

PROPOSALS OF THE FORUM ON THE TOPIC "TO COMMUNICATE EUROPE"

Communication and participatory democracy
Agenda 2006-2007
Scenarios¹ to rebuild the Union

In the current context of crisis, many NGO are ready to invest them with a great action to communicate Europe and to highlight the assets of the Union. But to communicate the assets cannot be dissociated from a great debate on the changes necessary to "rebuild a common will to live together".

Without that - and whereas the current policies of the Union are prone to multiple criticisms and dissatisfaction grows in the population – many NGO could not join a policy of communication which would be reduced to propaganda. NGO would be likely to lose in their turn their credibility and confidence of the citizens, whereas a number of them believe that the responsibility for the current situation lies on the Union's political choices made and implemented without taking account of their criticisms.

The **FORUM** waits from the Commission, the Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee that a calendar 2006-2007 is established on the basis of the elements hereafter:

- The year 2006 must be devoted to a whole set of debates in the Union's Member countries, by Internet and in the media: radio, television and newspaper;
- From these debates' conclusions, one will have to release proposals, registers of grievances and opinions as well as scenarios reflecting the diversity of these opinions;
- In 2007 one will have to organise, on the one hand, the States General of the civil society and, on the other hand, follow-up meetings with the Parliament, the Commission and the Council,
- It is necessary to define the procedures and conditions for financing the debates in the Union so that they take a true European dimension (to envisage for example that these debates bring together nationals of several Union Member countries);
- It is necessary to agree with the members of the Committee of the Regions on the organisation of and ways of financing the meetings on their respective territories.

The **FORUM** requires in addition

- The establishment of a **TRIPARTITE DRAFTING COMMITTEE** (the European Institutions, the social partners and the civil society) to prepare for June 2006, a Green Book on "Participatory democracy and societal dialogue",
- The establishment of a **TRIPARTITE 2006-2007 PILOT COMMITTEE** (the European Institutions, the social partners and the civil society) having for tasks:
 - To define the mandate for the 2006 meetings,
 - To prepare the States General and the meeting with the Union's Institutions in 2007,
 - To assign to local teams the responsibility of outlining scenarios, gathering opinions and proposals emanating from the 2006 meetings and writing the final version of the scenarios for the meeting of 2007.
- The creation of a **FORUM ON THE NEW FORMS OF COMPETITIVENESS**, by the European Economic and Social Committee.

¹ The technique of the scenarios was already used by the Union just as it is of use in the companies and the sociological centres of studies. The scenarios make it possible to gather assumptions and proposals in coherent sets which make it possible to view the possible futures and to make choices.