

05-001229-2696



Democracy international, 1, Square Wiser, Box 27, 1040 Brussels

Folketinget
Christian Mejdahl
Christiansborg
1240 København K
Denmark

December 2005

Re: Call for a democratic convention on the future of Europe

Dear Mr Christian Mejdahl,

This letter, addressed to the members of the national parliaments in the EU and the EU Parliament is about the future of the European Union. As a civil society organization, *democracy international* campaigns for a democratic Europe and requests your support.

Since the rejection of the draft treaty by the voters in France and The Netherlands the question has surfaced as to how the future of the EU shall be shaped. Here we present a proposal developed by *democracy international*. We are convinced that today's crisis of the EU is essentially a crisis of trust. In many countries the citizens' trust in the EU is declining because they are indeed aware of the increasing importance of the EU, but they are hardly involved in shaping it. This lack of legitimacy necessarily creates distrust. For this reason we propose the following measures:

- The citizens of Europe directly elect a new convention with representatives from all member states.
- A new treaty for the EU is developed in a democratic, participatory, transparent convention process.
- The result is put to a vote by the citizens in all member states.

This democratic convention and ratification process would have these positive effects:

- It would create a draft treaty that would most likely be accepted by a majority of the citizens of Europe and thus obtain legitimacy.
- The procedure involving elections, discussion and voting would awaken the citizens' interest, which so far has been lacking, and involve them in shaping Europe by allowing them to choose among alternatives.
- It would increase citizens' trust in the EU, which otherwise would continue to decline.
- It would promote a European consciousness through the integrating force of (simultaneous) Europe-wide elections and referenda.

This now is what we ask you to do:

1. Please read the five points of our proposal, which is attached. If you agree with the proposal and would like to support it, we ask you to return the signed sheet.
2. Should you decide not to sign, we would be very interested to learn your reasons for this. In this case, too, we would like to ask you for a reply.

Thank you very much for your interest. We look forward to hearing from you soon. Of course we will be only too pleased to answer any queries you might have.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Percy A. Rohde, *democracy international*, Project Co-ordinator
rohde@democracy-international.org

With my signature I support the Call for a "New Convention on the Future of Europe" by *democracy international* (below). *Democracy international* has my permission to publish my name, position, and country for purposes related to the undersigned call.

Full name, title:	
Position:	
Address:	
Country:	
Date:	Signature:

Please return this sheet to:

democracy international
1, Square Wiser, Box. 27
1040 Brussels
Belgium
Phone: +32-26446148 FAX : +32-26440022
www.democracy-international.org



Call for a New Convention on the Future of Europe

1. Direct election of the Convention members

A procedure for a new Convention must be designed so that members are directly elected by the citizens. The issues to be resolved would include who may present themselves as candidates and how many candidates there should be per country. Consideration must be given to ensure that a wide spectrum of views is represented.

2. A democratic Convention procedure

The new Convention should meet and make its decisions in public. The presidium must be elected by the Convention Members, in order to moderate the process. The quality of the process must not be compromised by time constraints.

3. Ongoing citizen participation

Individual citizens, citizen groups, NGOs etc. should be able to present proposals to the Convention, which should then be taken into consideration. This procedure will make it far more likely that the final proposal will be accepted. The Convention should present its provisional findings in the form of a range of basic options. These alternatives should then be debated publicly in appropriate settings (e.g. citizen conferences).

4. Open outcome

The main task of the Convention should be to analyse different options and work out a solution that would be capable of securing a majority among the citizens of Europe. A constitution is just one option among other possible new arrangements for the Future of Europe.

5. Referenda on the outcome of the Convention

The final proposal worked out by the Convention must be subject to referenda in each of the member states. These referenda should take place on the same day.

We the undersigned call upon all members of National Parliaments, the European Parliament, the Heads of State, and Governments of the Member States: Please use the current crisis to create a new democratic foundation for the European Union.