



# The End of a mere European Common Market

## Reform Treaty opens the door for a social and political Union

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The EUCDW welcomes the progress made with the Reform Treaty on the path towards increasing the European Union's capacity to act. The fact that the **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union will become legally binding** is of paramount importance to the EUCDW, as this step adds a Union of Citizens to the existing Union of States. Strengthening the European Parliament means expanding the Union's democratic accountability.

**Article 9 of the „Treaty on the Functioning of the Union« not only strengthens the article on the EU objectives, but also means the end of an exclusive orientation towards the internal market and unrestrained competition:** this article binds the Union to „promote a high level of employment“, to guarantee adequate social protection, and to fight against social exclusion“ in all areas of policy!

**The EUCDW calls upon the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council to fill this article with life; it is binding to the same extent as the articles on the internal market. Only then will the EU win the endorsement of the citizens that it needs.**

The opportunity exists: By extending the codecision procedure to most policy areas, the positions of the European Parliament and thereby the European citizens will be strengthened.

**It is therefore possible that the EU, in its capacity as a political and social union, will develop the right answers to meet the challenges of globalisation.** It must counter the rampant forms of liberal capitalism with the Social Market Economy that has been agreed as the common political approach in the Reform Treaty.

It is against this background that the EUCDW welcomes that the strong position of the social partners in the social policy has been maintained; yet the EUCDW regrets the fact that so far the EU has not succeeded in including the two sides of industry into Article 8 of the Treaty on European Union, as they are an integral part of democratic life. This shortcoming is out of touch with reality!