



Friends of the Earth Europe



GREENPEACE



Europe's voice for sustainable transport



Brussels, 16 March 2004

To the 25 Ministers of Foreign Affairs participating in the European Union Inter-Governmental Conference.

Dear Minister,

EU CONSTITUTION – HEEDING THE ENVIRONMENT

As *The Green Eight* - the eight leading environmental organisations active at EU level - we are writing to you to express our view regarding the Inter-governmental Conference. During previous IGCs we have contributed significantly to provisions in the treaties for environmental policy integration and sustainable development. These continue to be essential areas for gaining the support of European citizens. As we approach the Spring Summit and the Presidency's assessment, we wish to urge you to make the most constructive use of the available time so as to examine and improve the current text.

Euratom

Nobody disputes that the Euratom Community and its founding treaty are biased, outdated, undemocratic and in need of reform. As long as they continue to exist, they will blight the European Union's public credibility and understanding, and compromise the principle of having a single source of EU primary law. Undoubtedly, citizens will be far less likely to support a pro-nuclear primary law, than one that is technology-neutral. The future of Euratom must therefore be substantially addressed. We urge you to support the move in the IGC by several states to begin an additional IGC for Euratom, with the aim of producing results before the Constitutional treaty is ratified.

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The Union's policies

The IGC now has an opportunity to fully address the sectoral policies that have hitherto been simply transferred from one treaty to the next. Outdated policies such as agriculture, fisheries, and transport must reflect and integrate our present understanding of environmental concerns and the imperative of sustainable development. We should not have to rely on articles drafted half a century ago. The draft Constitutional Treaty as it stands is textually incoherent, as overall objectives expressed in Part 1 are not consistent with their more detailed expression in Part 3. *The Green Eight* in August last year published a comprehensive set of proposed amendments in the document *Towards a Green EU Constitution*, and we once more draw this to your attention.

Revision procedure

As a minimum, and to enable the Constitution to support sustainable development and environmental policy integration consistently in the future, *The Green Eight* support finding a more flexible revision procedure for the parts of the Constitution dealing with sectoral policies, for example using a super-qualified majority instead of unanimity. Such a move would enable a progressive greening of the constitution as the understanding of environmental imperatives develops.

Sustainable Development Protocol

The Sustainable Development Protocol proposed by Commissioner Wallström complements the explicit reference to sustainable development in draft Article 3. With the additional time now available, we urge you to give this initiative full consideration. We therefore draw your attention to the specific letter sent with others on the 22 January 2004, and again to our publication *Towards a Green EU Constitution*.

These are important matters and we thank you for considering them.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Dr Martin Rocholl,
Director, Friends of the Earth Europe

Also for:

Clairie Papazoglou, Head, Birdlife International European Community Office
Karla Schoeters, Director, Climate Action Network Europe
John Hontelez, Secretary General European Environmental Bureau
Michael Prochazka, Secretary-General, International Friends of Nature
Jorgo Iwasaki-Riss, EU Policy Director, Greenpeace European Unit
Tony Long, Director, WWF European Policy Office
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