

PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT



CONVENTION III : « A New Stage »

EUROPEAN CONTRACT FOR A WELL-BEING SOCIETY

« Together we are doing Better » : 2007-2013

1. PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

1. **A new context** : the participatory democracy and the civil dialogue
2. **A new objective** : a Convention III for a European Contract for a well-being Society
3. **A new method** : a Convention III for a European Participatory Budget
4. **A new instrument** : a questionnaire addressed to all the associations of the civil society

Dear friends of the associations,

1. A new context

The participatory democracy is increasingly asked to be complementary to the representative democracy and to irrigate it. During the conference on the participatory democracy, organized on 8 & 9 March 2004 by the European Economical and Social Committee (EESC), Jacques Delors underlined, in his speech, that the participatory democracy, still considered in 1999 as an utopia, is now a concept on the agenda in 2004. The concept and the practice of a participatory budget are spreading themselves as a corollary of the participatory democracy.

The participatory democracy should be built on the civil dialogue, which must still be organized. To facilitate this dialogue, the EESC proposes the set-up of a « contact group », of which 20 representatives of organizations of the Civil Society will be part. It is clear that only the NGOs organized in European networks will have the necessary legitimacy to be part of this group. The associations which are ready to collaborate to the objectives of the Forum would better join their efforts to be present in the dialogue between the civil society and the European institutions. We remind you that the objectives of the Forum are to promote a participatory democracy AND equal representation of women and men next to the representative democracy. The network must make sure the voice of a maximum of people is heard, it does not matter that they belong to a big European NGO or a small local one. The good ideas can come from very small groups as well as from big organizations.

2. A new objective

In this favorable context, the work group of the Permanent Forum of the European Civil Society is proposing to join the project « Contract for a well-being Society ».

The Permanent Forum of Civil Society is convinced that after drawing up the Charter of Fundamental Rights and establishing the Constitution of the European Union, it is now necessary - in order to continue the construction of the Union and reinforce its European identity - to tackle the conclusion of a European Contract for a well-being Society which would clearly define a new sustainable European model for economic, social and cultural development.

Actually, this model is already being established on the basis of a wide range of - too little known - successful initiatives taken at the level of EU Member States by many economic, social and associative players. The time has come to bring together these "champions" of a society marked by stronger bonds of solidarity and to give a greater multiplier effect to their actions by allowing them to play a part in the establishment of the European Contract for a well-being Society.

The "European Contract for a well-being Society" and the European Participatory Budget are the third stage in the action successfully undertaken by the Permanent Forum to reinforce European citizenship and identity.

The Work group of the Permanent Forum of the European Civil Society feels the time has come to establish a real European contract, which would act as a lever for Europe to make "further progress" at social and economic levels within the framework of an ethical globalization, and to provide for means of implementation of this contract via a participatory budget and a European Community tax system. The European Union can thus become quite a superpower, an "anchor" for world peace and the driving force for a new stage of economic growth, ensuring a fair distribution of riches, employment for all, a better educational and public health system and a better support system for the elderly and the handicapped. In this way Europe will be able to fight all the better against the "enemy" and greatest threat to its security: apartheid and social exclusion. This will in turn strengthen solidarity and hope in a better future, fulfilling dreams of well-being for everyone until the end of their lives and for future generations.

This objective should constitute a lever for the revival of the economy and innovation in the social, economic and cultural fields

3. A new method

For the first time, this method will include a European "participatory" budget for the period 2007-2013.

The proposal « European Contract for a well-being Society » setting up a European program and a participatory budget for 2007-2013 is an answer with five stakes :

- For those considering neither the Charter of the Fundamental Rights, nor the Constitution project, are a sufficient answer to the expectations of a Europe in which the values of equality, solidarity and justice should be added to those of liberty, democracy and respect for Human Rights, the European Contract and its link with the budget 2007-2013 will be the warranty for a new dynamism.
- For those who fear the gap between the States widens, for which the european enlargement means social dumping, and for the people whose is greater well-being, the theme of the European Contract « a Well-Being Society » puts the notion of « social market economy, highly competitive », which is one of the objectives of the Constitution project, in the center of the debate.
- Considering Europe is facing several challenges linked to each other : on the one hand succeed in its enlargement and on the other hand being able to adapt itself to the social

challenge of the demography, passing over to a post-modern society and to an « ethical globalisation », the Convention III will permit to develop a new synergy between the authorities, the private sector, the social economy and the NGOs.

- This dynamic and these new synergies are necessary to allow the Union to innovate, including in budgetary matters, to be closer to its own objectives and to become more competitive. Europe will not attain the Lisbon objectives (knowledge society), nor the Göteborg's one (sustainable development), nor to relaunch the economy, if it is unable to mobilize all the energies. The Union does not lean enough on the agents of the change in the society. These will have their place in Convention III .
- Finally, the Convention III and the European participatory budget will demonstrate that the european participatory democracy, conceived to bring together the Union and its citizens and adapted to a knowledge and networking society, is a source of innovation, dynamism, mobilization, transparency and participation. The preparation of a european participatory budget will be an essential lever for more efficiency, especially because, in an enlarged Union, the available financial means must be more performant.

The objective of setting up a participatory budget is ambitious, but it is important that the citizens feel responsible for their future, that they become conscious of the solidarity binding the people from now on and of their european identity, also that they understand the resources are limited and that they participate in the choices that must be done.

Most of the democracies are born because the citizens wanted to control the spending of the State. The budget is the principal tool of power. It determines the possible policies. If the Civil Society wants well-being policies, it must be sure the corresponding budgets are forecasted. Participatory budgets exist at the level of communes, middle size towns and even some big towns, mainly in Scandinavian countries. In Porto Alegre, 1,3 millions inhabitants decide how 20% of the budget is allocated.

With its initiative, the Forum wants a new working procedure for the Commission and the Parliament to emerge. In its recent issue about budgetary perspectives 2007-2013, the commission is declaring in favour of a « Europe of solidarity and partnership ».

Help us by answering to the questionnaire, to propose new practices for the budget management, especially at one hand for the budgets allowed to NGOs and on the other hand the budget directly managed by the State Members (80% of the Union budget).

Convention III would transform once more Europe into a laboratory for the world. In the Convention III, the economical and social partners would no more be “observers”, but full members of the Convention, because a Well-Being Society concerns everybody : all the partners and the “champions” of the social economy must be mobilized. Representatives of third States, more and more concerned by european decisions in the context of the globalisation of the economy, would be associated as “observers in the Convention III”.

The composition of Convention III will differ from that of Convention II and would include :

- As members of the CONVENTION:

- European and national public authorities (governments, European Parliament, national parliaments, European Commission, Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions) ;
- the "Champions" of corporate citizenship, particularly socially responsible businesses with a European status and SMEs from various sectors as well as from the financial sector, including public and co-operative or mutual-benefit financial institutions ;

- the "Champions" of the social and co-operative economy, social, educational and health services, public utilities ;
- the "Champions" of social and cultural NGOs, such as women's associations, or associations for the elderly or the handicapped ;
- the "Champions" of trade unions and organizations representing job seekers ;
- the "Champions" of the action undertaken to protect the common good.

- As observers :

Representatives from the civil society in the third countries that have signed the agreements for a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area and the agreements between the Union and other regions of the world.

The European Contract for a Well-Being Society will be jointly implemented by its signatories, in other words by all the Convention members. A Monitoring Committee will be set up at the end of Convention III with the task of submitting an annual Report and proposals for improving the process.

Within the framework of the campaign for the 2004 elections to the European Parliament, the Permanent Forum of Civil Society is inviting all European political parties :

- include the « European Contract for a Well-Being Society » and the « Participatory Budget » in their program,
- To designate candidates for the Presidency of the European Commission, the Presidency of the European Parliament and the Presidency of Convention III, who undertake to negotiate and implement the European Contract for a Well-Being Society.

4. A new instrument

A questionnaire answered by VIVANT-EUROPE (see below).

2. VIVANT-EUROPE'S ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

CONVENTION III

A EUROPEAN CONTRACT FOR A WELL-BEING SOCIETY

Its programme for 2007-2013 "Together We Do Better"

Questionnaire to the association's members of the European civil society

The proposal for a "European Contract for a Well-Being Society" and for a European Participatory Budget are the subject of this consultation. The same questionnaire is submitted to civil society organizations in Europe. Findings will be presented at the conference of the European civil society and the States-General of the Forum to be held during the Autumn 2004.

Please send us your reply to this questionnaire by 30 April and let us know the names of the "champions" (see the definition of "champion" at question 4) whom you would like us to invite to the conference.

The Permanent Forum of Civil Society is convinced that after drawing up the Charter of Fundamental Rights and recognizing the principle of a participatory democracy in the draft Constitution of the European Union, the task ahead – to continue the construction of the Union and reinforce its European identity – is to tackle the conclusion of a European Contract for a Well-Being Society that will clearly set out the new, sustainable European model for economic, social and cultural development. This will be an important step in the implementation of the EU objectives defined in the draft Constitution "*The Union's aim is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples*" (Art I-3, par. 1).

The time has come to establish a real European contract, which would act as leverage for Europe to make "further progress" at social and economic levels within the framework of an ethical globalization, and to provide for means of implementation of this contract via a participatory budget and a European Community tax system. The European Union can thus become a *peaceful* superpower, an "anchor" for world peace and the driving force for a new stage of economic growth, ensuring a fair distribution of riches, employment for all, a better educational and public health system and a better support system for the elderly and the handicapped. The European 2004-2009 legislative period should be the time for further progress towards a well-being society at European and world levels. This objective should help revive the economy and innovation in the social, economic and cultural fields.

Question 1. Please give your definition of a well-being society:

A society that ensures a secure existence and that provides a framework enabling self-fulfilment as well as freedom of enterprise and creativity while respecting life.

Question 2.

The first Convention has drawn up the Charter of the Fundamental Rights, the second Convention has drawn up a project of treaty for a European Constitution, of which the first and second parts were laid down at the Thessalonica summit on the 20 and 21 June 2003.

The second part includes the Charter of the Fundamental Rights in the treaty project.

Some people consider the Charter as necessary but insufficient, that it should be completed by a Contract defining programmatic rights which will permit to bring the fundamental rights into operation as well as the objectives defined in Article 1 of part I of the treaty project for an European constitution.

On the basis of **your definition for a well-being society (see your definition in question 1)**, please determine **the priority work areas** to be put on the agenda of this European Contract. Simply put a cross in the last column to indicate your choices. You may also add other work areas that are not included in the list below and should in your opinion also be taken into account.

If you feel all the work areas have equal priority, please put only one cross in the column of the last line.

Please put crosses in the last column (see above).

	<u>X</u>
Work Area : Security	
Work Area : Tolerance	
Work Area : Combating discrimination	
Work Area : Sustainable development	
Work Area : Promote peace	
Work Area : Balanced economic growth	
Work Area : Single market where competition is free and undistorted	
Work Area : Promote social justice and protection	<u>X</u>
Work Area : Improvement of the quality of the environment	<u>X</u>
Work Area : Social market economy	
Work Area : Promote economic, social and territorial cohesion	
Work Area : Culture, pluralism	<u>X</u>
Work Area : Full employment	
Work Area : Social progress	
Work Area : Promote scientific and technological advance	<u>X</u>
Other work area : <u>Settign up an unconditional Basic Income for all</u>	<u>X</u>
Other work area : Specify	
Other work area : Specify	
All work areas equally priority holding	

Question 3.

A working area should be transformed into action. On the basis of your selection of the priorities for work areas, please select from the selection of themes presented below, the seven priority themes to be put on the agenda of this European Contract. These themes are purposely presented at random with no prefixed logics. Please mark your seven priorities from 1 to 7, with 1 being the most important one. If you think it is difficult to classify them by order of priority, simply put a cross in the last column to indicate your choices. You may add some themes that are not listed but do not select more than seven themes.

Please circle a figure or put a cross in the last column (see above) or put a cross in the last column opposite to your seven priorities.

	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	<u>X</u>
-introduction of growth indicators taking sustainable and fair development of humans and care for environment into account	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-introduction of economic, social, fiscal and budgetary governance in support of a full employment policy as well as social and regional cohesion in Europe	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-the migration and asylum policy, defining the conditions of the migration increase	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	

-solidarity between generations	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-protection and enhancement of common goods, collective heritage, genetic heritage, cultural and intellectual heritage	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-public health, especially children's health, and the right to a healthy environment	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-facilities for disables to be equal to valid people in their day to day activities	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-implementation of a European participatory democracy for sustainable development, thanks to partnership between public authorities, businesses and civil society	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-equality between men and women and a better conciliation of professional life with family life	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-fight against organised crime and cross border criminality, terrorism, drugs' sale, trafficking human beings and their organs	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-fight against precariousness, poverty and social exclusion in Europe (including a housing suitable for all)	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-eradication of illiteracy	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-lifelong learning accessible to all (aiming in particular at bridging the digital divide)	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-a decent income, suitable for all, independently from occupational income	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-a profession and a job for all	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	

Question 3 (continuation)

	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	<u>X</u>
-compliance with international agreements on human rights on minima norms about labour law								
-suppression of the third world's debt	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-protection of the nature, water management, respect of the biodiversity, fight against greenhouse effect and climate change	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-solidarity with southern people, a public aid for development higher than 1% of the GIP	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-sustainable investments and fair trade, environment-friendly	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-control over the sale of arms and ammunition	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
-transparency of movements of capital through implementation of an international	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	

tax on financial flows, elimination of tax and legal havens and free zones								
-set up of an European attorney and a public prosecutor's room	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
Other: 1: Please specify Create a more competitive Europe in removing the tax on labour (Lisbon Strategy)	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
Other: 2: Please specify Social solidarity and respect of work through tax solely on goods	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	

Question 4.

Actually, a new European model for a well-being society is already in construction thanks to a wide range of successful initiatives – too little known by institutions, public authorities and the general public – taken at the level of EU Member States by many economic, social and associative players. The time has come to bring together these "champions", bearers of exemplary initiatives, pioneers of a society marked by stronger bonds of solidarity and to give a greater multiplier effect to their actions by allowing them to play a part in the establishment of the European Contract for a Well-Being Society.

Please indicate your "champions", i.e. the initiatives that in your opinion deserve to be recognized at a European level and may benefit from a multiplier effect as a result of the Contract for a Well-Being Society. Please also indicate the organization or individual carrying these initiatives.

	INITIATIVE	ORGANIZATION	PERSONALITY
1-	Promotion of a new socio-economic model that enables the funding of an unconditional Basic Income for all through tax on goods only.	VIVANT-EUROPE	ROLAND DUCHATELET

Question 5.

In the perspective of an Assembly (Convention III) that would bring together the main social, economic and political players in order for them to decide on how to implement a European Contract for a Well-Being Society and extend its negotiation forums to the whole of civil society, who are the players who should be called in this Convention?

as members of Convention III for a Contract for a Well-Being Society:

	YES	NO	NSP
European and national public authorities (governments, European Parliament, national parliaments, European Commission, Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions).	1	2	0
The "Champions" of corporate citizenship, particularly socially responsible businesses with a European status and SMEs from various sectors as well as from the financial sector, including public and cooperative or mutual-benefit financial institutions.	1	2	0
The "Champions" of the social and cooperative economy, social, educational and health services, resocialization and/or social integration associations, public utilities.	1	2	0
The "Champions" of trade unions.	1	2	0
The "Champions" of social and cultural NGOs, such as women's associations, or associations for the elderly or the handicapped.	1	2	0
The "Champions" of the action undertaken to protect the common good.	1	2	0
Other: 1: Please specify	1	2	0
Other 2: Please specify	1	2	0

as observers:

Representatives of civil society in the third countries that have signed the agreements for a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area and the agreements between the Union and other regions of the world.	1	2	0
Other: 1: Please specify	1	2	0
Other: 2: Please specify	1	2	0
Other: 3: Please specify	1	2	0

Question 6.

Only a participatory approach based on partnership will make it possible to develop new forms of synergy. Thanks to this approach, Europeans will be able to innovate, achieve convergence between public and private financial means and accelerate the transition towards a new mode of development that can ensure security and peace.

This method will include the first-time establishment of a European "participatory" budget for the period 2007-2013. The Convention would be prepared by a task force addressing these issues.

Please indicate if you have experienced any ...

1. « partnership » with the Commission in Brussels or with its permanent representations in the Member States.

- Have you signed any contract with the Commission ? Yes No
- **If YES**, what are you concluding from this experience ?

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2. « partnership » with your government when assigning Community Funds (the Structural Funds for instance).

- Have you been a member of a follow-up committee ? Yes No
- Have you introduced any project concerning Structural Funds ?
Yes No
- **If YES**, what are you concluding from this experience ?

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Question 7

Here are a few topics for the preparatory working group. Please indicate your priorities by circling the issues to be discussed:

	YES	NO	NSP
Defining a <u>budget</u> at a European level, devoted to a Contract for a Well-Being Society.	1	2	0
Introducing <u>new budget headings</u> .	1	2	0
Having a budget heading for	1	2	0
For the projects financed by the Commission <u>within</u> the European Union, introducing a <u>new system of experience feedback</u> involving the Parliament, the Commission and project leaders.	1	2	0
For the projects financed by the Commission <u>outside</u> the European Union, introducing a new system of experience feedback involving the Parliament, the Commission, project leaders, the recipient country and local civil society.	1	2	0
For the European budget appropriations that are actually <u>managed by Member States, whether directly or indirectly</u> , introducing new mechanisms for transparency and participation of civil society at a national level (80% of the Union's budget).	1	2	0
For NGOs working at a <u>national, regional or local level</u> , introducing new, locally managed mechanisms enabling these NGOs to be involved, for <u>relatively low amounts</u> , in projects financed by European funds.	1	2	0
Defining a <u>Europe-wide tax system</u> .	1	2	0
Stepping up the <u>Union's budget above the current maximum (1.27 % of per capita income)</u> .	1	2	0
Other: Please specify	1	2	0

Question 8.

The launching (in September 2005?) of a CONVENTION III in view to establish a European Contract for a Well-Being Society and prepare a participatory budget for the period 2007-2013, will very much depend on those to whom the next European elections of June 2004 will give power. Indeed, the designation of the future President of the European Commission and the composition of the new Parliament will very much depend on the outcomes of these elections.

This is the reason why we wish you to indicate the names of those you would like to be asked to fulfil the following functions during the next European legislative period:

President of the European Commission:

President with a program elected by universal suffrage...

President of Convention III:

.....

Description of your organisation

Name : VIVANT-EUROPE

Activity area / type of action :

The penalisation of European workers with regard to workers outside Europe must be stopped.

Tax on work kills employment, empties Europe of its skills and jeopardises the funding of our social security.

European social security must be funded by the sale of products in Europe, through tax on consumption, or “social VAT”, instead of making employment unaffordable.

Saving employment and social security means guaranteeing durable human development in an environmentally friendly and social Europe.

Address :

Street : Rue HECTOR BLONDIAU Nr : ...22.....

City : ... MIGNAULT Zip Code : 7070

Country :Belgium.....

E-mail : brasseur.jp@swing.be.....

Number of members in this country : / 1000 /

Are there any local or decentralised organisations in the same country?
 NO YES ⇒ How many ? /_/_/_/_/

Kind of questionnaire/answer : national answer local answer

Countries where your organisation is present : please mark when suitable

Germany	x	Greece		Poland	
Austria		Hungary		Portugal	
Belgium	x	Ireland		Romania	
Bulgaria		Italy	x	United-Kingdom	
Cyprus		Latvia		Slovakia	
Denmark		Lithuania		Slovenia	
Spain	x	Luxemburg	x	Sweden	
Estonia		Malta		Switzerland	
Finland		Norway		Czechia	
France	x	The Netherlands		Turkey	

Others

Eastern Europe		Southern America	x	Japan	
Africa		Middle East		Other Far East	
Northern America		China		Australia-New Zealand	
Central America		India-Pakistan-Ceylon		Other Oceania	

Permanent Forum of Civil Society - Forum Permanent de la Société Civile

Square de Meeûs, 25

B-1000 Bruxelles

Phone (32) 2 508 30 84

Fax (32) 2 508 30 89

[Http://www.forum-civil-society.org](http://www.forum-civil-society.org)