In the beginning, there was war. Then a project was set up to bring peace and prosperity to Europe. Today, it has grown to be an ever-closer union of 28 very diverse member states. In recent years, the European project has been braving troubled waters. Though it remains a fascinating idea, it is struggling with low popularity.

Imagine you could fast-forward in time... anytime into the future, be it 2025, 2050 or 2500. What do you think Europe will look like? Will the European Union stick together and master its challenges as one? What role will it play in the world? How will we live? Which scientific innovations will shape our everyday life?

That was the task the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom had set for the second edition of the International Comics Competition Animate Europe. Out of 60 entrants from 23 countries, seven finalists looked into their crystal ball and sent us their story about the future of Europe.
Animate Europe

International Comics Competition 2015
Europe Fast Forward
The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom is the German foundation for liberal policies. We seek to advance the idea of freedom both within Germany and abroad as a pillar of an open society.

In Germany, we offer various platforms for an exchange of information and experience on present-day topics. We focus on education in order to promote a greater understanding of politics, and wish to inspire citizens to get involved actively in political processes.

Abroad, we promote human rights, rule of law and democratic structures as well as market economy in more than 60 countries worldwide through the support of local, regional, and national initiatives and organisations, think tanks and political parties.

At the European and Transatlantic Dialogue, we discuss and develop liberal approaches and solutions for European and global challenges in cooperation with European thought leaders and decision-makers, as well as our partners worldwide.
Two years ago, we asked graphic novelists from all over the world for the first time to Animate Europe. The results were very inspiring, the exhibition has attracted more than 40,000 visitors and 11,000 copies of the book have found their readers. Many more have followed the stories on the internet.

This year, encouraged by this overwhelming response, we again asked graphic novelists to fast forward in time and look into their crystal ball: What will Europe, what will the European Union look like in 50, 100, 250 years? There are stories about economic and social hardship, about war and environmental crisis. But there are also stories about friendship and the ability to solve problems together, about helping each other and a common cultural heritage.

Europe Fast Forward is a rich collection of comics as diverse in approach, topic and style as the European Union and its 28 members. The artists provide a lot of food for thought and debate. That’s what we want to encourage with this competition. We are looking for ideas for a better, brighter common European future. To quote Lotte whom you will get to know in this book: “United in diversity, we will become boundless.”

Enjoy the read!
Since the comic is possibly the most accessible form of literature, it is the perfect medium to pass on a message to a large audience. It gave me great pleasure to see how this year’s finalists of Animate Europe expressed their concerns about the future of Europe in a constructive way through their comics.

Willem De Graeve

Global initiatives like Animate Europe prove that there has never been a better time for comics than now. It’s the perfect medium to talk about everything and let everyone have their own voice. When we put words and pictures together, we can produce things which, as Goethe predicted in 1831, “can surpass all expectations”.

Paul Gravett

It was a very rewarding experience to see stories develop from scratch. This competition showed once again that complex stories—such as on the future of Europe—can be told in a seemingly playful way.

Valérie Constant

A comic seems to emerge out of nothing: The artist sits in front of a blank paper and creates a new world with each stroke of his pen, panel after panel, page after page. With his pen or brush, but most of all with his dreams, wishes, longings and visions. The European idea developed in much the same way.

Dreams and visions shape the future.

Andreas C. Knigge

Initiatives like Animate Europe show that the hopes, fears and reflections regarding the future are varied, yet similar at the core. Just as the countries in Europe. A comic being a combination of text and picture is the ideal medium to express these ideas.

Birgit Weyhe
The Jury

Andreas C. Knigge
is a publicist, lector, translator and literary agent. He was co-founder and editor of the magazine Comixene and later editor-in-chief at Carlsen’s. He published several books on comics, lastly the biographies of Charles M. Schulz and Hansrudi Wäscher.

Birgit Weyhe
is a graphic novelist and illustrator. She holds a degree in German literature and illustration. On behalf of the Goethe Institut she gave workshops in various countries and teaches at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences. For her latest project she received the Comicbuchpreis 2015.

Paul Gravett
is a London-based freelance journalist, curator, lecturer, writer and broadcaster who has been working in comics publishing and promotion since 1981. He is the founder of Escape Magazine and writes articles on comics appearing in the UK magazine Comics International, as well as a monthly column for ArtReview. He has written for various periodicals and is the author of several books on comics, including Manga.

Valérie Constant
is the founder and director of the communications agency Apropos. She started her career as a journalist, worked as Head of Communications for several cultural institutions, among which the Belgian Comics Strip Center, and the comics publishers Casterman and Fluide Glacial.

Willem De Graeve
is the director and communications manager of the Belgian Comic Strip Center in Brussels. He has written several articles about comics, including a literary analysis of an album by Jacques Martin. He also regularly gives lectures on the history of Belgian comic strips at home and abroad.
The Artists

Bue Bredsdorff (Denmark)
is a comic generator. He has studied urban planning at Roskilde University and comics at Serieskolan in Malmö. He has been self-publishing mini comics for the last couple of years, while living off the generosity of others. This winter his first non-self-published book will hit the bookshelves.

Domingo Pozanco (Spain)
works as a civil servant in the town hall of Cádiz. He draws comics as a hobby, as a way to express his dreams. He has been awarded several prizes in Spain, such as Fernando Quiñones, IAJ, Expocomic, Astillero, Fecinema, Dos Hermanas, Ganorabako, Portugalete and others.

Eva Hilhorst (Netherlands)
is a graphic journalist living in Amsterdam. She enjoys turning complex information into clear drawn explanations with a human story, e.g. a series about the elections for the European Parliament and a story about the rise of the sea level in Amsterdam. She is editor-in-chief of Drawing the Times, international platform for graphic journalism that will go live this year.

Jenny Robins (Great Britain)
works as an illustrator, teacher and artist. She holds a BA in Illustration, and an MA in Art and Design Education. She teaches art to teenagers, takes illustration work and is involved in many creative projects. She recently won the runners up Big Draw Award. Illustration clients include CBBC and Topman. Comics work has been published by Soaring Penguin Press, Solipsistic Pop and Bedlam comics. Ongoing projects include Real TV Wisdom, What Birds are Really Thinking and the Facebook Portrait Project.

Maran Hrachyan (Armenia)
works as an illustrator and designer at PicsArt Photo Studio and as a freelance comic artist and illustrator. She graduated from the Yerevan Academy of Fine Arts Department of Graphic Arts and currently studies at LICONOGRAF comics school (Strasbourg). She illustrated the children’s book „Shoghik Shaghik” by Khatchik Hrachyan and the novels “I draw” by Silva Hovhannisyan. She participated in the competitions of the Angouleme Comics Festival in 2012, 2013, and 2014, as well as in many other competitions.

Nicole Knötig (Germany)
works as an educator and studies history, stories, poems at the university. Her whole life she has been painting and drawing passionately. Over the years she learned different techniques and tried many styles which she also likes to mash up. Apart from that she writes stories poems and lyrics. Because Comics combine both elements, drawing and story-telling, it has become her favorite genre.

Sara Ferreira & Gisela Martins (Portugal)
are working with Independent Publishers and keeping busy with their original creations. They have been working together as STARTWO since 2005 when they self-published their first comic magazines. Since then, this dynamic duo has been collaborating in the creative field as colourists, illustrators, concept artists and comic artists. They have also organised workshops and worked for both the Japanese Embassy in Lisbon and London, providing the latter with the leaflet for their competition Manga Jiman after winning that competition in 2012.
Bue Bredsdorff
Europe 2065
Fast forward... but the world keeps turning

Domingo Pozanco Torrejón
A dream for Europe
Fast forward... towards a Europe of citizens

Eva Hilhorst
After the tempest
Fast forward... weathering the storm together

Jenny Robins
Europeland
Fast forward... while keeping traditions alive

Maran Hrachyan
Europe is a Human Being
Fast forward... to more tolerance

Nicole Knötig
The Union
Fast forward... towards separation

Sara Ferreira and Gisela Martins
Boundless
Fast forward... and stay united

Content
FIFTY YEARS HAVE GONE

BUT YOU ARE STILL HERE
ENCIRCLED BY THE MOUNTAINS IN THE EAST

AND THE SEA IN THE WEST
YOU HAVEN’T CHANGED

AND NEITHER HAVE THEY

INHABITING YOUR BODY
DIVIDING IT BY LINES

CALLING IT THEIR LAND

THINKING THEY ARE DIFFERENT

YET YOU KNOW THEY ARE NOT
BUT AFTER ALL

THEY SEEM TO GET ALONG
EVEN THOUGH

A CURRENCY HAS DISAPPEARED

A UNION HAS COLLAPSED
ENERGY HAS BEEN WASTED

Bullets have been fired
BUT YOU HAVE SEEN WORSE

HAVEN'T YOU?
THE PRESENT LOOKED GRIM, TOO GRIM TO IMAGINE A FUTURE...

I LOOKED AT PICTURES, DIFFERENT IDENTITIES, MUTUAL FRIENDS...

...AND WAS THINKING ABOUT WHAT THIS FUTURE MIGHT BE LIKE.

I WAS FILLED WITH DOUBTS: HOW COULD I IMAGINE A FUTURE, IF I Didn’T KNOW THE PAST?
IT WAS THE 9TH OF MAY AND THE BEGINNING OF A LONG JOURNEY.

...A FEELING OF TOGETHERNESS.

FORMERLY IRRECONCILABLE ENEMIES WENT ON THAT JOURNEY TOGETHER AND TO MY GREAT SURPRISE SHOOK HANDS. NEW TERMS EMERGED, SUCH AS RECONCILIATION, INTEGRATION, CITIZENSHIP...

DESPITE THE FEAR OF THE DARK TUNNEL, WE WENT AHEAD AND THE OLD LOCOMOTIVE - SYMBOL OF THE PAST - WAS LEFT BEHIND.

WITH EACH NEW STOP - NEW TRAVELLERS. PARENTS PAVED THE WAY FOR THEIR CHILDREN AND WHAT USED TO BE A COMMUNITY BECAME A UNION...

WHENEVER THE TRIP SEEMS TO COME TO AN END, DESTINY SURPRISES US. WALLS FALL AND NEW BRIDGES ARE BUILT FOR THE JOURNEY TO CONTINUE.
EVERY SO OFTEN THE TRACKS LOOK LIKE A LABYRINTH IN WHICH THE RIGHT PATH IS DIFFICULT TO CHOOSE.

I DREAM OF A EUROPE WHERE BLUE HELMETS BECOME OBSOLETE,...

WHERE THERE IS NO SEPARATION, A PLACE WHERE THINGS ARE BEING BUILT INSTEAD OF DESTROYED.

I DREAM OF A EUROPE WITHOUT BORDERS...

WHERE FUTURE HORIZONS ARE SEEN AS OPPORTUNITIES, NOT OBSTACLES.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY STATION.
I dream of a Europe that builds a future on the foundation of what is past.

A Europe which leaves behind the darkness of impersonal and distant bureaucracy...

...in order to shape a common architecture,

...where new Schumans, Adenauers, Bechs, Beyens, De Gasperis, Hallsteins, Monnets emerge thanks to active citizenship.

I dream of a Europe where hypocrisy has no place.
A Europe where technology does not turn us into robots, but creates numerous Brussels to which citizens feel close.

Technology will allow us to overcome distances.

...and to build ties.
I AM THE DAUGHTER OF ONE OF MANY ‘Lampedusas’.

I DREAM OF A EUROPE WHICH STOPS THE TRADE IN HUMAN LIVES....

...WHERE ‘Lampedusas’ DOES NOT STAND FOR DEATH, BUT FOR HOPE IN A BETTER FUTURE.
I dream of a Europe where integration and assimilation go hand in hand.

No place for ghettos.

Where education is the basis of our future common identity...

...without fear of ethnic, religious or social differences...
I am no fortune teller, but nobody can take away my longing for a better future...

...in which nationality is replaced by union citizenship.

I know now what I am going to write about. I want a future with more Europe and a different Europe.

The dream of Europe: towards the United States of Europe.

End.
After The Tempest

Brussels, 2070

Here we go!

Time to put on your lifejackets, guys!

Oh no, look at that!

Let's have lunch.
"When I was young, we were afraid that the world would perish, I mean, it could have happened if the Russians..."

"They knew it was going wrong. Storms became more devastating, flooding occurred and still measures weren’t strong enough.

"EU could have made an example for the world by setting the standard for CO2 emissions."

"Could you go out in the woods when you were young?"

"You’ve told that story a million times! I’m not interested in politics, I’m interested in life!"

"The member states only cared for short-term solutions. They thought problems stopped at the borders of their countries."
CO2 emissions in the EU were high, but in China and the US they were higher. The whole world had to do something about it. EU made an effort, but it wasn't enough.

But you know technology is a great thing. It can turn the tide.

Here we are: you, me and the robot.

When it storms almost every day we can't go out.

It's like we are living on a desert island.

And you just work and work!

I feel lonely!

I'm working on something very important.

I feel lonely!

I'm doing it for you as well.

All I do is study and keeping myself in shape. For whom? I meditate and do yoga in order to live in the present. But the present is BORING! I want to meet people.

Real people!
Prospero had been a brilliant student in Environment and Technology. He was very concerned about climate change, so he got involved in politics. In the 2050's he became minister of the environment in Italy. He was determined to save the planet. So he travelled the world and the seven seas to build bridges between the different world powers.

“Climate change concerns every human being in the whole world”

Speech at the UN in New York.

“If we want a future for our children, China must take measures too.”

“We’ve been trying to regulate this for decades and now it’s really going to happen!”

At the White House

“We are neighbours - if it affects us, it affects you too.”

Not everyone in the European Parliament agreed with his ideas.

‘Mister Chairman, why must Europe perish in poverty? Because we want to give a good example to the world, while the Chinese make lots of money screwing up the environment?’

In Russia

But that didn’t stop him.

“In Italy we made sustainable energy a priority. We are creating jobs. Our engineers developed new methods…”

In 2057 he received the Nobel-peace prize. The committee wanted to signal the world that time was up.
Prospero managed to get people from all corners of the globe around the table to negotiate. But in Italy not everyone was happy.

A Ferrari that runs on cow shit? Forget it!

You have a daughter, right?

You love your daughter.

One day his house went up in flames.

He knew he couldn’t stay in Italy and fled to Brussels with his daughter Miranda.

He got a job at the European Commission under a false name. At the DG Environment, he developed a computer program that could influence

He worked day and night but the program wasn’t ready when the rise of the water level went out of control...

From then on, it was a matter of survival... Prospero and his daughter Miranda lived isolated in a self sustaining floating house.

So this is where we enter the story: After twelve years of developing the computer program, Prospero is finally able to evoke a storm. When he finds out that his old enemies are after him, he decides to conjure up a storm and lure them to his house...
Please, send a helicopter right away!

c... come inside.
Alonso, what a surprise!

Prospero, please don't play games with me now.

We're in trouble!

How can I help you my friend?

My son, I don't know where he is.

I'm sorry to hear that. I will see what I can do.

Where do you come from? I know all the creatures that live here. I've never seen you before.

err... I don't know...

"Miranda!"
I’ve come here to convince you to come back to Italy. We need you, we need someone who can build bridges. The whole world literally needs bridges to get connected again.

There is nothing left of European Union.

After the decline of the Roman Empire new civilizations developed. This is not the end of the world. Let’s make a new start.

Can I call you back in two hours?

Then we will make plans for the upcoming summit.
Now, here it's a whole stitch, make sure your bobbins start crossed.

Now, where does the pin go? Do you need to check?

Good.

Make sure it's at an angle. What's next?

Good.

Right.

And gently pull it tight, and what?

Good.

Cross the threads ready for when we need them next.

Can you finish the row? Keep checking the crosses. Make sure you're using the right pairs.

Elise were you able to, ah, procure the you know what?

I need to pick it up on my break Peter.
Now, follow me and we will pass through the fairy-tale kingdom on our way to explore some of the hidden corners of the font of Western Civilization.

Hello Elise!

Do you want to come and feed Blitz and Blümchen with me Mia?

Before the parade?

Hehe, yes, we have apples.

I want to ride the big carousel!

Are we in Italy or Spain Michael?

Wait a minute!

I want to ride the horsey!

Here, we're here, look YOU ARE HERE!

Hola Elise!

What time are we meeting?

Hola Hugo, at 7, in the square, don't be late.

You will have to cover for me.

Jopé

but Welcome all to your Europeland endangered cultures tour, I am your tour guide Seren and my name means star in Welsh.
Parades are a key part of many festivals worldwide. Across Europe, local pagan traditions and superstitions have often been integrated into and shaped the celebration of Christian holidays. Parade floats originate their name from the tradition of decorated barges that were towed along rivers and canals. These were sometimes propelled from inside by hidden oarsmen, although this practice was largely stopped due to a large incidence of drowning...
This is hardly credible. Half of these are spring festivals, or midsummer traditions and it's fall now, and then you chuck in Krampus and Whirling Dervishes and whatever that stuff is as if they have no spiritual meaning.

Oh shoosh, why can't you enjoy anything? Love their dresses!

These Europeans are crazy. Get in the picture!

How great, that all those traditions are brought back to life! But sanitised!

Where are the offensive racist characters? Where's all the animal cruelty? Where are the National rivalries?

Oh wow look at those creepy fat guys! That's the best thing I've ever seen!

Authenticity, huh. Who comes to such a place and asks for authenticity?
Do you have homework to do Mia?

You want to go to the flower crown workshop? Again?

No, no, that's fully booked today actually, um,

I think you should go do your homework now, and then maybe you can go to the evening workshop. Or if you like I can help you finish off your bear tooth braid.

Let's take a birthday picture with the parade first.

Yes Finnish I get it. You can finish things too, like your homework.
Hello.

I'm here to pick up an order for...

I remember, such an unusual project!

I looked up a lot of tutorials online and some I had to improvise. But I think you will be pleased with the effect.

It must be amazing to work at the park.

I think it's so important you know, and it brings a lot of trade to the city.

Will this cake be part of a traditional ceremony?

Oh yes, a very important tradition. Very meaningful.
I know John. I know, but if it's not bringing in the numbers, we need to stick to the stereotype, well your grandfather is not here to notice I'm afraid.

I expect to see the new designs out by the end of the week. Thank you.

There's my birthday girl!
What did you make?
With Lilja? Lovely.

Hang on a second, sweetie.

Yes? Again? Flo can you organise a code 8 in the glass house please? Now please? Oh and make sure the new recruits have signed the safety waiver. In the shared drive.

Hello, JP,

I need a time estimate on that repair on the Mountain Pass please? OK.

You go with Peter now, sweetie and I'll see you later for dinner. OK?

Come on Mädchen, you're mum is busy busy, our kinds of making are slow eh?
But when you're making money you have to be fast, fast.

Of course, we like some fast things don't we?
Happy Birthday dear Mia Happy Birthday to you

Make a wish!

The tradition of the birthday cake has been a staple of Western European celebrations since the 19th century and can be traced back to Roman times.

There is some disagreement as to the origin of the candles with some historians attributing the candles to a tribute to Greek goddess of the moon, Artemis, while some pagan Germanic birthday party traditions require lights and dancing to scare away demons from innocent children on the day of their birth.

The fireworks are for you Mia

There are fireworks everyday here Elise

They are for you today

Did she talk today Elise?

Have some cake Seren.

No, but she's fine. she's learning and listening.

She'll be our ambassador to the future.

Bringing people together, that's what traditions are really for.
ONE MORNING

SCREW YOU, BIRD!!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHAT THE HELL!

KICK HIS ASS!!!

HERE HE COME AGAIN ANOTHER BLACKS

HEY! STOP IT! THE POLICE HAS COME!

HEY! STOP IT!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

HE DID SOMETHING.. SOMETHING BAD..

I AM NOT GUILTY! WE WILL SEE!
TODAY'S ARTICLE IS READY!

HELLO SIR, WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO DRINK?

I'LL HAVE A COFFEE

GOD DAMMIT

I CAN'T STAND IT...

IT'S DISGUSTING! HOW CAN THEY... IN PUBLIC...

YOUR COFFEE PLEASE
Huh. Finally.

Publishing House

Homosexuals everywhere

B. Brown

At home

Help me.

OK, I'm almost there.

Good evening, Mr. Brown.

I think it's too late for games.

Yes, sir. I was already leaving.

We can hang out tomorrow.

But we've just started.
Why are you so rude?

He is my friend and I don’t care what you think about it.

I don’t want you to hang out with criminals.

What? You don’t know him at all.

Yes, but I have seen lots of things in my life.

It’s me who can choose his friends, not you.

In that case don’t bring them here.

Ok. In that case I’m leaving.

Bye.
I ALSO WANT A SANDWICH

HELLO SIR... WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO EAT?

ANOTHER N***** IS WORKING HERE?

NO!
I'M JUST LOOKING

NO PROBLEM SIR COME AGAIN!

THUMP

ALL RIGHT? ARE YOU OK?

DAMN IT
MANY YEARS LATER.

EU FINALLY SOLVES REFUGEE CRISIS.

FRENCH FAMILY ADOPTS CHILDREN FROM AFRICA.
THE END
The Union

Somewhere in the south of the European Union, in a not too distant future...

Look! Someone is lying there!

Oh my... He is dead!

Again!! There were two last week!

No, they’re just getting more and more.

Maybe there’s a hole in the fence under the water surface!

It must be horrible there! Why is nobody doing anything against it?

Because nobody knows! Because nobody wants to know! They just close their eyes! That’s how people are!

Come on! We have to hurry! We’re going to be the last ones.

There’ll be not much left for us!
Oh no, there are even more than last week!

Here!

No medicine?!

Again sorry, but I can't help you!

Sorry Girl! There are just a few basics left.

But our Mum...

Poor Mother! This'll be another hard week for her!

Yes, next week we need to be earlier!

Hi! We're back!
In two days the biggest and most important referendum in history will be held. All the northern European countries are voting about separating from the south. The continuous southern financial crisis, has led to a decrease of willingness from northern politicians and citizens to support the southern area.

Last year the citizens put so much pressure on the governments that they had no choice but to follow the requirements for a referendum.

While the South suffers from the present situation and due to fears from an uncertain future the national movements in the North are growing in numbers.

Belgium

We are NOT going to suffer and pay any longer for their mishaps!

the Netherlands

We have our own problems to solve!

Yes, we have definitely paid and given enough!

France

Germany

WE VOTE NO!!

Austria

England

We already missed Brexit! I hope we take that chance!

VOTE NO! YES TO NORTHERN EU!
It doesn't look good for us, does it?

Oh Mum, the EU is such an old historical alliance. It won't just fall apart!

Believe me! We just have to trust!

Do you really believe that?

Of course I do! The EU has grown strong! It won't come that far! They won't let us down!

They already did!!

They just don't care about us! Trust me...

The EU has never been more than an economic community. It has never become a political community and its inhabitants never felt as one. There is no European identity and no European solidarity!
What makes you so sure? You can’t know that!

I do know! I can see it every day! They built their factories here to take advantage of our suffering.

You don’t know how they treat us and how they exploit us more and more.

Because of our poverty they can worsen our work conditions continuously. In a short while I won’t be able to care for us anymore.
I'll go to the North!

Yes, think about it! It makes perfectly sense! I'll go as long as the borders are still open. I'll find a job and send you as much money as I can.

WHAT?!

No, please! You can't... don't leave us!

Yes, you should go! And you should take my Baby with you!

But Mum...

Children should not have to live like that!

They should be free and safe and full of hopes and dreams!
Here, take this money! It’s left from my wage.

No, you’ll need it...

...but I’ll send you money as soon as I can!

Don’t worry about us, little sis! I wish you good luck!

Goodbye sweetie, we’ll phone a lot. I promise!
Are we there?

Yes, it's the border.

The voting day is over and the final counting is done. It comes true now: The EU gets separated. This great alliance which existed for decades splits. Any minute now all the borders will be closed.
THEY KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME EVENTUALLY. THE DAY THE ALIENS CAME.

BUT THEY SURE DIDN’T EXPECT THESE ALIENS KNOWN AS HUMANS TO BE SO WEIRD.

BOUNDLESS
BY STARTWO

WELCOME!!

OH WOW!
YOU’RE FINALLY HERE!!

AND SO LOUD. THIS ALIEN WOULD HAVE BEEN PUNISHED BACK HOME WITHOUT A DOUBT.
SO NOISY...
MY NAME IS LOTTE!
I’LL BE YOUR PARTNER
FOR THESE NEXT FEW MONTHS!
WHAT’S YOUR NAME?
DO YOU GUYS HAVE NAMES
IN YOUR PLANET?

MY NAME IS KORR.
I’M A VETLIAN
FROM VETLIA,
ON PLANET X.
AND YOU?

I’M FROM EUROPE!

LET’S GO,
The Boss is waiting
in the conference
room!

EUROPE? WHAT IS EUROPE?
SOMETHING LIKE A COUNTRY?

WELL LAD,
IT’S A PLEASURE
TO HAVE YOU
ON BOARD
FOR THIS FIRST
INTERPLANETARY
COLLABORATION.
WELCOME TO EUPO,
EUROPEAN UNITED
POST OFFICES!

WE COOKED UP
A TREAT FOR YOU BOTH
TODAY!

THE CIRCLES ARE THE
PORTALS YOU’LL BE TAKING
SO LOTTE CAN SHOW YOU
SOME OF THE MOST ICONIC
BUILDINGS AND SIGHTS
OF EUROPE!
CAREFUL THOUGH,
YOU’LL STILL BE ON DUTY.
SO YOU BETTER DELIVER
THOSE LETTERS
ON TIME!

ANY QUESTIONS,
MY DEARS?

SO...

...EUROPE
IS AN EMPIRE?

I SEE...

NAY
HA
HA
HA!
NO!

FAR FROM IT!!
NOT AN EMPIRE!
NO COUNTRIES
EITHER.

HMPH...

IT MADE NO SENSE.
On Planet X, there are many countries and languages. His own country, Vetlia, had just recently conquered its independency.
EUROPE TRANSCENDED THAT. LITTLE BY LITTLE, ALL THE COUNTRIES WORKED TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF THEIR PEOPLE, NOT THEIR LEADERS.

PROMOTION OF PEACE, JUSTICE, SOLIDARITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, PROMOTION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGIC ADVANCE

I CAN'T REMEMBER EVERYTHING, SORRY!

ANYWAY, THERE WERE MANY ADVANCEMENTS IN HEALTH, ECONOMICS, SOCIETY AND WITH THE COLONIZATION OF OTHER PLANETS, RESOURCES STOPPED BEING AN ISSUE.

AND THAT'S HOW WE'VE MET YOU AND YOUR HOME PLANET!

E-EVERYBODY WORKED TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THESE. AND SUDDENLY, OUR ANCIENT LAND DIVISIONS STOPPED MAKING SENSE...

YOU'RE THE ONE NOT MAKING SENSE!

SO THERE IS NO IDENTITY ANYMORE?

WAIT...

I-IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...

ENOUGH OF THIS. WE HAVE A JOB TO DO, RIGHT?

LET'S GO.

ALL THOSE COUNTRIES JUMBLE LIP!

WHO IS WHAT?
THE SERVICE IS STILL ALL HUMAN, BECAUSE OF THE ROBOTIC RE-REVOLUTION!

PEOPLE DIDN'T LIKE HAVING THEIR MAIL DELIVERED BY MACHINES, IT WAS TOO LONELY...

...AND YOU CAN'T OFFER BOTTLES OF WINE TO ROBOTS ON CHRISTMAS ANYWAY. WHO EVER SAW A ROBOT DRINKING, RIGHT?

HOW CAN THEY TELL WHO IS FROM WHERE? SILLY ALIENS.

YOU MADE A MESS IN THIS EUROPE OF YOURS.

OH SHOOT!
NOT AGAIN!!
ERROR
SYSTEM DOWN
ERROR
SYSTEM DOWN

HELLO? ASSISTANCE? HELLO?! NOOO... PICK UP!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, ALIEN? YOUR WORLD IS NOT SO PERFECT AFTER ALL.

NO CONNECTION

QUE MALA SUERTE!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE BIKE?

COME ON!
ALL SYSTEMS ACTIVE

THANK YOU!

PAS DU TOUT!

NOT AT ALL!

DE NADA!

MERCI!

GRACIAS!

OBRIGADO!

I FINALLY KNOW HOW TO ANSWER YOUR DOUBTS.

HMP?

WE ARE UNITED IN DIVERSITY.

WE ARE ONE, BUT OUR PAST IS VERY IMPORTANT, TO HELP US GROW AND NEVER REPEAT OLD MISTAKES.

WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO STILL.

OUR CULTURE INHERITANCE IS PRESENT BUT, BECAUSE WE ARE ALL CONNECTED WE BEGAN CREATING A COMMON CULTURE

IT'S NOT SCARY.

IT'S EVOLUTION.

WE ARE BOUNDLESS.

KORR Couldn’t tell the alien how much her words moved him.

Because there was still so much chaos in his world.
THANK YOU, LOTTE.

I TOO WANT TO BELIEVE THAT THIS REALITY CAN BE POSSIBLE IN MY COUNTRY. NO, MY PLANET. THANK YOU FOR SHOWING ME YOUR WONDERFUL WORLD.

IT'S STILL VERY HARD TO UNDERSTAND.

BUT WE CAN DO IT TOGETHER.

YEAH.

HEY, I WANT TO THANK THEM TOO!!

UNITED IN DIVERSITY, WE WILL BECOME BOUNDLESS.
In the beginning, there was war. Then a project was set up to bring peace and prosperity to Europe. Today, it has grown to be an ever closer union of 28 very diverse member states. In recent years, the European project has been braving troubled waters. Though it remains a fascinating idea, it is struggling with low popularity.

Imagine you could fast-forward in time... anytime into the future, be it 2025, 2050 or 2500. What do you think Europe will look like? Will the European Union stick together and master its challenges as one? What role will it play in the world? How will we live? Which scientific innovations will shape our everyday life?

That was the task the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom had set for the second edition of the International Comics Competition Animate Europe. Out of 60 entrants from 23 countries, seven finalists looked into their crystal ball and sent us their story about the future of Europe.