

**M. Wolfgang Schüssel**  
**Federal Chancellor of**  
**The Austrian Government**

Brussels, March 6, 2006

Dear Mister Chancellor,

**Concerns : Conclusions of the June 2006 European Council - Roadmap for the Constitution**

You expressed the wish that Europeans mobilize again and define what they want to achieve together. We support this point of view. We also believe it necessary “to change the context” in which the issue of the Constitutional Treaty will have to be tackled again. To this end, the European Council should propose a roadmap that includes several steps forming a framework that allows to renew the debate and offer opportunities for initiatives and actions that would create this “new context”. We believe it is the way to get out of the current crisis over the Constitutional Treaty.

This is the reason why the Permanent Forum of Civil society wishes to let you have its proposals that are presented as *a draft declaration of the June 2006 European Council*. The Forum proposes a five-step approach, each one offering new perspectives for the European citizens:

1. First step: The Estates-General of Networks' Europe, The present crisis is an opportunity to innovate and demonstrate that new social progresses are possible.. It is up to trade unions, commercial enterprises and civil society, to assemble in an “**Estates-General of Networks' Europe**”, in order to consider together the questions related to globalisation and European values and to agree on what Europeans want to construct together, going beyond questions relating solely to the Union's institutions,
2. Second step: The **Convention III**<sup>1</sup> itself would not have as its unique object the constitutional treaty but would attempt to define a “societal contract” between public authorities – social partners – civil society, founded on an ethics of responsibility, and would propose new criteria to measure progress.
3. Third step: The Intergovernmental Conference over the Constitution,
4. Fourth step: A Pan-European ‘Consultation’ (not a referendum) of the citizens, simultaneous with the election to the European Parliament in June 2009,
5. Fifth step: Ratification by the national Parliaments.

To create a ‘new context’ implies that one opens up ‘new paths’; that one allows to explore new possible approaches likely to provide responses to the misgivings expressed concerning the Union's enlargement process, the effect of globalization, the new challenges concerning peace and safety, the conditions of future social progresses, etc.

These are the reasons why the timetable that will be proposed by the June 2006 European Council should provide for:

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<sup>1</sup> Convention I wrote the Charter of the Fundamental Rights. Convention II wrote the draft Constitutional Treaty. Convention III is the convention that we propose to be convened by the European Council after the Estates-General of Networks' Europe.

1. Plans of action 2015 presented by Europe of the Networks and aiming at a more sustainable and responsible world, The developments facilitated by Internet are indeed creating new opportunities due to the emergence of a new economical ecosystem based on the 'trust capital' of millions of economic agents, making use of new business models where industry and social movement are going together as in the field of Socially responsible investment, Fair trade, Micro-credits, Cooperatives...
2. A Societal Contract and new criteria to measure progress, Such a contract and such criteria also belong to the new context
3. The launching of the Conference for the **Alliance of the Three Seas** operational as from 2010, The enlargement process such as it exists today is going too fast and – paradoxically – not speedy enough to respond to the urgent demands that will come in particular on the energy and democratic levels. The moment has come – and the roadmap should deal with it – to launch the creation of the second “Olympic Ring”, an **Alliance of the Three Seas**<sup>2</sup>, inspired by the experiment of the original European Coal and Steel Community. The Alliance should be based on 4 'baskets'; a zone of free and sustainable trade, energy and water, human rights, youth. This step will also create a “new context” as regards the Union’s borders and future referendums on the constitutional treaty.
4. The presentation by civil society, in Rome on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1957 Treaty, of the draft of a **Solemn Declaration of European Citizens’ Interdependence**, of which the final version should be proposed as the preamble to the revised European Constitution.

These proposals are based on a report prepared by a collective of five Forum members, of which their senior member was a collaborator of Jean Monnet. You will find the French version of this report in appendix together with a translation of its summary into the German language. Its full translation into the English and German languages are under process.

A debate on both the “proposed conclusions of the June 2006 Council” and the report will be held in the premises of the European Parliament on March 30, 2006. We are delighted that the Austrian Permanent Representation in Brussels has accepted to attend it.

Yours very respectfully,

Raymond Van Ermen  
Spokesman of the Permanent Forum

#### APPENDICES

- Forum’s Official statement n° 2006-01 (in English)
- Report “Les citoyens face à l’Union européenne” (in French)
- Summary of the report (in German)
- Summary of the report (in English)

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<sup>2</sup> Caspian, Mediterranean and Black Seas.