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YOUTH
the european convention

Final Text adopted by the European Youth Convention¹

Brussels, 12 July

Introduction

*"The Union needs to be more democratic, more transparent and more efficient. It also has to resolve three basic challenges: **how to bring citizens, and primarily the young, closer to the European design and the European institutions**, how to organise politics and the European political area in an enlarged Union and how to develop the Union into a stabilising factor and a model in the new, multipolar world."*

From the: 'Laeken Declaration on the Future of the European Union'.

Involving young people in the construction of the European Union was one of the specific goals of the Laeken Declaration. Young people are not only important for Europe's future, they also have an essential role to play in the Europe of today. The strong results of the Youth Convention demonstrate beyond a doubt that young people should not be included only because they are young, but also because they can make a real contribution to the construction of the European Union of tomorrow.

As we look to the future, we can do so with self-confidence, self-confidence based on the achievements of the most successful integration model in the world. European integration has delivered unprecedented peace, stability, and prosperity for millions of citizens, based on the resolution of conflicts according to the rule of law. For today's youth, the most European generation so far, European co-operation is a natural way to tackle our common issues. We do not have fears or limitations of the past and can therefore look confidently towards our common European future.

¹ Subject to final verification.

Already today Europe is more than a technocratic or economic concept, but we must develop it as a political community, based on common values, and offering a vision of a united and peaceful continent. This vision of Europe has been the dream for past generations; today we are about to realise this dream. In this process more and more young people lay the focus on overcoming the shortcomings and contradictions of the Union of today by simplification of the treaties.

Active young people at the local, regional, national and European levels, can play an important role in stimulating debate, promoting active citizenship and European identity. Many of them do so in youth organisations and other non-governmental organisations. They have often proven to be able to reach and represent those from the most marginalised and excluded groups. However, despite young people forming one third of the EU's voting population, they remain underrepresented within the EU's decision-making bodies. We believe a greater effort from all relevant bodies should be made to remedy this.

The Youth Convention has made our views clear: the young people represented here demand a European Union which offers a vision of a united and democratic future, one which offers accessible government to its citizens, and one which has the instruments and the legitimacy to meet their expectations. We have been bold in our demands: demands for an ambitious reform of the Union which equips it to meet the challenges of today and the opportunities of tomorrow. A Europe united in its diversity is achievable. We ask no more of you than we have been willing and able to do for ourselves.

Missions and Visions for the European Union

We, the youth of Europe, have a historic opportunity to voice our views on the future of our continent.

We are the first generation to live in one Europe, without the Iron Curtain.

We want a Europe of tolerance, openness and inclusivity. We want a Europe built on the fundamental values of peace, freedom, dialogue, equality, solidarity and respect for human rights based on the principle of equality among member states. At the heart of our vision is a Europe responsible for and to its citizens. The time has come to create a true European citizenship.

The Europe of the citizens is a Europe striving for social cohesion inside the Union and across the world. It is a Europe committed to peace and respect, able to give European answers to European challenges, with due respect to the regional and national identity and the heritage of its citizens. The European citizen has to be seen not only as a separate individual, but in his or her social, cultural and ecological background. This background is mainly influenced by his or her national identity. Our common European identity cannot replace these national roots, but complete and enlarge them.

We should be engaged in developing a Europe, a Europe which discusses to decide, with more democratic, transparent institutions, more effective decisions, closer to us, the citizens. The European Union should have as its purpose the advancement of democracy, modernisation of the economic and social structures, environmental protection and the fight against exclusion and poverty.

We need a Europe present on the international scene with great influence over the major international strategic decisions; thus able to give valuable answers to the challenges posed by globalisation. To cease being a political dwarf, Europe has to have the means to position itself as a united global actor.

1. Europe is not only an economical and political, but also a social entity with great cultural diversity. Thus Europe must be committed to further improve and develop its greatest social and political achievements. We can see very clearly that all over the continent social protection has become part of our identity. Social rights are basic rights and are part of European citizenship. Today it is only the European level capable of providing welfare for everyone. In order to become a welfare Europe the EU should develop common legislation in the fields of social policy and equal opportunity. The Charter of Fundamental Rights is a crucial instrument in the construction of a Europe of citizens, provided that it becomes legally binding. It therefore has to become the first

chapter of a European constitution. The Union must allow all the European citizens to benefit from common solidarity, to gain in recognition, in mobility, in freedoms. After the single market and the Euro it will be the time to create a European cultural framework. That means to foster training and mobility programmes for young people in order to reach a free and open labour market. That would allow to overcome the obstacles for what concerns the recognition of diplomas and professional qualification. We propose to introduce the teaching of the process of European integration. That means a social harmonisation, which makes it possible to co-ordinate the wage policies and therefore the definition of collective agreements recognised throughout the Union. That requires a Europe, which defends the public services, which preserves its mission.

2. There must be a clear and transparent distribution of competencies between the Union and the national level in the European constitution, to make the people understand where and which responsibilities are located and how they can contribute to the political process. The distribution of competencies has to be guided by the principle of subsidiarity as it suits best the idea of the human being as the centre of the European Union.
3. One of the fundamental aims of European integration is to ensure sustainable development on the continent. Economic growth should be combined with a sound social policy aimed at higher level of employment ensuring fundamental worker's rights, especially amongst young people. Stronger EU strategies targeted against long-term unemployment must be developed. Clear ecological requirements must also be observed, including nuclear safety. To look forward to a safe future it is absolutely necessary to get out of nuclear energy, that has to be obligatory for both member states and candidate states. In the transitional stage; until all power stations are closed, high and obligatory standards of security for all atomic power stations have to guarantee for our safety. Further, the EU has to support the renewable forms of energy.

In order to transform the European Union into a real area of solidarity, we need a solid and expanded European budget. The European budget should be funded in a fairer way than it is today. Creating common taxes should therefore be considered to prepare the European Union for the challenges of the coming years. This means a common tax on capital profits and a tax on energy consumption (except renewable energies). In doing so we will avoid tax competition and social dumping.

Education is an important force for innovation and empowerment. Our task must be to ensure free education for all and to ensure the possibilities for training.

4. Equality must be at the heart of the European project. It is essential to the concept of European citizenship. We want to fight discrimination in all its forms and at all levels of our society. Whether it is because of gender, ethnic or social background, language,

religion or beliefs, political opinions, disabilities, age or sexual orientation, we can not tolerate systematic injustice.

The European Union should respect and value all of its citizens. The European Union should strengthen the national action plans on social inclusion and poverty. These plans should have common indicators of success, therefore allowing all of its citizens to live in dignity.

The European Union must be a union based on solidarity and freedom. The Union must adopt a common system of economic immigration and a fair and safe system of asylum. The European Union must promote the needs and the rights of young people. Action plans must empower the youth of Europe.

5. The enlargement of the European Union will create a broader region of peace and stability on the European continent with all its advantages. Since the end of the Cold War, there is a hope for stability and peaceful coexistence across the continent. This prospect of stability and safety will lead to the development of an area of prosperity, sustainable social and economic development.
6. International co-operation is also the antidote against nationalism, ethnic conflicts and dictatorships. The European Union must work for peace, democracy, human rights, disarmament and development across the world. Human rights do not form a domestic affairs issue; they must be safeguarded at an international level. As the uneven distribution of wealth in the world is a threat to peace, economic co-operation is in itself a tool of security policy. A fair, coherent and strong development and co-operation policy is a necessity. There is particular responsibility of the EU towards its neighbours. Consequently, in accordance with the vision of a united Europe from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ural mountains, we view all European countries as prospective EU member states and support the enlargement of the European Union.
7. The European Union of the future has to include effective possibilities of participation for the citizens and especially young people.
8. The Convention on the Future of Europe must achieve a breakthrough in reforming the European institutions. The competence of the EU and its member states has to be clarified. Clear rules for institutions and decision-making processes have to be included. The principle of subsidiarity should always be followed. The role of the regions requires clear definition. The authority of the national parliaments and the national governments should be clarified. Special attention should be paid to respect the impact of less populous member states. A fully democratic framework for the Union should be established in form of a federal parliamentary system.
9. In order to secure a strong Europe for the future it is essential that the EU gives more emphasis on listening to its youth, facilitating cross-cultural and cross-boundary communication. It is essential that more programmes are initiated which would be

directed at bringing together peer groups with common interests. Young artists, philosophers, psychologists, sociologists and politicians should be brought together, their opinions should be voiced and heard. A successful Europe should be built together every day.

We, members of the European Youth Convention are ready to shape the future of our generation, the future of our continent. We believe that a Youth Convention should above all have a clear demand on bringing Europe closer to young people. We need a coherent European youth policy for this. As a part of it, we need to give clear answers to issues specific to young people. Europe must now have a clear vision on education, the information society, intercultural youth exchange, youth employment and the everyday problems of marginalised young people. This is what we; the youth of Europe need the European Union for.

Democracy and Participation in the European Union - For A European Democracy

Brussels, and the political processes there, feel distant to us citizens. The alarmingly low turnouts in elections to the European Parliament illustrate this. Neither the citizens in general nor we, young people in particular, understand who is responsible for which policy in this labyrinth of European legislation. Intergovernmental Conferences and EU-Summits from Maastricht to Nice have shown that EU decision making is not transparent, not democratic, and not efficient.

We, the young people of Europe, require the European Convention to strive for more democracy, more transparency and more efficiency, in order to reconnect with its citizens. In order to achieve this goal, there have to be fundamental reforms of the nature of the EU. This should lead to a federal Constitution including the Charter on Fundamental Rights and freedoms, a clearer division of competencies and a renewed institutional structure of Europe, in which the Youth of Europe will have a stronger say.

Charter of Fundamental Rights:

The Charter on Fundamental Rights and Freedoms must be included as a central part of this Constitution. It has to be legally binding and should be at the heart of the Constitution.

Competencies:

The Union of tomorrow must be based on decentralisation and diversity, not on petty bureaucracy and over-regulation. This means that the EU will only be in charge of those decisions, which cannot be achieved well on national or regional levels. The execution of competencies should be based on the two principle of subsidiarity and proportionality, which have to be closely monitored. The principle of subsidiarity implies that decisions are made at the lowest level of government. There should be a catalogue of exclusive competencies and of competencies shared between the EU and member states, and it should be clearly stated that all the other competencies belong to the member states. In order to attain an easily-understandable and efficient political system of the European Union, the second and third pillar should be merged with the first pillar and therefore ensure an integrated EU-policy in all fields of politics.

Institutional Settings:

The Union needs a democratic, open and transparent decision-making system, accountable to its citizens, to reconnect the peoples of Europe with the decisions taken in their name. This should be based on the democratic principle of the separation of powers.

As the only directly democratically elected body, the Parliament, representing the citizens, should co-decide in all fields of politics. It should have full budgetary competence and it

should have the right of initiative. Brussels should be the only residence of the European Parliament and its secretariat. Furthermore, the European Parliament should have the right to propose and elect the President of the European Commission, and should have the power to remove individual commissioners and to impeach the commission President. The members of the European Parliament should be elected in standardised European elections.

The Council should meet in public. The constitutional regions, in agreement with their member states, should participate in the Council of Ministers, in the event of it debating what belongs to the sphere of the competencies of those regions. The Council should be reformed to a genuinely second chamber and co-decide together with the European Parliament on EU-legislation. Decisions in especially sensitive areas can be done with a double majority of states and people. The right of veto should be banned by the decisional system of the Union.

The European Commission is the guarantor of the European Constitution. The European Commission has to be transformed into a true European executive. It has to be fully accountable to the Parliament and the Council. The European Commission has to consult civil society actors when it makes use of its right to initiative.

All matters within the competence of the Union should be subject to the Court of Justice. Every citizen should have the right to approach the court of justice. The European Union should therefore be given legal personality. With a view to the eminent enlargement of the EU, all the official languages in the member states will be acknowledged as official EU languages.

The results of the Convention must be ratified through a European referendum, in order to guarantee that the citizens have the final say on the future of their Europe.

Involvement of the youth of Europe:

The reforms of the European Union should not be restricted to institutional changes and a new competence order. The future EU should be a Europe created by its citizens to serve their interests and needs. A more structured and more institutionalised dialogue with the civil society should ensure that the EU decides on topics which actually matter for the citizens of the Union.

The Union shall include in its decision-making system its diversity of linguistic, ethnic and other social groups and shall be set and enforce measurable targets on social inclusion and its eradication of poverty. The young people of Europe have to be involved as early as possible in decision-making processes in all policies that are decided on by the European institutions. The consultation process for the "White Paper for Youth" on a cross-sectoral

Youth policy was a good example of how institutions of the EU can work together with Youth, our organisations and other part of Civil Society.

Therefore we, as representatives of the youth, demand the European Convention to ensure:

- that the idea of the White Paper on youth, which is to establish a youth committee, is heard directly by the European institutions.
- that the senior Convention will work on a information strategy that will help involve more citizens into the debate on the future of Europe.
- in this framework, citizens from all walks of life have to be given the opportunity to be fully engaged in this debate. The European Union acknowledges the importance of the involvement of all European citizens in policy development and implementation in the European Union. The EU especially recognises the fundamental rights of marginalised groups, such as disabled people, and people belonging to ethnic, cultural, or linguistic minorities to be included in this process.
- that building up on this the EU should work on new ways to inform and educate people about Europe, ensuring that the citizens know what their political system looks like, so as to promote the ideas of shared identity and common values. A particular lesson must be provided on European culture, citizenship and institutions in every primary and secondary school. The yearly quota of hours is to be freely organised by each country.
- that additionally there is a strong link between young parliamentarians and young people in their electorate, in order to ensure that young people have the possibility to experience European politics.
- that all EU citizens have an EU passport, which is the same for all member states.

Europe in a globalised world

Europe's approach to relations with other regions of World, its foreign policy, the challenge of ensuring peace and stability and its defence structures must be founded on the European values of democracy, freedom, equality, solidarity and respect for human rights.

Globalisation has led to a mullet-polar world order with growing interdependence. This goes along with a growing number of actors. These include international organisations, NGOs, large global corporations and private individuals. In this complex world order, the interests of the of the European citizens will only be heard if we speak with one voice.

Democratisation and sustainable development must be priorities of the European international efforts. Hence, it is important to keep an active dialogue with what is today's world periphery, as there can be no global progress as long as there will be an economical division between "North and South" of the world. Furthermore we will strongly promote talks on nuclear and conventional disarmament.

Only supranational institutions are able to provide stability and influence the forces of globalisation. We want the EU to work for a more co-operative world. The EU needs to increase its co-operation especially in the field of foreign policy. The following steps need to be implemented:

Development of the Common Foreign and Security Policy

Foreign Policy must become an exclusive competence of the European Union. The Foreign and Security policy should be integrated and decisions taken democratically by the European Parliament and Council. There should be a single Commissioner for Foreign Affairs who will execute the common policy.

Ensuring Security in Europe

The EU must develop a Defence Identity. The Rapid Reaction Force (RRF) allows Europe to partake in peace-keeping and crisis management operations. The EU should pursue a comprehensive approach to promoting peace and security, based on (1) conflict prevention, (2) crisis management involving the Rapid Reaction Force and the Petersberg tasks, (3) post-conflict institution building. However, it is unable to function without NATO assets and has no role in defending the EU. A European Army will be more efficient economically and will be more effective militarily. No member state, however, should be forced against its will to participate in any European Defence structure. The EU shall respect the right of any member state to participate in international co-operation agreements external to the Union.

Solidarity with the Developing World

Only by advancing social justice and global solidarity can we build the foundations of peace and stability. The EU should achieve the UN target of 0.7% GDP by 2007 with the most of that being provided through the Union. The EU should prioritise the developing countries and should open the EU's markets to their exports. The EU should balance its aid budget between governments and NGOs. Debt relief based on agreements between donor and recipient countries must be advanced to relieve the poorest countries from massive debt burdens. Debt relief should be linked to progress on human and fundamental rights.

Fighting against AIDS

The EU must develop urgently a European plan to fight against AIDS, following the agreements of the UN. The EU should approve to facilitate the production and distribution of generic drugs against AIDS.

International Trade

Ensuring that flows of global capital, information and economic resources are beneficial to society is too big a task for any nation state. The EU should work harder to promote better working conditions across the globe and to counteract anti-competitive practices. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and EU Customs Duty Policy bar access to European markets from the poorest countries in the World preventing development and reducing trade. The policies of the EU in relation to WTO, IMF, World Bank and GATS negotiations must reflect the need for social development and safe-guard public services (such as education, health, public transport).

A Leading role in Global Governance

The EU should play a leading role in promoting global governance. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Universal Declaration of Children's Rights, along with other European Values are a powerful basis for European input into international institutions. EU states must speak with one voice in International institutions.

Also, in order to make the EU efficient but also more transparent and closer to citizenship, it should look into keeping a permanent dialogue with civil society and take into account the thousands of people from new social movements that are also discussing about another kind of globalisation, a social globalisation, the globalisation of rights.

The EU should work to enhance the role of the OECD, the World Bank and the IMF as economic instruments and the OSCE and Council of Europe as political instruments. The EU should be fully committed the United Nations as the primary organisation dealing with international relations. The EU should seek its own representation in the UN replacing

national representing states. The EU must uphold the principles of International Justice by supporting the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Sustainability

Global environmental security must be the top priority for the European foreign policy. The EU should promote this issue within the international society and work on achieving the global implementation of international, environmental agreements.

The Kyoto agreement is a turning point in international politics, but it is only the basis for the further development of vital environmental co-operation. An EU-wide environment tax should be considered and corporations should be held accountable for the environmental damage they cause and responsible for their products from cradle to grave. Sustainable development is the only way to ensure long-term global progress and the EU should promote it to replace short-term projecting based on immediate but futile profit.

Immigration and Asylum

Besides being economically beneficent, migration is a historical and natural phenomenon and it is also a constituting character of European culture. Globalisation of the market has made globalisation of fundamental rights and thus freedom of movement even more necessary. The EU must therefore implement a common active migration and integration policy and should promote it within the European society through continuous education. ALL EU member states should share the responsibility of EU outer border control.

Science and Research Work

Europe has to co-operate with other regions on the research work exchange. Such co-operation may result in faster and more efficient development and fastening the development of democracy and prosperity around the world.

International Terrorism

The EU must fight national and international terrorism, as this is a threat to democracy, freedom and security. In this view, it is extremely important to promote democratisation, civil society and human development in the countries where international terrorism is most present.

Co-operation with other World Regions

We must pay particular attention to countries that are in the European Neighbourhood, such as the following such as the Mediterranean and the Commonwealth of Independent States and countries with which Europe has strong historical and cultural links, for example, Latin America.

Enlargement must not result in the creation of a new iron curtain across Europe. The EU must recognise our eastern neighbours as a co-operation priority. Increased EU involvement in these countries will support fledgling democracies, prevent the violation of human rights and to develop a free market economy.

The Mediterranean is the EU's Southern frontier. Euro-Mediterranean co-operation under the Barcelona Process should be one of the EU's foreign policy priorities to promote stability in this sensitive region. The European Union must more actively demonstrate its commitment to maintaining stability and promoting democracy, equality, rule of law and fundamental freedoms in all areas in Europe where these are not respected.

Europe must use its strong historical and cultural ties with Latin America strengthen democratic advancement and social and economic development in this important region. The relationship between the United States and Europe has been an important stabilising force for the past few decades, and this should remain so in the years to come. The Euro-Arab dialogue should be intensified. The EU should build links and co-operate closely with other regional structures such as MERICOSUR, ASEAN and the African Union.

Europe should promote its diverse culture and values internationally. We must respect the values and culture of other peoples and stimulate cultural exchange and co-operation, particularly through civil society and youth. Young people in Europe should be given the opportunities to develop skills and competencies to respond to the challenges of a globalised and competitive world and understand their role in this context.

Conclusions

The recommendations included in this document are the result of three days work of 210 representatives of 28 countries. If this Youth Convention and our findings are to be valued as anymore than a PR-stunt, we consider it paramount that our recommendations are integrated into the working groups discussions of the European Convention.

We commit ourselves to act as champions for this process. We will report back to the young people we represent, as well as reach out towards European Youth in general in order to ensure that the discussion on the Future of Europe is not reserved for a limited number of European citizens. We believe that this commitment is of major importance and a natural part of the task of being a delegate to the Youth Convention.

In return we demand regular consultation and direct involvement of young people in the continuing work of the Convention on the future of Europe and the policy-making of the EU institutions in general. The Convention should include a stronger reference on youth in the constitutional treaty, so that youth issues are taken more seriously, while the main responsibility for youth policy should remain within member states competencies. The constitutional treaty should recognise the role of non-governmental organisations and the social partners in relation to the EU institutions, so that citizens can better participate in the European Union.

The Convention should involve youth organisations, the youth delegates and other active young people as a resource of innovative ideas, and we make ourselves available and believe that you will approach us in this respect in order to ensure that the ideas, visions, contributions, concerns and interests of the youth are put forward.

Furthermore we believe that the European Convention should report to the Presidium of the Youth Convention on how our demands are integrated in the drafts of the working groups and treaty drafts. The Youth Convention invites the European Convention to present, before the conclusion of its work, its drafts to a second session of the Youth Convention. To this, we entrust our Presidium and the European Youth Forum to prepare a second session and to have an initiative of the Youth Convention to organise a broader and regular consultation of young people and youth associations across Europe during all the working time of the European convention. We hope that the necessary support for this will be provided by the Convention and the EU institutions.

BRIDGING
EUROPE**THE FINAL YOUTH 2002 CONSTITUTION !****Preamble**

We, the peoples of the European Union, remembering and learning from the difficult past of the challenges of a divided Europe and the successful beginning of our peaceful co-operation, united through our common heritage and values, enact this Constitution.

The peoples of Europe recognise this Constitution as a cornerstone of the process of creating an ever-closer Union and defining the global position and responsibility of The Union. Based upon the recognition of cultural diversity and the principles of unity, cooperation and democracy, this Constitution shall pursue the peace, security, economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of current and future generations.

This Constitution aims to ensure peace and stability within the European Union, protect the rights and freedoms of its citizens and peoples, define the structure and tasks of European Union institutions and the relations between National and European Union institutions and law, ensure accountability to the peoples of Europe and preserve European democracy.

Chapter 1 - The Founding Principles**Article 1**

The European Union shall foster peace and stability as well as security within the Union.

Article 2

The European Union shall guarantee democracy, freedom, human rights and fundamental freedoms, tolerance, sustainable development and the rule of law and justice.

Article 3

The institutions of the European Union shall obey the principles of accountability, equity, efficiency, transparency, subsidiarity and proportionality

Article 4

The European Union shall commit itself to the development of equality, wealth and general welfare in all parts of the Union.

Article 5

The European Union shall respect and protect the environment. Equally it shall ensure the principles of environmental sustainability and that polluter pays.

Article 6

The European Union shall preserve equality and separation of powers.

Article 7

The European Union shall protect the civil and political rights of its citizens.

Article 8

The European Union is not linked to any religious beliefs or institutions.

Article 9

The European Union respects and promotes solidarity, linguistic and cultural diversity.

Article 10

The European Union shall preserve all beliefs and principles of the Constitution in its dealings with other nation states and international organisations and institutions.

Chapter 2 - General Provisions

Article 11

In order to become a member of the European Union a state must:

- Comply with the European Constitution;
- Fulfil political and economic criteria set forth by the European Union in a separate Act;
- Be a part of Europe;
- Achieve the acceptance of the European Parliament.

Article 12

A country may leave the Union at any time; its government should initiate such procedures. Procedures have to be set out in a European Union Act.

Article 13

All citizens of the Member States are citizens of the European Union. Citizenship of the European Union shall complement and not replace national citizenship.

Article 14

A Member State may be expelled from the European Union if it gravely and repeatedly contravenes the principles set forth in this Constitution and it is so decided by all other members of the European Union.

Chapter 3 - Rights

Article 15

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union signed 18th December 2000 will be upheld by the Union with the following amendments and addenda.

1. Article 4: Everyone has the right to fair treatment during imprisonment.
2. Article 9: Replace "the right to marry and the right to found a family shall be guaranteed in accordance with the national laws governing the exercise of these rights" by "every adult has the right to marry and the right to found a family (12 for, 8 against, 2 abstained).
3. Article 14: This right includes the possibility to receive free public compulsory education at primary and secondary level and the first higher education qualification.
4. Article 14: Everyone has the right to non-formal education.
5. Article 19: In point 2, remove the word "serious".
6. Article 21: ...property, birth, disability, sexual orientation, or any other unfair discrimination shall be prohibited.
7. Article 22: The Union shall respect and encourage cultural ...
8. Article 26: Physical environment cannot set any limits on the function in society of those with disabilities.
9. Article 34: Everyone has the right to a decent standard of living.
10. Article 35: Everyone has the right to free and accessible basic health services.
11. Article 37: Everyone has the right to a sustainable and healthy environment.
12. Article 38: Everyone has the right to non-genetically modified food.
13. Article 40: Every citizen of the Union and person domiciled in the Union has the right to ...
14. Article 41: Transparency of businesses and public institutions shall be ensured.
15. Article 42: ...Member State, has a right of free and timely access to public documents from all institutions of the European Union.
16. Article 43: ...cases of maladministration and disrespect of the rights stated in this Constitution in the activities...
17. Article 43: The Ombudsman must be a transparent institution closely connected to the citizens of the European Union.
18. New article:
 1. Everyone has the right to free access to an interpreter in a court of law.
 2. Every citizen of the European Union (and person resident - 7 for, 7 against) has the right of free access to an interpreter in their dealings with national and European Union institutions.
 3. Minorities have the right to set up private schools that teach both the national and minority language.

Chapter 4 - Institutions

Article 16 - Legislative Power

1. The legislative power of the European Union lies within the Parliament, which consists of two Chambers, namely the Chamber of Citizens and the Chamber of States.
2. The Chamber of Citizens represents the interests of the European citizens. Members of the Chamber of Citizens are directly elected by direct universal suffrage in accordance with a uniform procedure in all Member States.
3. The Chamber of States represents the interests of the Member States of the European Union. It consists of two representatives of each Member State. Every Member shall have equal voting rights. In accordance with the issue being addressed the governments of the Member States will appoint their two representatives.

Article 17 - Executive Power

1. After being elected the Chamber of Citizens will elect a Head of the executive. The Head of the executive must gain the approval of the Chamber of States by a 2/3 majority and will thereafter appoint a government, which must be accepted by each chamber by a 2/3 majority. Legislative and executive powers are incompatible in one individual.
2. Ten percent of any of the chambers can initiate a vote of no-confidence, which will dismiss the executive or an individual member of the executive if it obtains a 2/3 majority in each chamber.

Article 18 - Judicial Power

1. The European Constitutional Court is the independent guardian of the Constitution and rules on conflicts between European Union institutions and on conflicts between the European Union and its Member States according to the principle of subsidiarity.
2. The European Court of Justice is the highest judicial authority in all other matters.
3. The European Courts recognise all decisions that are taken by the European Court of Human Rights.

Article 19 - Legislation Process

1. Legislation can be initiated by the executive or by the individual members of either Chambers.
2. In order to become a law, the proposal has to be agreed upon by both chambers.
3. The executive or an individual member of either Chambers shall make their proposal first to the Chamber of Citizens. With a simple majority it shall be passed on to the Chamber of States, including possible amendments. If the Chamber of States accepts this proposal in its entirety by a simple majority, the proposal is passed. If the Chamber of States has further amendments, the proposal is passed back to the Chamber of Citizens, who can either accept the proposal by simple majority, or amend and send the proposal back to the Chamber of States for a second voting. If the proposal does not achieve a simple majority at this second voting, the Conciliation Procedure applies.

Article 20 - Conciliation Procedure

If, after the normal legislation procedure, no agreement has been reached, a Conciliation Committee is created, consisting of an equal number of members from the two chambers. If an agreement is reached, the proposal passes back to the two chambers in order to receive a 2/3-majority support by each chamber. If no agreement is reached, the Chamber of Citizens holds sovereignty as a last resort, if supported by a ¾ majority.

Article 21 - People's Legislative Initiative

If 1 percent of the citizens of the European Union with the right to vote, out of which no more than 20 percent can be of one Member State, petition for a legislative proposal, the proposal shall be guaranteed a place on the agenda of the Chamber of Citizens.

Article 22

If a Member State can convince 2/3 of the Chamber of States members that a certain policy is affecting its national vital interests, it has the right to temporarily opt-out from this policy.

Article 23 - Advisory bodies

1. The European Youth Forum is an advisory body of the European Parliament. When it desires to be heard, its declaration on a specific topic is read in the European Parliament.
2. A European Union Act takes care of the establishment of the Committee of the Regions, which is an advisory body for both the European Parliament and the Executive in regional matters.
3. A European Union Act takes care of the establishment of a European Ombudsman, who is entitled to help uncover maladministration in the European Union's institutions and bodies.
4. A European Union Act takes care of the establishment of the Social-Economic Committee, which is an advisory body of both the Parliament and the European Commission in socio-economic matters.
5. The European Investment Bank acts under the responsibility of the Member States. It has the right to advise the European Parliament and the Executive.
6. The European Court of Auditors shall examine the revenue and expenditure accounts of the Union and its institutions.

Article 24 - The European Central Bank

The European Central Bank is an independent body in charge of the united monetary policy within the single currency zone.

Article 25 - Army

The Member States should co-operate to create a common European force from their armies.

Article 25

A Member State has the right to opt -out from The Common Defence Policy without needing the approval of other Member States.

Article 26 - The institutions and the citizen

All European Union institutions shall be obliged to put an effort in getting citizens involved in the work of the institutions.

Article 27 - Language

1. The European Union shall recognise all national languages within its territory.
2. The administrative language of the European Union will be English, however, additional languages may be accepted upon the decision of the two Chambers.

Chapter 5 - Competence and legislation

Article 28

Decisions should be made on the lowest possible level according to the principle of the subsidiarity. Thus decisions regarding the following areas are to be made by European Union institutions:

- a. Foreign Trade, Aid and Policy
- b. Environmental Policy
- c. Asylum and Immigration Policy
- d. Agricultural and Fisheries Policy
- e. Structural and Regional Policy
- f. Corporate Tax & Community VAT

- g. Single Market Policy
- h. Labour Market Policy

Article 29

In the following areas, the European Union and the Member States should cooperate in decision-making:

- a. Educational & Cultural Policy
- b. Social Policy
- c. Information & Media Policy
- d. Health Care and Insurance Policy
- e. Scientific Research
- f. Common Security Policy

Chapter 6 - Changing the Constitution

Article 30

Proposals to change this Constitution can be put forward in three ways:

- By either of the Chambers with a two thirds majority;
- By a petition signed by one percent of the citizens of the European Union with the right to vote, out of which no more than 20 percent can be of one Member State;
- By the national parliaments of the Member States by a two thirds majority upon acceptance of the proposal by the Chamber of States of the European Parliament with a simple majority.

Article 31

Proposals to change this Constitution must to be accepted by both Chambers of Parliament with a two thirds majority.

Article 32

All national parliaments must ratify any changes in the Constitution, according to their own procedures, in order for the changes to become operative.

