

## THE CHALLENGES EUROPE FACES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURY. MULTICULTURALISM AS AN END TO THE EUROPEAN IDENTITY?<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract.** *Europe seems to be suiciding with its own rights. Beyond the economic crisis of the last years and beyond the military conflicts in East, the Euro-Atlantic world entered an identity crisis. The immigrants, beyond their part for the economic consolidation and development of Europe by low-priced workforce and much more, have left and still leaves visible traces on the European ethos. Numerous studies have analysed in a complex way the cultural-identity issue concerning Europe and the resistance to integration of a non-Christian and especially Islamic world.*

*In the present research, I aim to develop an incursion on the challenges to which Europe is open to at the beginning of this century, as well as a multifaceted analysis on the multicultural and multireligious heritage more and more visible within the European area. Does the culturally spiritual dimension specific to the European structure still have a relevant character? What implications do the statements of the European leaders that multiculturalism has failed have? In the context of these challenges, we will be able to notice that, in the cultural religious mix there are new sets of values but also a new identity of the European area, which we do not know yet how to call. To these questions we will answer by looking at the most recent and significant statements, stand taking or political actions.*

**Keywords:** *globalization, multiculturalism, European identity, modern world.*

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