

ACTION COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY (ACED)
MINUTES AND CONCLUSIONS
5TH MEETING, FIRENZE 14/15 MARCH 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To resume the activities of the ACED and to draw up contents and formats for the programming period 2008, both the ACED and its Scientific Board convened a meeting at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence on Friday 14 / Saturday 15 March 2008. The Bosch Foundation has granted anew 100,000 € to the ACED to be employed until December 2008. The Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the EUI continues to administer the funds and will provide technical as well as scientific support. During the working dinner and morning session, the participants of the meeting discussed the general direction ACED activities should take, as well as concrete events to put these ideas into practice. Moreover, potential new members for both the ACED and its Scientific Board were identified.

PARTICIPANTS

Members ACED:

G. Amato, P. Lipponen, O. Schily, C. Simitis, on behalf of M. Wallström F. Sipala.

Members of the Scientific Board:

M. Cremona (*only Friday evening*), S. Griller, M. Maduro, W. Sadurski.

E. Heidbreder

Guest:

Pauli Mäkelä (Ambassador Finland, *only Friday evening*)

1 THE MISSION OF THE ACED

Taking into account the written comments sent by D. Hübner, W. Kok, I. Mendez de Vigo, M. Wallström and Paolo Ponzano (see Annex III), agreement was reached on the mission statement to:

- put the promotion of **democracy** at the centre of attention,
- in this vein, to apply as **comprehensible and plain language** as possible,
- go beyond the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty only along the lines of what the **Treaty's implementation** is concerned.

To promote these goals, the focus will be on the Lisbon Treaty, its ratification and enactment. Inseparably linked to the promotion of the ACED objectives is moreover the promotion of citizens' interest and participation in the elections to the European Parliament in 2009.

Annex I is a draft for a Mission statement to be immediately put on the existing web site (<http://www.eui.eu/RSCAS/Research/ACED/Index.shtml>).

2 FOCAL THEMES AND COUNTRIES

2.1 THEMES AND TOPICS

Along the lines of the ACED mission for 2008, the initial proposal to focus particularly on EU policies was refuted given that the ACED has actually less expertise than EU institutions or Member State officials to cover all issues (e.g. single policies like energy policy). The political standing and seniority of its members being the biggest asset of the ACED, the group decided instead to actively contribute to and thus promote the democratic debate on the EU along broader themes that are of prime interest to citizens.

In view of that, the focus in form of content should on the Lisbon Treaty proper, its ratification process and questions that will come to the fore in the course of implementing the Treaty. The discussion turned in particular around the not fully foreseeable effects the Treaty might create depending how it will actually be enacted. The real impact of some changes – such as the establishment of the long-term President of the European Council or in the area of foreign policy – are not at all evident. Therefore, a central contribution of the ACED shall be to take up these questions regarding the de facto implementation, bearing in mind the objectives that the drafters of the Treaty intended to achieve.

Along these lines three clusters of themes have been identified each of which contains various sub-themes (to be extended):

- ENHANCING DEMOCRACY IN EUROPEAN UNION
 - The future role of the Parliaments (national Parliaments and EP),
 - Citizens' Initiative (to be taken up after Irish referendum when first proposals for legislation prepared by the Commission),
 - Improved transparency,
 - Inter-institutional balance (since of less immediate interest to citizens, this topic should be reformulated or de-constructed into single issues).

- THE UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES AS EQUALS
 - Subsidiarity,
 - Sovereignty (to be disaggregated in more tangible topics),
 - Primacy of EU law,
 - Chosen aspects of the Areas Freedom, Security and Justice

- EUROPE'S VOICE IN THE WORLD
 - The new High Representative,
 - The European External Action Service.

Further themes and ways of framing the topics are:

- What does it mean to be an EU citizen?
(dealing with practical concerns, e.g. access to health services abroad etc)

- What is the Charter of Fundamental Rights?

- Special attention to the Citizens' Initiative, (this topic may be a particularly well suited issue for the ACED since so far little public attention has been given to this innovation and how citizens can make use of it in practice).

2.2 KEY COUNTRIES

Regarding the ratification process, the following countries have been identified of special relevance: **BE, CZ, IE, NL, PL, SI**. There was agreement that promoting the debate on the Treaty and democracy remain however vital in all Member States, particularly with view to the implementation of the Treaty with hindsight to the EP elections in 2009.

Both interventions by individual members of the group or events by the ACED should pay special attention to these states. To this end, it was attempted to identify persons from the Czech Republic, Ireland and Slovenia who shall be invited to participate in either the ACED or the Scientific Board (see below heading 5). For the **Czech Republic** and **Slovenia** the meeting did not bring forth persons to be contacted but a number of participants committed themselves to further investigate into the matter. Any suggestions are highly welcome. Proposed candidates will be announced in circulation procedure.

3 WORKING METHOD

3.1 IMMEDIATE TIME FRAME

The target is to deliver the first publicly visible contributions in **early May 2008**.

Hence, the Scientific Board will be asked to sign up and produce documents on the above listed topics which are to be made available to the ACED members within a month **until 26 April**.

On the basis of these, the ACED members are asked to produce first articles and media appearances possibly around 9 May.

3.2 PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY ACED / SCIENTIFIC BOARD MEMBERS

It will be up to each single member to chose an appropriate focal point for his/her respective audience in a one or a number of the Member States. Articles may be translated on request, to this end the resources of the EUI should be made use of.

The articles should moreover be made available on the ACED web site.

The Scientific Board is to provide the members of the ACED with technical background papers that discuss one or a cluster of the proposed topics. These papers should be written so that they offer the necessary technical explanations on Treaty innovations and their impact after implementation so that they may be transformed into newspaper contributions.

Moreover, the input papers may be made available on the web site.

3.3 WEB APPEARANCE

A number of **immediate changes** on the existing web site are to be realised as soon as possible, such as publishing the new mission statement and updating the list of members. A further idea, which has however not been fully substantiated, was to add easy accessible statements like, for example, “ten reasons by the ACED members in favour of the Lisbon Treaty ...”.

In terms of **content** short input papers (approximately one page) by the Scientific Board can be put on the page for download. Furthermore, providing more general bibliographical information on literature on the Lisbon Treaty has been suggested.

To render the page **more visible**, future cooperation partners (see Annex II) shall be asked to add the ACED web site to their links. A **mailing list** open to subscription to the cooperation partners (and individuals), could be established informing about ACED activities and publications.

Generally, a **re-designing** of the page is necessary. Technical experts have already been contacted since the meeting. Also the idea to add an **interactive component** to the page has been discussed in the meeting and with technical experts in the aftermath. The group expressed strong support to work towards an option for users of the page to add their comments and start discussions about their views on Europe, to be handled in a similar manner as pages like ‘face book’. Some serious doubts about the feasibility persist however for the time being, especially because the ACED budget will not allow for a full-time caretaker of the site.

It was furthermore decided that the ACED should buy the domain *www.myeurope.eu*, which is however already taken and not available anymore (although not used by the owner, see <http://www.europeregistry.com/>).

Further technical options for an alternative interactive component on the web page are being investigated into.

4 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

4.1 SCOPE AND NATURE OF ACED PUBLIC EVENTS

Three types of activities are possible:

- PRESS CONFERENCES
 - as successfully held in Brussels,
 - given that the ACED has significant news to convey (when, what and where essential).
- PUBLIC LECTURES
 - e.g. at universities quite possible to organise,
 - more difficult to organise events for broader publics.

- SEMINARS FOR CHOSEN PUBLICS
 - with officials, Parliamentarians ...

To realise these events, cooperation partners in the respective member states are to be found. The list of potential partners (Annex II) may still be extended. These partners will also be asked assistance in disseminating inputs and activities by the ACED.

4.2 EVENTS TO BE HELD

The group decided on the following dates and locations for events to be held:

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT PROPOSAL
20 June 2008 (Friday, ca. 14:00)	Prague	Public discussion in cooperation with national NGOs/think tanks and media.
27 June 2008 (Friday, ca. 14:00)	Warsaw	Public discussion in cooperation with national NGOs/think tanks and media. <i>Cooperation with the Center for International Relations already agreed on.</i>
Autumn 2008	Finland & Greece	Seminar on the impact of the Lisbon Treaty on national Parliaments. <i>Prospective cooperation with Finish Parliament and Finish Institute for International Affairs, as well as the Greek Parliament.</i>
End 2008 <i>or</i> early 2009	Berlin	To be decided.

The events in **Warsaw** and **Prague** are to be realised in cooperation with local think tanks, NGOs and national Parliaments. The goal is to tackle country-specific critical questions on the ratification and implementation of the Treaty and to raise more general awareness by means of the media coverage on the debates between: members of the ACED, scientific experts linked to the ACED, Polish/Czech organisations and politicians.

For the event in Warsaw cooperation partners have already been contacted. For the Czech event, partners have to be found, any suggestions are highly welcome.

The events in **Finland** and **Greece** shall take the format of seminars or workshops, targeted at national Parliamentarians. Together with members and experts of the ACED, MPs shall have the chance to discuss the concrete implications of the new Treaty for the work of national Parliaments across the EU.

The final event should take place in **Berlin** at the end of 2008 or possibly early 2009. Neither format nor content have been decided on. Both will depend on the course of events throughout the year.

5 NEW MEMBERS FOR THE ACED / ACED SCIENTIFIC BOARD

To grant a balanced coverage of the EU Member States and in order to cover those states in which the ratification process might be more convoluted, the following names have been proposed for additional members of the ACED and its Scientific Board.

ACED:

Christian Paul (FR)

Denis MacShane (UK)

STILL TO BE CHOSEN ARE NEW MEMBERS FROM:

CZ

SI

ACED Scientific Board:

Stephen Wall / Julian Priestley (UK)

Bobby McDonagh (IE)

6 NEXT STEPS

We would kindly ask all members to give their **written answers** to the following questions within the next two weeks:

MEETINGS IN WARSAW AND PRAGUE:

- Will you be available and participate?
- Do you contacts or any potential cooperation partners, in particular in Prague?

COMMITMENT FOR EARLY MAY:

- Will you be available to make a media input?
- Do you already now request any concrete input from the Scientific Board for this?

MISSION STATEMENT:

- Do you agree to the text as in Annex I to be put on the web site?

ANNEX I

THE ACED MISSION 2008

In its declaration, issued in Brussels on 4 June, the *Action Committee for European Democracy* (ACED) concluded:

We have to learn the lessons of the period of reflection: communicating better with the citizens, informing them fully about the initiatives and the work of the European Union and involving them in a real and permanent dialogue has to become the first of our missions.

This claim remains imperative. Hence, the ACED aims at contributing to the ongoing ratification processes of the Lisbon Treaty and add its voice to the debate how the objectives of the Treaty will be realised. The chief goal is to render the purpose, contents and gains of the Reform Treaty comprehensive to the Union's citizens. More generally, the public debate and interest in the workings of the EU, its policies, democratic functioning and benefits for Europeans and beyond Europe depend on how the Treaty's innovations will be filled with life. The prime task remains to move a step forward in what in 2001 the Declaration of Laeken pointed as the prime challenge for the Union: tightening the links between EU institutions and the Union's citizens.

The members of the Aced will to this end organise public events and will also seek access to various media platforms and other possible means to give their contributions to the widest possible awareness and understanding of the prospects and challenges of the European project.

ANNEX II

**(POTENTIAL) COOPERATION PARTNERS IN THE MEMBER STATES
(TO BE EXTENDED)**

AUT:

- Institute for Human Sciences (<http://www.iwm.at/>)
 - Krzysztof Michalski, *Support in access to media (newspapers)*
- Diplomatische Akademie /
Diplomatic Academy of Vienna (<http://www.da-vienna.ac.at/>)

BE: potentially

- Les Amis de l'Europe (<http://www.friendsofeurope.org/>)
- Centre for European Policy Studies CEPS (<http://www.ceps.be/>)

D: potentially

- Institut für Europäische Politik (<http://www.iep-berlin.de/>)
- Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (<http://www.swp-berlin.org/>)
 - Volker Pertes, Andreas Maurer

ES: potentially

- Instituto de Estudios Europeos (IDEE), Universidad San Pablo (CEU)
(<http://www.idee.ceu.es/>)
 - Marcelino Oreja

FI: potentially

- Finish Institute for International Affairs (<http://www.upi-fia.fi/eng/>)

PL:

- DemosEUROPA (<http://www.demoseuropa.eu/>)
 - Swieboda Pawel
- Instytut Spraw Publicznych /
Institute for Public Affairs (<http://www.isp.org.pl/>)
- Centrum Stosunków Międzynarodowych /
Center for International Relations (<http://www.csm.org.pl/>)
 - Eugeniusz Smolar

*THE CENTER WILL BE COOPERATION PARTNER FOR THE
EVENT ON 27 JUNE IN WARSAW*

UK: potentially

- Centre for European Reform (<http://www.cer.org.uk/>)
 - Charles Grant
- The Federal Trust (<http://www.fedtrust.co.uk/>)

ANNEX III

WRITTEN COMMENTS BY MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING THE ACED MEETING 14/15 MARCH 2008

Some of the members who cannot attend the meeting have sent their written comments beforehand, the following cites these and summarises each contribution briefly.

DANUTA HÜBNER

MISSION

- General agreement:
 - Main **target** is assisting the ratification of the preparation of entry into force of Lisbon Treaty,
 - Focus on **communication, information, and dialogue** – including specific sensitive national questions,
 - THUS: parallel discussions on far reaching ideas on future European construction would **NOT be helped by going beyond Lisbon Treaty**.

THEMES / TOPICS

- Why is Lisbon Treaty needed, how will citizens benefit from it?
- Show how **efficiency, democracy, transparency** are increased and EU will become more united and visible on world stage, as well as more secure (all proposed themes can be classified under these 3 headings)
- DEMOCRACY:
 - Enhanced role of **national Parliaments** (more attention to subsidiarity)
 - New citizens' initiative,
- NEW POLICIES, as visible Treaty achievement and to be added, e.g.:
 - **Territorial cohesion** as new objective (Art. 2, TEU),
- EFFICIENCY:
 - Generalised **co-decision** and **QMV**,
- **NO BROADER ISSUES** going beyond the contents of the Lisbon Treaty to be included.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

- ALL ACTIVITIES should be coherent with **national communication plans** adopted jointly with the Commission,
- SPECIAL AUDIENCE of interest: **regional and local level authorities**,
- COUNTRIES to be targeted possibly: **PL, FR**,
 - Depending on progressive assessment of **public opinion polls**.

-----Ursprüngliche Nachricht-----

Von: Marta.CYGAN@ec.europa.eu [mailto:Marta.CYGAN@ec.europa.eu]

Gesendet: Do 13.03.2008 19:39

An: Heidbreder, Eva Gabriele

Betreff: RE: ACED 2008

Dear Eva,

While regretting that the Commissioner will not be able to participate in the next ACED meeting, I would like to forward you some ideas for your discussion on the basis of the preparatory document.

Mission

We agree with the mission statement. During the next months, we need to be particularly alert to national ratification procedures and our main mission is to assist the process of ratification and preparation for entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. We should focus on communication, information and dialogue, including particular national sensitive questions, all along 2008. In this context, we think that parallel discussions on far reaching ideas for the European construction of tomorrow would not be helped going beyond the Lisbon Treaty.

Proposed themes and topics

The identified topics should allow us to explain why the Lisbon Treaty is needed and how citizens are going to benefit from it. We need to show that the Lisbon Treaty will make the EU more efficient, more democratic, more transparent, more united and visible on the world stage and more secure. All topics proposed in your document, with which I agree, can be classified under these categories.

Enhanced role of national parliaments and new Citizens initiative contribute to enhance democracy on the EU level. While we speak about enhanced role of national parliaments, the issue of subsidiarity would deserve more detailed attention too. New policies are visible achievements of the Treaty and worth to be added to the list. The Commissioner will certainly publicise territorial cohesion as a new objective inserted in Art.2 of TEU.

Last but not least, the simplified decision making process with generalised co-decision and extended QMV is an important element for a more efficient Union. No broader issues going beyond the contents of the Lisbon Treaty should be included on the list.

Proposed activities and events

Public events, articles, public statements. All activities should be coherent with national communication plans adopted jointly with the Commission. Our specific audience of interest are regional and local level authorities.

Possible target countries: Poland, France (depending on progressive assessment of public opinion polls).

WIM KOKMISSION

- Broadly agreeing BUT
 - **Too much attention on ratification process** of Lisbon Treaty.

TOPICS

- More important generally is the **strategic importance of educating EU citizens** on crucial role of **European cooperation** in e.g.
 - climate change
 - reducing criminality and insecurity
 - EU competitiveness in rapidly changing global environment
 - Reform/modernisation of European welfare schemes
 - Common approach on immigration

➔ IN SUM: a more **DYNAMIC APPROACH** in wording

-----Ursprüngliche Nachricht-----

Von: Wim Kok [mailto:kok@brouwershoff.nl]

Gesendet: Fr 14.03.2008 09:47

An: Heidbreder, Eva Gabriele

Betreff: RE: ACED meeting March_prep doc

Eva,

In response to your request let me briefly react to the document that has been prepared for the meeting on March 14/15 which I unfortunately can not attend. Broadly speaking I can agree with its contents, but in my view it pays too much of attention to just the ratification process of the Lisbon Treaty. This is of course a matter of major significance and every effort should be made to avoid a failure, but at the same time we must be aware of the strategic importance of educating European citizens on the crucial role European cooperation can play in fields like our common answers to climate change, reducing criminality and insecurity, the need to remain competitive in a rapidly changing global environment, reform and modernisation of our welfare schemes and finding a common approach on immigration. All this is covered perhaps by the items mentioned in the draft document, but my proposal would be to choose a more dynamic approach and wording. I would be happy to explain this orally to the Committee but to my regret this will not be possible today and tomorrow.

With kind regards,

Wim Kok

IÑIGO MENDES DE VIGOMISSION / GENERAL DIRECTION

- Enhance **democratic objective** of ACED
- Stress how Lisbon Treaty improves not only efficiency but also democracy in EU.

TOPICS

- Main objective: make citizens aware that **Lisbon Treaty indispensable** in EU-27
- What does Treaty mean in terms of **democracy, efficiency, visibility**.
- Additional topic: **new role of EP** and reinforcement of its powers.

PUBLIC EVENTS

- Possible location: **Madrid**,
- Possible type of events: **seminars**, special events on **9th May**, in accordance with **national entities** (universities, EU delegations, etc.),
- Possible further involvement: support to **referendum in Ireland**,
- Cooperation Partners: **Spain** *Instituto de Estudios Europeos CEU San Pablo* chaired by Marcelino Oreja, former commissioner.

-----Ursprüngliche Nachricht-----

Von: MENDEZ DE VIGO Iñigo [mailto:inigo.mendezdevigo@europarl.europa.eu]

Gesendet: Mi 12.03.2008 12:01

An: Heidbreder, Eva Gabriele

Betreff: RE: ACED

1.2 What is missing / what should be changed, in general terms?

>> It should be enhanced the democratic objective of ACED and how the Lisbon Treaty improves not only efficiency but also democracy in the European Union.

2.1 Do you agree that the topics proposed are of relevance and should be tackled?

>> The main objective is to aware the citizens of the need of the Lisbon Treaty in a EU-27 and what it has meant in terms of more democracy, efficiency and visibility.

2.2 Which other themes in connection with the Lisbon Treaty should the ACED take up?

>> The new role of the European Parliament and the reinforcement of its power.

4.1 Where would you suggest public events to take place?

>> Madrid might be a good place

4.2 What kinds of events would be desirable?

>> Seminars, special events on the 9th May, activities in accordance with national entities, Universities, EU delegations, etc...

4.3 Which other kinds of activities for the ACED would you suggest?

>> Special support for the referendum in Ireland

4.5 Who could be other cooperation partners?

>> In Spain, *Instituto de Estudios Europeos CEU San Pablo* chaired by Marcelino Oreja, former commissioner

MARGOT WALLSTRÖM

MISSION

- Starting point should be: how to **communicate with citizens** both on the **new Treaty and activities of EU**,
- Personal commitment to promote **democratic debate** in EU and therefore pleased to continue working with ACED.

PROPOSED TOPICS

- Explaining Treaty goal should be: **explain in plain and simple language**, changes Treaty will bring about, thus focus on **policies in proposed topics** good BUT:
 - Especially **rephrasing language**:
 - Instead of ‘foreign affairs’ → “changes in the field of external relations and better coherence among different policy areas”
 - Instead of ‘cooperation in energy policy’ → “attention to sustainable development and climate change in energy policy”
 - ‘enhancing democracy’ → reference to “enhanced role of the national parliaments” could be included
- Baring in mind **other, non-Treaty related, issues** such as:
 - Budget review,
 - CAP Health Check,
 - Future accessions.
- YET to ensure efficiency and visibility ACED should stay focussed on **well-defined mission statement**, admitting one exception:
 - **EP elections (2009)** will be crucial event a test for democracy,
 - Every attempt to **raise awareness and increase citizens’ participation** should be done→ here ACED (as group of independent experts) may wish to engage in this

EVENTS

- Agreement to organise limited number public events
 - POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES: Debates **students / members of national Parliaments**,
 - POSSIBLE MEMBER STATES: **PL, CZ, NL**.
 - Once ACED has decided on a ‘wish list’ of states, in the spirit of **good cooperation with the Member States** the authorities of these could be contacted to ensure that ACED intervention will be well-received,
 - **National Parliaments** as key interlocutors for the ACED

ARTICLES / MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

- Encouragement to each ACED member to be **actively involving** in public debate,
- Print press, internet, and media in general,
- Preference for **each ACED member** to do so on **his/her own account** without involving responsibility of all ACED members.

Brussels, **13 MARS 2008**
FS/kk A(08)758 D(08)521

Mr Giuliano Amato
Chair of the Action Committee
for European Democracy

Dear Giuliano!

Unfortunately, I will not be able to join you and other colleagues at the meeting you called in Fiesole on 14 and 15 March, but I am pleased to offer a few thoughts on the stimulating background note, that was circulated in advance of the meeting.

As you rightly recalled, the starting point of this new phase should be how to communicate with citizens, both on the Treaty itself and on the activities of the Union. You know my commitment to try to promote a democratic debate on European issues and I would be very pleased to continue working with the Action Committee for European Democracy.

I share the point of view that when we communicate about the treaty, we should refrain from referring only to the institutional changes or to mention to complicated legal technicalities. Our aim should be to describe to citizens, in a plain and accessible language, the changes that the Treaty will bring about. Also, we should be able to explain that the Treaty is a tool, which will make the delivery on policy issues easier. I therefore appreciate that the list of topics to be tackled refer to concrete policy subjects; that list would only, in my view, need a few changes, mainly to streamline the language¹.

Certainly, I would see an advantage in bearing in mind the broader debate on others issues, not necessarily Treaty-related, such as the Budget Review, the CAP Health Check or future accessions. But we would gain both in terms of efficiency and visibility by staying focused to the well-defined mission statement, as articulated in the note. I would be tempted to make only one exception, in view of the 2009 European elections. The next elections of the European Parliament would be a crucial test for democracy and every attempt should be done to try to raise awareness and increase citizens' participation to the vote. This may be an area where an independent group of committed Europeans as we are, may wish to engage.

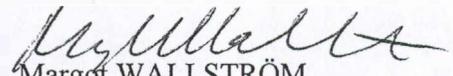
¹ Changes in the field of foreign affairs could be turned into "Changes in the field of external relations and better coherence among different policy area". Rather than saying cooperation in energy policy the text could refer to EU action on sustainable development and climate change and energy policy. Reference to the enhanced role of the national parliament could be included in the indent on enhancing democracy.

I agree with the suggestion to organise, under the aegis of ACED, a limited number of public events, for instance, a debate with students and with Members of the national parliaments. Given the resources of the group and the ratification timetable, it seems preferable to concentrate our efforts in a few Member States and I would suggest Poland, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands. In a spirit of good cooperation with the Member States, who are primarily responsible for the successful ratification of the new Treaty, once the Committee agrees on a wish-list, the national authorities could be contacted as to ensure that our intervention will be well received. In my view, we should consider the national parliamentarians as key interlocutors when going to individual Member States.

As regards the production of articles and statement, I would encourage each of us to be active and intervene in the public debate, the printed press, Internet and the media in general. We should all seek to contribute to an informed debate. However, I would prefer if each Member of the Committee would do so on his/her own, without engaging the responsibility of all Members.

I am sure that you will have a fruitful and inspiring debate and I look forward to meeting soon again.

Kind regards,



Margot WALLSTRÖM



PAOLO PONZANO

- Document generally exhaustive.

MISSION

- general agreement with mission statement and proposed topics, BUT
 - possibly viable to emphasise more the fact that there will be **no referendums** (except for Ireland) is a further **reason to reinforce the communication** on the functioning and activities of the EU.

TOPICS

- Priority should be on the **strengthening of the EU's democratic legitimacy** (through the strengthening of the EP, national Parliaments, a better control of the EU executive through the legislator, the citizens' initiative and some mechanisms of participatory democracy).

TERRITORIAL FOCUS

- Since some states have already ratified, the focus should be on the remaining ones, in particular:
 - PL, CZ, NL, UK, DK.
- It should not be missed out to explain to **all EU citizens** why the EU has a decision-making system that differs from those of the member states and does not respond to the principle of a separation of powers

-----Ursprüngliche Nachricht-----

Von: Paolo.Ponzano@ec.europa.eu [mailto:Paolo.Ponzano@ec.europa.eu]

Gesendet: Fr 14.03.2008 09:56

An: Heidbreder, Eva Gabriele

Betreff: RE: Publication version consolidée Trait  Lisbonne

Cara Eva,

Ho riletto il tuo documento che mi sembra esauriente. Sono generalmente d'accordo con il "mission statement" e con la lista dei temi prioritari. Forse si potrebbe sottolineare che l'assenza di referendums (salvo IRE) sul nuovo Trattato   una ragione supplementare per spiegare ai cittadini il contenuto del nuovo Trattato e per rafforzare la comunicazione sul funzionamento e le attivit  dell'UE.

Per i temi, la priorit  deve essere data al rafforzamento della legittimit  democratica dell'UE (via il rafforzamento del PE, il ruolo dei Parlamenti Nazionali, un maggiore controllo del legislatore europeo sull'Esecutivo, l'iniziativa popolare e alcuni meccanismi di democrazia partecipativa). Dato che alcuni paesi hanno gi  ratificato, occorre concentrarsi sugli altri (PL, TC, NL, UK e DK in particolare).

Tuttavia non bisogna tralasciare di spiegare a TUTTI I cittadini europei perch  l'UE ha un sistema di decisione diverso da quelli nazionali e che non risponde interamente al principio della separazione dei poteri. Dato che molti deputati e funzionari europei non lo sanno neanche loro, figuriamoci se lo sanno i cittadini !

Cari saluti.

Paolo