

## NEWS FROM EUROPE

### 1. Mandate of the intergovernmental conference

The intergovernmental conference (CIG 23 juillet 2007) received a particularly precise mandate to write a Reform Treaty modifying the Treaties currently in force.

### 2. The AGORA initiative

The Citizens' AGORA is an initiative of the European Parliament on a proposal of Gerard ONESTA, Vice-president.

The networks of organisations of civil society were invited, on June 25, 2007, in the European Parliament by Gerard ONESTA, to promote the organisation of a structure of dialogue between civil society and the EP. It is an initiative of participatory democracy.

Thus the European Parliament proposes to civil society to co-write an opinion on the work of the IGC

Now, as on the basis of the treaty currently in force, the EP has to express its opinion (a no constraining opinion!!) on the conclusions of any IGC, the EP proposes to associate civil society in the drafting of its opinion

The AGORA will be tested twice in the months to come. A first session is to concentrate on constitutional affairs, (understand the process of modifying the treaties following the European Council of June the 21, & 22 2007), while the second one will be on climatic change.

This first experiment of the AGORA thus will allow a first exercise of participatory democracy as complementary to the European representative democracy.  
VIVANT-EUROPE will keep you informed of the preparations of this AGORA.

The “PERMANENT FORUM OF EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY” intends to prepare this first AGORA session very seriously. It is one of the essential reasons for which it decided to inaugurate its newsletter

Internet-site of the FORUM: <http://www.forum-civil-society.org/forum/>