

## **A. Ten resolutions for an open society**

*(from the « fourth Citizen Manifest » of Guy Verhofstadt)*

**10 February 2007** - About 400 members of VLD-VIVANT in a congress in Brussels (Heysel) have approved 10 resolutions which make up the core of their common program for the coming Federal elections. VLD-Vivant makes a clear choice for an open society based on a flexible labour market and a social security promoting initiative and self-development. This society shall also welcome everyone willing to work, protect elderly people and encourage environment protection.

**The 10 resolutions have been extracted** from the fourth Citizen Manifest of Premier Verhofstadt. Under direction of President Bart Somers, the 400 VLD-Vivant members worked out a draft. An amendment from Deputies Annemie Turtelboom and Hilde Vautmans was approved, stating that « *The 21<sup>st</sup> century will be the women century* ». Therefore the open society shall guarantee sex equality.

The resolutions state the open view of VLD-Vivant in front of current problems like people aging, immigration, violence, etc. A flexible labour market in a horizontal economy will allow to find and change job more easily. One step will be the merging of employee and craftsman statuses. The latter often take more responsibilities and need more technical skills than the former. The difference of statuses is artificial and hinders the labour market.

The congress members also approved the tax slipping from labour to environment-aggressive activities and the drastic simplification of the fiscal system in favour of a fair-tax with two rates (20 and 40%). These are expected to converge to a unique rate.

VLD-Vivant also wants to create the "continuing-career account". It should give more freedom to organise everybody's life times.

Today in Belgium, people in the thirties or forties are among the most pressurised working groups in terms of time or budget constraints. An open community rewards those who improve the common wealth. (...)

The 10 resolutions are:

- 1. An open community**
- 2. A flexible labour market in a horizontal economy \***
- 3. Decrease, slipping and simplification of taxes**
- 4. A human being able to face its future**
- 5. An ecological heritage to be protected**
- 6. A modern view of immigration**
- 7. The fight against racism**
- 8. The fight against crazy violence**
- 9. The richness of people aging**
- 10. The globalisation of welfare**

*\* A horizontal economy crosses the borders.*