



For a Europe of **Social** Market Economy

Ladies and Gentlemen,

the 9th Congress of the European Union of Christian-Democratic Workers will take place on 03 September 2005 in Vienna.

We are today confronted by a twin challenge: On the one hand, we need the right impulses to return to the path of economic growth and job creation. On the other hand, however, we also need – faced with what often looks like the overwhelming force of **unrestrained market** theories – a clear sense of where we are going and what our values are, if we want to prevent our societies from losing their unity and inner cohesion. We need to put ‘freedom’ in the perspective of ‘social responsibility’, since any idea of ‘freedom’ must necessarily involve the freedom of others – including those who may not be highly skilled and capable, the old, the sick, the young. The freedom of these people needs social protection. **This is why the European Union is right in its determination to put the **Social Market** first – as the EU Constitution makes clear.**

We would like to invite you during this Congress to join us in our search for ways to win this debate. In the confidence that all 21 EUCDW member organizations will accept this challenge, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Elmar Brok MEP
President