

LETTER FROM THE FORUM TO MR BARROSO

Sir,

To save the European Constitution

Three major steps forward for the Peoples of Europe are now threatened by those who wish to consign the draft Constitutional Treaty to an early grave. The European Council of June must be called on not to allow that to happen!

- For the first time, the draft submitted for ratification stated that the European Union is a union not only of 'States' but also of 'Peoples'.
- For the first time, the draft constitutional treaty changed the foundation stone of the Union. At present it is still 'the market'. It was to become the 'Charter of Fundamental Rights', which would be accorded legal status.
- For the first time, the principle of participative democracy was recognised.

One member of the 'European elite' entitled a contribution following the French and Dutch referenda "People's Pause". The people are about to be put in the community refrigerator!

The Charter of Fundamental Rights is about to be discarded! As for participative democracy, it is about to be replaced by a policy of "communication".

To prevent this unacceptable retreat, the principle of a European Constitution must be fought for, together with the right of the peoples to have the last say through a pan-European referendum. But discussions have shown that if such a referendum is to succeed the Union must find a new approach to the Turkish issue and a new thrust for the Euro.

For these reasons, the Forum

1. Requests the Commission to call, in July 2005, a special Round Table of the Union's institutions and Turkey, together with European Civil Society, to allow the non-governmental organisations to make suggestions regarding innovative approaches, before negotiations with Turkey start in October and the Euro-Mediterranean Summit is held in November.
2. Is proposing that the Organised Civil Society of the Euro Zone should hold a General Meeting in September 2006 to study the elements of a common platform regarding an economic revival in the zone.

For its part, the Forum would make its own contribution to the debate. Please find attached our working paper.

The Standing Forum of Civil Society would like to meet with you to discuss these themes.

Yours Sincerely,
THE FORUM