

Come on, children of Europe!

For Europe the deepest passion I feel
In spite of the terrible unceasing zeal
And comments of those scaremongering creeps
Who seem to think nations still are for keeps.

To despise old Europe is easy I know
See it as some kind of philanthropo-
Humanist gig for our human rights
But lacking in wider reaching insights.

Europe united with cultures diverse
Must help all its artists and not only nurse
The tedious, dull and lacklustre band
Who bow or kow-tow to supply and demand.

Brussels it seems thinks that Europe's a sieve
Where imports are cheap but where they don't give
The lost paradise of employment protection
That powerful nations held in affection.

Some think the euro means riches to keep
And means they can idle about or just sleep
They clearly forget a great power's mission
So Europe can prosper despite competition.

Now we all think we live in quite happy times
And when someone quibbles or ceaselessly whines
We wrongly invoke our American friend
As though our protection was its only end.

So we drift along as Europe's ship glides
Aimless and left to the currents and tides
Distracted that our twenty-eight heads of State
Seem always to reach a kind of stalemate.

A timid and stuffy grouplet of three
Stood in at the Nobel prize ceremony
Yet let's thank Norway for a great celebration:
All Europe rewarded is worth our elation.

Of a truly great Europe let's all be proud
Where no border or frontier should now be allowed
Where discrimination's a thing of the past
And freedom of action's encouraged at last!

Let's welcome our neighbours when they come to stay
They're our friends forever not just for a day.
Their tantalising tongues, let's all learn to speak
Strength and richness of ours in turn then to seek.

My State is Europe, it is my land,
Committed, reliable, not built on sand
Each tongue of Europe I should intone
Like a mother tongue which is truly my own.

Turn up for the ballot, vote in the new
Vote for a Europe that makes things come true
Europe, for us all, it's our destiny
The one with the face of humanity

Translated by Catriona Seth
from French original by Philippe Cayla :
Allons enfants de...l'Europe !