



Memorandum for a social Europe 2004-2009

Christian democratic workers' demands of the European Union

The process of European Unification is the greatest success of the 20th century. It will only last on when we overcome the focus on the Economic Community and realise - based on the constitution - the core of the European Idea: overcome borders, bring people together, strengthen the social and regional cohesion. Therefore we need a European Union which

- ***looks for opportunities for collaboration on regional and national level in all areas***
- ***promotes long-term employment***
- ***fights every form of discrimination***
- ***even with an eye on world trade defends social and ecological points of view***
- ***carries through an humane asylum and migration policy***
- ***works to prevent war and maintain peace***

The process of European Unification will only be successful based on the principle of subsidiarity. Therefore we need next to a strengthening of the representative democracy (more rights for the European Parliament) also a further development of the participative democracy and - in employment and social policy - of the dialog of the social partner.

We want

... a European Union that sees economic and financial policy as a means to an end, not as a goal in itself

- ***price stability, economic growth and (quality) employment as equally important objectives; and linked to this: high standards of social protection***

... a European Union that tries to achieve greater coordination in taxation policies

- ***the principle of majority instead of unanimous voting (so that the EU is able to act)***
- ***the principle of progressivity (he who earns more, can carry greater burdens)***
- ***reduce the levy on work, increase the levy on (money) capital***
- ***secure state revenues to safeguard the funding of its necessary responsibilities***

... a European Union that continues to develop the European Social Model

- *The aim: Full employment in good quality jobs*
- *on the basis of the constitution, an European employment strategy on equal footing with economic and financial strategy*
- *developing the principle of majority voting in EU social policy*
- *completing European regulations in the area of workers' rights and social protection*
- *worker participation: improving criteria for information and consultation*
- *strengthening the European Social Dialogue*
- *excluding state subsidies for employing at-risk groups in the labour market from European (competition) control*
- *increasing European efforts to fight poverty and discrimination*
- *strengthening European cooperation to achieve stability of social security systems (basic right; principle of solidarity);*

... a European Union that corrects the liberalisation of public services in both social and ecological terms

- *ensuring the supply of high quality services at affordable prices*
- *taking into account the effects on employment of unfettered privatisation*

... a European Union that sees the countries of Central and Eastern Europe not as "special economic areas", where good business is being made based on low salaries, but as countries, which - with their history and culture - enrich the countries of Western Europe and which contribute to make Europe an even more open space where people live together in peace.

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). Elmar Brok MEP, President; Christoph Weisskirchen, Secretary General. Tel 0032 2 285 4164, Fax 0032 2 285 4141 e-mail: eucdw@evppe.be, homepage: www.eucdw.org