

Constantinos Simitis

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Αποστολή: Τετάρτη, 30 Μαΐου 2007 10:56 πμ

Προς: Wim Kok

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Θέμα: Comments draft declaration

Dear All,

May I apologise for not having taken an active part in the different email exchanges of our group on the draft that we will examine on June 3rd. My only excuse is in the intensity of the French presidential campaign that just ended and the present campaign for the parliamentary elections. Nevertheless, I have read all your proposals and remarks and most recently the remarks made by Chris Patten.

As I said in Berlin, I do not think that there will be sufficient collective ambition between the 27 members to put in this new treaty more than institutional reforms. I hope we will be able to agree on preserving the mechanisms vital to a performing Union, the "tool box" that was already present in the text of the Constitution.

Paragraph 8 of our draft is in my opinion ambitious, but unrealistic as it opens a Pandora's box on policy as discussed before.

Like Chris, I don't believe either we should mention any other constitutional exercise. We will not reconcile the citizens with Europe on these institutional subjects, at this stage.

However, I say one more time that we should and we could open in 2009 an exercise that could be called the 'new single European act' on the sustainable and equitable development of the Union (i.e. on subjects mentioned in the paragraph 8). This means we call for :

1/ a simplified treaty on the efficiency of the institutions in 2007/2008, as close as possible as the proposal of the constitution,
2/ a large debate in 2009/2010 and a new single act on the policies that matter for the citizens (what more do we want to do together ?)

I will be in Turkey as well until Sunday, I will only be able to join you in time for dinner.
Looking forward to seeing you in Brussels.

Ever,
Michel