

“CITIZENS FACING UP THE EUROPEAN UNION”
(SUMMARY + FRENCH COMPLETE TEXT)

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*The European Union does nothing any more for almost
six months, it waits until the people decide to change their opinion about
itself.*

E. Laurent. Le Monde 22/10/2005

AUTHORS

The authors are French and Belgian. For this reason they have a certain experience of the sociology of the two peoples who did not ratify the constitutional treaty and whose sociology will have to be carefully considered if one wants to overcome the crisis.

They also have, collectively, a long vision of the history of the European construction since their senior was a collaborator of Jean Monnet and others were very narrowly implied in the evolution of the objectives of the Union, from treaty to treaty, in the questions of sustainable development and environment, of the Charter of the Fundamental Rights, of the public utility and of the participatory democracy.

They worked or are working all over the world and are active at the interface, on the one hand, between European Institutions and civil society and, on the other hand, between companies and civil society. They have a thorough knowledge of the evolution of civil society, companies and trade unions in Europe and in the manner with which these entities interact between them and with the European Institutions.

They are members of the Permanent Forum of the European Civil society.

RESUME

Instead of being the movers of solutions, the Union's authorities became, in the opinion of many citizens, the source of problems.

Instead of being a « protector », the Union became a « threat ». To get Europe out of the current crisis, it is necessary that **the roadmap** that will be defined by the European Council European in June 2006 opens spaces of innovation. The roadmap should not relate only to the constitutional treaty but include other initiatives that would place the constitutional treaty II in a **new** and broader **context**. (* *voir ci-dessous*) The crisis, opened by the “No” to the constitutional treaty expressed by two State-founders, created a shock in the political world but also in the trade-union organisations and NGO's that are active on the European plan. This is why one must **innovate in terms of governance** and adopt an approach **in two stages**.

1. Firstly, it is up to the trade unions, the enterprises and the civil society, to assemble in “**State-General of the European Networks**”, to consider together the questions related to globalisation and to agree on what Europeans want to make together, going beyond the sole question relating to the Union Institutions.
2. **Then only a Convention III and a IGC** – that could be summoned only by a decision of the European Council – will be in a position to take again the question of the “Constitution”.

The authors took up the idea of “Declaration of Interdependence” and, in order to create a “new context”, propose that a **Solemn Declaration of Interdependence by the European people** is approved.

Convention III itself would not have only the constitutional treaty for object but also the redefinition of a “societal contract” that is founded on an ethics of responsibility and proposes new measuring criteria of progress. That also belongs to the new context.

The enlargement process such as it exists today is – paradoxically – not fast enough to answer the urgencies to come (in particular on the energetic and democratic levels). The moment came – and the roadmap should deal with it – to launch the creation of the second Olympic ring, an **Alliance of the 3 Seas**, inspired by the experiment of the Community of Coal and Steel. This will also create a “new context” as regards the referendums on the constitutional treaty.

One needs a **genuine Constitution** and as soon as possible. **Nine proposals** are made which include a *last* treaty signed between the Member States “to carry” the Constitution, a Pan-European consultation on a “Constitution”, the election of the President of the Commission by universal suffrage, the reshaping of the Economic and Social Committee, etc.

The European crisis is deep. It falls under the relation that Europeans have with the world (the globalization), the European Institutions (the European governance), the multinational enterprises (the power of market), the cultural diversity and our roots (the local level).

One needs a response to

1. the change of capitalism,
2. the crisis of the European project,
3. the question of its borders
4. the search for convergences in developing the European Social Model.

It is necessary to bring an answer that

1. improves management (governance),
2. restores confidence,
3. shows that we can again make the European social model progress and
4. contributes
 - a. to improve peace,
 - b. democracy in the Union and outside the Union,
 - c. the dialogue between multi-cultural Europe and the other areas of the world.

This book relates to 5 topics for which two scenarios are outlined. In a first scenario, we present where the choices made by the Union and its possible drifts risk to lead us. We try in this scenario to drive from under cover the factor that threatens to lead the Union to failure. In a second scenario, we outline new forms of governance, which are likely to allow to overcome the crisis. Finally, inspired by the Laeken Declaration process, we are proposing what could be some “*elements of the*”

European Council Declaration of June 2006".

We are grateful to Members of the European Institutions, Business, Trade Unions and Experts who will accept entering into a dialogue with us over what is possible to change and how this June 2006 European Council declaration should look like. The essence of this debate concludes each chapter, ending with key opened questions. We propose to develop these questions in later publications. We thank the European Parliament for having accommodated this debate in its premises.

The order of the chapters is determined by the conviction that, taking into account the choices made by the European Council, one needs to reformulate the prospects on several important stakes before one could re-open the question of the Constitution. This is why the order of the chapters is as follows :

- Chapter 1. The globalisation and regulation by the fundamental rights,
- Chapter 2 The enlargement, the neighbourhood policy and the new alliance of the 4 Seas,
- Chapter 3 The Euro, a respected currency in the word,
- Chapter 4 Social model, societal dialogue and participatory democracy,
- Chapter 5. The European Constitution and the Declaration of Interdependence.
- Conclusions. The June 2006 European Council Declaration (dreamed proposal) and a draft Calendar 2006-2009.

Two debates will take place on 30th March 2006 in Room A3G3 (150 seats) of the European Parliament.

First panel debate : from 10 a.m. until 12.30

Chapter 1. Globalisation and the Fundamental Rights.

Chapter 3. The Euro, a respected currency in the word.

Chapter 4. Social model, societal dialogue and European participatory democracy.

Conclusions. The Draft June European Council Declaration . A timetable 2006-2009

Second Panel debate : from 2 p.m. until 4.30

Chapter 2. The Enlargement and the 4 Seas New Alliance.

Chapter 5. The European Constitution. A Declaration of Interdependence.

Conclusions. The Draft June European Council Declaration . A timetable 2006-2009

First Invitees List (proposal, all to be confirmed)

Two members from each major group of the European Parliament

PPE J-L. Dehaene, A. Esteves, A. Lamassoure, I. Mendez de Vigo, L. Novak, A. Wijkman

PSE B. Hamon, J. Leinen, P. Napolitano, B. Poignant, P. N. Rasmussen, J. Saryusz-Volsky, A. Van Lanker

ALDE J-L. Bourlanges, A. Duff, B. Geremek

GREENS D. Cohn-Bendit, M. Frassoni, J. Voggenhuber
GUE S. Kaufmann, M. Ransdorf

Advisers to the Commission
P. Ponzano, M. João Rodrigues

Members of the business world
E. Davignon, E-A. Sellière, P. Sutherland
Members of the Trade Unions
E. Gabaglio, J. Monks

Independent observers
P. Magnette, S. Williams

Moderators : Journalists (for example E. Rivais from Le Monde, J. Quatremer from Libération and G. Parker from The Financial Times).

*** European calendar for a « new context »**

September 2006

Opening of the *Etats Généraux* of the European networks

January 2007, Istanbul : Opening of the Three-sea Alliance Conference.

March 2007, Rome : Presentation of the Interdependency Declaration to the European Parliament.

June 2007

Closing of the *Etats Généraux* of the European networks

September 2007

Opening of Convention III on the European Social Contract and the EU Constitution.

June 2008

Closing of Convention III

September 2008

Inter-Government Conference on the EU Constitution.

December 2008
January 2009

EU Constitution campaign **until May 2009**

June 2009

European Parliament Election and European citizen consultation on the EU Constitution.

September 2009

Ratification of the EU Constitution.