

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
PRIMEMINISTER'S OFFICE
LEGAL ADVISOR

To the attention of :
Georges Debunne, President of the
European Federation of Retired
and Older People
Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 5
B-1210 Bruxelles

Athens, 23 November 2000

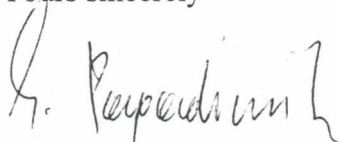
Dear Mr. Debunne,

I would like to thank you for your telefax and letter dated 12.10.2000 by which you presented to the Primeminister your proposals and recommendations regarding the content of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. The Convention that was entrusted with the drafting of the Charter has taken into consideration the views of all the non-governmental organizations which took part in the public hearings and submitted their proposals.

Given this opportunity, I would like to stress the fact that the Charter is the outcome of an indeed difficult in reaching a consensus procedure among a great number of representatives in the Convention. Thus, its content may at first sight appear insufficient, as regards the level of protection for some rights, but the final draft of the Charter as a whole does provide a solid ground of protection with potential to expand for the European people and citizens vis-à-vis the powers of the community institutions.

Allow me therefore, to notice that the Charter, in its present form, successfully covers an area where a democratic deficit existed in the institutional structure of the EU for a long period of time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. Papadimitriou', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Professor George Papadimitriou

Primeminister's Representative

at the Convention for the
Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU