

**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
PRIMEMINISTER'S OFFICE
LEGAL ADVISOR**

To the attention of :
Professor Patrick Thornberry
Chairman, Minority Rights Group International
London, UK

Athens, 23 November 2000

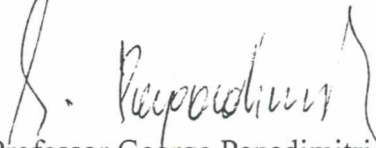
Dear Professor Thornberry,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 8.11.2000 by which you presented to the Primeminister the proposals and recommendations of the Minority Rights Group International 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 black ink, appearing to read 'G. Papadimitriou', written in a cursive style.

Professor George Papadimitriou

Primeminister's Representative

at the Convention for the

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU