

For a Social and Democratic Europe: For Another Constitution!

We, young European Socialists and social democrats, coming from all over Europe, have been fighting for years for a social and democratic Europe. That's why we strongly encourage the adoption of a good constitution for the EU. After the adoption of the constitutional treaty by the intergovernmental conference in June, we feel let down.

The last results of the European elections must astonish us. The populist and extreme-right parties, but also the level of abstentions, are now at the highest level since the first European Parliamentary elections. This brings the right wing in majority, and they are using that to enforce hard-line neo liberal policies such as the Bolkestein Directive on Services. To stop this stream, a new agenda for Europe is now vital. A new coalition has to be built by those on the left who are pro-European.

Time has come for the young European socialists to fight for a Europe for the People, not for the profit. Contrary to a treaty, the goal of a Constitution (or of a "constitutional treaty") is not to be changed every two years. This proposed Constitution will freeze our fight for a Social and Democratic Europe for many years ahead. The third part of the constitution deals about the *content* of the common policies, and the rule of unanimity makes it very difficult to change it for future left wing majorities in the European Union. Therefore, we must consider the political substance of this Constitution in detail.

There are many parts of the Constitution that are totally opposed to the vision of a Social and Democratic Europe. We strongly oppose the actions of the British government to weaken the status of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, that makes them not much more than empty words. The Stability and Growth Pact, that has failed to deliver both stability and growth in Europe, is kept unchanged, as well as the Common Agricultural Policy. Free competition is still considered as the first rule of the Union, and the public services are not excepted from this. The power of the current right wing majority to continue the policies of privatisation, deregulation and cuts in the welfare state will be further increased. Also we can't accept the obligation towards all member countries, to increase their military capacity.

We say no to this Constitution. We want another Constitution. Our fight against the constitutional treaty is the only way left to reform the European Union. We believe in the hope of building a better future together, that is, first of all, to preserve peace throughout the continent. But, peace is not sustainable without prosperity, social justice and equality. History showed this to us many times. We cannot accept any longer the European Union that is proposed by the neo liberals.

Join us for a truly social and democratic Europe, for another Constitution.

First signatures :

Andrea Brunner (President, VSSTO Socialist students of Austria), **Veit Dieterich** (President of Socialist Youth of Germany - Die Falken), **Ludwig Dvorak** (President, Socialist Youth of Austria), **Gilles Dautrelepoint** (President, MJS Belgium), **David Lebon** (MJS France President), **Matthew Mc Gregor** (President "Centre for Social Europe", UK), **Adrian Zandberg** (President, Socialist youth of Poland, FMUP),

Tomé Andrade (International Secretary, MJS Belgium – ECOSY Bureau member) **Francisco Andre** (International Secretary, Juventude Socialista, Portugal – ECOSY Bureau Member), **Colin Barker** (Treasurer of the London Region Young Labour, UK), **Remi Bazillier** (MJS France International Secretary, ECOSY Bureau Member), **Bartosz Begowski** (Students coordinator, member of the International Committee, Social-democratic youth of Poland, FMS), **Graham Copp** (Head of Research, "Centre for Social Europe, Labour UK), **Muna Duzdar** (International Secretary, Socialist Youth of Austria, IUSY Vice President), **Peter Gustavsson** (editor of

Socialistiskt Forum, chair of the youth section of the Trade Union Congress (LO) in the Uppsala county, Sweden), **Torsten Engelage** (Former Secretary General, Socialist Youth of Austria, ECOSY Vice President), **Kati Hellwagner** (Feminist Coordinator, Socialist Youth of Austria, ECOSY Bureau Member), **Tobias Orischnig** (International Secretary VSSTO Socialist students of Austria – ECOSY Bureau Member), **Sabine Schatz** (Secretary General, Socialist Youth of Austria) **Robert Strayhammer** (Secretary General, Socialist Youth of Austria), **Mattias Vepsä** (member of the national board of the Social Democratic Youth of Sweden, SSU ; member of the board of the youth section in the Commercial Worker's Union, Handels, Sweden)

To sign the call : remi@mjsfrance.org