

## Message to the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC)

adopted by the Central Council (Brussels - November 2003)

- 1.** ELEC, having been involved from the outset in the work of the Convention, and having stressed its quality and spirit of cooperation:
  - ◇ welcomes its result, reflected in a draft Constitution that is supported by a very broad consensus of Convention members;
  - ◇ notes that many aspects of this draft meet the initial objectives of a more transparent, effective and responsible Europe, and represent an important step in improving the public perception of its development;
  - ◇ takes satisfaction in the fact that this demonstration of multinational democracy has made it possible to reconcile broadly the hopes of large and small States and took place in good conditions of efficiency and transparency, despite generally insufficient media coverage.
  
- 2.** ELEC recognises that, like any compromise, this draft does not fully meet the expectations of everyone, and contains a number of gaps, uncertainties and risks. It also indicates a certain lack of ambition and vision regarding some fundamental aspects, such as the decision-making process and the means for the Union to assume its international responsibilities.
  
- 3.** Nevertheless, ELEC wishes to draw the IGC's attention to the fact that any alteration of those aspects of the draft, which formed the subject of a balanced and hard-won compromise, could well threaten the very adoption of the Constitution and its aims. ELEC is therefore prepared to lend its support to the Convention's draft. In any event it insists that any amendments to be proposed aim not at reducing the scope of the advances made in the draft, but rather at improving it in such a way as to give the enlarged European Union the institutional framework required for an efficient and democratic governance, which is also closer to citizens.
  
- 4.** For these reasons ELEC calls upon the IGC:
  - ◇ to give its approval to the general content and spirit of the draft Constitution, to congratulate Convention members on their work, and to respect the overall balance of the document;
  - ◇ to ensure that its work be transparent, to involve in it the principal components of the Convention, and to consolidate the democratic legitimacy of the Constitution with appropriate proposals;
  - ◇ to supplement the existing proposal with measures likely to increase its effectiveness. In this regard it would be desirable to reduce the resort to unanimous voting in certain areas, particularly those relating to own resources;
  - ◇ to give those countries which have accepted the most binding measures regarding the euro and the defense, security and justice policies the opportunity to implement these measures and to develop them through enhanced cooperation, without allowing such cooperation to be hindered by countries which reject its principle;
  - ◇ to establish a revision process for the Constitution inspired by the Convention's procedures and subject to majority voting.

5. Furthermore, ELEC is bound by its very nature to stress the need for completing Europe's monetary union with a strengthening of its economic union, by giving it an efficient and permanent management capability as well as the capacity to ensure a better coordination of economic policies. On this latter point it would be advisable for the Commission to play a major part in the procedure for adopting the Union's broad economic policy guidelines, in the completion of the single market, and in guaranteeing the proper operation of the Stability and Growth Pact, which should also involve national parliaments. Further, the euro zone should receive the benefit of a single representation in international economic and monetary institutions.

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