

## **The Agora aims to bridge three gaps**

### **1. To bridge the gap between politicians and citizens**

As a broad meeting-place, lying at the very heart of where laws are made, the Agora helps to bridge the divide between citizens of the European Union and the institutions of the Union and to demystify the European Parliament, while serving as a constructive conduit for peoples' expectations.

### **2. To bridge the gap between the various sectors of European civil society**

Things may be complex and interested parties have different viewpoints. The latter then lobby in parallel, rarely bringing their arguments together, and leave the European authorities alone to formulate compromises which are not always to the point. While bringing people and politicians closer together, the Agora should do the same for different faces of European civil society, which most of the time are unaware of each other.

### **3. To bridge the gap between national self-interests**

Fragmented in "national bubbles", European civil society is fragile – even powerless. Whatever the theme, adding together 27 national debates of it does not yet amount to a European debate. The Agora should help to overcome blockages based on national reflexes and to transcend national frontiers, so that all parties interested in a matter may bring their viewpoints face to face with those of their neighbours.