



A Constitution for the Internal Market only?

Heads of Government must also look ahead to future referendums

Brussels, 17.06.2004

The low turnout for the European elections and the success of Eurosceptic parties has demonstrated that the process of European integration, the most successful of all global peace projects, has lost much of its momentum and appeal.

Who among the European citizens would, after all, support a Union largely perceived as the guardian of the market, privatisation and competition?

Unless the constitution changes course and starts to demonstrate the true importance of **common values**, the **political Union** and the **social Europe**, the long-term success of the whole project will be at risk. No political institution can prevail which has lost the support of the citizens.

This is why the European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW) demands that the second attempt will ensure the following:

- 1. that the constitution will not renege on the binding character of the Charter of Fundamental Rights. Legal tricks to erode and circumvent the Charter will only serve to make the entire constitution unacceptable for the electorate in the forthcoming referendums. The Europe-minded heads of states and governments should not play into the hands of the enemies of closer integration**
- 2. that a reference to the Christian heritage will be included in the EU Constitution**
- 3. that the constitution will not fall short of the level already reached by the European treaties (example: the “high level of social security” of the current treaty becomes an “appropriate level of social security” in the draft text)**
- 4. that the results of the Convention regarding the “social Europe“ will not be ignored or brushed aside (example: the term ‘full employment’ of Article I.3 must also be integrated into Part III – social clause)**

It will be, after all, necessary in the long term to review the technical and procedural questions (Part III of the constitution) in the light of the values and objectives from Part I. The EU must become more active and effective in all areas where it can provide an added European value (such as social protection, consumer affairs, environmental issues). It will be inevitable to increase the number of decisions settled by majority voting.

If the constitution cannot even defend the current boundaries of the social Europe, we will not be able to explain this to the citizens. Next Friday's decision about the text of the constitution will need to take this into account in the light of the forthcoming referendums.

The European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW) consists of 23 workers' organisations from 15 countries and is an association of the European People's Party (EPP).

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