

Constantinos Simitis**Από:** S.Collignon@lse.ac.uk**Αποστολή:** Τετάρτη, 28 Μαρτίου 2007 9:22 μμ**Προς:** Eva.Heidbreder@EUI.eu; giuliano.amato@iol.it; michel.barnier@merieux-alliance.com; jeanluc@dehaene.be; jldehaene@europarl.eu.int; joanna.szychowska@ec.europa.eu; marzena.wypychowska@ec.europa.eu; sandra.kalniete@apollo.lv; kaspars.vecozols@saeima.lv; aliceschutte@planet.nl; helena.riutta@parliament.fi; tapio.pekkola@eduskunta.fi; Maria.Saroy@BAKERNET.com; Inigo.mendezdevigo@europarl.europa.eu; chrispatten@btinternet.com; Rankin@parliament.uk; otto.schily@bundestag.de; csimitis@otenet.gr; emilie@dsk2007.net; patricia.dias@gpcb.pt; antonio.vitorino@gpcb.pt; floriana.sipala@ec.europa.eu; Margot.wallstrom@ec.europa.eu; Janos.Martonyi@BAKERNET.com; servizio.studi@libero.it; Isabelle.RICHARD-MISRACHI@ec.europa.eu; Paolo.Ponzano@EUI.eu; Jacques.Ziller@EUI.eu**Θέμα:** RE: ACED _ Letter from C. Simitis**Συνημμένα:** SocialEurope-7.pdf

Dear Colleagues,

Costas Simitis has sent us a letter, where he emphasizes the need for a European public forum and the creation of a European demos. He rightly points out that public debate and deliberation are crucial for the emergence of pan-European policy references. The ACED can play an important role in this respect. I have used the opportunity of debating today with an article in Liberation: <http://www.liberation.fr/rebonds/243783.FR.php>

May I take this opportunity to launch the debate amongst us? For a long time I have been thinking about how to stimulate European-wide debates. From historic evidence and academic research it is evident that the most important issue is whether citizens have democratic choices to make. In other words: can they elect a government? Competing parties will then make alternative policy proposals; citizens debate before elections, which program they prefer. In Europe, this is not the case. Policy proposal are made as intergovernmental compromises and citizens are expected to applaud. As a consequence, the only public debate is: are we for or against Europe?

I believe, the answer is ultimately the election of a European government, or at least of the European Commission. I attach an article to this e-mail that makes the point (see page 126-133; our non-socialist colleagues could ignore the front and other pages in the journal. You may also consult my website www.stefancollignon.eu, where the electronic copy of my book *The European Republic* can be downloaded.

I believe, to respond to Costas Simitis, a realistic first step would be to insist that all future European Commission Presidents should be elected by the European Parliament. Each party should put its own candidate and the leader of the strongest coalition should win. This proposal has been put forward by Jacques Delors many years ago and Angela Merkel has recently taken it up in the Bundestag. Maybe we can incorporate this demand into our work?

Kind regards.



Stefan Collignon

-----Original Message-----

From: Heidbreder, Eva Gabriele [mailto:Eva.Heidbreder@EUI.eu]

Sent: 23 March 2007 08:36

To: Heidbreder, Eva Gabriele; giuliano.amato@iol.it; michel.barnier@merieux-alliance.com; Collignon,S; jeanluc@dehaene.be; jldehaene@europarl.eu.int; joanna.szychowska@ec.europa.eu; marzena.wypychowska@ec.europa.eu; sandra.kalniete@apollo.lv; kaspars.vecozols@saeima.lv; aliceschutte@planet.nl; helena.riutta@parliament.fi; tapio.pekkola@eduskunta.fi;

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Ziller, Jacques

Subject: ACED _ Letter from C. Simitis_correction from N.Themelis

Dear member of the ACED,

Please find attached a corrected version of Mr Simitis' letter.

Regards,

Eva Heidbreder

-----Ursprüngliche Nachricht-----

Von: Constantinos Simitis [mailto:csimitis@otenet.gr]

Gesendet: Fr 23.03.2007 08:13

An: Heidbreder, Eva Gabriele

Betreff: correction from N.Themelis

Dear Mrs. Heidbreder,

Please find attached the correct final version of Mr. Costas Simitis text. I would be grateful if you could replace yesterday's text with this one.

I' am sorry for the inconvenience.

Thank you,

N. Themelis

Chief of Staff