



## Joining the Campaign Network

The appeal is directed at all organisations which have a basic democratic understanding - no matter whether progressive or conservative, euro-phile or europhobe. On this basis it will be possible to win the broadest possible alliance of supporter organisations. They come from all over Europe with all kinds of special interests, representing millions of members. This will provide an impressive list of supporters, which we can use to generate considerable public attention.

Although everyone joining the network may have their own political objectives, the whole campaign is a single-point movement, strictly non-partisan and will support exclusively our common idea.

### Get active in your country...!

*democracy international* can provide an infrastructure, coordinate services and set things in motion... but it cannot run the campaign by itself. Without committed organisations in the several countries - who make it their OWN TASK to fight for the referendum - the campaign won't succeed.

The supporters and responsible organisations in the countries decide by themselves HOW they want to participate in the campaign... Therefore they can use all the services, materials and the supporter package. But they can also create their own strategy - as long as there are synergies.

Organisations who support the campaign will also benefit from its dynamic, making contacts all over Europe, using their participation for PR-reasons, getting new impulses and know-how for the work in their countries.



Host of the  
European Referendum  
Campaign



## Organisation

**Profile** - *democracy international* is an activists' association with special interest in observing and improving „democracy“ and instruments of direct citizens' participation such as initiative and referendum.

**Butterfly** - Symbol of metamorphosis from the caterpillar to the beautiful butterfly, which loves freedom and helps to create a colourful world. This is used as a metaphor for the process of developing a real democratic society.

**European Referendum** - *democracy international* is hosting the campaign. It is building up the campaigning network and provides coordination and umbrella services.

**Further goals** - After ending up the campaign *democracy international* will live on, searching for new challenges in the field of „democracy“.



## Project Office

*democracy international*  
Kurfürstenstrasse 18 - 60486 Frankfurt - Germany  
Fon +49 69 77033698 - Fax +49 69 77039740  
office@democracy-international.info



[www.european-referendum.org](http://www.european-referendum.org)

# European Referendum Campaign

- ➔ Situation
- ➔ Campaign
- ➔ Appeal
- ➔ Joining the Network
- ➔ Contact



## Situation



The Intergovernmental Conference in Laeken, Belgium, stated that there have to be reforms concerning the further development of the European Union. The Declaration of Laeken instituted "The Convention on the Future of Europe" with the task of producing suggestions for EU reforms which would then be acted upon by the European Council.

The result of the Convention's working process - which started in March 2002 and will last one year - will be a draft EU constitutional treaty. The Declaration of Laeken which set the agenda for the Convention's work quite specifically demanded "more democracy" and citizens' participation within the European Union.



*Right now the EU is so undemocratic that it would not accept itself as a member state because it does not fulfill the minimum standards for a modern democracy.*

## Campaign



As it is part of the Convention's task to „increase the democratic legitimacy“ of the Union, we think the best way to do that is by means of a Europe-wide referendum. To adopt a Constitutional Treaty without referenda would be a backwards step into **less** rather than **more** acceptance of the European project within the population.

That is why we started the "European Referendum Campaign". Our objective is to produce some political pressure from bottom up to raise the awareness of the political actors about this issue. Therefore we aim to find as many organisations as possible from throughout the European Union and the applicant countries to support our appeal.



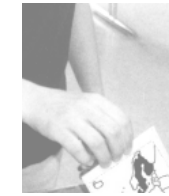
*Up to now the EU has bypassed its citizens on all important questions and developed itself without any citizens' participation. This has to change dramatically.*

## Appeal



### The signatories of the appeal demand:

- 1.) that an EU Constitution or Constitutional Treaty must be submitted to the citizens in a European referendum in all the countries concerned.
- 2.) that the Parliaments of the states concerned make the appropriate legal and constitutional provisions for a binding referendum.
- 3.) that the EU Constitution or Constitutional Treaty can only be adopted in countries in which a majority votes in favour of it.
- 4.) that the referendum takes place simultaneously with the European Elections in 2004 in all countries concerned.



*If the European people are not ready to decide upon a EU constitution... then also the EU is not ready for it. Because there can be no constitution without people.*

# www.european-referendum.org

### Declaration of Laeken (quotations)

- „The first question is thus how we can increase the democratic legitimacy and transparency of the present institutions.“
- „Within the Union, the European institutions must be brought closer to its citizens.“
- „The question ultimately arises as to whether this (...) reorganisation might not lead in the long run to the adoption of a constitutional text.“
- "The Chairman of the Convention (is) to present its outcome to the European Council."

### Activities of the Campaign

- Building up a Europe-wide supporter network.
- Postcard campaign with several possibilities for individuals to send postcards - physically and electronically - to the responsible actors.
- Media Releases and press conferences on a regular basis as well as events which take place simultaneously in all European countries.
- Constant targeted lobbying of political actors.
- International conferences and meetings for exchanging ideas and coordinate activities.
- Interactive campaign homepage.

### Initial Signers

- Mehr Demokratie e.V., Germany
  - Agora Europe, Netherlands
  - Permanent Forum of Civil Society, Belgium
  - WIT, Belgium
  - Motivados, Spain
  - Civic Participation Society, Bulgaria
  - Alternative to EU, Finland
  - Hnutí za přímou demokracii, Czech Republic
  - Referendum Platform, Netherlands
  - Institut für mehr Demokratie und Soziale Dreigliederung, Luxemburg
  - Forum for Citizens' Democracy, Greece
- In the meantime there are a lot more of organisations from nearly all European countries who are supporting the campaign which will be published soon.