



# What future for the European Union?

*THE SOCIALIST GROUP IN DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY*

# What future for the European Union?

*THE SOCIALIST GROUP IN DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY*



## WHAT FUTURE FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION? *The Socialist Group in dialogue with Civil Society*

*How can we guarantee and strengthen a European social model based on sustainable development and quality public services?*

*How do we build on European citizenship and construct an area of security within the Union while preserving the individual rights and freedoms of citizens?*

*How do we ensure a better economic and social governance within the European Union?*

*How can we get the Union to develop its role in the world and contribute to the establishment of an international order which is more stable, fair and peaceful?*

*How can we make the European institutions more democratic, efficient and transparent?*

*These are some of the key questions addressed by the Convention on the Future of Europe. The Convention, composed of representatives of the European Parliament, the national parliaments of the Member States, the European governments and the European Commission, was charged with drafting and presenting a draft European Constitution before the end of June 2003. An Intergovernmental Conference has as its task to finalise the Constitution that should put the Union in a better position to meet its many challenges in the years to come and in particular the next enlargement with 10 new States.*

*The Convention's debates concern all Europeans. It is therefore essential that Union citizens are really involved and that their points of views are heard and taken into account by the members of the Convention.*

*This is why the Socialist Group in the European Parliament decided to organise a regular dialogue with Civil Society, through a series of open meetings bringing together members of the Convention, other politicians, and representatives of trade unions, NGOs and many associations (including those of a social or human rights nature, European movements and students).*



*The aim of these meetings was first of all to start a wide and open debate, and to draw common conclusions in order to stimulate and give direction to the work of the Convention.*

*Five meetings were organised between June 2002 and May 2003. Very well appreciated by participants, they each brought together up to 100 representatives of Civil Society and took place in a very positive atmosphere.*

*This brochure will introduce you to the discussions and main conclusions, demonstrate our contribution to the Constitution, and show you the priorities we set out in our position paper "A successful Convention on the Future of Europe: Our essentials".*

**Pervenche BERÈS**

*Vice Chair of the PES Group responsible for relations between  
the Socialist Group and Civil Society  
Member of the European Convention*



## Giving a voice to Civil Society and strengthening Social Europe in the Constitution: our contribution

The PES Group's delegation to the Convention has made every effort to strengthen the Union's social dimension, its democratic character and openness and the involvement of Civil Society and social partners in the democratic life of the Union. We have contributed to major improvements to the Constitution.

### We have strengthened the Union's social model

The Convention Working Group on Social Europe was set up at our initiative, giving a focal point to social issues and allowing positive conclusions to be reached.

- We obtained the integration of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, including its body of social rights.
- We obtained the addition of equality, solidarity and non-discrimination among the Union's values.
- Among the objectives of the Union (Article 3), we obtained the promotion of a social market economy, the objectives of full employment, social progress, the improvement of the environment, the fight against social exclusion, the promotion of justice and social protection, equality between men and women, and solidarity between generations; we also had sustainable development, solidarity, fair trade, the protection of fundamental rights and the rights of children and respect for international law, added to the Union's foreign policy objectives.
- We had social policy, economic, social and territorial cohesion and the environment added to the list of competences shared between the Union and the Member States (Article 13).
- We have obtained a competence for the Union not only to ensure the co-ordination of the economic policies of the Member States, but also of their employment and social policies (Article 14).



## We have strengthened the role of civil society

- We have defined the Union's dual legitimacy as that of its citizens and its States (Article 1).
- We have enshrined the principle of participatory democracy in the Constitution (Article 46), stating that the Commission carries out "broad consultations" with Civil Society and representative associations to ensure that the Union's actions are coherent and transparent.
- We have introduced a legal basis for the role of the social partners and social dialogue (Article 47).

## Our future objectives

Our campaigns, in the European Parliament and in future conventions, will be guided by the following objectives:

- Creating a legal basis to permit regulatory and creative action by the Union in relation to services of general interest;
- Introducing a horizontal clause on social values which will be binding on all Union policies;
- Improving economic and social governance through the strengthening of the role of the Commission and of the European Parliament;
- Recognising the competence of the Union to fix minimum social standards with a view to social harmonisation at a highest level;
- Allowing physical harmonisation through a more flexible procedure;
- Widening the competences of the Union in relation to the right to strike, remuneration, and the right of association;
- Putting the euro zone at the service of growth and employment;
- Constitutionalising the open method of co-ordination.



## "What future for the European Union?" (3 June 2002)

- Economic and social governance for sustainable development
- Democracy and participation in the decision-making process

Klaus Hänsch, member of the Presidium of the Convention and Chair of the Socialist Delegation of the European Parliament in the Convention gave a general overview of the Socialist Group's approach to the major subjects being discussed in the Convention. The meeting then focused on two subjects: **"Economic and social governance for sustainable development"** and **"Democracy and participation in the decision-making process"**.

In the debate involving Socialist Convention members – Anne Van Lancker, Carlos Carnero, Pervenche Berès – and around 70 representatives of associations and trade unions, issues such as the putting into place of economic and social governance, entrenching social policy in the Constitution, strengthening the role of the social partners and strengthening democratic control by the European Parliament were raised.

### What were the agreed conclusions?

Most participants wanted the Convention in particular to:

- Redefine the Union's objectives, in order to grant a greater place for its social dimension;
- Defend a social model which can be a beacon to the world;
- Integrate the Charter of Fundamental Rights into the Constitution, without reopening the debate on its existing content;
- Give particular attention to public services and non-discrimination between residents and non-residents;
- Improve the open method of co-ordination;
- Develop a European policy on education and training;
- Develop the concept of positive subsidiarity, which means examining case by case the most appropriate field for each action: it can therefore also mean assigning new competences at European level.

## "The European Union: an area of freedom, security and justice?" (30 September 2002)

This meeting focused in particular on "The promotion of justice and human rights within the European judicial area" and "The incorporation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights into the future European Constitution".

Luis Marinho, member of the Socialist Delegation to the Convention, introduced the first subject setting out how justice and home affairs policies had developed from the Amsterdam Treaty until now. He stressed amongst other things the need to eliminate the existing pillar structure of the European Union and to strengthen the Community method in this field.

Pervenche Berès, Vice Chair of the PES Group responsible for relations between the Socialist Group and Civil Society, pleaded strongly in favour of the integration of the Charter of Fundamental Rights into the future Constitution of the Union. Also, the preamble of the Charter should become that of the Constitution. She felt that there is no incompatibility between the integration of the Charter into the Constitution and accession of the Union to the European Convention on Human Rights. We should fight for both in order to strengthen the protection of citizens.

Following an extensive debate between representatives of associations, trade unions and members of the PES Group, the great majority of participants supported:

- The integration of the Charter into the Constitution, ensuring it is legally binding;
- The strengthening of European citizenship today and in the future and the need for the Convention to deal specifically with this point;
- The establishment of an area of security in Europe without putting into question individual rights and freedoms;
- Improving the information and communication policy with citizens;
- The need to review the objectives and missions of the Union, in particular in favour of a more social Europe.





## "Sustainable development and public services: Socialist objectives for the European Constitution" (25 November 2002)

"How can we put sustainable development at the heart of the European social model?"

This was the first subject tackled by representatives of the many organisations present for the third dialogue with Civil Society.

Introduced by Guido Sacconi, member of the European Parliament and Josep Borrell, representative of the Spanish Parliament in the European Convention, the discussion led to the following conclusions:

- Sustainable development must be included in the Constitution as one of the European Union's main objectives;
- Greater use of qualified majority voting and the introduction of an ecological tax would help to attain sustainable development objectives;
- Some pleaded in favour of extending the use of the open method of co-ordination in order to promote sustainable development. However, we must ensure that it is used as a supplement to and not a replacement for the Community method.

### "The place of public services in the future European Constitution"

The second round table was moderated by Proinsias de Rossa, President of the PES Group's "Services of general interest" Working Group, member of the European Parliament and representative of the Irish Parliament in the Convention, Anne Van Lancker, member of the European Parliament and member of the Convention, and Gilles Savary, member of the Transport and Energy Committees of the European Parliament.

It became clear from the discussion that participants largely shared the wish for the future Constitution to conserve and promote public services by improving the provisions of the existing Treaties. It is therefore necessary in particular to:

- Introduce the notion of European public services;
- Amend article 86 of the present EC Treaty in order to allow for public authorities to produce their own goods without making a profit, without being challenged by competition rules;
- Allow state aids of a social nature.

It is also necessary to draft a framework Directive on public services, in order to ensure that the goals set out in the European Constitution can be achieved.

## "Europe in the World" (7 January 2003)

The fourth meeting between the PES Group and Civil Society focused on: "Europe's presence in the world" and "Promoting development and solidarity".

### "Europe's presence in the world"

A very lively discussion took place between Pascal Lamy, European Trade Commissioner, Pervenche Berès, Erika Mann, member of the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy in the European Parliament and representatives of associations, active in particular in the field of human rights and development co-operation.

Amongst the ideas worth noting from this debate were:

- At present, European States do no longer have a real sovereignty in the field of external policy;
- If we want an external policy of the Union which is truly efficient and legitimate, the Community method must be used, including for the Common Foreign and Security Policy;
- Before defining a genuine security policy, the Union must try to adopt a common approach for international economic and financial matters;
- The Convention must strengthen the European Parliament's powers of control in the field of external relations – in particular in the field of a common trade policy – in order to remedy the erosion of parliamentary control in these fields at national level.

### " Promoting development and solidarity"

The debate was introduced by Simon Stocker, director of Eurostep, a network of 19 European NGOs active in development co-operation. The main conclusions were:

- There is currently a worrying tendency towards the marginalisation of development co-operation policy in the European Union;
- We must preserve the distinction between the objectives of development co-operation policy and those of Common Foreign and Security Policy;
- Development co-operation must be at the centre of the European Union's relations with developing countries;
- A more active stance (promoting solidarity, risk prevention and long-term stability) is needed for this policy.



## "Does the draft Constitution meet our expectations?" (6 May 2003)

Welcoming the numerous participants to this fifth PES Group seminar with Civil Society, including most of the PES Group observers from the new Member States), Pervenche Berès, Vice-Chair of the PES Group responsible for relations between the Group and Civil Society, said that the Convention had now reached a stage where it is possible and useful to have a global discussion on the content of the Constitution.

A first round-table was dedicated to **"The Union's new objectives and policies"**. Led by António Vitorino, European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs, the discussion focused on issues such as social policy objectives and provisions, economic and social policy co-ordination, the Euratom Treaty, non-discrimination, education and culture and the simplification of the EU's structure.

For Commissioner Vitorino, the fact that the Convention process "has been much more open and transparent than any IGC" is one of the main achievements so far. Over the next weeks, the public debate will be dominated by the reform of the institutions, said Mr Vitorino, underlining that while the debate on institutions is of high importance, "institutions are not an end by themselves, they are just a means to set up and implement policies to allow the Union to achieve its goals."

He however reminded the Civil Society representatives that the Laeken European Council did not give the Convention a mandate for an in-depth revision of the EU's policies. But on key topics such as services of general interest and the co-ordination of economic and social policies, so Mr Vitorino, the Convention could really give an "added value" to the existing Treaties.

A second round-table - **"Efficiency, transparency and democracy in the new institutional set up"** - was led by Richard Corbett, member of the PES Group and co-ordinator of the Committee of Constitutional Affairs, and Feri Horvat, representative of the Slovenian Parliament in the Convention.

Mr Corbett welcomed several innovations introduced by the Convention so far, such as the consolidation of the Treaties in a single text called a Constitution, the end of the pillar structure, the simplification of the EU's instruments, the incorporation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the Constitution, the inclusion of a new title on the "democratic life" in the Union, the generalisation of co-decision and qualified majority voting and the fact that the outcome of the European elections will have to be taken into account for the designation of the President of the Commission.

Mr Horvat, for his part, warmly welcomed this dialogue with Civil Society, but stressed that the Praesidium's proposal on European institutions does not meet the Slovenian Parliament's expectations. He regretted, in particular, the "major shift in the institutional equilibrium and in the balance between the Member States introduced by this document".

Topics such as the status of churches (article 37 of the draft Constitution), the new title on the democratic life of the Union and the provisions on the adoption and revision of the constitutional Treaty were raised by several participants.

The meeting was concluded by Enrique Barón Crespo, President of the PES Group, who, like Richard Corbett, welcomed the many improvements to the existing Treaties already achieved by the Convention.

However, he also mentioned several areas where further progress is still needed over the last weeks of the Convention:

- the Union should be defined as a Union of States and Peoples;
- the Convention needs to strengthen the EU's ability to speak with one voice in the world;
- the European social model has to be entrenched in the Constitution;
- equality between men and women has to be guaranteed and constitutionalised;
- economic and social governance has to be strengthened;
- taxes relevant to the Internal Market need to be harmonised;
- the complex question of the Union's Presidency needs to be tackled: the PES Group wants to avoid setting up an Executive Board as proposed by Mr Giscard d'Estaing and supports the election of the Commission President by the European Parliament.

"The EU is a unique system which has brought peace and democracy to our continent. We want to continue developing it in the future" concluded Mr Barón Crespo.



2 JULY 2002

## MANDATE OF THE PES GROUP FOR ITS REPRESENTATIVES ON THE CONVENTION

### *A successful Convention on the Future of Europe: Our essentials*

The Convention presents us as Socialists with a unique opportunity to move the European Union forward in the interest of our citizens and to enable it to respond effectively to its internal obligations by defending its social model and by making its contribution to the world order, in order to respond to the challenges of a globalized world in the 21st century.

We will contribute to the process with all our energy in order to build:

- a democratic and social Europe where people can live in freedom, peace, security and prosperity, and with social progress;
- a Europe which fulfils its international responsibilities in ensuring peace and development and protecting human rights;
- a Europe which guarantees our future by promoting sustainable economic development, safeguarding and strengthening the social acquis, natural resources and protecting the environment.

We want this Union, which for half a century has been vital for peace, stability and prosperity, to pursue its historic vocation in the process of enlargement to the east and south. For the first time in the history of the Union, European parliamentarians, national parliamentarians and representatives of the governments as well as representatives of parliaments and governments of the applicant countries are working together, in order to create a constitutional Treaty, as the basis for the future development of the Union.

We want the Convention to present a coherent draft of a constitution which will promote European integration in pursuance of the successful strategy of recent decades. We want this constitution, based on democratic legitimacy, and which is transparent, efficient and gives clear answers to our citizens as to what, in a European Federation of States and peoples, Europe can and must do in the interest of the women and men it comprises.



## Our priorities

- To promote the European model of society in a framework of sustainable development, full employment, innovation and social cohesion;
- To develop an area of freedom, security and justice;
- To make Europe's voice heard, and strengthen Europe's place, in the world;
- To make the Union more political, democratic, transparent, effective and close to its citizens.

## Europe's fundamental values

The Charter of Fundamental Rights brings together our common values and constitutes the most detailed expression of human dignity, civic, economic, as well as social and political rights to which we remain strongly attached. The reforms for the Union of the future must be developed on the basis of these values which are our values.

- For this reason, we want the Charter of Fundamental Rights to be integrated into the future Treaty and to have its binding legal character guaranteed.

## To promote the European social model in a framework of sustainable development, full employment, innovation and social cohesion

### Development of the European social model

For us as Socialists, a market is not in itself either fair or efficient. We support a market economy but are against a market society. In order to work properly, the market needs equitable rules and high level norms which respect amongst other things social policy and social protection, workers' rights, environmental protection, consumers' rights and solidarity between the regions.



*The results we wish to achieve:*

- to entrench the European social model in the new Treaty, including the financing and social principles inherent in services of general interest and social protection which reflect the different traditions in our countries and which play vital roles both in the cohesion of our societies and in participative citizenship. The social dimension must be an integral part of the missions of the Union, and it is therefore important to define what are goods of public interest;
- to guarantee and to institutionalise equality between men and women in all spheres of activity;
- to strengthen the existing social provisions in the Treaty and to end the exclusion of Community competence regarding remuneration, and rights relating to organisation and strike;
- to strengthen the role of the social partners including their role as co-regulators;
- to provide for a legal basis for dialogue with civil society.

### Putting into place economic and social governance

The introduction of the euro represents an undeniable success in the history of European integration. However, the lack of balance in central monetary structures such as the ECB and the absence of effective co-ordination of economic and social policies, in particular in the 'euro zone' and in the European Union as a whole, remain. Existing co-ordination of economic and employment policies of the Member States, through the economic and employment guidelines, the procedure of multilateral surveillance and the introduction by the Lisbon Summit of a strategy of co-ordination of economic, social, employment and sustainable development policies are not sufficient to put an end to the crucial lack of equilibrium between monetary policy and economic and social co-ordination at European level. Economic and social governance will help us to exploit the economic potential of the Union with a view to achieving full employment and economic and social cohesion.

*We therefore wish*

- articles 2 to 4 of the existing Treaties to be redrafted, in order to provide for an adaptation and re-ordering of the Union's objectives;
- the harmonisation of taxes relevant to the Internal Market and the definition of minimum social standards to be proceeded with, in order to allow social and economic objectives to be met;

- the European Parliament to be completely involved as co-legislator in the strengthening and improving of the development of balanced European legislation, as well as to the synchronisation of the main political instruments in this context;
- a call-back procedure for the European Parliament in secondary legislation to be established as a last resort;
- the participation of the European Parliament and the social partners in the macro-economic dialogue to be guaranteed;
- the broad guidelines for economic policy, transformed into broad guidelines for economic, employment and social convergence policy on the basis of a proposal from the Commission, to be approved by qualified majority in the Council in association with the European Parliament;
- the integration of the open method of co-ordination in the Treaties;
- external representation of the euro zone to be consolidated and included in the Treaty.

## Sustainable development

The strengthening of the economic, social and environmental dimensions implies greater attention to the coherence of policies carried out in these areas. We favour growth based on the responsible and efficient use of natural resources, respecting the environment, and according to modes of production which do not harm public health. The missions and competences of the Union of the future must allow for policies

- to attain a high level of protection by the Union in relation to public health while recognising the responsibilities of the Member States in this area;
- to guarantee food safety, in particular through ensuring a food production process that takes into consideration this objective. For this reason, the full participation of the European Parliament through co-decision is necessary for measures which, directly or indirectly, have a bearing on the safety of consumers;
- to reorientate the European Agricultural Policy in a general way, in order to make it consistent with the imperatives of sustainable development and food safety. This would be achieved through the application of the co-decision procedure in agricultural matters;
- to reinforce nuclear safety, promotion of research and external relations policies in this field, the Euratom Treaty will have to be revised, brought up to date and integrated into the constitutional Treaty. At the same time, the democratic deficit must be reduced by introducing the co-decision procedure.





## Deepening and diversifying complementary policies

Common policies form the basis of European integration, because they strengthen the balance between the economic and the social dimension of the Union. They must be developed on the basis of solidarity in order to achieve a society without exclusion. To attain these objectives

- the Union must develop the European dimension with regard to youth, as well as education, research and innovation and implement without delay the objectives of a Europe of knowledge as defined in Lisbon;
- the Union must reinvigorate its information, communication and training policy;
- the Union must guarantee freedom and pluralism of the press and broadcasting while protecting consumers' rights;
- the Union must be recognised as a legitimate actor in the area of culture, respecting its cultural diversity, and capable of giving real support and a clear added value;
- the Union must encourage co-operation between Member States and if necessary support their actions in relation to culture and sport.

## The future financing of the Union

The Convention on the Future of Europe should be an important opportunity to put the EU budget on a democratic and legitimate basis. It should be the main focus to give Parliament full budgetary rights on the spending as well as on the income side. This means co-decision in all budgetary issues.

- The improvement of the system of own resources should be inspired by the principles of financing autonomy, cost-effectiveness and transparency. We recommend a combination of the simplification of the present system and the constitutional provisions and the introduction of new resources, including a European tax, to replace the existing own resources.
- On the spending side, the EP wishes to reinforce its role as an arm of the budgetary authority and to rationalise the structure of the budget, in particular with the ending of the distinction between compulsory and non-compulsory expenditure.

## The Union as an area of freedom, security and justice

We want the Union to be an area of freedom, security and justice. The fight against terrorism and organised crime, in all its forms, is one of our major concerns. We want a European programme to be set up in order to strengthen internal security while guaranteeing respect for individual rights and freedoms.

The notion of an area of freedom, security and justice, at present limited to measures provided for in Title IV of the European Community Treaty and VI of the European Union Treaty, must be better defined, in order to make it compatible with the definition of fundamental rights contained in the text of the Charter. Substantially, this involves making clear the need for interaction between the definition of fundamental rights and the implementation of the measures required at European level for the protection of those rights.

We must, as a matter of urgency, consolidate in the Community pillar, police and judicial co-operation in criminal matters. This would permit the creation of true interdependence between the policies of the Union in relation to freedom, security and justice and make the rules easier for citizens to understand. This would also allow legal coherence within the Treaties to be ensured, and at the same time allow for judicial control over activities which have implications for the rights of citizens. Co-decision with the European Parliament will guarantee democratic control in this area.

We support the implementation of a real asylum and immigration policy, through effective co-ordination of different integration policies and through the harmonisation of legislation with regard to the right to asylum and the status to be granted to immigrants within the Union.

*The results we wish to achieve:*

- The possibility of direct recourse for the citizen before the Community courts in case of violation of fundamental rights, as recognised in the Charter of Fundamental Rights;
- The creation of a European prosecutor as an independent body specifically empowered to prosecute fraud against the financial interests of the Union;
- Giving Europol an institutional status that is appropriate and coherent with that of Eurojust;
- Fusion within the Community framework of judicial and police co-operation in criminal matters with judicial co-operation in civil matters.



## A Union which is strong in the world

A Union with increased global responsibilities has a duty to contribute to the maintenance of peace and democracy, in particular through the fight against terrorism, and to the respect of human rights and to development. It must also be able to face the global challenges of sustainable social and economic progress, environmental protection and the fight against poverty. As the principal trading partner of the developing countries, it must take care to ensure that world trade is made subject to solidarity and fundamental human rights.

To be able to achieve these tasks, the Union must improve its structures and instruments in order to build a coherent and effective foreign policy - consisting of the CFSP, trade policy, economic and monetary policy as well as development policy and the external dimension of the area of freedom, security and justice.

- Europe has to speak with one voice on the international stage. The existing duplication between Council and Commission should be eliminated;
- Democratic legitimacy must be strengthened, by providing for the ratification of all major international agreements of the Union by the European Parliament;
- The instruments of the CFSP must be made more efficient, in particular by extending QMV as far as possible;
- Particular attention should be given to the development of conflict prevention, the development of the EDSP in order to achieve the "Petersberg tasks" and, possibly, an extended security and defence policy equipped with an armed force that is operational and which can be rapidly mobilised; the European Parliament's power of scrutiny must be strengthened in this field;
- QMV must cover all decisions of trade policy in order to achieve a comprehensive approach which covers all trade-related areas, in particular intellectual property, services, labour, environmental and social issues;
- The Union must be given legal personality in order in particular to strengthen its active presence on the international scene and to facilitate its representation as such in all international organisations.

## A Union based on a Constitutional Treaty that citizens can easily understand and Institutions that are more democratic and effective

### A constitutionalised Union, closer to its citizens

The decision-making system and the capacity of the Union no longer match its current and future objectives. It does not respond to the challenges of the enlargement of the Union and its responsibility in the world. Its framework was built on successive and superimposed strata, the result of which is unintelligible.

A clearer and more precise division of competencies between the European Union and its Member States will benefit the understanding of the citizen of who does what and how. The system of competencies must be capable of evolving and adapting to social changes. The principles of subsidiarity and proportionality are political in nature and must be strengthened primarily at the level of national parliaments, in advance of the adoption of a Community act, within the context of supervision of the action of their governments in Council. The application of principles of subsidiarity and proportionality must also be guaranteed *ex ante* through political supervision, *ex post* by the European Court of Justice.

We need to organise, simplify and bring together the four Treaties into a single text which would govern a single entity, the Union, so that citizens may have an overview of the Union and its procedures.

We should reorganise the Treaty, with the fundamental principles and key constitutional provisions in a first part, and the provisions relating to common policies in a second part. The first constitutional part could only be changed with the assent of the European Parliament and ratification by the Member States, for the second part a procedure of changing its articles by an integrated Community method should be created.



## Institutions which are more efficient, transparent and democratic

Making a reality of objectives aimed at a Europe that is stronger politically, economically and socially implies more efficiency and legitimacy. The Union needs effective institutions resulting in a democratic decision-making system that works.

*This means in particular:*

### For the Parliament

- the extension of the co-decision procedure in particular to all legislative and budgetary areas is essential for a democratic and fully legitimate Union;
- the EP must give its assent to changes to the Treaty;
- for all nominations of constitutional importance, nomination of the judges of the Court of Justice, the High Representative of the CFSP, nominations to the Central Bank, to the Court of Auditors and to Europol, the European Parliament must give its assent in order to enhance the democratic legitimacy of these bodies;
- the strengthening of co-operation between the European Parliament and the national parliaments which is ever closer in all aspects of the policies of the Union, for example, in the drafting of the Broad Economic Guidelines and in questions of home and legal affairs, in order to improve democratic control mechanisms. We are against a new chamber consisting of representatives of national parliaments because this would make the decision-making process more difficult without increasing the genuine control capacities of the national parliaments;
- to revise the instruments and the legislative procedures in order to speed up decision-making, streamline the number of instruments, rename them with the aim of applying more legally appropriate and familiar terms and to clearly distinguish between legislation and execution; to allow earlier contacts between the co-legislators and to make the conciliation procedure more transparent and flexible, for example by having politicians and not officials as representatives of the Council;
- implementing measures adopted by the Commission to be subject to review by the Parliament and the Council, each of which should be able to call back for review any such measures that they oppose by a qualified majority.

## For the Council

- reform of the Council, in particular the revision of the system of the presidencies to ensure more continuity;
- definition and division of the role of the Council in its functions as legislative and executive body;
- extension of the system of qualified majority to all legislative matters except matters of constitutional character;
- transparency and simplification in the decision-making process and clarity on who does what is a *sine qua non* of a democratic Union. For this reason, the legislative process must take place in public;
- simplification of the over-complex definition of a “qualified majority” envisaged in the Treaty of Nice by replacing it with a “double majority” of states and population;
- opposes attempts to create an executive board or an executive president within the Council.

## For the Commission

We want to see a strong Commission that can fulfil its role as a European government, in particular through

- the election of the President of the Commission by the European Parliament in order to strengthen the democratic legitimacy, authority and effectiveness of the Commission and to revitalise the interest of the citizens of the Union in the European elections;
- the reform of the internal structure of the Commission;
- reasserting the Commission's exclusive right of initiative;
- the incorporation of the High Representative for Foreign Policy into the Commission as a Commissioner with a special status, chosen by the President of the Commission and the Council;
- bringing all parts of EU administration such as agencies, monitoring centres, and EUROPOL under the responsibility of the Commission.



## Looking to the future

*As Socialists, we fought long before the Nice European Council for the setting up of a Convention as an alternative to the traditional method of Treaty revision. The absence of coherence between the missions and competences of the Union linked to the lack of democracy and efficiency in the functioning of the institutions has contributed to the Union becoming distant from its citizens. While respecting its fundamental values in the development of its missions, the Union must remain a model for the world. In order to do so, it must promote its social model, create an area of freedom, security and justice, respecting individual and collective rights and freedoms and assert its place in the world. In order to achieve these objectives, the Union needs effective and democratic institutional instruments. The results of the work of the Convention must constitute the fundamental basis for the decisions of the 2004 Intergovernmental Conference. The Convention will be a success if it leads to a result that is capable of reinstating the confidence of citizens in the Union.*

*Enrique Barón Crespo*



*Pervenche Berès*



*Josep Borrell*



*Carlos Carnero  
González*



*Richard Corbett*



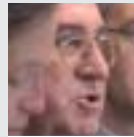
*Proinsias De Rossa*



*Klaus Hänsch*



*Feri Horvat*



*Pascal Lamy*



*Erika Mann*



*Luis Marinho*



*Guido Sacconi*



*Gilles Savary*



*Simon Stocker*



*Anne Van Lancker*



*António Vitorino*





[www.socialistgroup.org](http://www.socialistgroup.org)



PARLIAMENTARY GROUP  
OF THE PARTY  
OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS

---

FRAKTION DER  
SOZIALDEMOKRATISCHEN  
PARTEI EUROPAS

---

GROUPE PARLEMENTAIRE  
DU PARTI  
SOCIALISTE EUROPEEN

---

GRUPO PARLAMENTARIO  
DEL PARTIDO  
SOCIALISTA EUROPEO

---

GRUPPO PARLAMENTARE  
DEL PARTITO  
DEL SOCIALISMO EUROPEO

---

FRACTIE VAN DE PARTIJ  
VAN DE EUROPESE  
SOCIAALDEMOCRATEN

---

EUROOPAN  
SOSIALIDEMOKRAATTISEN  
PUOLUEEN PARLAMENTTIRYHMÄ

---

DE EUROPEISKA  
SOCIALDEMOKRATERNAS  
PARLAMENTSGRUPP

---

GRUPO PARLAMENTAR  
DO PARTIDO  
SOCIALISTA EUROPEU

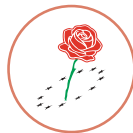
---

DE EUROPÆISKE  
SOCIALDEMOKRATERS  
GRUPPE

---

ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΔΕΥΤΙΚΗ ΟΜΑΔΑ  
ΤΟΥ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟΥ  
ΣΟΣΙΑΔΙΣΤΙΚΟΥ ΚΟΜΜΑΤΟΣ

---



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
RUE Wiertz - B-1047 BRUSSELS  
TEL.: +32 2 284 21 11  
TEL.: STRASBOURG: +33 3 88 17 40 01  
INTERNET: <http://www.europarl.eu.int/pes/>