

# Larry King calls for more Europe

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Larry King spoke to New Europe in Baku, Azerbaijan, 30 June 2012. NEW EUROPE

Larry King was in Baku. Yes, in Baku. The retired CNN host talked to New Europe on the sidelines of the Crans Montana Forum in Azerbaijan 'Addressing a Changing World! Which Energy for Which World?' In an exclusive interview on 30 June, King discussed the EU economic crisis, US elections and Greece.

New Europe: There is an emphasis from Europe on this part of the world: Azerbaijan and the Caspian. Do you think it's mostly because of the focus on energy and development?

Larry King: Obviously, yes. I had no idea what to expect. I've never been to this country or this part of the world. I've been to Slovakia and I've been to Moscow, but I've never been to... and I'm very impressed with Baku and all that's happening here and I guess this is a major focal point of this European concept that you're asking about. I'm amazed at this conference and this city. I had no idea what to expect.

Do you think Europe will be able to pull out of this crisis?

Well, I got some hope yesterday [29 June] when Germany kind of recounted and they're gonna help out Spain and Greece. I hope that works. I think the world is more interdependent now than ever before. I think what happens in one country affects what happens in other countries, like for example they made that announcement [at the EU leaders' summit] and the American stock market went booming today and I've always wondered like why would what's happening in Greece affect Wall Street. But it does because the world is small and even smaller with twitter and facebook and interconnections. And also we're all part of it, we're all on that planet together, the planet is smaller, we interdependent so everything that happens in one place affects what happens in another.

You have presidential elections coming up. It seemed President Barack Obama was more concerned about the European crisis than the leaders themselves...

Well, he had to be and that was smart because he knows what happens in Europe affects what happens in the United States. And I wouldn't say he is focusing more on it. But the head of any country today faces insurmountable problems. I don't know how they do it. I know Mr. Obama, I know Mr [Republican challenger Mitt] Romney well. I don't know why anybody wants that job. Obama got a very good turn yesterday [28 June] with the Supreme Court ruling on healthcare. I think it's about time that we had a healthcare plan; we're the only rich country in the world without healthcare for its citizens, which is a shame.

I think it's going to be a very close election if you are interested in that. It's going to be interesting to watch. But you have to concentrate on Europe. You can't look elsewhere, you have to. It's a small world. You can't be isolationist today.

Do you think there is a lack of leadership in Europe?

I'm not that... I think the lady in Germany is very strong, I don't understand the situation in Greece, I don't... it's all confusing to me (laugh) but as someone said: 'It's all Greek to me.'