2050:
THE GREEN CHALLENGE

EUROPE IN COMIC STRIPS

SCRIPT JAVIER MARQUINA

ARTWORK

JULIA CEJAS XULIA VICENTE ÁLEX ORBE



COORDINATION JOSE SEGARRA MURRIA

MINISTERIO
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES, UNIÓN EUROPEA
Y COOPERACIÓN

SECRETARÍA
DE ESTADO
PARA LA UNIÓN EUROPEA

CRE SOL

hablamos deeuropa

This comic book has been developed within the framework of the project Europe in Comic strips, an initiative funded by the State Secretariat for the European Union under the Hablamos de Europa 2025 call for proposals, which promotes knowledge, debate, and critical reflection on the history, present, and future of the European Union.

In this context, Europe in Comic strips is proposed as an educational and outreach tool that, through the visual narrative of comics, conveys the values of the European Union—boosting participation, knowledge, and a sense of belonging to a Europe that evolves and faces new challenges, especially in the field of sustainability and climate change.

Coordination:
Jose Segarra Murria

Script:
Javier Marquina

Artwork:
Páginas 5-10 Julia Cejas
Páginas 11-16 Xulia Vicente
Páginas 17-22 Alex Orbe

EUROPE
IN COMIC STRIPS

Climate change is no longer a problem of the future: it is a reality that affects our lives, economies, and territories. Longer droughts, more intense heatwaves, torrential rains, wildfires, and the accelerated loss of biodiversity are some of the signs of a system under strain. Science makes it clear: we must transform the way we live and act to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, while adapting to the most severe climate threats.

In recent years, the European Union has led ambitious initiatives such as the European Green Deal, supporting regions and communities in addressing climate impacts through the energy transition and the deployment of renewable energy, as well as adaptation strategies and plans that implement nature-based solutions or resilient infrastructures, while encouraging greater civic engagement and governance.

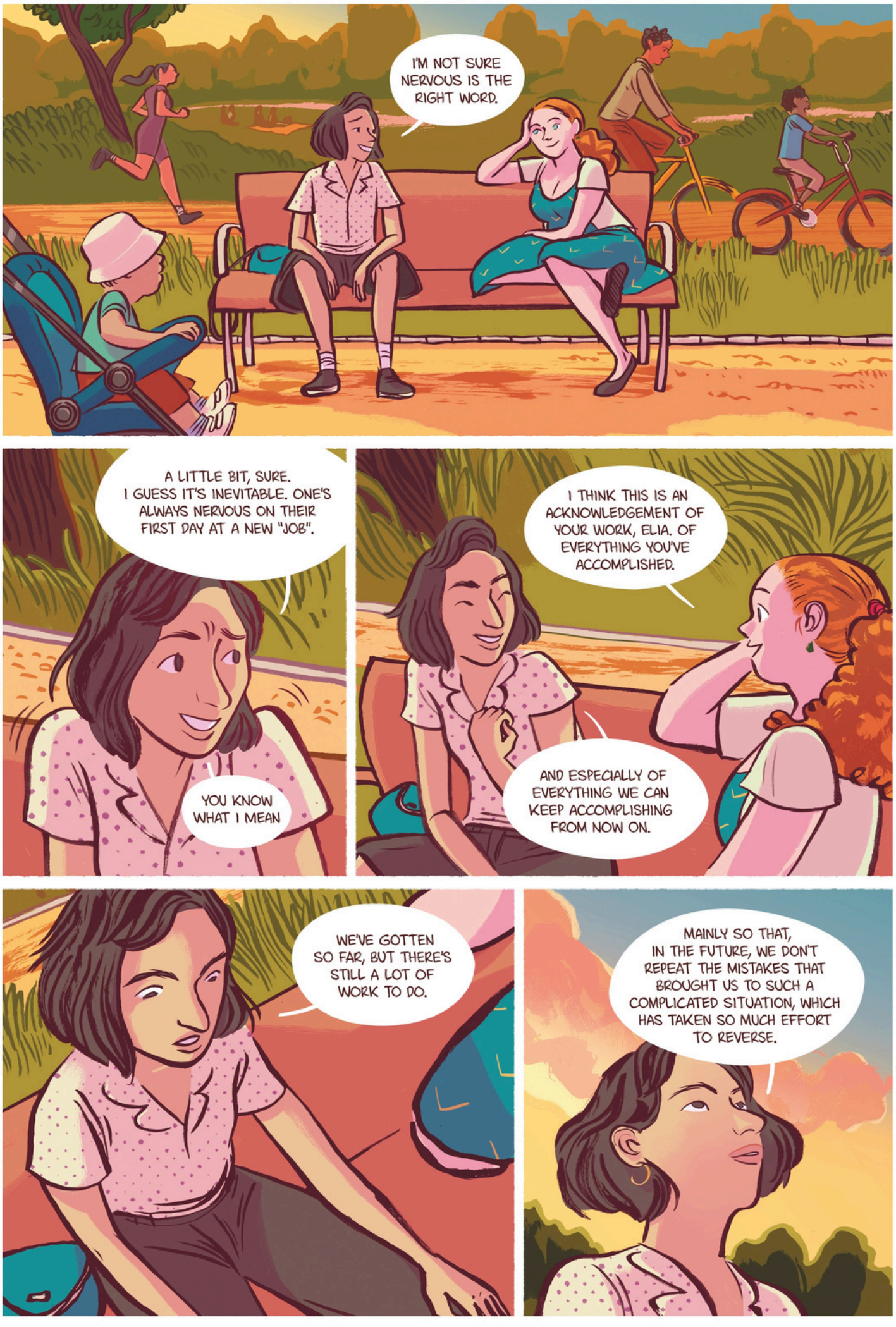
However, the current context in Europe and around the world is changing. We are witnessing growing political polarization alongside a rise in discourses that delay the ecological transition and stall the momentum of environmental policies and climate commitments. In this landscape, the message of this comic book is more relevant than ever: we need critical, informed, and courageous citizens who defend the right to a sustainable future and align with ambitious and fair climate policies. European society, the protagonist of these strips, plays an essential role as a transformative force, a engine of hope, and a bridge between the memory of the past and action in the present and future.

Europe in comic strips is an invitation not to give up, to keep alive the flame of a supportive, green, and resilient Europe, capable of transforming and adapting without leaving anyone behind.

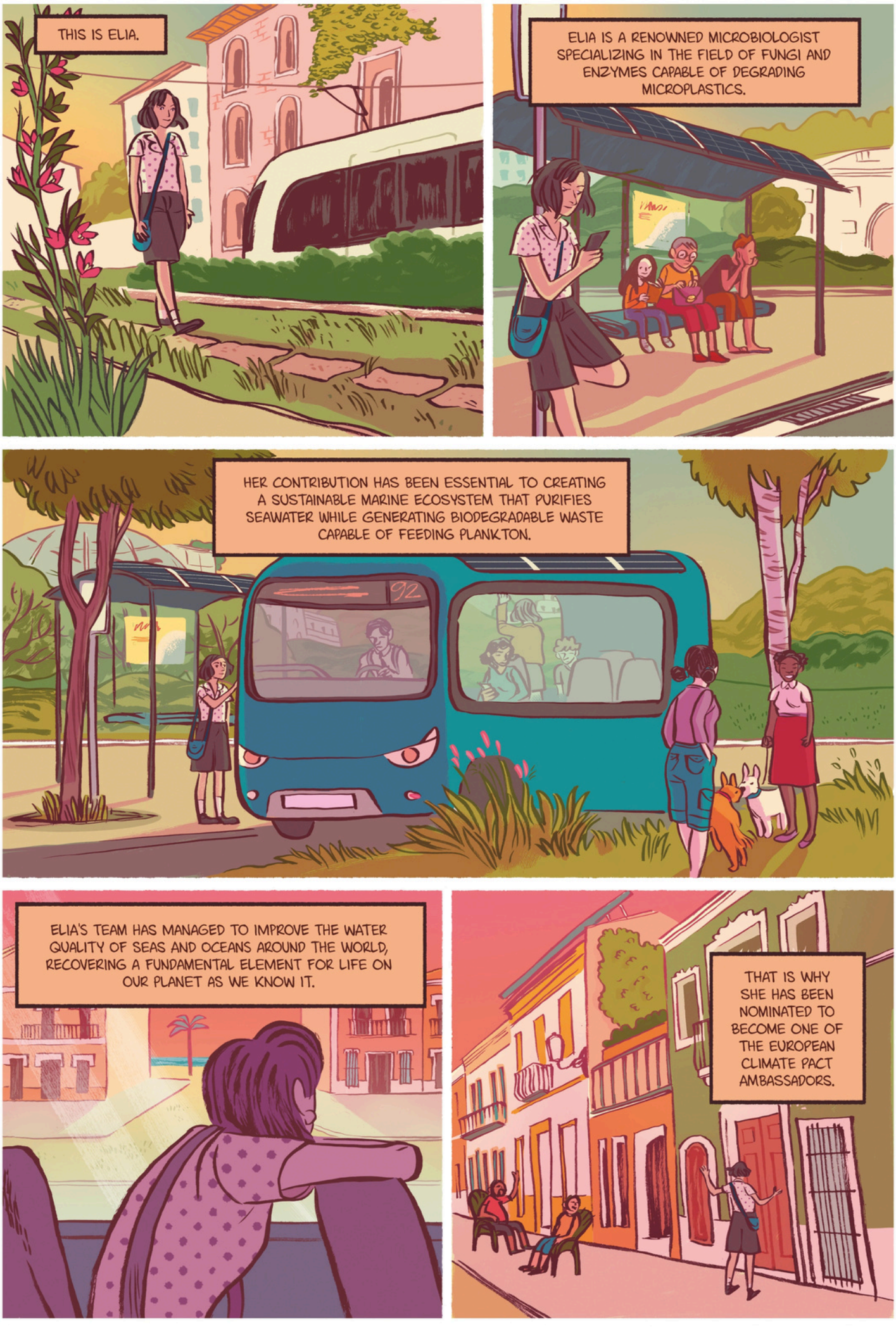
Jose Segarra Murria
European Climate Pact Ambassador

2050:
THE GREEN CHALLENGE
EUROPE IN COMIC STRIPS

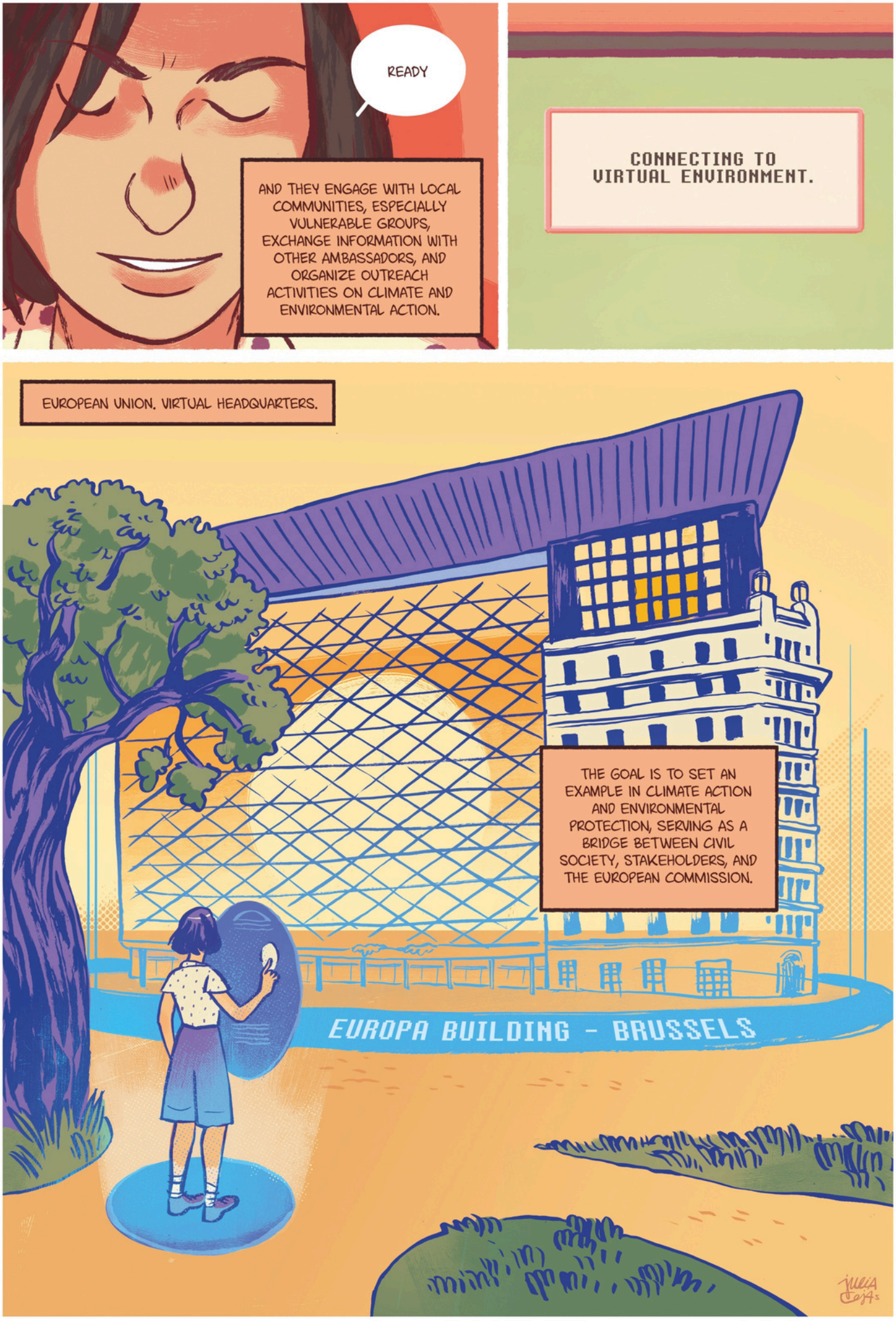

EUROPE. 2050
NERVOUS?


I'M NOT SURE NERVOUS IS THE RIGHT WORD.
A LITTLE BIT, SURE. I GUESS IT'S INEVITABLE. ONE'S ALWAYS NERVOUS ON THEIR FIRST DAY AT A NEW "JOB".
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN
I THINK THIS IS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF YOUR WORK, ELIA. OF EVERYTHING YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED.
AND ESPECIALLY OF EVERYTHING WE CAN KEEP ACCOMPLISHING FROM NOW ON.
WE'VE GOTTEN SO FAR, BUT THERE'S STILL A LOT OF WORK TO DO.
MAINLY SO THAT, IN THE FUTURE, WE DON'T REPEAT THE MISTAKES THAT BROUGHT US TO SUCH A COMPLICATED SITUATION, WHICH HAS TAKEN SO MUCH EFFORT TO REVERSE.


WELL, I'LL CATCH YOU UP TOMORROW.
I HOPE IT GOES WELL...
I'M SURE IT WILL.
YOU'RE THE BEST AT WHAT YOU DO. AND YOU KNOW IT!
YOU JUST SAY THAT BECAUSE YOU'RE FOND OF ME...


THIS IS ELIA.
ELIA IS A RENOWNED MICROBIOLOGIST SPECIALIZING IN THE FIELD OF FUNGI AND ENZYMES CAPABLE OF DEGRADING MICROPLASTICS.
HER CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN ESSENTIAL TO CREATING A SUSTAINABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEM THAT PURIFIES SEAWATER WHILE GENERATING BIODEGRADABLE WASTE CAPABLE OF FEEDING PLANKTON.
92
ELIA'S TEAM HAS MANAGED TO IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY OF SEAS AND OCEANS AROUND THE WORLD, RECOVERING A FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT FOR LIFE ON OUR PLANET AS WE KNOW IT.
THAT IS WHY SHE HAS BEEN NOMINATED TO BECOME ONE OF THE EUROPEAN CLIMATE PACT AMBASSADORS.


AMBASSADORS ARE CITIZENS OF DIFFERENT AGES AND DISCIPLINES, FROM INFLUENCERS TO SCIENTISTS, ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS, CORPORATE EXECUTIVES, OR PUBLIC SERVANTS.
PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE THE BUILDING OF A GREENER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE EUROPE.
HELLO, ELIA
HELLO, CASANDRA. HOW WAS YOUR DAY??
AMBASSADORS PROVIDE DATA AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES IN DEBATES AND EVENTS, BOTH WITH ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS PEOPLE AND THOSE NOT YET INVOLVED IN CLIMATE ACTION.
I HAVE ALMOST FINISHED PROCESSING THE GENOME OF THE NEW BACTERIA, ADAPTING THE "SAFETY TRIGGER" FOR UNFORESEEN MUTATIONS.
EXCELLENT. UPLOAD THE RESULTS TO THE SHARED CLOUD WHEN YOU'RE DONE.
THEY ALSO ADVOCATE TO PERSUADE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES, SCHOOLS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND BUSINESSES TO COMMIT TO AMBITIOUS CLIMATE ACTIONS AND PLEDGES.
READY FOR THE MEETING?


READY
AND THEY ENGAGE WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE GROUPS, EXCHANGE INFORMATION WITH OTHER AMBASSADORS, AND ORGANIZE OUTREACH ACTIVITIES ON CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION.
CONNECTING TO VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT.
EUROPEAN UNION. VIRTUAL HEADQUARTERS.
THE GOAL IS TO SET AN EXAMPLE IN CLIMATE ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SERVING AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY, STAKEHOLDERS, AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION.
EUROPA BUILDING - BRUSSELS


ALRIGHT, LET'S DO THIS.
LET'S SEE IF I CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO...
ELIA?
YES?
HELLO, ELIA.
MY NAME IS MARTA LAVOISIER, AND I'LL BE YOUR OFFICIAL GUIDE...
MARTA LAVOISIER, THE NUTRITIONIST?
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT MY PASSPORT SAYS.
I'M SORRY, IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE A BENCHMARK IN THE FIELD...
YOUR ARTICLES ON DIETS BASED ON ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIES ARE AMAZING...
I COULD ALSO TALK ABOUT THE BIOREMEDIATION, ENZYMES, AND OCEANS THAT HAVE MADE YOU WORLD-FAMOUS.
BUT I THINK THAT WOULD DISTRACT ME FROM MY TRUE ROLE HERE.
WHICH IS NOTHING MORE AND NOTHING LESS THAN MAKING YOUR FIRST DAY HERE A BIT EASIER.


WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S THE HISTORY SPHERE. IF YOU CONNECT TO IT, IT PROJECTS A SHORT DOCUMENTARY WITH BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE CREATION AND PURPOSE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.
WANT TO GIVE IT A TRY?
SURE...
WOW...
WELCOME, ELIA.
WOW... HELLO...
MY NAME IS KONRAD ADENAUER, CHANCELLOR OF GERMANY FROM 1949 TO 1963, EUROPEAN UNION PIONEER, AND IN CHARGE OF BEING YOUR GUIDE ON THIS BRIEF HISTORICAL JOURNEY.

FOLLOWING THE END OF WORLD WAR II, EUROPEAN NATIONS, AIMING TO PREVENT FUTURE CONFLICTS, BEGAN ESTABLISHING PACTS THAT MATERIALIZED INTO ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS NATO, FOUNDED IN 1949.



I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY COUNTRIES JOINED INTO COMMON MILITARY BLOCS, BUT THE EUROPEAN UNION ISN'T ABOUT THAT, RIGHT?

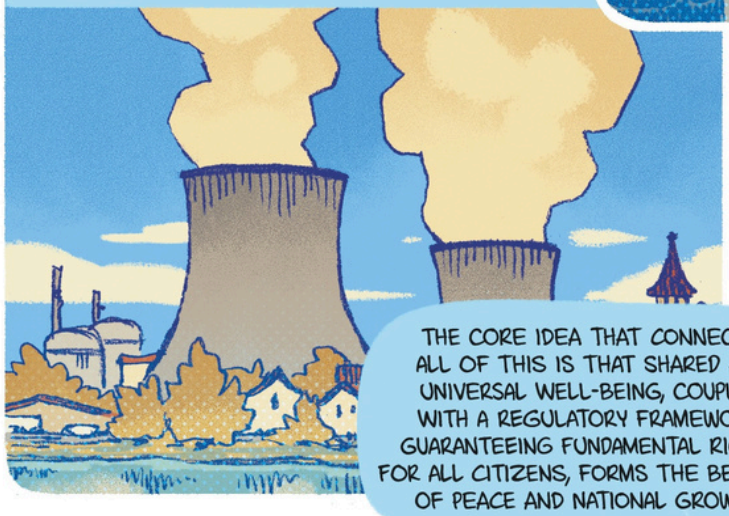
EUROPEAN LEADERS SOON CONCLUDED THAT BY POOLING ECONOMIC INTERESTS, WAR AMONG US WOULD BECOME NOT ONLY UNTHINKABLE, BUT MATERIALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

IN 1951, ENCOURAGED BY THE SCHUMAN DECLARATION, PROPOSED BY THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER, GERMANY, FRANCE, ITALY, THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, AND LUXEMBOURG SIGNED THE TREATY THAT CREATED THE ECSC (EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY) A YEAR LATER.



THAT'S ME!

FOLLOWING THIS PATH OF COOPERATION, TWO TREATIES WERE SIGNED CREATING THE EEC (EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY) AND THE EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY (EURATOM), CONSOLIDATING THE IDEA THAT ECONOMIC PROGRESS, AFFORDABLE ENERGY, AND SHARED PROSPERITY WERE THE BEST ANTIDOTE TO WAR.



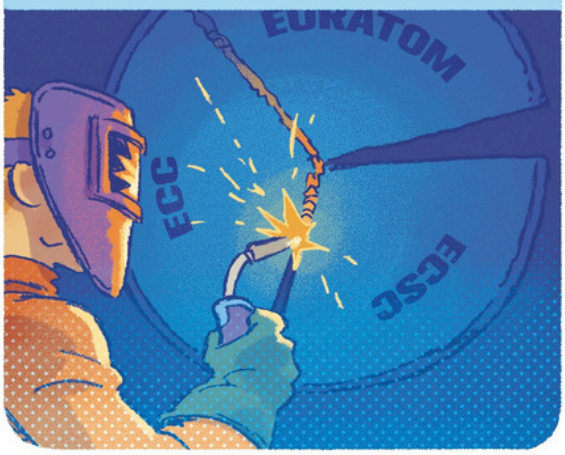
THE CORE IDEA THAT CONNECTS ALL OF THIS IS THAT SHARED AND UNIVERSAL WELL-BEING, COUPLED WITH A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK GUARANTEEING FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS FOR ALL CITIZENS, FORMS THE BEDROCK OF PEACE AND NATIONAL GROWTH.



IN 1962, THE CAP (COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY) WAS ESTABLISHED: A SET OF SHARED MEASURES AND REGULATIONS AIMED AT IMPROVING CONDITIONS FOR BOTH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AND THEIR PRODUCTS, SERVING AS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF WHAT THE EUROPEAN UNION CAN MANAGE COLLECTIVELY.

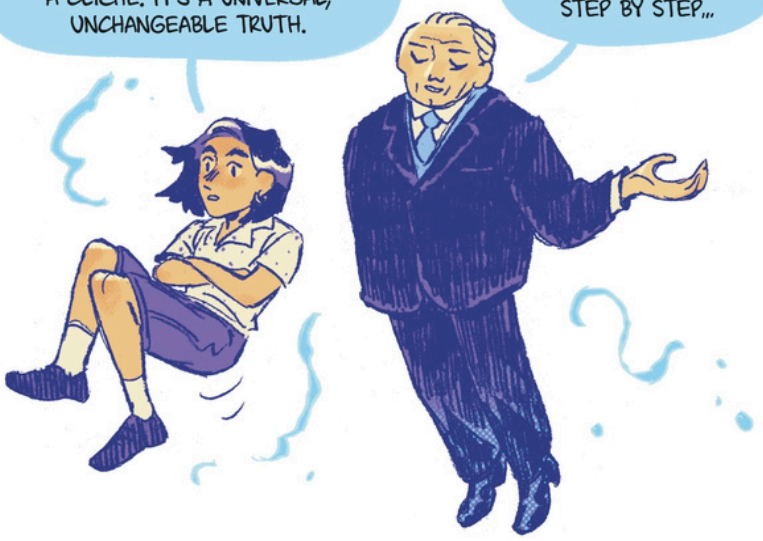


THE MERGER OF THE THREE EXISTING INSTITUTIONS—ECSC, EEC, AND EURATOM—LED TO THE CREATION OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, THE EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARMS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, RESPECTIVELY. THE MODERN ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK WAS TAKING SHAPE.



IT'S CRAZY HOW LONG IT TOOK US TO REALIZE THAT "UNITY IS STRENGTH" ISN'T JUST A CLICHÉ. IT'S A UNIVERSAL, UNCHANGEABLE TRUTH.

THAT'S TRUE. AND EVEN THEN, THE ROAD WASN'T EASY, BUT STEP BY STEP...



THE SIGNING OF THE MAASTRICHT TREATY OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED THE "EUROPEAN UNION".



COMPLEMENTED BY THE SCHENGEN AGREEMENT, IT CREATED THE IDEAL LEGAL CONDITIONS FOR A COMMON FRAMEWORK AND A SINGLE MARKET, GUARANTEEING THE FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE, GOODS, SERVICES, AND CAPITAL, ULTIMATELY LEADING TO THE BIRTH OF A COMMON CURRENCY, THE EURO.

THE UNION CONTINUES TO TAKE STEPS TOWARD CONSOLIDATING ITS ACHIEVEMENTS, ADVANCING ITS GOALS, AND ULTIMATELY IMPROVING CITIZENS' LIVES BY APPROVING AGREEMENTS SUCH AS THE TREATY OF LISBON, DESIGNED TO MAKE THE EU MORE DEMOCRATIC, EFFICIENT, AND TRANSPARENT, CAPABLE OF FACING CHALLENGES SUCH AS CLIMATE CHANGE, SECURITY, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.



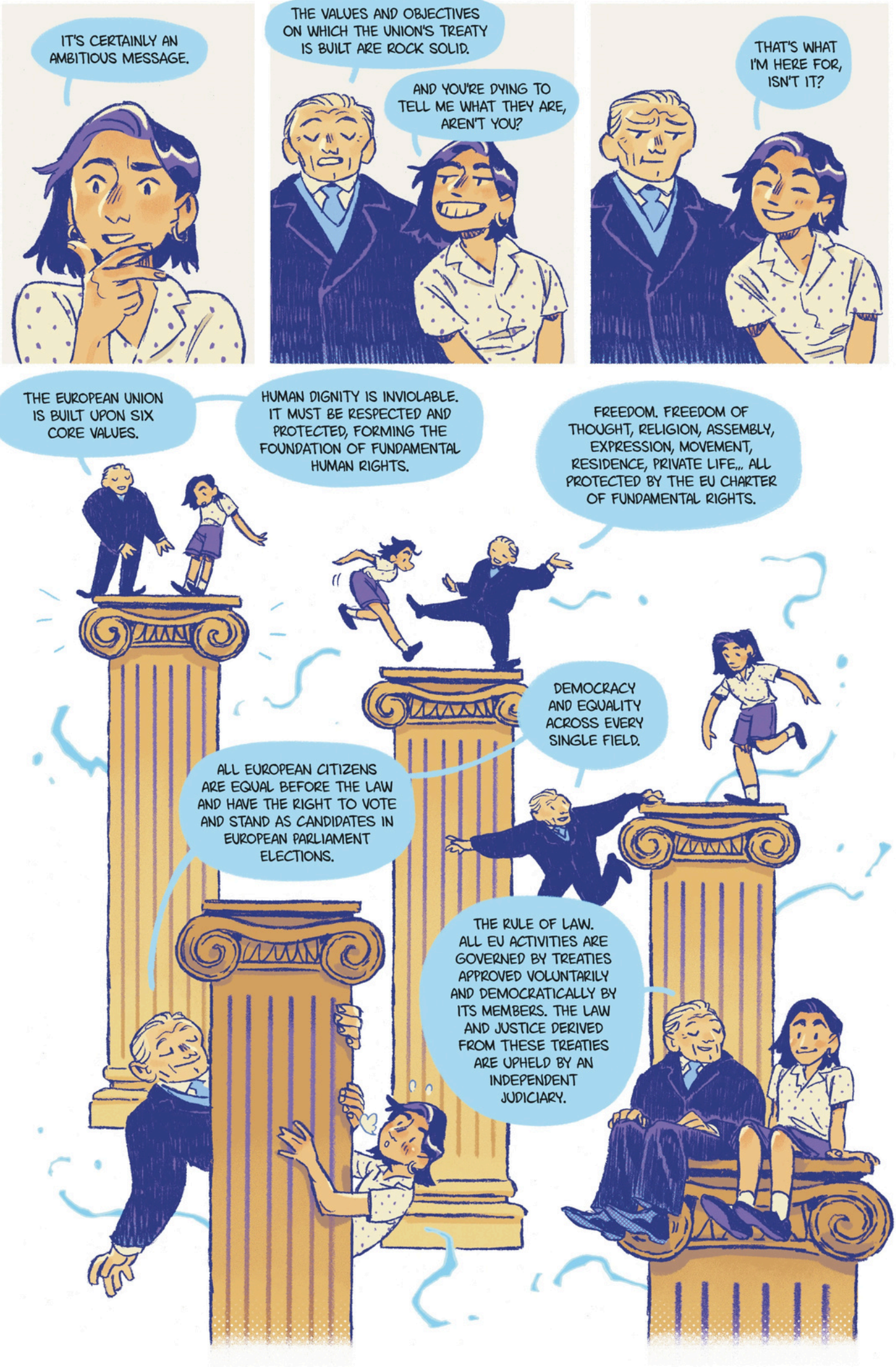
WHAT STARTED IN 1951 AS A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AMONG 6 COUNTRIES GREW INTO A UNION OF 27 NATIONS BY 2025.

SPAIN JOINED THE EUROPEAN UNION IN 1986, RIGHT?

INDEED. TODAY, IN 2050, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A COMMUNITY OF 30 STATES WHOSE GOVERNANCE IMPACTS NEARLY A BILLION PEOPLE.



GREAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE SINCE THE BEGINNING, A CHALLENGE WE HAVE OVERCOME TOGETHER, GROUNDED IN SOLIDARITY AND THE CONVICTION THAT TOGETHER WE CAN OVERCOME ANY OBSTACLE. AND THIS, CITIZENS, IS ONLY THE BEGINNING...


IT'S CERTAINLY AN AMBITIOUS MESSAGE.
THE VALUES AND OBJECTIVES ON WHICH THE UNION'S TREATY IS BUILT ARE ROCK SOLID.
AND YOU'RE DYING TO TELL ME WHAT THEY ARE, AREN'T YOU?
THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE FOR, ISN'T IT?
THE EUROPEAN UNION IS BUILT UPON SIX CORE VALUES.
HUMAN DIGNITY IS INVIOLABLE. IT MUST BE RESPECTED AND PROTECTED, FORMING THE FOUNDATION OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS.
FREEDOM. FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, RELIGION, ASSEMBLY, EXPRESSION, MOVEMENT, RESIDENCE, PRIVATE LIFE... ALL PROTECTED BY THE EU CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS.
DEMOCRACY AND EQUALITY ACROSS EVERY SINGLE FIELD.
ALL EUROPEAN CITIZENS ARE EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW AND HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND STAND AS CANDIDATES IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS.
THE RULE OF LAW. ALL EU ACTIVITIES ARE GOVERNED BY TREATIES APPROVED VOLUNTARILY AND DEMOCRATICALLY BY ITS MEMBERS. THE LAW AND JUSTICE DERIVED FROM THESE TREATIES ARE UPHELD BY AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY.

AND HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEX, RACIAL OR ETHNIC ORIGIN, RELIGION OR BELIEF, DISABILITY, AGE, OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION...

AS WELL AS THE RIGHT TO DATA PROTECTION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE.







AMONG THE EU'S INTERNAL GOALS ARE: OFFERING FREEDOM, EQUALITY, SECURITY, JUSTICE, PEACE, AND WELL-BEING TO ITS CITIZENS; REGULATING IMMIGRATION; COMBATING DISCRIMINATION, EXCLUSION, AND CRIME; ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND FULL EMPLOYMENT; BOOSTING COMPETITIVENESS AND SOCIAL PROGRESS; PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT; PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT; AND RESPECTING ITS RICH CULTURAL DIVERSITY.



ON THE GLOBAL STAGE, ITS OBJECTIVES INCLUDE: ASSERTING AND PROMOTING EU VALUES AND INTERESTS; CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE, SECURITY, AND GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT;



FOSTERING SOLIDARITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT AMONG PEOPLES, FREE AND FAIR TRADE, POVERTY ERADICATION, PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW.



AND NOW, GIVEN THAT THE REASON FOR YOUR UPCOMING MEETING IS THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL, I CAN SHARE DETAILS REGARDING...

THANK YOU, BUT I THINK THEY'RE WAITING FOR ME, AND...



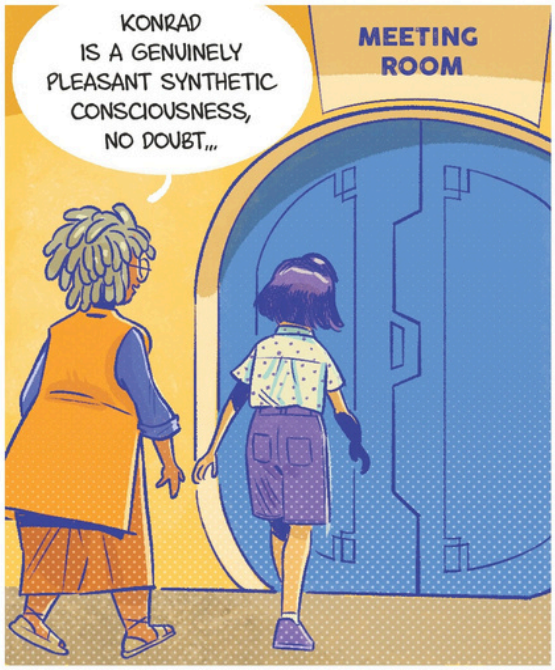
ELIA?


ELIA.


COME ON, ELIA.
WE'RE GETTING LATE.

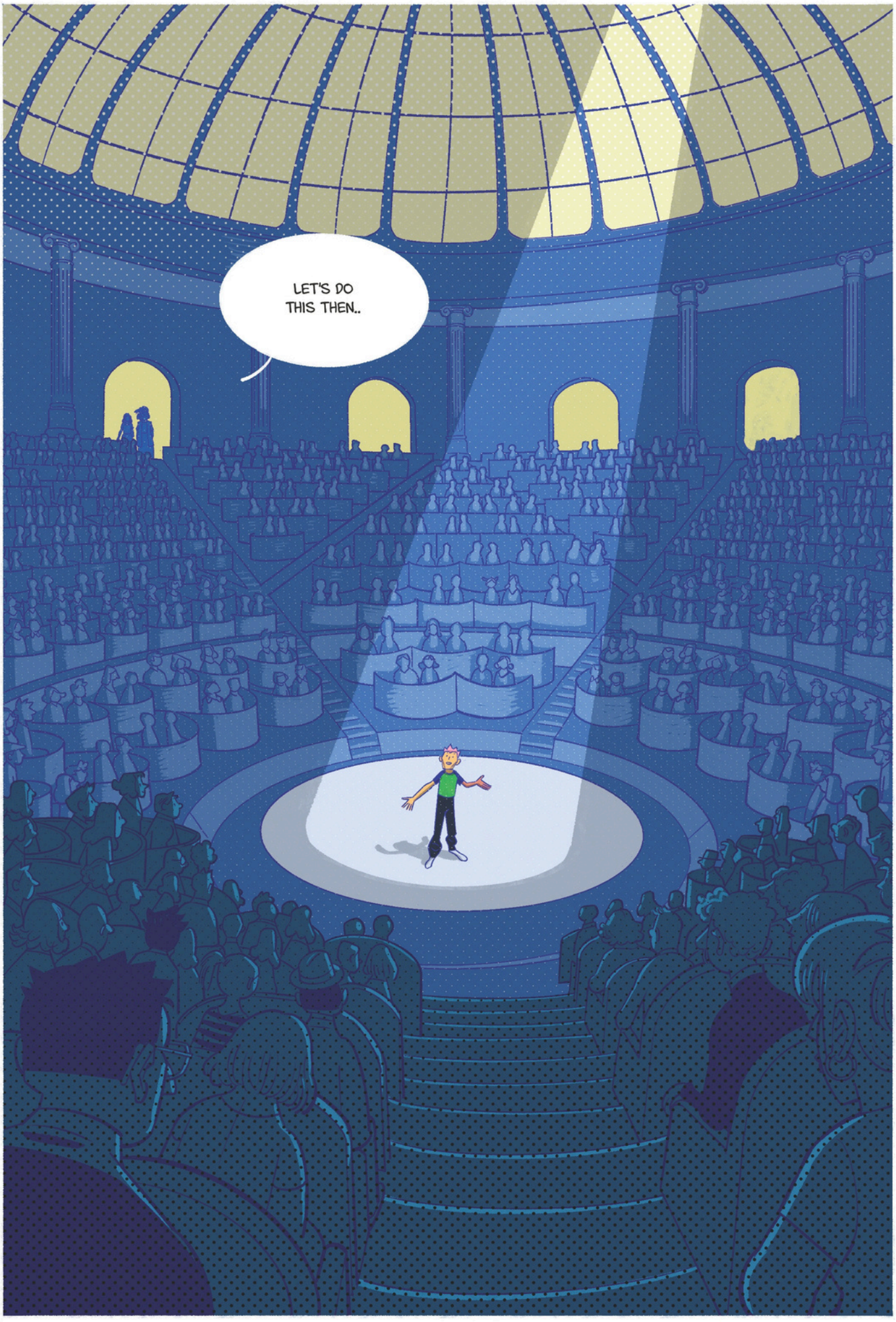

IT'S HARD TO TRACK TIME WHEN YOU'RE IN THERE.
DID YOU AT LEAST FIND IT INTERESTING?


YOU BET!
IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU GET HISTORY LESSONS FROM THE VERY PEOPLE WHO MADE IT.


KONRAD IS A GENUINELY PLEASANT SYNTHETIC CONSCIOUSNESS, NO DOUBT...
MEETING ROOM

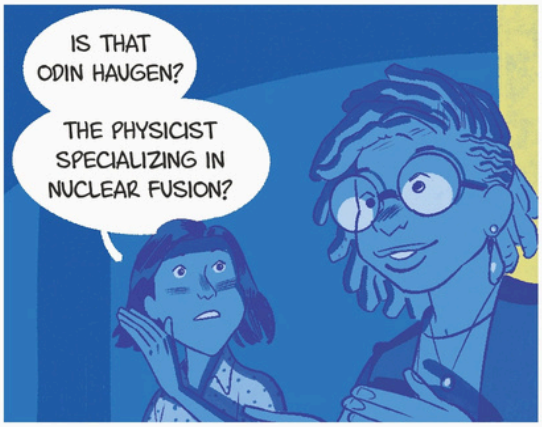

SHALL WE?

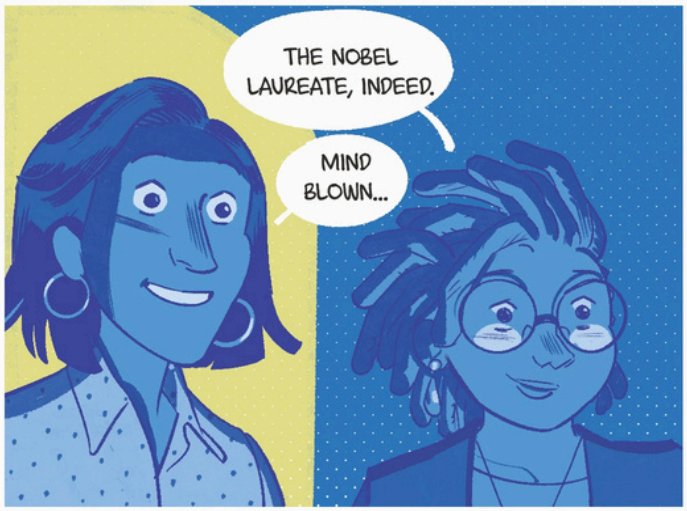

THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU.


LET'S DO
THIS THEN..





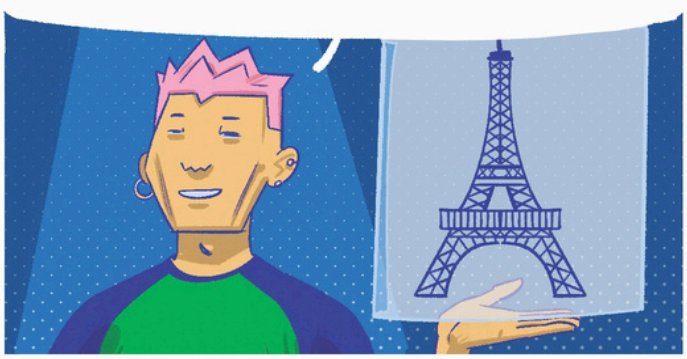




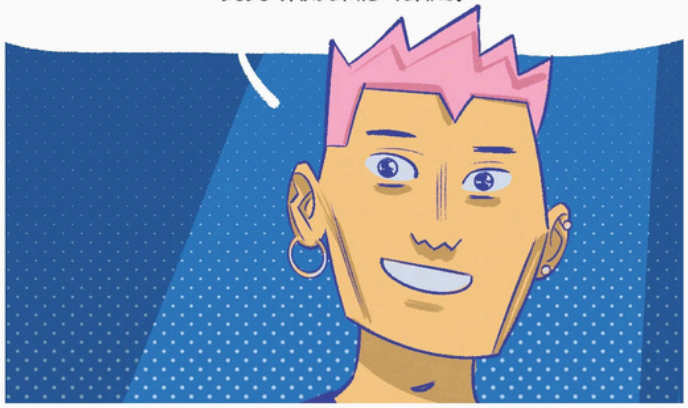
AS YOU ALL KNOW, 2050 IS A VERY SPECIAL YEAR FOR US, MARKING THE DEADLINE SET BY EUROPEAN POLICIES TO ACHIEVE CLIMATE NEUTRALITY AND GLOBAL WARMING LEVELS VERY CLOSE TO THOSE OF THE PRE-INDUSTRIAL ERA.



WHAT BEGAN WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT IN 2015, RATIFIED BY 196 PARTIES, CULMINATES TODAY WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL AND THE LAUNCH OF THE NEW GLOBAL WELFARE PLAN SIGNED IN KOLKATA, TARGETING 2075



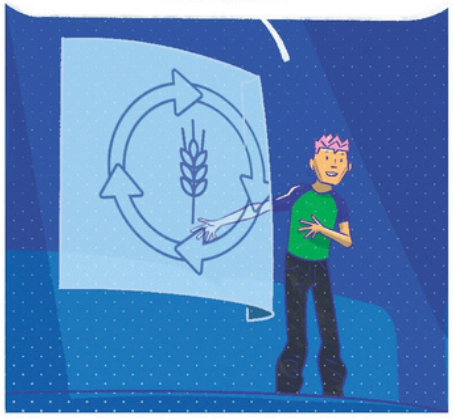
TODAY, WE CAN PROUDLY SAY THAT THE LEVELS OF CLEANLINESS, SUSTAINABILITY, AND CLIMATE EQUITY WE'VE ACHIEVED WERE ALMOST A PIPE DREAM BACK DURING THE 2020 PANDEMIC YEARS.



WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY BUILT AN ORGANIC, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE THAT YIELDS HEALTHIER, MORE AFFORDABLE FOOD FOR EVERYONE, RESULTING IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT.

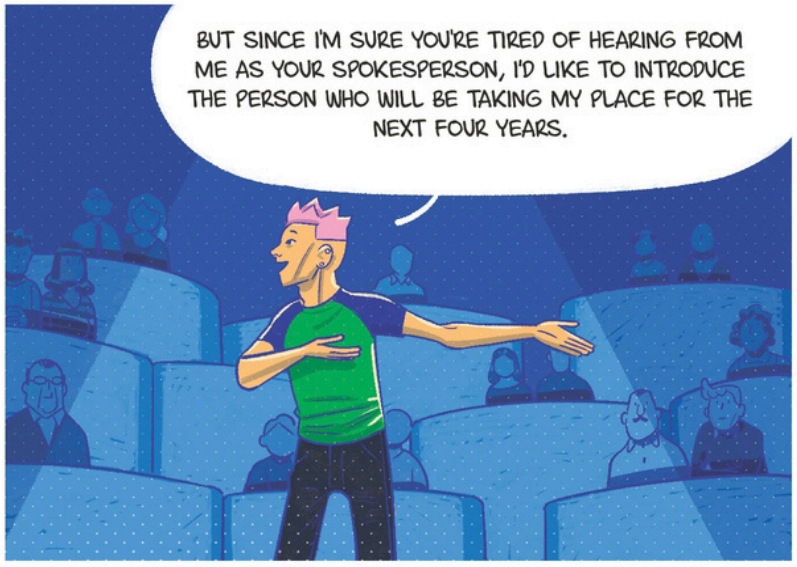


THROUGH SHARED AGREEMENTS AND LEGISLATION, WE'VE ESTABLISHED AN ECONOMIC MODEL BASED ON REUSE, EFFICIENCY, AND HIGH-QUALITY GOODS PRODUCED BY INCREASINGLY CLEANER INDUSTRIES.

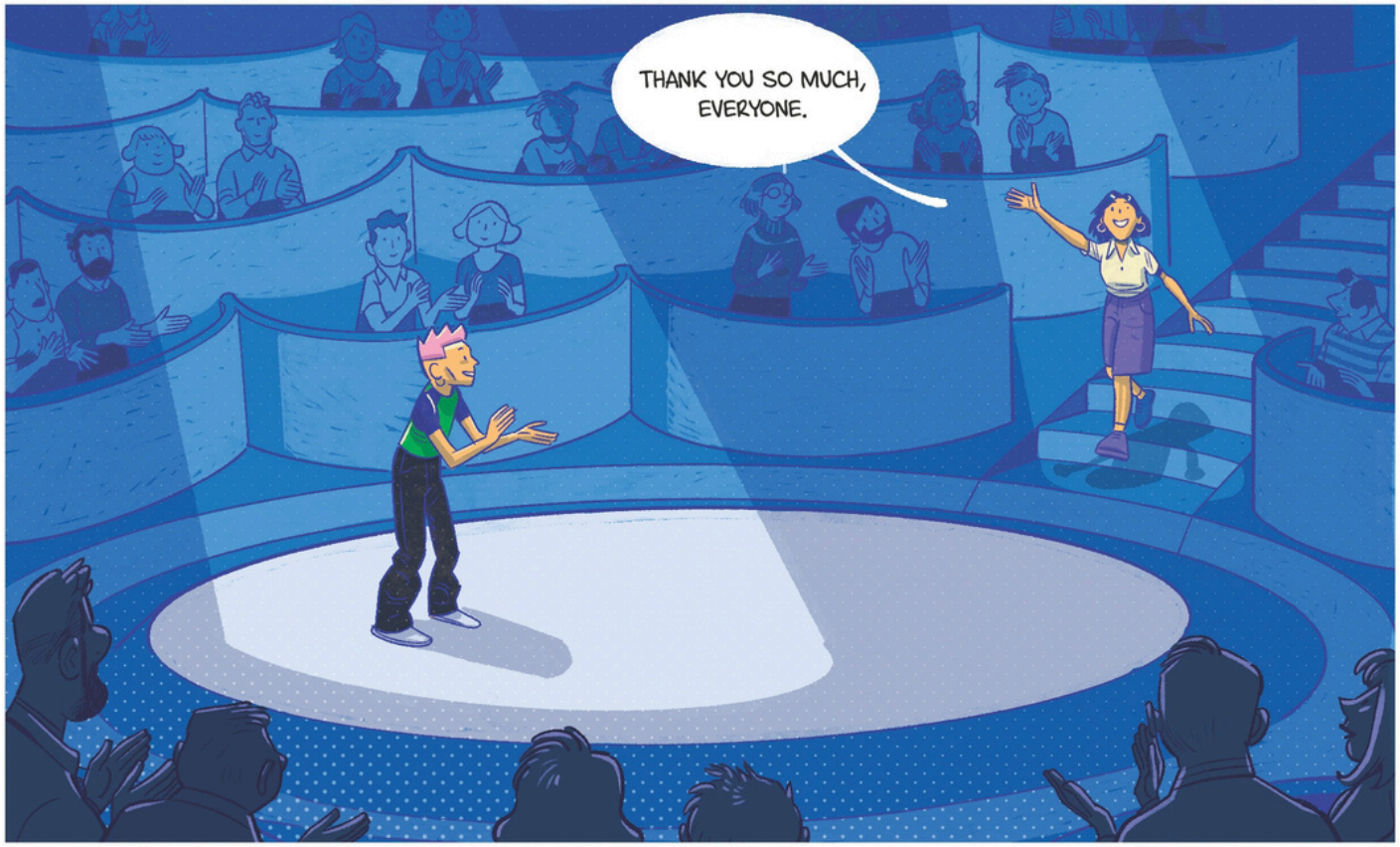


AND, OF COURSE, BREAKTHROUGHS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY AND FUSION HAVE ENABLED MUCH CLEANER, MORE EFFICIENT ENERGY MANAGEMENT, ESTABLISHING—ACCORDING TO THE LATEST IPCC ASSESSMENT REPORT—THE WORLD'S FIRST VIRTUALLY CLIMATE-NEUTRAL ZONE.









IT IS A PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO SERVE NOT ONLY AS AN AMBASSADOR, BUT AS A SPOKESPERSON FOR ALL OUR GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS.

AND WHILE I COULD TALK ENDLESSLY ABOUT THE BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD, THANKS TO BREAKTHROUGHS IN OCEAN REGENERATION AND THE CREATION OF NEW BIODEGRADABLE MATERIALS,,,

,,,OR THE REVIVAL OF PREHISTORIC SUPERFOODS THROUGH ARCHAEOGENETICS APPLIED TO TRADITIONAL CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE,,,

,,,OR PREVENTIVE MEDICINE APPLYING CELLULAR-LEVEL TREATMENTS VIA NANOROBOTS THAT HAVE DRASTICALLY REDUCED THE ONSET AND DEVELOPMENT OF CANCEROUS TUMORS,,,

I BELIEVE, JUST AS ODIN POINTED OUT, THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO REMEMBER EVERYTHING ACHIEVED THROUGH THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL —TO PARAPHRASE GEORGES SANTAYANA— SO WE DO NOT FORGET THE PAST AND END UP BEING FORCED TO REPEAT IT.

TO NEVER FORGET WHERE WE CAME FROM, NOR THE WORLD WE STARTED WITH IN 2019, SO WE REMAIN CLEAR ON THE LEGACY WE WANT TO LEAVE FOR OUR CHILDREN.


I'M AVAILABLE FOR WHATEVER YOU MIGHT NEED.




HOW WAS IT? HOW DID I DO?
YOU WERE SENSATIONAL.
I HAD NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.


IT FEELS GREAT TO HAVE SUCH GREAT PEOPLE WHO PLACE SO MUCH TRUST IN MY WORK.


I HOPE I DON'T LET YOU DOWN AND I HOPE WE KEEP MOVING FORWARD TO END CLIMATE CHANGE ONCE AND FOR ALL, ALONG WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS IT BROUGHT US FOR DECADES...


I'M SURE YOU WON'T DISAPPOINT US.


AND IT'S UP TO ALL OF US TO WORK TOGETHER AND HELP YOU ACHIEVE IT

Acknowledgements to the European Climate Pact Ambassadors, especially Ana Belén Yuste, José Antonio Fernández, Leticia Gil, Isabel Silva, Ujué Fresán, Juan Medina, Thais Gold, Juan Luís Arbona, Aitor Sánchez and Carmen Marqués, as well as to all the people who, through their commitment and dedication, will make it possible for this comic to reach students, teachers, and the general public.

Thanks to their involvement and leadership, Europe in Comic strips becomes a living tool to promote European values in the fight against climate change, inspiring greater environmental awareness and sensitivity to enable a socially fair ecological transformation and build, together, a Europe that is more resilient to the climate challenges of the present and the future.



"Only if we understand, will we care.
Only if we care, will we help.
Only if we help, shall all be saved."

Dr. Jane Goodall
(03/04/1934-01/10/2025)