

# **The North Korean Spring: Why Europe Does Not Want it?**

## **Open Letter to the EU's Big Five**

**To:**

**Herman Van Rompuy  
President  
European Council**

**Martin Schultz  
President  
European Parliament**

**Lady Catherine Ashton  
EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy  
European External Action Service**

**José Manuel Barroso  
President  
European Commission**

**Helle Thorning-Schmidt  
Prime Minister  
Denmark**

**Villy Søvndal  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Denmark**

**CC:**

**Kristalina Georgieva  
EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response  
European Commission**

January 18th, 2012

Dear Big Five of the EU:

Happy New Year!

Let the dreams of the Europeans that EU becomes a global actor materialise in 2012!

In spite of the financial and economic challenges I believe 2012 will be acceptable for some nations or many people in EU or around the globe -- they could survive! There is, however, one nation on the globe that may not survive and neither of its citizens may dream of happiness or prosperity. This is North Korea. This is the 40th year in a row that this conclusion is tragically valid for this nation! And this is a record for Guinness, a tragic one of course.

The recent developments on the Korean Peninsula once again show the negligence of the West, the EU included, towards the suffer and the pain of an entire nation, the so called "black holed" nation and fully forgotten by the rest of the world.

One dictator who succeeded his father dictator, has just been succeeded by his son dictator, to be succeeded by his son, to be succeeded by his son, and so on until the end of the world... The end of the world may not happen for the EU in 2012. But the end of the world already happened for the North Koreans in 1953. And it looks like the EU does not even want to try to help putting an end to this end!

The Arab Spring proved a reality what was unthinkable until yesterday!

What do we need in order to wake up the EU bodies in Brussels -- EU President, European Commission, European Parliament and EEAS -- to stretch a EU hand of friendship to the most humiliated and abandoned nation of the 21st century and help them create their own Spring?

Today, the EU is much different from what it was before the enlargement of the Union with 10 ex-communist states. Today, when the EU encompasses the heritage of Vaclav Havel, Lech Walesa and Zhelyo Zhelev, we the Europeans have the know how and the strength to penetrate the last intact dictatorship on the globe. Now we can supply the North Koreans with the anti-dot that can eliminate the virus of dictatorship: the *information*. We just need the European guts! But they are not in place.

The EU and its members like Germany and Bulgaria have the experience in unification. It is our duty to share it with the Korean Peninsula. The recent Korean developments, however, once again proved the EU's lack of leadership.

I speak on behalf of the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria which has been trying for 5 years -- with no or limited success -- to prioritise North Korea on EU's loose foreign policy agenda. And I do believe that the future of North Korea is much better than its past: let EU be a player and not a witness of this process!

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Solomon Passy

President & Founder / Atlantic Club of Bulgaria  
Minister of Foreign Affairs (2001-2005)  
Chairman of the UN Security Council (2002, 2003)  
OSCE Chairman in Office (2004)  
Chairman of Parliamentary Defence / Foreign Affairs Committee and MP (1990-1991, 2001-2009)

P.S. This is the link to my article "*Post Congress Outreach to North Korea: Making EU Global Actor*" published in late 2010 in *NewEurope*, *The Korea Times* and *Trud* newspapers in which I have discussed the issue in a deeper manner:

[http://atlantic-club.org/content/articles/publications/2010-10-06\\_-\\_en.pdf](http://atlantic-club.org/content/articles/publications/2010-10-06_-_en.pdf)