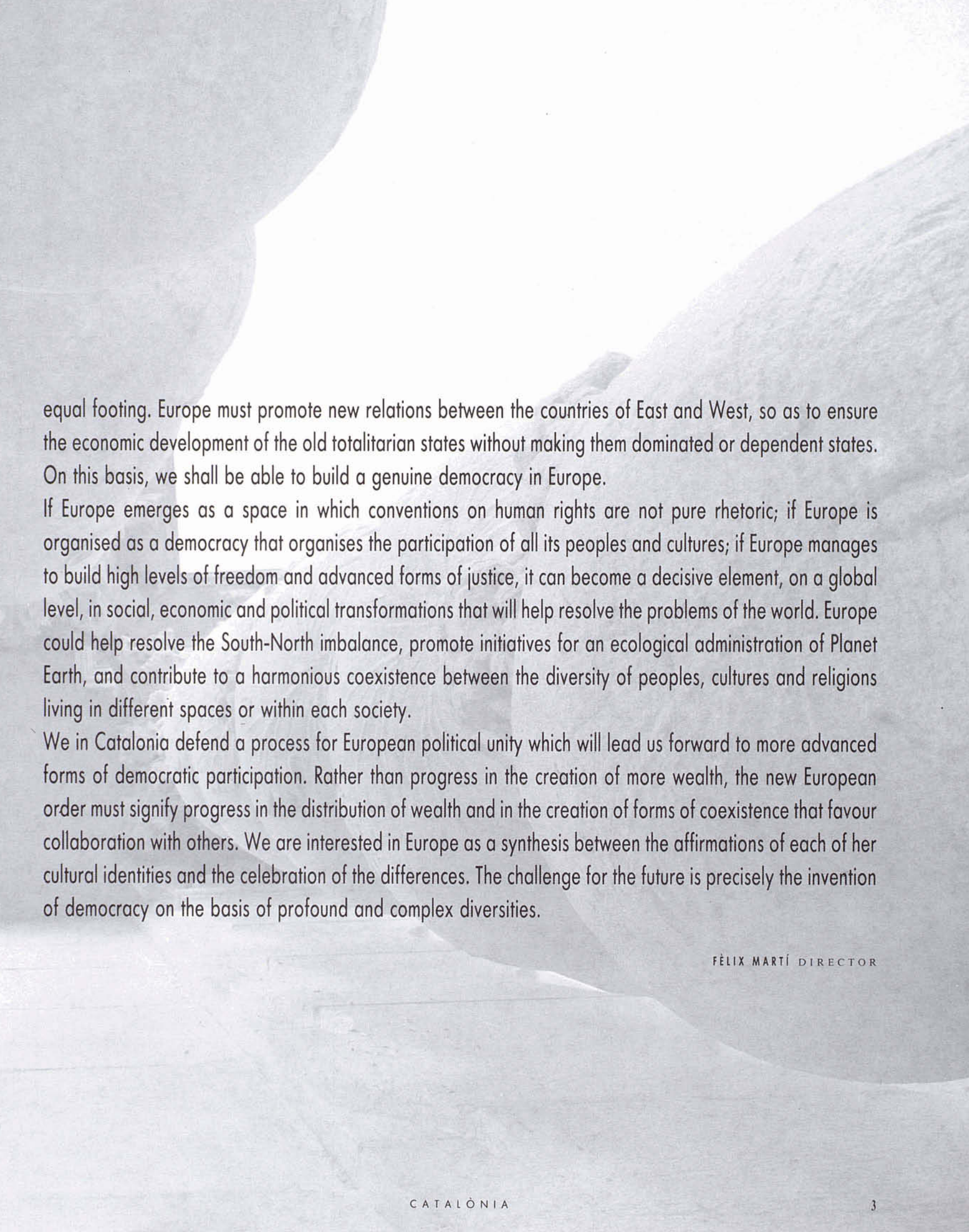


EDITORIAL

For Europe, 1993 is a year full of uncertainties. The discussions that have taken place in several countries on the possible consequences of the Maastricht treaty reveal the contradictions of a process of political and economic unity that does not fully connect with the aspirations of the Europeans. The debate should be centred on the European model foreseen in the treaty, and the challenges that lie before us faced with a healthy sincerity.

We in Catalonia believe that the affirmation of our cultural and political personality contributes to the conception of a model which will pay more attention to the rights of individuals and peoples than to state interests. We see how the inertia of the state often obstructs the conception of new structures that would more efficiently serve the aspirations of society and, especially, Europe's great responsibility in its own space and in the international context. Serbia's war against Croatia and Bosnia is a clear indication of the limits to collaboration imposed by the European states. It is meaningless to speak of Europe and not to use Europe's powers to halt a cruel and unjust war. It is meaningless to design new political structures if sovereignty in Europe is still monopolized by the old states and is not recognized for all peoples and cultures.

At the same time, we must build a European democracy without exclusions or discriminations. Europe must not accept an economic system that excludes a part of society from the general wealth. We must evolve towards economic and social structures that more effectively distribute work, consumption and services. Europe must establish a generous policy on immigration and ensure a proper welcome for all immigrants. The millions of immigrants there are in all the countries of Europe must take part in political, economic and cultural life on an



equal footing. Europe must promote new relations between the countries of East and West, so as to ensure the economic development of the old totalitarian states without making them dominated or dependent states. On this basis, we shall be able to build a genuine democracy in Europe.

If Europe emerges as a space in which conventions on human rights are not pure rhetoric; if Europe is organised as a democracy that organises the participation of all its peoples and cultures; if Europe manages to build high levels of freedom and advanced forms of justice, it can become a decisive element, on a global level, in social, economic and political transformations that will help resolve the problems of the world. Europe could help resolve the South-North imbalance, promote initiatives for an ecological administration of Planet Earth, and contribute to a harmonious coexistence between the diversity of peoples, cultures and religions living in different spaces or within each society.

We in Catalonia defend a process for European political unity which will lead us forward to more advanced forms of democratic participation. Rather than progress in the creation of more wealth, the new European order must signify progress in the distribution of wealth and in the creation of forms of coexistence that favour collaboration with others. We are interested in Europe as a synthesis between the affirmations of each of her cultural identities and the celebration of the differences. The challenge for the future is precisely the invention of democracy on the basis of profound and complex diversities.

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