



Brussels, 26 November 2003

To: Foreign and European Affairs Ministers



Concerning: The Ministerial Meeting on the EU Constitution in Naples, 28-29 November



Dear Minister,

We believe the Naples meeting can become a crucial moment in the process towards a EU Constitution. Therefore we approach you with an urgent demand not too limit the discussion to the institutional issues that need resolution. We have emphasised before, and continue to do so, that it would be a big mistake to agree on a Constitution that is not responding to the public's demand for a lead role of the EU in providing quality of life, food safety, environmental protection. We insist you take the time necessary to ensure that the entire Constitution is coherent with the principal objectives laid down in Part I and the horizontal part of Part III.



Attached you will find a contribution to your discussion in Naples.

Friends of the Earth Europe

Looking forward to your support and response.

Yours sincerely,



John Hontelez
Secretary General European Environmental Bureau

GREENPEACE

Also for:

Clairie Papazoglou – Head, Birdlife International European Community Office

Karla Schoeters – Director, Climate Action Network Europe

Martin Rocholl – Director, Friends of the Earth Europe

Michael Prochazka – Secretary-General, International Friends of Nature

Jorgo Iwasaki-Riss – EU Policy Director, Greenpeace European Unit

Tony Long – Director, WWF European Policy Office

Beatrice Schell – Director, European Federation for Transport and Environment



Contact address: European Environmental Bureau

Federation of Environmental Citizens Organisations

Boulevard de Waterloo, 34 – 1000-Brussels

Tel.: + 32 2 289 10 90 Fax: + 32 2289 10 99



Green-8 CALL ON EU GOVERNMENTS TO PRESENT A FORWARDLOOKING EU CONSTITUTION



The Green-8 urgently call on the IGC and the Heads of State to improve the draft European Constitution so that it reflects the expectations of European citizens with regards to sustainable development, quality of life and environmental protection.



Of main concern to civil society groups are the **outdated policy chapters in Part III**, which were drawn - largely unchanged - from the existing European Community Treaty without proper discussion in the Convention. As they stand, EU policies like agriculture, transport, energy and development conflict with the EU's overall objectives of sustainable development and protection and improvement of the environment.



Friends of the Earth Europe

The chapter on **Agriculture**, for example, still defines an "increase in agricultural productivity" as a key aim without even mentioning the need for sustainable development in rural areas. The chapter on the EU's Common Commercial Policy still sees further trade liberalisation as an aim in itself, rather than as a means for promoting sustainable development. It expands the European Commission's power in the controversial field of foreign direct investment without matching this with the necessary parliamentary control.

The Green-8 have made concrete suggestions for amendments to the text of the draft Constitution in their publication "Towards a Green EU Constitution"¹. The Green-8 urge Heads of State to make these changes now in order to avoid a Constitution which has an antiquated set of provisions reflecting the priorities of Europe 50 years ago.



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The Green-8 disagree with the argument of time-pressure to prevent the necessary debate on these policy chapters. In the event that Union policies are not properly addressed during the IGC, we insist upon a timetable for a revision of this part of the Constitution. In order to facilitate this, we support proposals to find a more **flexible revision procedure** for Part III e.g. at least 2/3 super-qualified majority instead of unanimity), **provided that the horizontal clauses of Part III are moved to Part I and are not subject to an easier revision procedure**, since they define essential principles for policy development. The procedure should be similar to that of the Convention for Europe.



It is very regrettable that the substantive reform of the outdated **Euratom** Community has not yet been addressed. The proposed continuation of the Euratom Treaty would undermine the standing of the Constitution as the basic law of the Union, and would allow the contradiction between the new and old Treaties to persist. We therefore call on the European Council in December to initiate a fundamental review of Euratom in 2004 (as proposed by Austria and Ireland), with a view to ending Euratom in its present form, no later than its 50th anniversary in 2007.

¹ Download from <http://www.foeeurope.org/activities/convention/convention.htm> or www.eeb.org