

Voice of the People

Manuscript
EU and different cultures
With answers from politicians in Brussels
TVSYD, Denmark

Names are written in translation

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Translation

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0'02

Question, Mette Balsby, Kolding, Denmark:

In Southern Europe you still see a lot of women being housewives. We have to help them to get more interested in getting a job, so they will become independent of the men and get the same terms as them?

0'15

Answer, Sylvia Kaufmann, Member the Parliament, Germany:

It's quit an important question. As a woman I think it's good, that the European Union has made some efforts within equality. We have made some guidelines, which really can make equal opportunity between men and women much better. But one thing are rules, something else is the reality. Women are still being discriminated; they have bigger problems getting a job, because they have children. That is why; we constantly have to discuss those issues, in order to get equality between men and women

1'15 SIGN:

IN EU25 8% of the men are unemployed. Among women the figure is 10%

1'23

Question, Kasper Christensen, Kolding, Denmark:

I would like to ask a question about, how you will assure that the European Union will make a working culture looking alike all over Europe? As it looks right now, we're fighting against each other. The Mediterranean countries have one kind of working culture, and it's very strong. And here in Scandinavia we have another, and people in the new countries from the East have a third working culture. Those three cultures have to be put together, and how will you do that?

2'00

Answer, Sylvia Kaufmann, Member of the Parliament, Germany:

If you by that question mean a kind of organised race between the countries with social and salaries as propellant, then I think this is one of the biggest problems within the Union. Actually we have made a kind of race between the states, and that it's possible to play off the different employees against each other cross borders. We need urgently a European law against that, so we do not risk that Danes, Poles, Czechs are racing against each other

2'48

SIGN:

1st of May 2004 we will have 25 official languages within the European Union

2'57

Question, Tove Traberger-Andersen, Århus, Denmark:

I feel it's important that we strengthen the differences between the countries. We have to be careful about not becoming a homogeny mass. We have to strengthen our identity

3'20

Answer, Sylvia Kaufmann, Member the Parliament, Germany:

Don't worry about that. This will never happen, nobody wants that. Actually I really don't know any politicians at the Parliament, who wishes to make one big European culture. If you look at the treatment, the European Union gets a new motto: "Unity by diversity". And that is actually the only way Europe can develop, and this is also making the Union very nice

4'10

Answer, Jean Lambert, Member the Parliament, UK:

I think we should probably worry far more about adopting American work policy, adopting American culture, which we feel swamped by perhaps in all European countries. That is again one thing, the European Union is quit keen to do in terms of.....whether it's film, whether it's regional food.....A whole set things. We really want to feel, that we have that local culture and stand the global much more strongly

4'37

SIGN:

In Great Britain, Ireland, Cyprus and Malta you have to drive on the left side of the road

4'44

Question, Charlotte Kay, Vejle, Denmark:

With the new member states within the European Union you're mixing a various number of cultures, religious opinions, and ways of looking at the world and how to make the day work. And therefore I think it's important to discuss, how we will connect those issues?

5'12, Answer Sylvia Kaufmann, Member the Parliament, UK:

The European Union consist of different states, and those states have different interests. Of course we will then get some disagreements - that is normal. But it's not good if national interests overshadow European interests, and you have to make compromises at other expenses. So, I will answer your question like this: Yes, it's important that we make the European feeling stronger and forget a bit about the interests of the different national states

5'52

SIGN:

The official European Union song has since 1986 been “The Europe hymn” also known as “Song of Joy” from Beethoven’s ninth symphony