

European Green Party
7th COUNCIL MEETING
Vienna, 12-14th October 2007



Adopted resolution

Declaration on the intergovernmental conference in Porto

Following the dropping of the constitutional treaty as a result of the refusal to ratify it by the French and the Dutch, the European Council, in June, asked an intergovernmental Conference to write a « treaty of reform » amending the existing treaties. This treaty was to include most of the measures concerning institutional order that were in the Constitutional treaty.

The Greens are satisfied that the institutional modifications that reinforce the control by elected politicians and citizens over the policies that are enacted have been kept in the proposals. Unfortunately they fall very short of responding to the wish for a different Europe, which lay behind a considerable numbers of « yes » and « no » votes on the ECT.

There are still many locks (such as unanimity of the governments that is required for such measures as ecotax and social rights), no proposal aims at questioning the productivist and liberal features of the EU, that have been made worse by the Single European Act in 1986, the Maastricht, Amsterdam and Nice Treaties and the Barcelona Agreements. The European Union that the Greens wish to see, one that will win the support of a large majority of citizens of the Union must be more ecological, more social, and showing more solidarity, resolutely turned towards a sustainable development and open to its neighbours, particularly those from the Mediterranean region.

The reduced importance given to the Charter of the Fundamental rights, from which certain governments openly intend to exempt themselves, the relinquishment of article 122 of the TCE on the Economic Services of General interest, the absence of environmental requirements (apart from an automatic reference to the fight against the climate change), are evidence (not just in a symbolic way) of this refusal to give Europe objectives as high as the challenges posed by the global social and ecological crisis.

Greens support the demand of the European Trade Union Confederation, repeated by the Portuguese Presidency of the Union, to reintroduce the contents of article 122 on public utilities (SIEG) in the future treaty. They join the European Parliament in asking that all the peoples of Europe benefit from the guarantees of the Charter of the fundamental rights. They will be extremely vigilant regarding the advances of the Constitutional Treaty which are in danger of disappearing during the negotiation of the future treaty (criminalization of the sexual exploitation of women and children, etc.)

They consider that the recognition of the role of Europe in the fight against the climate change implies at the very least the removal of the right of veto of every national government on the environmental tax system.

On all these points, Greens therefore urge the mobilisation and vigilance of the social movements, notably those who are involved in the current negotiations in France, such as the "Grenelle agreements of the environment".

But these advances, however useful they are and recognising that we would want them to be approved as fast as possible, would only be a stage in a deeper radical reform of the construction of a political Europe.

The period of the referendum campaign in 2005 showed that everywhere in Europe the debate on the European issues were of great importance to the citizens. Greens propose that the period leading to the election of the European Parliament allows a debate on the objectives of the Union, the competences which should be delegated to it, the new areas of competences to be delegated to it, those which it should share with States or regions, but also those who have to belong to each people or region, such as the freedom to define, in spite of any rule on the free-market economy, the outline of their public utilities as well as the means to implement them (state control, public enterprises, social and united economy, association, with or without monopoly).

The intergovernmental Conference should commit to the fact that the Parliament elected in 2009 is constituent, that is sovereign to decide on a new text, really deserving the name of "constitution", elaborated in dialogue with the national parliaments and e civil society within the framework of a Convention, and which will be subject to the ratification of every European State.

Without prejudicing the legislation of each of the States of the Union, in the interests of real democracy, Greens ask that the ratification of this constitution by every member state, as well as the treaty prepared by the IGC, take place by referendum everywhere where it is possible, the same day (otherwise the same week), in all the territory of the Union. Every other procedure would risk increasing the gulf between the citizens and the political representatives, resulting in a feeling of rejection of the European Union.