires her friend Arety, who organises debates in her alternative bookshop, *Free Thinking Zone*, in the heart of Athens, to encourage young people to talk about politics. She believes the most dangerous action is inaction.



• The German doctor

Volker Bürgel, 36, Doctor of the World. He constantly fields incoming calls from across the world on his six mobile phones: Mali, Egypt, Afghanistan... *"Hello? Marissa? It's impossible to send teams out to the remote villages in Syria? The area is too dangerous... Hello? Hello?..."* Enough is enough. A cheerful text message from his daughter, Eliza, briefly reconciles Doctor Bürgel with the world. He turns off his mobile phones and starts to feel the buzz. Europe reaches him via *Die Welt*, *"old people, everywhere, on walking frames; by 2060, almost one third of the population of Europe will be over 65; let's stay young during retirement,"* he says. *"We have to think about repopulating Europe."* He feels ready to have a child in every country. Are we heading for a European baby-boom? Long live medicine!



The supporters

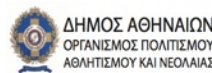
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Press contacts

Laurence Cohen, Artistic Director of the Cie à Bulles
cie.a.bulles@gmail.com • +33 1 53 80 17 16 / +33 6 12 82 21 60

Yohan Baril, Public Relations and Brussels–Paris Coordination
assembleedescitoyens@gmail.com • +32 4 88 08 80 85 / +33 7 60 20 79 14

